REG. 2·2·26

SUCCESS IN MUSIC.

Miss Faith Fairbank Harvey, Mus. Bac.

Well-deserved success has come the way of Miss Faith Fairbank Harvey, for she has lately won the right to add Mus. Bac. to her name. Miss Harvey, who is the

MISS FAITH HARVEY, Mus. Bac.

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Harvey, of Strathalbyn, evinced talent for music at a youthful age, and began studies almost as soon as she could read. The first few years of her tuition were spent in her home town; and then a move was made to Adelaide, when Mr. E. E. Mitchell, Mus. Bac., instructed Miss Harvey in pianoforte playing, harmony, and counterpart. Every week this promising pupil travelled to town, and two years were thus passed in gradual progression, culminating in the passing of the University public examination grade II. theory with honours. This carried with it a scholarship for the Mus. Bac. course. Miss Harvey next entered the University in the following year, continuing under Mr. Mitchell for pianoforte; and in the next three years passed the first, second, and third year successively of the Mus. Bac course. Subsequently she remained under Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., for composition for two years, the next year (last year) writing an exercise for the final examination in composition, which was accepted by the examiners last November, after which she was admitted to the Degree of Bachelor of Music at the annual commemoration of the University on December 16, 1925. This young musician has also been studying the violin with Miss Sylvia Whitington, A.M.U.A., at the Elder Conservatorium, thus indicating her versatility.

REG. 1·2·26

PRICKLY PEAR—ADELAIDE GRADUATE'S WORK.

Commenting on a cabled report from New York, relating to the extermination of prickly pear by fungous disease, the Minister for Markets and Migration (Senator Sir Victor Wilson) stated that the cable no doubt referred to the work which was being carried out in America by Mr. H. K. Lewcock, B.Sc., of Adelaide University. Mr. Lewcock was sent to America last August by the Commonwealth Prickly Pear Board to undertake investigations on the destruction of prickly pear by fungous and bacterial diseases. Up to that time the funds available to the board had necessitated concentration on the introduction of insect enemies of the pear, though the board realized that fungous and bacterial diseases were likely to be just as valuable and effective as the parasitic insects. In 1925 the Queensland Prickly Pear Lands Commission made a sum of £750 available for each of two years in order to initiate investigations on these diseases, and Mr. Lewcock had been sent to America by the board. He had received valuable assistance and advice from various experts in America, who were keenly interested in the investigations. Sir Victor Wilson said that if the facts as stated in the cable were correct, and if it were true that a fungus disease had been discovered which was rapidly destroying prickly pear in Bermuda, it might lead to important developments. The life history of the fungus would have to be worked out, and the conditions favourable to its growth would have to be ascertained. Moreover, before any culture of the fungous could be brought to Australia, exhaustive tests would have to be carried out in order to ascertain that the disease was confined to prickly pear, and that it would not attack any cultivated crops or other plants of economic value.

REG. 4·2·26

EXTINGUISHING FIRES.

Remarkable American Invention.

NEW YORK, February 2.

Mr. Charles Kellogg, a Californian scientist, gave firemen a demonstration of extinguishing a gas flame two feet high by sound tonal vibration. He passed a bow, like an enlarged violin bow, swiftly across an aluminium tuning fork, thereby producing a screech like an intense radio static. Instantly the yellow flame subsided to six inches, and became a sputtering blue flare. Another bowing completely extinguished the flame.

It was claimed by Mr. Kellogg that in the future buildings would have a scientifically determined pitch, with a screech for extinguishing fires, tuned in from a central fire station, where it would be produced by a much larger bow. He said the General Electric Company was experimenting with his invention.

"ULTRA INGENIOUS."

When the above cablegram was shown to Professor Kerr Grant at the University of Adelaide he laconically remarked,

PROFESSOR KERR GRANT.

