

News 9-11-35

ado 12-11-35

ado 13-11-35

SYSTEM OF CERTIFICATES RELIEVES EXAM STRAIN But Much Depends on Students Says College Head Master PRESENT PLAN FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

THE system of head masters certificates instead of public examinations for a great majority of students was designed to reduce strain on growing boys and girls and seemed likely to replace the present system, said the Head Master of the St. Peter's College (the Rev. Guy Pentreath) today.

The Director of Education (Mr. Adey) said much could be said for both methods, but where scholarships were concerned, the present system seemed the only satisfactory way of distributing these awards.

They were commenting on the suggestion of the Tasmanian Director of Education (Mr. G. V. Brooks) to abolish public examinations.

Mr. Adey said that the tendency in Tasmania was evidently toward the "accredited system," under which school certificates for intermediate and leaving examinations were accepted in lieu of public examinations.

This system already obtained in Victoria, but schools there could, if they desired, submit their students to public tests. Public examinations were also held for schools that were not accredited, he said.

To initiate such a scheme anywhere would require the co-operation of the University authorities and the Education Department. There were good arguments for and against the system, and it had been frequently discussed in South Australia.

The accredited system had been in vogue in America for several years, and in some parts of that country schools had reverted to the university examination plan.

Lessens Strain

The present system was necessary wherever scholarships were available, Mr. Adey added. Public examinations seemed the only satisfactory method of distributing these rewards.

The head master of St. Peter's College, the Rev. Guy Pentreath, said he inferred that the Tasmanian Director of Education referred only to the majority of boys in secondary schools who were not proceeding to the university.

"The universities will naturally always have to ensure that the proper foundations for highly technical university studies have been adequately laid in school days," Mr. Pentreath declared. "For the great majority of boys, however, the system of head masters' certificates is likely gradually to take the place of the present scheme, first for one subject, and later, perhaps, for others."

"Such a system is designed to reduce strain on growing boys and girls and to give freedom to schools. Its success or failure would be determined by the attitude of the boys and girls themselves."

"If the aim of their work were to be to secure certificates, the new system would be no better than the old. But if real interest in knowledge could, by this freedom, be helped forward it might be the beginning of a better day for education."

"There is no doubt that the present examination system is in some respects burdensome, but I think it will be a long time before any marked change is made in it," said the head master of Prince Alfred College (Mr. Ward).

"My opinion is that a beneficial change would be to reduce the number of subjects in which a student must pass in a public examination. The essential thing in education is a curriculum which will train a student in accuracy and clarity of thought. The present curriculum has been designed with that end in view, and I consider that it has done so effectively for 30 years."

"The whole problem revolves about the necessity of giving a student a good general training in that period of life in which he has no definite idea about what his future work will be. Only when he knows definitely what is his desire is it possible to begin a course of specialised training to fit him for that particular sphere."

Broad Early Training

"Thus the aim of education must still be to give a broad early training which will develop the clarity and accuracy of thought necessary in any avocation, and lay the foundations for later specialised study."

Mr. Ward said that there was justification for the criticism that the curriculum was at present dominated by the comparatively small proportion of students going on to the universities. Everyone was trying to evolve some means to overcome this obstacle, but so far very little progress had been made.

"I think the solution may be along the lines suggested by Sir William Mitchell to limit matriculation demands for examinations to what he calls 'drill' subjects," Mr. Ward added. "Sir William would limit matriculation examinations to fewer compulsory subjects, and certificates that the student had done other less important subjects satisfactorily would be accepted."

"My objection to the intermediate examination is that boys and girls have to work very hard for it at a time when they are not physically suited for strenuous study."

"Another objection is that competition becomes so keen that it tends to limit the whole outlook to passing the examination instead of learning the subjects adequately. This, of course, depends to a large extent upon the teacher."

News 11-11-35

Conqueror of the Desert

DR. Bertram Thomas, who is in Adelaide, is the author of that fascinating book "Arabia Felix." In this he describes his hazardous journey by camel across the Arabian Desert in 1930, and tells of the customs of the inhabitants and the fauna of the country.

Dr. Thomas had to play a lone hand. The British authorities could not give official approval of his plans, and the native population were hostile to foreigners.

"My plans," he writes, "were conceived in darkness, heralded only by my disappearances, paid for by myself, and executed under my own auspices. Throughout my service at Muscat I elected to spend my summers there to save my leave, intended by authority to be spent in India, for exploration of Arabia during the winter."

For the previous 13 years Dr. Thomas had served in various political capacities in Arabia, and this experience, he writes, had enabled him to acquire a knowledge of tribal dialects and of Arab ways, and to become acclimatised. Because he was the Sultan's wazir and because of the cordial relations existing between him and the ruler, he was brought into personal touch with the most influential Arabs in the south, hence a general attitude of tolerance toward him, an Englishman and a Christian, without which he could never have dreamt of moving off the beaten track.

