

SCIENCE CONGRESS OPENED IN ADELAIDE

Civic Reception Tendered to Delegates Sir John Monash on Scientific Research

Without scientific research there could be no applied science, said Sir John Monash, president-elect of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, when responding to a civic welcome yesterday. He suggested that public grants and private benefactions should not be all devoted to specific scientific objects, and that abstract scientific research, which had benefited humanity in every walk of life, should receive more financial help.

The Lord Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. C. R. J. Glover) tendered a civic reception in the Town Hall on Monday to the scientists who are visiting Adelaide for the Congress of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science. Mr. Glover presided, and others on the platform were the Lady Mayoress, Sir George Knibbs (president of the association), Sir John Monash (president-elect), the Attorney-General (Hon. W. J. Denny), Sir James Barrett, Sir Baldwin Spencer, Sir Douglas Mawson, Councillor Sir Lewis Cohen, Councillor S. R. Whitford, M.P., and the Town Clerk of Adelaide (Mr. H. P. Beaver).

distinguished scientists all from different parts of the Commonwealth, and he believed, from overseas. Naturally, he felt timid in attempting to express himself with regard to the important gathering that had brought so many scientific gentlemen to this city. Throughout the whole Commonwealth their deliberations would be regarded as being of the greatest moment, because the people realised that science in every department of life, and particularly during the past decade, had played an important part in the history of the world. (Cheers.) They awaited with the most intense interest the conclusions and advice which would be presented to the people of Australia and the world as a result of the congress. (Cheers.)

THE GOVERNMENT ANXIOUS TO HELP.

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. J. Denny) said he had great pleasure on behalf of the Government in welcoming the distinguished scientists who were present in Adelaide for the purpose of taking part in the science congress. He regretted that owing to temporary indisposition the Premier was not able to attend, and express his delight at the presence in Adelaide of so many notable guests, and offer his best wishes for the success of their deliberations. Mr. Denny said he had been handed a list of presidents of the association, and all would agree the Australian body had risen to be proud of those men who had greatly distinguished themselves and added great lustre to the reputation of Australia throughout the scientific world. They were Sir John Monash, Sir George Knibbs, Sir Baldwin Spencer, Sir Edgeworth David, Sir David Mawson, and Sir William Bragg. He had a personal pleasure in being present at this gathering for he had been associated with Sir John Monash during the war, having collaborated with him in connection with some important war memoirs. Not only was Sir John Monash a great soldier, but also a great man of letters, and a great scientist. (Cheers.) Like many renowned soldiers he was very modest. After an important conference preceding a big attack in the war—representatives of France, Great Britain, Australia, and other Allies were present—a British general said undoubtedly the greatest personality at the conference was an Australian—General Monash (cheers.) It seemed fitting that the Association should have for its president a returned soldier, for with the war over and the minds of men and women directed towards peace, those who took a prominent part in the great struggle for liberty and humanity should take the lead in bringing about the welfare of the people that peace alone could accomplish. (Cheers.) The results of the Science Congress would be theoretical and practical. It might happen that before the deliberations were over they would have discovered that Mars was really inhabited, and that the strange noises heard by wireless operators were really messages from another planet giving useful advice, and asking the earth to set up permanent communication. There might also be some great permanent practical result. Those

ference would be prolific in good results. South Australian scientists would give the visitors a hearty welcome, and hospitality would be extended to the full. The Government already had taken steps to make the visit pleasurable as well as instructive, and if there was anything else the Government could do they would do it with a good will. (Cheers.)

Altruism Instead of Egoism.

Sir George Knibbs said he did not know how in this intensely cultured place he was to live up to the task of thanking them with sufficient warmth for the generous way they had welcomed the visiting scientists to this beautiful city. He knew Adelaide well, also the splendid heights, which gave such a vista, with the blue ocean and cloud aspects in the background. Moving about from time to time he had felt the people of South Australia received one with warmth, and made one's stay always happy. So he was not surprised that when the Science Association took up its abode in Adelaide for a week or two the welcome should be a hearty one. It was a very good thing for Australia that this spirit of appreciation of science was growing rapidly, for the community was young, and the people were engaged in the sterner practicalities of life, and were apt to forget that the world had gone through a wonderful change during the last 100 or 120 years—a change which had made it possible to more than double the population; indeed, a rate had been set which could not go on for long. The advance in scientific achievement during the war made one wonder whether the money used in attacking one another could not better be devoted to research in the science of knowing how to live together in harmony. The enormous sum devoted to preparation for war, if applied to the study of political science and physical science and in delivering people from nature's untoward incidents, might do much good. (Cheers.) To do that would require a change in the human heart—the discarding of the egoistic point of view and the adoption of the altruistic one. (Cheers.) They could see by the way scientists worked together that there was a spirit of altruism in them, for they strove together for the reform of mankind and the development of civilisation. (Cheers.) It was a favorable augury that there should be such a spirit of appreciation of the work of the scientists, as was shown at that reception. What was wanted was some sort of correlation of their entire effort and co-ordination of movement. (Cheers.) In Europe they saw on the one hand the everlasting fear which the nations had of one another and on the other hand the wonderful friendship among the scientists of the different nations, who acted towards one another as brothers. A reception such as that made the visiting scientists feel at home and would help them do the work before them with better hearts and more spirit. (Cheers.) The future of Australia must necessarily be prolific. So far it was a sparsely inhabited land. Its people had rapidly to multiply and develop their powers. Australia must have sufficient wealth and

