

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

A SPECIAL CONGREGATION.

A special congregation of the University of Adelaide, at which the Chancellor will preside, will be held on Monday next, at 4 p.m., for the purpose of conferring the following degrees:—

The ordinary degree of Bachelor of Arts—
Irwin (Oppervien, B.A. (in absentia).

The ordinary degree of Bachelor of Arts—
Adelaide Laetitia Allcock, Jonathan Kingsley Nicholls.

The ordinary degree of Bachelor of Science—
Arthur Richard Alderman, Richard Grenfell Thomas.

The degree of Bachelor of Engineering and diploma in Applied Science:—
Francis Downer Jackson, Tom Preston, Eric Lang, Edward Lambert Stockbridge, Wilfred Robert Evans (in absentia), Klem Bissett Cross (in absentia), Edward Allen Thuram (in absentia).

The Diploma in Commerce:—
Ernest Edward Bayly (in absentia), Charles Stanley Francis (in absentia).

THE TIMES,

FEBRUARY 21, 1924.

Presented by
W. J. Young Esq.

AGRICULTURE IN THE TROPICS.

EMPIRE WORK.

LESSONS FROM THE WEST INDIES.

by Sir Arthur Shipley

(Chairman of the Governing Body, Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture).

One would like to begin at the beginning, but in the case of the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture it is a little difficult to say, precisely, where that beginning lies. In one sense, the whole enterprise arose out of the Imperial Department of Agriculture, whose headquarters were in Barbados.

This had been established by the Colonial Office, in 1889, with the twofold object of restoring the sugar industry in the West Indies and of encouraging other industries. The Department, under the able guidance of Sir Daniel Morris and, later, of Sir Francis Watts, and with the help of a competent staff of capable assistants, was markedly successful.

In April, 1913, a number of the leading planters in Trinidad passed a resolution in favour of the establishment of an Agricultural College, and this resolution was passed on, through the Governor, to the authorities at home, and that enlightened statesman, Lord Milner, who was Secretary of State for the Colonies, appointed in 1919 a Tropical Agriculture Committee to consider the possibilities.

After many sittings, and the taking of much evidence, this Committee unanimously reported in favour of the establishment of the new College, and this was effected with little or no delay. Pending the presentation of a petition to the King for a grant of a Royal Charter of Incorporation, the College was registered under the Companies Acts. The licence was dated September 2, 1921, and this date may be regarded as the foundation date of the College.

The staff of the Imperial Department became the professors, and their head the principal of the new institution. This was no small sacrifice on their part, for it meant their transference from the comparatively cool island of Barbados to the much hotter and damper climate of Trinidad. Plans were then drawn out for the new building, but, as much time was occupied by adjusting the views of the governing body in London with those of the executive committee in Trinidad, there was some little delay before the building could be begun. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago generously gave to the College, for 199 years, at, as Mr.

Bald.

Montagu Tigg would say, "the ridiculously small amount" of one shilling a year, some 84 acres of suitable ground on the pasture of St. Augustine, seven miles east of Port of Spain. The governing body purchased the estates residence as a home for the principal, and a certain number of new houses were built for members of the staff. A disused hospital was refitted and converted into laboratories and lecture rooms, and here the College was formally opened by the Governor, Sir Samuel Wilson, in 1921.

A HISTORIC SITE.

Close to St. Augustine lie the Government stock farm and the land where the Department of Agriculture carries out its large-scale experiments. The site is full of historic memories, for it was through the orchard here that Sir Walter Raleigh and his men advanced when they burnt the Spanish town of St. Joseph in 1595, and obtained the pitch with which to caulk their ships. Here, too, in the drawing-room of the residence, Valsayn, two centuries later, the last Spanish Governor, Don Josef Maria Chacon, signed the treaty of capitulation with the English representatives, Sir Ralph Abercromby and Admiral Harvey.

The placing of the College in the island of Trinidad has given rise to a little comment, a little jealousy. But "after all," as Lord Milner said, "it had to be somewhere." Trinidad is the second largest island in the Antilles; its soil is not only very fertile, but it is very varied, and on it large crops of every kind of tropical produce are grown. It has a population of just over 350,000, and its chief town, Port of Spain, is well supplied with such modern facilities as electric light, electric tramways, telephones, a good water supply, and an efficient drainage supply. A recent authority has stated that it is one of the most sanitary cities in the West Indies. Moreover, another factor played a part in the choice of this island for the new experiment. This was the generous offer of a very considerable subsidy to the College by the Legislature of Trinidad and Tobago, and a very favourable site for the new College buildings.

