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planned that, at the present time, the members of the senate were without any guide as to the amount of interest taken by candidates for election in the work of the University. In the course of the discussion that followed the vice-chancellor said that the council met in full only once a month, and its main function was to coordinate the activities which were carried on during the month by the faculties and boards, which were responsible for the detailed business of the University and which were the real growing points of the institution. He suggested that, instead of doing what Mr. Hollidge proposed, they might hold a "nomination meeting" when members standing for election could be questioned. That would give other members of the council an opportunity to state the work done by candidates. At the present it was quite unknown to members of the senate what that work was. One instance was Mr. Talbot Smith, who had, for the past 15 years, prepared the final draft of the statutes and regulations presented to the senate. That was probably unknown to the members voting that day. The vice-chancellor also pointed out that there was ample need as well as opportunity, for members of the Senate to engage in University administration by means of the boards and faculties. Mr. Hollidge withdrew his motion.

ADV. 28. 11. 25

DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES.

AUSTRALIA'S NEED FOR POPULATION.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR RICHARDSON.

The vast empty spaces of the Commonwealth clamored for a continuous stream of immigration to develop its great resources, and to maintain its high ideal—a White Continent for the white races—said Professor Richardson.

Laying stress on Australia's great need for immigration, showing the remarkable progress made with the country being so sparsely populated, and touching on variety of other interesting topics, Professor A. E. V. Richardson, Director of the Waite Institute of Agricultural Research, delivered a lecture on "Australia as a Field for Overseas Settlers," at the Public Library lecture-room on Friday evening under the auspices of the Victoria League.

Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., who presided, spoke of Professor Richardson's good work at the Waite Institute, and said the professor would visit South Africa and other parts of the world next year to see what progress was being made in the science in which he was interested.

Professor Richardson said at the outset that Australia was one of the most thinly peopled areas of land on the globe. If its population of 6,000,000 were spread out evenly over the continent the average density would be about two persons per square mile. The Northern Territory had the sparsest population of any considerable area of the earth's surface inhabited by man. It had an area greater than the United Kingdom, France, and Germany combined, but it supported fewer than 3,000 people. A striking feature of the Australian population was that 62 per cent. was urban and 38 per cent. rural—a remarkable situation for an agricultural and pastoral nation with less than 1 per cent. of its area under cultivation, and no less than 47 per cent. of its territory unoccupied. Nearly 50 per cent. of the people lived in the six capital cities, and probably 80 per cent. of the population lived on a belt of country 100 miles wide along the east, south, and south-western edges of the continent. Its scanty population and the comparatively empty northern coastline, and its wide, unoccupied spaces, made it specially desirable that immigration should be encouraged in every possible way. In older countries of large population the rate of immigration was a matter of small moment, but a continent of 3,000,000 square miles, with vast undeveloped natural resources and a gigantic burden of debt caused by the world war, must have people if the financial burdens incident to the development of the country were not to be crushing. For the past three years the natural increase in Australia averaged, approximately, 80,000 per annum, the net immigration 40,000 per annum—a total of 120,000—or, roughly, an increase of 2 per cent. per annum of the population. During the year prior to the war, 1913, the United States received 1,197,892 people from abroad—more than the entire net immigration to Australia from 1860 to 1913.

Men Urgently Wanted.

The advance of nations in prosperity and power depended on the natural resources they possessed and the ability of the people to exploit them. There was no doubt that Australia had such resources, but men were urgently wanted to open up the country, till the farms, build railways and roads, subdue the forests, harness the rivers, exploit the mineral wealth, and convert the raw materials of agriculture and mining into finished manufactures. In European countries millions of men wanted broad acres; in Australia millions of acres wanted men. The experience of America, Argentina, and Canada proved beyond doubt that one of the greatest agencies for the rapid development of th eagricultural resources of a new country was a steady stream of settlers, the building and development of railways, the provision of good roads to act as feeders for the railways, and liberal land settlement terms. Were Australia nearer the crowded centres of Europe, and its resources as well advertised as those of Canada, America, and Argentina, it would be the Mecca of the European settler. Leadership was ultimately reflected in the character of the legislation enacted for the systematic development of the nation's resources, the provision of development railways, roads, conservation of water supplies, extension of irrigation, promotion of land settlement, and provision for educational facilities, and planned rural development.