"Ultra ingenious," with respect to the final paragraph. "We have known for a long time," the professor continued, "that there is a certain type of gas flame which can be readily extinguished by the sounding of a certain pitch. The type in question is usually a long narrow jet proceeding from a small orifice. It is even possible to extinguish a particularly sensitive jet by vocal expression at a certain pitch. The effect depends, however, upon a very special relation between the pitch of the sound and the size of the jet, and it is difficult to conceive that it could be in any way applicable to the extinction of the flame of burnt wood or similar material."

The professor explained that many experiments could be carried out on a small scale, but were not adaptable for practical purposes. By way of an extreme illustration, he observed that it was a simple matter to evaporate a kettle of water, but it would be an altogether different proposition to dry up the sea. The claim attributed to the American scientist in question was fantastic.

REG. 1·2·26

Dr. J. C. V. Behan has received from the London office of the Rhodes Trustees details of an appeal recently launched for the purpose of raising money for a memorial to the late Sir George Parkin. The proposed memorial will form an integral portion of the new Rhodes House at Oxford, part of which is to be set aside for a library, which will collect books, records, and documents on all subjects bearing upon the history of the British Empire and the United States. The Rhodes trustees are prepared to dedicate a large wing of this library, in size one-third of the whole, to Sir George Parkin's memory. Sir George was the first organizing secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship scheme. He paid extended visits to Australia. Donations may be sent to Dr. Behan, at the Warden's Lodge, Trinity College, Parkville, Victoria.

REG. 30·2·26

FORESTRY.

The Need for a Wider Vision.

I—By E. Anthoney, M.P.

Great injury has been done to Australia through the indiscriminate and widespread destruction of forests and inattention to arboriculture; but an enlightened public opinion is beginning to demand the application of a well-considered and adequate afforestation policy. The Governments should make proper provision for a progressive programme of planting in suitable areas.

Lord Lovat, in a presidential address on the subject, referred to the inherent apathy of the Britisher towards afforestation, the prejudice not being local or periodical, but permanent and racial. Is it a case of the transmission of acquired characteristics? For the Roman occupation of Britain during approximately 500 years was indelibly stamped upon the surviving Briton for many generations, and it has influenced British culture through all the ages. We know the Romans, as a matter of self-protection, wrought great havoc in the English forests, causing widespread destruction,

MR. E. ANTHONEY.

which continued practically unabated until the advent of the Conqueror in 1066. William I., it will be remembered, established New Forest, and did much to restore the conditions obtaining prior to the Roman invasion. Forestry passed through many vicissitudes until the reign of Charles I. when the first book on forestry was written by John Evelyn. "I have planted," says the writer in a letter to the king, "a goodly number of young oaks for your mighty navy"—oaks which were to provide the timber for the ships which defeated Napoleon at Trafalgar.

Growing Need of Timber.

Although steel has replaced wood in the construction of the modern battleship, still the world's timber requirements are greater than ever, and we are forced to ask ourselves—What are we doing in Australia to provide for our own needs? Up to the present we have been utilizing virgin forests, representing the accumulation of centuries of growth, which has come to us as a free gift form Nature, on whose production we have not had to spend a single copper. With the development of the country, however, aided by the destructive agency of bush fires, rabbits &c., millions of acres have been denuded of all vegetation, and, except where natural or artificial regeneration has taken place, large areas have become barren wildernesses.

Consequences of Forest Destruction.

Many examples may be quoted, more particularly in the drier regions of Australia, where indiscriminate clearing has been carried out, where not only is there no tree visible, but even the native trees have refused to grow again. The settlers' crops are destroyed by the dessicating winds, and have perforce to be abandoned, leaving the area to their ultimate fate—utterly unprofitable waste lands. The effects of forest denundation are far-reaching, much agricultural land in the coastal districts of Australia having to be abandoned as a result of sandrift occasioned by the destruction by cattle of the natural vegetation.

