

portion which he traversed with great trials and dangers was now being traversed by picnic parties in motor cars. Mr. David Carmichael held the great distinction, among others, of being the actuary to the A.M.P. Society, and in the person of Mr. E. C. Andrews, the Government Geologist of New South Wales, they also had the permanent general secretary of the Australasian Association for the advancement of Science. (Applause.)

**The Australian Soldier.**

Sir John Monash returned thanks to the members for their welcome. He said that the Science Association had a broad and common purpose and duty. He did not specialize in any particular branch of scientific knowledge, but gathered into its folds workers in every field of research. Such meetings as the one at present being held in Adelaide, gave the members a chance of meeting each other socially, and also of spreading their own particular knowledge to each other. The object of moving around from one city to another was to bring before the public that they could best render assistance to scientific work with financial support. Without that support, which was indispensable, they could not continue the good work that had been done in the past. It was their desire to identify themselves as closely as possible with the people of the State, and get them to take an active interest and an active realization of the association's labours, and bring to the knowledge of the man in the street an appreciation of how much social progress, and particularly national progress, depended upon the progress of science. He expressed, on behalf of the association, their thanks for the welcome extended them, and the generous hospitality that had been given the members that had greatly aided the success of the conference. The Chairman had made references to his war services. (Applause.) He wanted to tell them he could accept their plaudits only in a representative capacity. He had had the advantage in the Australian Field Army of a brilliant assemblage of officers, non-commissioned officers and men. The work of the Australian Army had been that of a great team, and he took it that they were eulogising those men through him. (Applause.) Personally, he claimed one thing only, which was that he had succeeded in gaining and maintaining the confidence of the Australian soldier. (Applause.) Their President, Mr. Stanley Skipper, had done great work in demobilization days. Mr. Skipper had been sent to Havre to instruct the Australian troops on the disabilities which they would encounter during demobilization. So successful was his work, that the Australian Army was the only one in which there were no riots, insubordination, or mutinies during the process of demobilization.

**Electricity in Victoria.**

Sir John discoursed on the development of the State Electricity Scheme of Victoria, and said it was an example which might well be energetically followed by the other States until that scheme of which he was the President was inaugurated. Victorian industries were at the mercy of the New South Wales coalfields, and every time there was a strike on those fields or among the seamen on the vessels which carried the coal to Victoria the Victorian industries had to close down. The brown coal from which they were securing their electrical power could not be compared with black coal, but there was such a vast quantity of it that Victorian industry was now independent of the New South Wales collieries. Up to the present time 500 miles of main transmission lines had been taken to Melbourne and the surrounding areas, and

throughout Gippsland. Thus, Victorians were now being supplied with power, drawn from their own resources.

**Natives and Policy.**

Professor Grafton Elliot Smith said that his most pleasant memory of Adelaide was that their University 10 years ago conferred on him the degree of an honorary doctorate. It was remarkable that two of the outstanding physicists and mathematicians of the world had served in the Adelaide University. He referred to Sir Horace Lamb (President-Elect of the British Association), and one of the foremost mathematicians of the world, and to Sir William Bragg, who was a physicist second only to the great New Zealander, Sir Ernest Rutherford. When he played truant from the British Association meeting at Toronto, at which he should have occupied the Presidency of one of the sections, he had been actuated by an invitation to come to Australia and enquire as to what Australia had been doing for the cultivation of anthropology. Although the study by man of man was of such tremendous importance to the world at large it was only recently that that fact had been impressed upon the Governmental authorities. The last few years had seen the necessity for this study impressed on the minds of the authorities in Europe and America. It had come to be realized that the problems of race, and the study of mankind were more im-

portant factors in the determination of political action, and the laying down of policy, than was realized in the past. The centre of political gravity was rapidly shifting toward the Pacific Ocean, and countries interested were beginning to see that the status of the races there was a fundamental factor in the determination of policy. A great impetus to the movement was given by the Pan-Pacific Conference, which had laid down proposals for the cultivation of the study of the problems in the Pacific, and the determination of lines of investigation of fundamental importance in determining policy. Australia had been given the work of studying its own native population and that of Melanesia. America had already commenced her work in the direction outlined. The Federal Government had received the proposals with sympathy, but so far nothing had been done. It was really to enquire into the actual situation in Australia at the request of an influential English association that he had come to Australia.

He wanted to find out why Australia, which was so keenly interested on the grounds of practical policy, in the investigation of those matters, was not pushing forward in the carrying out of her programme. It was the obligation of the civilized countries not only to take care of the populations in their territory, but to study them, so as to carry out that obligation. They had living in their midst a native population that was of greater interest scientifically than that of any other country, and Australia should devote some time at least to the study of those people. The people of Papua and Melanesia also presented problems of importance, which it was the duty of Australia to study from the aspect of policy. Once a country was denuded of its population there was a steady stream of people from other countries into its borders, thus creating race problems of great political importance. Therefore, looked at from the most sordid point of view the importance of attending to those natives was of great importance. The question was also of the utmost importance from the scientific point of view looked at from the aspect of the origin and history of man, and the introspection into human action throughout all time. (Applause.)