Foremost Woolgrower in the World.

Australia led the world in value of production per inhabitant. The total value of wealth produced in 1922 was £346,000,000, or £62 18/3 per head of population. Australia had a range of climate sufficiently varied to enable all forms of temperate, sub-tropical, and tropical products to be grown to perfection. Its wealth was principally in its wonderful pastures, supporting immense flocks of sheep and cattle; its level, open grain fields of almost illimitable extent, and its forests, mines, and water resources. He spoke of the development of the pastoral industry, and stated that in less than a century Australia had become the foremost wool-grower of the world. Many types of Merinos had been developed. On the wide open spaces of the interior, a large-framed, strong-woolled sheep, of strong constitution, had been developed. On the highlands of New South Wales a smaller type, carrying a fleece of fine dense wool, had been developed. Again, on the open western plains of Victoria, a smaller-framed sheep, carrying a fleece of the finest wool in the world, was to be found. Although the best portion of the grass lands of Australia had already been taken up and stocked, there were many opportunities for newcomers, because from time to time landowners were compelled, owing to economic conditions and the incidence of taxation, to reduce the size of their holdings. Australia also was remarkably free from those deadly stock diseases, foot and mouth disease, rinderpest, anthrax, &c., which menaced the pastoralist in other countries. In agriculture, as with live stock, the Australian had kept to a constructive course. The wheat-breeder brought hardy types from Northern India and hybridised them with the European varieties, and produced scores of new varieties, combining the hardiness of the Indian types with the prolific character of the European types. One man, the late William Farrer, created Federation wheat, which had added millions sterling to the wealth of Australia. The discovery of the value of soluble phosphates had been of incalculable value to the wheatgrower. On a conservative estimate, the increase in yield due to superphosphate was certainly not less than three bushels per acre over the wheat belt. The value of this increase, valuing wheat at 5/ per bushel, was £7,500,000 per annum. It was in the wheat belt that one great avenue for settlement existed. Even if no further improvements were made in wheat-growing practice, it was estimated that 200 million acres of land in the Commonwealth had climatic and soil conditions favorable for the cultivation of this staple crop. As only 10 million acres were annually cropped the great expansion that was possible was evident. The largest undeveloped areas for wheat-growing were in Western Australia and Riverina, while smaller areas existed in the mallee areas of North-Western Victoria and in Eyre Peninsula in this State.

The Marketing Question.