Australia, in common with other countries, has been advised by her experts of the danger which faces her in regard to an acute world shortage, which is more forcibly emphasized by the realization that we are importing nearly a half of our total consumption, the chief source of supply being America, although Scandinavian softwoods loom largely in the imports into this country, and are now, in fact, nearly equal to pre-war figures: in 1923 we imported 81,000,000 ft. It is unnecessary to refer to the economic loss this must mean to our own people from the point of view of employment, to say nothing of the cost added to industry owing to having to go so far afield for our supplies.

Awakening Public Conscience.

There is, however, an enlightened public opinion growing up in Australia, which is fast beginning to realize that our country can produce timber second to none in the world. All that is required is that there should be a continuous policy in regard to afforestation, and to that end Governments should set aside by appropriation a sum sufficient to provide for a progressive programme of planting in suitable areas under scientific management. This presupposes an adequate scheme of training to build up an expert forestry service, and sufficient inducement for the retention of the trained men in the service of the country. South Australia has, to her credit, done excellent pioneering work in the cultivation of softwoods, and abundant scope for the extension of this work is offering in certain portions of the State, more particularly in the south-east, where the cheapness of the land in good rainfall areas makes the production of soft woods a sound commercial proposition.

Projected Schemes.

The present Conservator of Forests, by the introduction of cheap planting methods, has practically reduced costs to a minimum, and given a productive value to large tracts of country, which had hitherto been entirely unprofitable. One of the last acts of the Barwell Administration was to approve a scheme for the expenditure of £500,000 over a period of 10 years. It is to be regretted that the present Government have not seen fit to carry out the scheme in its entirety, instead of compromising in half-measures, and thus delaying the full planting programme. Parliament had approved the expenditure, and the land and the labour were available. It is to be hoped that the whole of the department's energies will not be concentrated on the sout-east for various reasons, chief among them being the distance from the market and consequent heavy transport rates. In our Mount Lofty Ranges large areas of eminently suitable land are available for the production of timber, which, in addition to its direct commercial value, would serve the purpose of protecting our reservoirs and effect an indirect saving to the community by the prevention of erosion, with consequent damaging effects of floods, which are an annual menace to the dwellers on the plains.

What Other Countries are Doing.

The necessity for reafforestation is not peculiar to Australia. Practically every country in the world is faced with the problem of under-supply, and the menacing shadow of a timber famine hangs over all. This has had the effect of stimulating Government and private enterprise in the direction of comprehensive planting schemes. President Coolidge, in an address at Washington last year, stated:—"The time is at hand when our country is actually confronted with a timber shortage, that can be remedied in only two ways—by diminishing the present waste and increasing the present supply." The President urged the strictest economy in the use of their resources, and immediate action in regard to reafforestation, so that the gap between the cutting out and the regrowth of their timber resources might be successfully bridged. Forestry experts have been uttering their warnings for a considerable time, and their voices are only just beginning to be heard. The public need to be reminded that unproductive lands are an immeasurable loss to the community. Such lands pay little or no taxes; they employ no labour; they turn no wheels; and build no roads.

An Urgent and Momentous Problem.

Forestry is the handmaiden of agriculture. The forest problem is a land problem of the first magnitude. It is likewise an industrial problem. Great industries depend on the forest for their raw material. These industries are huge employers of labour, and represent enormous capital investment. Forestry should enlist the sympathy and co-operation of the whole community. It demands the co-operation of State and Federal Governments, and the support of every industrial organization, of universities, consumers, and technical experts. With such a continuation of effort, and the determination to be self-supporting in regard to our timber requirements, Australia, with her tremendous natural advantages, should be within sight of absolute security. Governments should realize that they are trustees only of the country's resources, and as such should see to it that not only are these resources to be used by the present generation, but they should neither be wasted nor destroyed. These great natural resources must be administered for the general welfare of all the people, both for the present and for the future.

ADV. 4·2·26

OVERSEAS SPORTING.

BRITISH FOOTBALL.

LONDON, February 2.

The Welsh Rugby players D. Davies (Neath's scrum half) and Elwyn Evans (Llanelly) have joined the Northern Union, and will play for Broughton Rangers and Salford respectively.—Reuter.