The buildings, designed by Major H. C. Corlette in the old Colonial style, are simple. The dignity of the facade is due to the fine proportion of the several parts. Of course, in building laboratories there is always a fight between the staff, who want an enormous window area, and the architect, who thinks that too much window spoils his design. In this case the staff won, and the rooms are all well lighted. On the ground floor are an entrance hall, with the principal's room, a lecture room, the library and laboratory devoted to physics and to sugar technology, with the common room and office at the back. The first floor houses the class rooms and the botanical, mycological, entomological, and chemical laboratories, and rooms for the professors and women students. On each floor there are wide and spacious galleries, on which the rooms open. The building, which will be completed at the beginning of the next academic year, has cost £39,000. On another site in the grounds a model sugar factory will be built during the summer. This has been made possible by the generosity of the British Sugar Machinery Manufacturers, who have given the College machinery and plant to the value of £20,000.

CONSTITUTION AND FINANCE.

The constitution of the College comprises:— (1) A governing body, which meets in London, and consists of a certain number of leading landowners and merchants in the British Tropics, and an equal number of scientific men, some of whom are nominated by certain universities; there are also a representative of the Colonial Office, and representatives of the participating Colonies, who can, of course, only attend on the rare occasions when they are visiting home. (2) The Executive Committee, which meets in Trinidad; this consists of the Senior Financial Officer of Trinidad and Tobago and the Principal and six other Academicians resident in the West Indies. (3) An Academic Board, comprising the Principal and the Professors, who deal with the course of studies and matters of discipline, and correspond with the Governing Body through the Executive Committee. Naturally, difficulties arise from time to time, owing to the 4,000 miles which separate the Governing Body in London from the Executive Committee in Trinidad, but these difficulties have so far been few and far between, and, on the whole, the arrangement has worked with a minimum of friction.

The financing of this new College has been necessarily a matter of anxiety to the promoters. The Imperial Government has contributed a grant of £15,000 to be spread over a period of five years. This

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AN EDUCATION SHIP.

Proposed at Wembley Conference.

LONDON, May 26.

The place of Imperial studies in education was discussed at the Educational Conference at Wembley to-day. Sir Henry Hadow said British Imperial history should be included in the curriculum of British schools, and stated that as a result of the Exhibition many school examining bodies in Great Britain had decided to allow the history and geography of the Empire to be offered as optional subjects. The British Government, Sir Henry declared, should establish an "education ship," passages upon which would be open by scholarship to undergraduates in universities, and boys in the sixth forms in public schools, to whom a knowledge of the dominions would be invaluable. Later the ship could make an annual tour of the principal dominions.

Lady Jersey urged that additional steps should be taken to enable children in Great Britain to acquire information regarding the dominions.

Sir Arthur Stanley said the duty of the educational authorities in Great Britain was to educate the people on imperial questions to a greater extent than at present.

Major Kirk (New Zealand) advocated that British politicians, even if they came from the workshop or the dockyard, should have an adequate knowledge of the history of Great Britain and the Empire.

Viscount Burnham said he hoped that the system of travelling scholarships would be greatly extended, in order to include teachers.

News 28 MAY 1924

DR. HEATON IN BRITAIN

Australia in the Newspapers

'VILLAINOUS CABLE SERVICE'

Dr. H. Heaton (director of the Workers' Educational Association in Adelaide) is having a busy time in England. Writing from Yorkshire on April 16 he said:—

"My diary contains more appointments than it does in Adelaide, and I have travelled 3,000 miles by rail in the last three months. Manchester, Birmingham, Southampton, Leeds, Bradford, Cambridge, Oxford, Cheltenham, and London—if you know your English geography you will realise that that is a wide spread, but when you holl it down into rail journeys at a pace of 50-60 miles an hour with non-stops for 120 or even 180 miles, it all becomes little more than slipping over to Murray Bridge.

"As the months go by the pilgrimage ahead lengthens, and autumn will see me climbing, per Canadian Pacific Railway, the snowy slopes of the Rockies to spread the glad tidings about Australia from Toronto to Winnipeg and Edmonton. It is almost certain that I shall spend two or three months in Canada and the States, and I am looking forward to the chance of making a comparative study of rural development in North America and Australia.

"The more I stay in this country the more I wonder that British people know there is such a place as Australia. The cable service is villainous from your end; I doubt if 500 words a week are sent through. We never had the final results of either of Western Australian or the South Australian elections sent over, and you can guess my wrath when one day last week I bought 'The Times,' 'Daily Herald,' 'Morning Post,' and 'Daily Telegraph'—7d. in all—to see if there was any election news from Adelaide. Not a word, and the Agent-General does not know the final figures till the newspapers come through.

"As for the press as a whole, the two-penny morning dailies are wonderful productions, and take almost the whole morning to read through. But the morning penny papers are abominable and stumpy, while the evening issues in London would be dear at a halfpenny. I have said some hard things in my time about Australian papers, but I take most of it back unreservedly.

"After Easter I go to lecture for a month in Cambridge—a bit of an honor, though I say it as shouldn't; after that a month on the Continent. Then Oxford for three weeks at a summer school, and after that holiday loafing until it is time to cross the Atlantic."