Fruitgrowing had been a lucrative industry in Australia. Marketing difficulties had become pronounced in recent years, but these were not impossible of solution. They had arisen mainly because the development of markets abroad had not kept pace with accelerated production at home. The working out of methods and policies for co-operation in the marketing of farm products was very necessary for the expansion of the fruit industry. The annual value of the fruit produced in the Commonwealth exceeded £6,000,000. The annual production of vineyards exceeded £3,000,000. Thus, the total value of the fruit industry exceeded £9,000,000 per annum. This heavy yield was produced from less than 300,000 acres. To place the fruit industry on a sound, financial basis, two factors appeared essential—(1) The development of better marketing methods, (2) the production and export of only the highest quality of products. No statement of the resources of the Commonwealth would be complete without mention of her rivers, which for generations were permitted to run to waste, though they traversed fertile, if somewhat arid, plains on either side of them. These **areas only needed water to be transformed** into fields of amazing fertility. The great problem of Australian agriculture and land settlement was how best to conserve and use the water supply that filled the rivers and creeks in the winter and spring months of the year. Irrigation required a reversal of the methods and ideas that had made wheat-growing and sheep-raising so successful. Both these were based on the idea of securing results with the lowest possible expenditure of labor. To get the best results from irrigation, much money and labor on each acre were needed. It was often necessary to spend more money on the preparation of the land and on the improvement of a 40-acre fruit farm than would be needed to bring under cultivation a 1,000-acre wheat farm. He referred to the irrigation work done in Victoria and its practical teachings, and went on to say there must be only one authority engaged in closer settlement policy. That body, whatever it was—the Irrigation Commission or the Closer Settlement Board—must undertake the responsibility of buying the land, fixing its price, choosing its settlers, and must exercise supervision over them until payments were completed. The settler also should have money of his own. Group settlement was needed in intensive agriculture, supervision was required, farms must provide a living and be equipped as rapidly as possible, soil surveys should be made and reasonable financial terms for settlers. In view of the large sums necessary to promote land settlement on an ample scale, it had been suggested that Australia should push on with the development of her manufacturing industries, so as to permit a far more rapid increase in population than was possible by land settlement. It must be borne in mind, however, that although protected by a high tariff, Australian manufactures could only make limited progress because of the relatively small home market, and because of the high costs of production and distribution which rendered an export trade of any magnitude in manufactured goods almost impossible. Australia could not further develop her manufacturing industries without more population, and could not secure more population without developing her manufacturing as well as her primary industries. It was easy to state the problem, but not easy to suggest a solution, except to say that it must be tackled on big lines, involving the use of large capital outlays. (Applause.)

The lecture was illustrated by a number of excellent lantern slides. Professor Richardson was warmly thanked for his address.

ADV. 28. 11. 25

THE ABORIGINES.

AMERICAN VISITORS IMPRESSED.

In company with Professors J. B. Cleland, T. Brailsford Robertson, and Drs. R. H. Pulleine and T. D. Campbell, Dr. Clark Wissler (curator of anthropology in the American Museum of Natural History, and Professor of Anthropology at Yale University), and Professor E. R. Embree (Director of the Division of Science Studies of the Rockefeller Foundation of New York), returned to Adelaide by the East-West express on Friday night from a visit to the north.

Dr. Wissler said they were met by Mr. A. J. McBride at Burra, and were driven about 70 miles north to Wilgena station, wher ethey visited an aborigines' camp. They found the natives peaceful and tractable and learnt much of their life and customs. Professor Embree had been much impressed by their visit to Australia. They had met with courtesy on every hand, and there had been a general desire to assist them in the pursuit of their studies.

Dr. Wissler expects to leave for Melbourne to-day.

ADV. 28. 11. 25

ATTACK ON UNIVERSITIES.

The sweeping charge that modern universities breed more laziness than learning was made by Mr. J. B. Finley, formerly professor at the University of California, a Harvard graduate and a holder of a degree from the University of Edinburgh, who left the United States on October 16 to become dean of English at the University of Mexico City. Mr. Finley added the startling statement that 75 per cent. of students leave the American universities unable to speak or write the English language properly. Many of them seek university careers merely because they do not want to work. America, he said, would probably be saved by the young men who could not go to college, and he would rather trust rough, uncouth men to conduct the affairs of the nation than young men "highbrows," who sat in a class-room and hid their mental weakness and moral unfitness behind a coat of face powder and cosmetics. A master of arts or doctor of philosophy in America, he said, is now a boy whose parents have enough money to keep him in college until the professors are tired of looking at him. Mr. Finley declared that manhood is an ideal which is being overlooked in the American educational system, and "we are trying to polish an article that is veneered." A sturdy oak tree with the bark on it would be better material, in Mr. Finley's opinion.

NEWS. 26. 11. 25

Dr. A. J. Schulz (principal of the Teachers' College) has issued invitations to the laying of the foundation stone of the new college buildings at Kintore avenue on Friday, December 4, at 4 o'clock. The ceremony will be performed by the Hon. L. L. Hill (Minister of Education).

ADV. 28. 11. 25

ABORIGINAL RESEARCH.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

Dr. Herbert Basedow asserts that in the ceremonies of the Australian aboriginal there are revealed the rudiments of religious thought.