RARE FUNGUS FOUND IN GARDEN

First Of Species To Be Grown Here

The first species of *Aseroe rubra*, a rare fungus, to be reported growing in South Australia, has been found in Mrs. R. T. Edwards's garden at Clarence Park. When the discovery was made known to Professor J. B. Cleland, the professor of pathology at the University of Adelaide, he was extremely interested. The professor said that the *Aseroe rubra* had been found growing in certain other Australian States, but it had never been reported to him as having grown in South Australia before. Professor Cleland remarked that the same species had been found growing near Bradford, England. His explanation of that particular fungus growing there, was that evidently some spores had been conveyed in wool from Australia.

Mrs. Edwards, who grows many rare tropical plants and shrubs, explained yesterday that about three years ago a friend of hers sent her a swamp lily packed with soil in a box from Lismore (N.S.W.). The lily died, and the soil in the box was thrown out into the garden. It was there that the *Aseroe rubra* was discovered.

The *Aseroe rubra* is a kind of a red fungus with a dingy white centre. Its spores are tinted. The receptacle stem is cylindrical or flaring hollow, and the flower-like top is about 1 1/2 inches in diameter and usually grows to a height of between 2 and 3 inches. It has been known to grow in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand.

Arabian Explorer At University Tomorrow

Dr. Bertram Thomas, the noted Arabian explorer, will give a public lecture at the Adelaide University tomorrow night on "The First Crossing of the Great South Arabian Desert." The lecture will be illustrated with lantern slides and a film. Early application should be made for tickets, either at the University office or Rigbys Ltd., Grenfell street. A charge for admission will be made.

MISS Agnes Dorsch, Catherine Helen Spence scholar, who recently finished a course of baby welfare at Cromwell House, London, is now at Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. In six months she expects to have finished her obstetric training.

News 12-11-35

Vacancy for Research In Marine Biology

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research invites applications for the post of marine biologist to conduct research under the auspices of the council in its fisheries investigations.

Candidates must possess a degree with honors in science, and with zoology as a major subject, and should have had post-graduate experience in marine biological research.

The successful applicants will be appointed for five years and classified as research officer. Applications must reach Mr. G. Lightfoot, secretary to the council, not later than December 2.

The teacher of the violin at the Elder Conservatorium (Mr. Arved Kurtz) left Adelaide today for Perth, where he will give recitals for the Australian Broadcasting Commission.

ado 13-11-35

REGISTRATION OF TEACHERS

General Principle Of Plan Adopted

After a meeting of the Advisory Council of Education yesterday, the Director of Education (Mr. Adey) said that a plan for submission to the Government for the registration of persons who taught at or conducted private schools had been further discussed, and the general principle of the scheme had been adopted. A small sub-committee had been deputed to consider one important clause.

SUCCESS OF RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

Ex-Secretary To Trustees On Way To Melbourne Daughter To Marry Former Adelaide Student

PERTH, November 12. Visiting Australia in an unofficial capacity, Sir Francis Wylie, who was Oxford secretary to the Rhodes trustees from 1903 to 1931, passed through Fremantle on the Oronsay today, accompanied by Lady Wylie and Miss Vera Wylie. In Melbourne Miss Wylie will marry Mr. Lewis Wilcher, South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1930, who is now Dean of Trinity College, Melbourne.

Mr. Wilcher is the only son of Mrs. M. Wilcher, principal of the Adelaide women police.

"I think everybody is agreed that the Rhodes Scholarships are producing the kind of result hoped for," Sir Francis Wylie said today. "That is not to say Rhodes scholars are all world figures, but the benefit is on both sides. Rhodes scholars gain a wider outlook at Oxford, and I think Oxford gains by having so many men from overseas. There are always about 200 Rhodes scholars at Oxford, nearly one-half coming from America."

University Of Adelaide Consolidation Bill

The second reading of the Bill to consolidate Acts relating to the University of Adelaide was moved by the Attorney-General (Mr. Jeffries) in the Assembly yesterday. He said the first of the nine Acts in existence was passed in 1874 and was in need of re-arrangement. The Bill made no alteration in the law and would be considered in the usual way by the joint committee on consolidation Bills.

DR. BERTRAM THOMAS'S LECTURE

The public lecture by Dr. Bertram Thomas, the Arabian explorer, which has been arranged by the University of Adelaide in conjunction with the Royal Geographical Society, will be given at the University tonight. Dr. Thomas will speak on the first crossing of the Great South Arabian Desert. His address will be illustrated by a film and lantern slides. There were many applications yesterday for tickets for admission, which may be obtained at the University and at Rigby's, Grenfell street.

News 13-11-35

Two Bursaries Offered At University

Applications for mining and metallurgical bursaries, of which two are given annually, will be received at the Adelaide University until December 1. Candidates must have completed the first two years for the degree of Bachelor of Engineering in the Department of Mining or Metallurgy at the University or have reached a corresponding standard in work done elsewhere. Candidates for the degree of B.Sc. with geology as the major subject, are also eligible.

The bursaries are valued at £60, and will be paid in two instalments of £30 each. Payment of the last is contingent on the candidate's having passed third-year examinations and on his proficiency.

The committee may recommend additional bursaries in regard to applicants showing special merit and distinction.