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Advertiser

JUL 22 1924

SCIENCE CONGRESS.

THE ADELAIDE MEETING.

In connection with the forthcoming meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, the Adelaide secretary (Mr. L. Keith Ward, Director of Mines) advises that arrangements have been made for a number of excursions, lectures, and in addition to the programme of scientific papers, and discussions, social entertainments, during the week beginning on August 25. Excursions to places of interest near Adelaide may be organised for the week-end immediately preceding the opening of the session, but these arrangements will depend on the wishes of visiting members. Further announcements will be made at a later date as to the additions to the programme of the meeting. The following fixtures have been made to date:—

Monday, August 25.—Civic reception by the Lord Mayor, at noon, in the Town Hall; meeting of the general council in the afternoon, also short excursions; presidential address by Sir John Monash in the Town Hall, at 8 p.m.; the announcement of the title of the president's inaugural address will be made later.

Tuesday, August 26.—Meetings of the association at the University, morning and afternoon, with the delivery of addresses by presidents of sections. His Excellency the Governor of South Australia will hold a reception at Government House in the evening.

Wednesday, August 27.—Sectional meetings will be continued in the morning and afternoon. Some excursions arranged for the afternoon. A public lecture on "Recent Developments in Wireless Communication," by Mr. E. T. Fisk, at the Town Hall, at 8 p.m.

Thursday, August 28.—Sectional meetings continued in the morning. The president of the association (Sir John Monash) will tender a reception in the afternoon. The evening is kept free for private hospitality.

Friday, August 29.—Sectional meetings continued in the morning and afternoon, with some excursions. Public lecture in the Town Hall, at 8 p.m., subject to be announced later.

Saturday, August 30.—Final meetings of sections and general council; week-end excursions start.

The number of delegates or representatives from important scientific societies of Australia and New Zealand exceeds 70. The names will be announced in the near future. These representatives are selected generally for their eminent positions in the scientific world, and the appointments are designed to ensure the co-operation of the various scientific institutions and societies in the South-Western Pacific. The association aims at the advancement of mankind everywhere by the study of science and education, but it is primarily designed to encourage work in Greater Australia and New Zealand. The scientific proceedings of the Adelaide meeting in the sections of mathematics, physics, astronomy, chemistry, pharmacy, geography, geology, history, botany, zoology, fisheries, entomology, agriculture, veterinary science, anthropology, hygiene, mental science, and education, statistics and social science, and engineering, at the Adelaide meeting are expected to be of very great interest. The geological programme has been prepared, but those of other sections are not yet announced.

The inaugural address by the incoming president (Sir John Monash) will be delivered immediately after his induction by the retiring president (Sir George H. Knibbs). The presidential address usually supplies a brief summary of recent scientific progress in all fields, and is followed by an address on some subject on which the president is a recognised authority. Sir John Monash is an authority on applied electricity. Sir George Knibbs' inaugural address was a masterly and comprehensive review of scientific progress during the preceding four years. The Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science should become more and more the co-ordinator of scientific work, in general, within Australia and New Zealand, so as to secure a wider usefulness for scientific work. It is not the fault of scientists that their skill has perfected weapons of war. Money is generally forthcoming to develop weapons of warfare, whereas money is not devoted to extending the usefulness of science in times of peace as in war. The scientist loves truth for its own sake, and his real desire is to serve mankind, not to destroy. The true scientist gives his best effort to the community free of charge; he seeks no patent rights. By this action, however, he rarely accumulates riches, and is, therefore, unless assisted, unable to carry out research work for which he is adapted. The excellent work outlined by the Pacific Science Congress of August and September, 1923, in Australia, might well be continued by the association for the South-Western Pacific. This work, however, is not only of an economic nature, but has also a high intellectual, educational, and social aim.

...efficient standard." This ideal is being attained, and the greatest evidence of the success of the school is its popularity among the natives. Former students are now being appointed executive officers in the administrative service, in the position of sub-mamurs. During 1918, 51 boys left the school workshops, trained as carpenters, fitters, and smiths, and all found employment at once. The college football team usually defeats the British Army team from the battalion stationed in Khartoum! This is always a bitter pill to the soldiers, especially when the boys are seen to discard their boots and play soccer in bare feet before the game has been long in progress.

Grateful Learners.

There is also a military school for training boys leaving the college as officers in the Sudanese battalions. The Sudanese are being educated. They are working their way up in the civil service; the sub-mamurs will soon be mamurs. Under British training, they are learning to administer their own country, and as they see they can take it, they will want more and more control of their own affairs. At present they are content to learn from the British. They see all the British have done for them, and they are grateful. Statements to this effect can be read again and again in the native press of Khartoum, and all opinion is unanimous that they will not be handed back to the Egyptians. British protection and help are what they desire to keep now, and undoubtedly they look forward to their own independence.