The Australian aboriginal has for long been an object of careful study by anthropologists, and renewed public attention has been attracted to the natives of this country by the visit of the eminent American scientists—Dr. Clark Wissler, head of the department of anthropology in the American Museum of Natural History, and Mr. Edwin Embree, head of the division of science studies of the Rockefeller Foundation. These gentlemen returned to Adelaide from Tarcoola last night, after a short visit to the interior of Australia.

There have already been a number of scientific expeditions into little known parts of Australia, and among South Australians few, if any, have devoted so much time and energy in the pursuit of knowledge of the habits, customs, and beliefs of the aboriginal as Dr. Herbert Basedow, whose authority on this subject is widely recognised. In an interview yesterday, Dr. Basedow said he had read with great interest the editorial article in "The Advertiser" on Wednesday dealing with aboriginal research, and he cordially endorsed the sentiment conveyed by it that visits from men such as Dr. Wissler and Professor Embree could only be of the greatest advantage to the advancement of anthropological science in Australia.

"It is true," he said, "there are some tribes in Australia about whom very little or nothing is known; and worse, there are tribes about whom nothing ever will be known, for the simple reason that they have passed beyond the limits of human investigation. The principal anthropological terrae incognitae lie in the northern regions—the Northern Kimberleys of Western Australia and the Western Carpentaria Gulf tribes of the Northern Territory. Apart from the few facts collected by Dr. Mjoberg and myself, we have to depend entirely for our information from these areas upon the journals of observant explorers like George Grey and Lord Stokes. There is only one tribe in Central Australia still more or less unstudied, namely, the Wongapiteha, in the extreme north-western corner of our State; and to this might be added the Undagerrinya group of the Aluridja tribe, living in the Musgrave Ranges, and the few straggling groups of the desert south of the ranges. These groups are of particular interest, and it was among them while I was attached to the Government North-West expedition that I discovered children with flaxen hair. This phenomenon is of particular importance, since it (among other things) supports the contention of some anthropologists that the ancestral stock of the present-day Australian aboriginal may not have been very dark-skinned.

The Aboriginal Belief.

"I disagree with the suggestion which the article seems to imply, that our aborigines have no belief in the existence of a Supreme Being. If, indeed, we accept Sir J. G. Frazer's definition—that in cases of magic where the operation of spirits is assumed, we have a true form of religion—the aboriginal is certainly not without a fair share of divine instincts, which, among other things, recognise a Spirit Deity. Sir Baldwin Spencer, as "The Advertiser" states, has always denied the existence of this belief among the tribes he came in contact with, but other observers have recorded it time after time. Thomas, one of the first Protectors in New South Wales, as far back as the early forties of last century, found that the natives recognised a deity they called Punjil. Ten years later his colleague, Parker, independently discovered the same deity worshipped, but thought the name sounded more like Pundiff or Boondyil. Among the list of other observers who have reported the aborigines' belief in the existence of a Supreme Being are Land, Gunther, Manning, Cameron, Howitt, and Strehlow. The name of the Great Spirit varies according to the locality—Beyma, Boy, Baime, Thurmulin, Daramulun, Muru, Altjerre, Tukutu, Nyoge, and Kaleya Ngangu. As I have pointed out in my latest work on the aboriginal, the name Kaleya Ngangu is perhaps the most poetical, the first word meaning "the finish," and the second "that which is to come." The thought implied in the verbal combination is that the Great Being has emerged from the obscurity of the past, and will continue into the uncertainty of the future.

"The article correctly states that the aboriginal has no shrines, idols, or altars of sacrifice. He nevertheless performs his worshipful ceremonies in the presence of a sacred tree, pole, stone, or other object which is supposed to become temporarily inspirited by a totem spirit. These facts, taken in conjunction with his established forms of nature, ancestor, and sex worship, cannot be regarded as other than the rudiments of religious thought."