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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The second course of extension lectures at the Adelaide University will commence on Tuesday evening, when Mr. Walter Howchin, F.G.S., will deliver the first of three lectures on the "Lost Rivers of South Australia." The subject will cover a large field of observation, dealing with new and striking facts concerning the recent geological changes that have occurred in South Australia. Important earth movements have altered the drainage of the country and isolated the central portions of the continent from the seaboard, which has had a disastrous effect on the climate. Among the topics dealt with will be the life-history of rivers, rivers as recorders of geological change, the dead rivers of South Australia, the importance of the MacDonnell Ranges in the past history of the continent, the origin of the great lakes of central Australia, how South Australia lost its rivers, the drowned valleys of South Australia, the great rift valley, the earthquakes of South Australia and their causes, the geological histories of the rivers Broughton, Light, Para, Torrens, Onkaparinga, Murray, and others. The lectures will be illustrated by over 100 lantern views, nearly all of which are of local features that have a bearing on the subjects dealt with in the lectures.

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON.

RETURNING BY THE OMRAH.

LONDON, June 25.

Sir Douglas and Lady Mawson are returning to Adelaide by the mail steamer Omrah, after visiting the relatives of Dr. Mertz, who lost his life while with the Mawson Antarctic expedition, at Barle.

Register 27/6/14

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The second course of extension lectures at the Adelaide University will commence on Tuesday evening, June 30, when Mr. Walter Howchin, F.G.S., will deliver the first of three discourses on "The lost rivers of South Australia." The subject will cover a large field of observation, dealing with new and striking facts concerning the recent geological changes that have occurred in South Australia. Important earth movements have altered the drainage of the country, and isolated the central portions of the continent from the seaboard, which has had a disastrous effect on the climate. Among the topics dealt with will be the life history of rivers, rivers as recorders of geological change, the dead rivers of South Australia, the importance of the MacDonnell Ranges in the past history of the continent, the origin of the great lakes of Central Australia, how South Australia lost its rivers, the drowned valleys of South Australia, the great rift valley, the earthquakes of South Australia and their causes, and the geological histories of the rivers Broughton, Light, Para, Torrens, Onkaparinga, Murray and others. The lectures will be illustrated by a hundred lantern views, nearly all of which are of local features that have a bearing on the subjects dealt with.

OUR LOST RIVERS.

LECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

The first of a series of lectures on "The Lost Rivers of South Australia" was given in the Prince of Wales' Theatre at the University on Tuesday by Mr. W. Howchin, F.G.S., and there was a large attendance.

The lecturer said his task was to prove that this land of deficient rainfall and comparative absence of rivers had in the not far distant past, geologically speaking, been blessed with continental rivers which in their magnitude rivalled the Murray. The collection of the facts on which his discourse was based had been rendered possible by the application of the new physiography, which not only took notice of the physical features of the country, but sought the reason of their existence. River courses were originated by the uplift of the surface caused by subterranean forces. The river system was distinguished by three features. The first was the watershed. The second stage was reached when the main river was fed by lateral streams called into being by the weathering of the surface, and the third feature was distinguished by piracy, river capture, shifting watersheds, and reduction of grade. Strong rivers were aggressive and great thieves. They worked back on the watershed, captured it, and went on until they won the waters from other streams. The Murray was a pirate, which had absorbed other streams into its own channel. A good example of river capture was the Milendella Creek, near Palmer, which had entirely taken away the Palmer stream. Maturity in rivers was reached when they had accomplished their hardest work. The waterfalls and rapids were eroded, and the stream was graded and slow running. The valleys had been widened by the action of the river, frost, and rain, until the gorge had been smoothed out into a softened valley. The age of a river was judged by its size, and the work it had done. The Murray had done an enormous amount of work. It had carried great highlands to the sea. There was no other country in the world where there was such a lack of continental matured rivers as Australia. The Murray was a meandering river, which had passed its maturity. With a reduction in grade there was a decrease in energy. A river had passed into old age when it wandered through the old flood plains caused by it, and with the mud from fresh channels had filled up the old course. The end was when it reached a dead level, had no eroding force, and simply formed billabongs or irrigated flats. All the flats in the neighborhood of the Murray mouth were indications that it had reached its base level, and lost its eroding force. One of two things might happen to an old river. The land might sink below sea level, or it might be lifted, and thus become rejuvenated. The first resulted in a drowned valley. Sydney Harbor and Port Phillip Bay were drowned valleys. Spencer and St Vincent Gulfs were recent instances. One good effect of rivers becoming lost was that good harbors were formed. If a river become rejuvenated it would start forming a new channel through the rock below. Thus evidence was found of the elevation or falling of the earth surface. Nature worked in cycles. Geological areas were rounded off, with a beginning, maturity, and extinction. The lecture was illustrated by lantern slides.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

AUSTRALIAN MEETING, 1914.

CONDITIONS AND PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERSHIP.

No technical qualification is required for admission as a Member or Associate of the British Association.

New Members or Associates may be enrolled by application and payment of subscription to the Hon. Assistant Treasurer, F. W. Eardley, Esq., the University, Adelaide.

The last day for enrolment of Members in the State of South Australia is Monday, July 27, 1914.

TERMS.

(By special arrangement for the Australian Meeting.)

Table with membership rates: Life Members £10 0 0, Annual Members (1) £2 0 0, (2) £1 0 0, Associates (1) £1 0 0, (2) £0 10 0.

Ladies may join on the same terms, but have in addition the privilege that their tickets are transferable to other ladies.

PRIVILEGES.

Members' and Associates Tickets entitle the holders on equal terms to participation in all General and Sectional Meetings, Evening Discourses, &c., during the Annual Meeting. No person is admitted to any meeting without a ticket.

Members are eligible to serve as officers and on committees of the Association, and they will subsequently receive the Annual Report (a volume giving a complete record of the meeting), free. Associates do not receive these privileges, but may purchase the Annual Report at two-thirds of the published price.

It is necessary to point out that the proceeds from subscriptions to the Association are devoted solely to the promotion of scientific research through committees, &c. A large local membership is essential to the maintenance of these activities, and the Association is unable to issue complimentary tickets, even to persons who contribute liberally to the expenses of the actual meeting. At meetings in Great Britain the number of new members and associates joining locally varies from 600 to 2,500.

All enquiries for further information concerning the meeting should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary of the South Australian Committee, Professor KERR GRANT, University, Adelaide. Telephone Central 5713.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS.

The Hon. A. W. STYLES asked, in view of the work of the Royal Commission on the Adelaide University, was it the intention of the Minister of Agriculture to await its recommendation before sanctioning professorial appointments to the Chairs of Agriculture, Botany, and Geology.

The MINISTER of AGRICULTURE said he had no authority whatever in relation to appointments at the University. In the course of the reorganization of the department the council of the University had been asked whether, in consideration of a subsidy from the Department of Agriculture, a Chair of Botany could be instituted, and the services of a Vegetable Pathologist made available to the department for consultation and professional reports. The council had replied that the proposal could not be effected with the amount of subsidy proposed. Accordingly other arrangements would have to be made to meet the need of the department.