Egyptians Not Wanted.

Egypt and the Sudan are separated both geographically and ethnologically—geographically by 200 miles of the Nubian Desert in the Sudan, not to mention some 500 miles of practically uninhabited Egypt, and ethnologically by the negroid element of the Sudan, and the great changes the original Arabs of Egypt have gone through. Three-fourths of the population of Egypt is agricultural, the fellahin, ignorant and hard-working sons of the soil, living in mud-brick huts. The Egyptians of the towns are very different. Many wear European dress, and their mode of life approximates much more closely to that of Europeans. All the culture of the West is available to the upper classes, and education in Paris is very popular, in London perhaps a little less so, but it may be said as a generalization that the higher class Egyptians are a most decadent race. Men of the type of Fahmy Bey are all too common. Very few nomad tribesmen remain in Egypt.

At present the Sudan is maintaining the Egyptian army, and this is really the crux of the question from the Egyptian point of view. The Sudanese hate the Egyptians, and Britain can concede nothing to Egypt without violating for the Sudanese the principles of self-determination.

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The honorary degree of correspondent was conferred upon Professor Sir T. W. Edgeworth David, of Sydney, by the Geological Society of America, at its last annual meeting, for his eminent services in the cause of geology. This great honour conferred by the leading geological society of America was bestowed upon Professor David in common with five other world-famous geologists, namely:—Dr. J. J. Sederholm, Director of the Geological Survey of Finland, for eminent services in the cause of general geology; Dr. F. A. A. Lacroix, the great French petrologist; Dr. A. Smith Woodward, an English palaeontologist; Dr. Gustaf A. F. Molengraaff, stratigraphical and structural geologist, University of Delft, Holland; and Dr. Bonjiro Koto, of Tokyo Imperial University, the doyen of Japanese geology. Professor David's services to the cause of geology and science generally may be summarised briefly in that his geology of the Maitland coalfield is a classic; that he has founded a School of Geology which is widely and most favourably known throughout the world; and that the second great Pan-Pacific Congress, held in Melbourne and Sydney in 1923, owed its success in very great measure to his indefatigable efforts in arousing and maintaining interest throughout the Pacific in this movement. The various honours which have been conferred upon him by Governments and learned societies are too numerous to mention. Among his achievements may be noted his eminent war services, and the expedition to the Antarctica, with the first recorded ascent of Mount Erebus. Professor David is, perhaps, best known, however, as a man of lovable and endearing personality; and his colleagues, his exceedingly numerous friends, and his past and present students, will, one and all, be delighted to learn of this new and great honour which has been done him by a foreign society.

Co-ordination and harmonious co-operation between all scientific bodies for the promotion of knowledge and the extension of usefulness is its aim.

An excellent method to help this great work is to belong to the association—£1 membership subscription. Railway concessions to parties of not less than six persons are given at the rate of two-thirds the usual fare. Such concessions are not available more than three days before the opening of the congress.

The trees are a small and very thorny acacia, of which there are several species which produce gum. The natives strike the stems with axes, and the gum exudes in time, and dries in lumps like our wattle gum, which it closely resembles. It is collected and brought in to the markets by camel and rail, where it is bought by European traders. No land is owned or worked by Europeans.

The People and Their Customs.

The area of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan is about that of India, a million square miles, and the population, now 4,000,000, is rapidly increasing. It was reckoned to be about 10,000,000 before the Mahdi's time. There are three classes—the Arabs, the Riverine and village-dwelling tribes, and the original negroid peoples. The Arabs live to-day exactly as they did a thousand years ago. They preserve their nomad habits, and stick rigidly to their traditions of religion and living. They never live in fixed habitations, but wander over the open country with their herds of camels, goats, and cattle. They even keep away from the river. They are mainly confined to the central provinces of Darfur, Kordofan, and Kassala, also the Red Sea provinces. They are very brave and warlike, but scorn any form of labour.

They will not work for the Government in any capacity, except those who consent to join the eastern or western Arab corps as soldiers. Any work that is done in their camps is performed by the women. They have always been the dominant race, enslaving the black races of the South. Slave raids are now ended, but the Arabs are allowed to retain all who were slaves at a certain date, though any slave who complains of his lot is liberated, and these freed slaves are segregated in villages; a necessary precaution. Curiously, many slaves have no wish to change their state, as they see no advantage in freedom, but lose the protection and status of the tribe to which they are attached, and find the struggle for existence harder "on their own." Each tribe of Arabs has a definite area of its own, which might correspond to a grazing lease in Australia. These boundaries are interfered with in no way by the British. The Arabs are the most troublesome and useless of the population, but withal the most interesting and romantic. On one occasion an Arab was being tried by the inspector on a charge of stealing cattle. He heard the evidence with the utmost indifference, and refused to take any interest in the proceedings. At last the inspector insisted on his saying something, whether he was guilty or not guilty at least, so he replied, "God knows," and nothing further could be got from him.

Religious Fanatics.

From time to time new Messiahs break out in different parts of the country. News soon reaches the Intelligence Department, and the man is brought into Khartoum. The first idea of a Messiah is to form a following, and proceed to lay out all opposition, and spread the good news with sword and spear, so that measures must be taken early. The head of the Intelligence Department deals with them gently but firmly, and sends them to a different part of the country, where they can dwell in holiness and seclusion. He asked one of them recently how he knew he was the real Jesus. He replied that God had told him. No further argument was possible.

Workers and Raiders.

The most useful inhabitants of the Sudan are the mixed tribes, the results of intermarriage between the Arabs and negroid races. These people dwell in villages and along the river. They are densest in the Gazira, the area between the Blue and White Niles, south of Khartoum. They cultivate the soil for their own uses, growing dura, and are not above honest toil. The police and Government servants are recruited from them. The Arabs incidentally despise the police. The Arab is comparatively fair and often handsome, the Sudanese proper is much blacker, with thick lips and negroid characteristics. The negro races form the remainder of the population, a very large proportion. They live mainly in the southern provinces of Bahr-el-Gazal, Mongalla, and Sobat-Pibor, where conditions are swampy, tropical, and very unhealthy. Little use is at present made of the country, and administration is at a minimum, consisting of a few military posts to prevent slave traffic and keep order. Abyssinian raids are frequent, and some kind of warfare is continually going on. These people speak their own languages, not Arabic, and are pagans, and often naked savages. Until the British occupation the area was mainly looked on as a source of slaves, though it must be said that the Egyptian Government had, for many years, been trying to suppress slavery, without much success as they had little, or no, control over the powerful Arab tribes.

The Gordon College.

No account of present-day conditions in the Sudan would be complete without reference to the Gordon Memorial College. This has been a wonderfully successful institution. In 1919 there were 677 boys in the school. The instruction is given in Arabic, though English is taught in the upper school, particularly to boys training for the religious Law Courts. Boys are selected for the school from all the provinces, with the help of the inspectors. Kitchener's ideal for the school was, "that by association with English masters, with whom the boys are closely and continuously associated, native views of life may be greatly modified, and gra-

"Scherzo," and the "Kmale," impassioned and replete with thematic devices, provided a task which displayed all the artist's as masters. An ovation followed the conclusion of the trio, which assured the players of the genuine enjoyment which resulted from their performance. Miss Ada Wordie was the assisting vocalist. She had chosen a group from a cycle by Rachmaninoff, all songs of exceptional worth. The first, "Lilacs," was full of expression; "At night," one of the composer's finest contributions to vocal literature, was splendidly sung; "Into my open window" was rich in melodic line; and "The coming of spring," an ardent resting song of such beauty that the audience asked for it to be repeated. Mr. Harold Wyld played the difficult accompaniments with his accustomed skill.

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THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN.

Why British Rule Must Continue.

By Cecil T. Madigan, M.A.

A Considerate Native Policy.

Famines were once the terror of the Sudan. There are now provided against the Government buying and storing supplies of grain grown in the country for redistribution in case of famine when bad seasons are expected. This grain is not bagged, but piled in huge pyramids in the open. During the rains one of these pyramids was once noted to have earned to a grassy mound. Roads have been cleared and opened, and communication improved in every way.

The first principle of the Government has always been to pay due regard to existing native laws, customs, and religion, and to interfere with them as little as possible, not trying to thrust Western civilization suddenly on Eastern minds. These means the British have gained the absolute confidence of the Sudanese. It is high in the honour of the Englishman that it comes as quite a pleasing



MR. CECIL T. MADIGAN, M.A.

surprise to the newly appointed official, at once feels out on his honour to hold the traditions of the service, and is very seldom that this trust is betrayed. All officials must speak Arabic, all dealings with the people are carried out in that language. No Sudanese would ever learn English, and few ever

Friday, the Mohammedan holy day, is observed instead of Sunday. The Government is especially careful not to interfere in any way with religion or Mohammedan customs, but has rather made a point of assisting in some directions, such as by sending architects for the design of mosques and affording facilities for their construction. Christian missions are not encouraged, but all are treated with uniform consideration.

Gum Arabic.

The trade of the country has increased enormously. Gum and ivory are the chief exports. The gum is the familiar gum arabic, thousands of tons of which go out of the country annually. It is largely used in the manufacture of sweets. The gum forests cover vast tracts of country.