extended by the Lord Mayor, Sir Lewis Cohen, and the Attorney-General. He would like Sir John Monash to support these remarks.

Australia Cannot Afford to Blunder Onward.

Sir John Monash said notwithstanding the exultations of the retiring president he could scarcely join in them when thus called upon by surprise to speak at that gathering. He thought it was understood the president-elect was of no importance until the moment of his induction. He was thrust upon their notice and he wished to thank them for making that a good deal a personal welcome to himself. He was no stranger to Adelaide. In the days before the war he did a good deal of engineering work in this State and city. After the war Adelaide had shown him great courtesy and kindness during two visits. He felt a great deal of pleasure in hearing public men speak in such appreciative terms of science and scientists. (Cheers.) As Sir George Knibbs had said, it was one of the signs of the times. He only wished these sentiments expressed themselves in a tangible way among those who handled the



Mr. A. Gibb Maitland.

national finances. (Cheers.) Scientists in Australia had had hopes that the lead of other nations would be followed and substantial sums would be devoted towards the expense of keeping burning the torches of science. Scientific institutions had been relegated to a secondary place in the provision of funds for public needs. That was not as it should be, or for the good of the nation. There was enormous capacity for scientific labors, but it was too much to ask men and women to give up practical professional careers and devote themselves exclusively to research. (Cheers.) Another point he had to make

sociations as that meeting in Adelaide this week could help. He joined most heartily with Sir George Knibbs in expressing thanks for that reception and for the helpful remarks of the speakers. (Cheers.)

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL.

NEW METHODS OF ORGANISATION.

An important meeting of the Council of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science yesterday appointed a committee to devise means for closer co-ordination and co-operation among scientific societies.

A general council meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science was held in the Prince of Wales Theatre, University, yesterday afternoon. Sir George Knibbs presided over a large and representative gathering.

On the motion of Sir Baldwin Spencer, seconded by Mr. L. Keith Ward, it was decided that in future vice-presidents of the association should consist of members domiciled in Australia with the exception of its founder, Professor Liversidge.

The chairman spoke eulogistically of the work of Professor Liversidge, who made the first attempt to bring about the co-ordination of the scientific societies of Australia. He got together a library which was one of the finest in Australia, if not in the world. That was a tremendous work, and it formed the foundation of the library for the association. He wished to express appreciation of the work of Professor Liversidge.

A motion in the terms suggested by the chairman was moved by Sir Edgeworth David, seconded by Sir Baldwin Spencer, and carried unanimously.

The chairman announced, amid applause, the acceptance of positions of patrons by the Governor-General (Lord Forster), Lord Jellicoe (Governor-General of New Zealand), and Sir George Tom Bridges (Governor of South Australia).

It was decided that greetings be sent to the founder as follows:—Liversidge, Athenaeum Club, London.—Association sends founder heartiest greetings.—Knibbs, president.

Letters of thanks were received from Mr. Crompton Smith, Miss Pollock, and the relatives of Dr. John Shirley for expressions of sympathy by the council on the deaths of Mr. S. Percy Smith, Professor J. A. Pollock, and Dr. John Shirley respectively. A letter was received from the New South Wales Premier's Department, expressing best wishes from Sir George Fuller, for the success of the congress. Mr. J. H. Maiden wrote expressing great appreciation of the award of the Mueller Medal at the Wellington meeting in 1923.

Professor Liversidge and Sir William Bragg wrote expressing pleasure at having been appointed as delegates to the Liverpool meeting of the British Association in September, 1923. Professor Liversidge wrote expressing his great pleasure for the congratulations of the council; and asking also to be remembered kindly to the council. Professor Liversidge wrote representing the necessity for the A.A.A.S. to be presented with a complete set of British Association volumes.

A letter was received from the American Association for the Advancement of Science, expressing sympathy with the aims and objects of the A.A.A.S., and forwarding a complete set of volumes.

Dr. Mary Booth wrote asking what action had been taken concerning her suggestions of assistance by the association to country centres. The secretary re-

win Spencer, Professor Skeats, and Mr. Cambage. It was decided that the committee consider the modification of the wording of regulations determining the award of the medal and the interest on the fund, in order to remove any doubt possibly attaching to the intentions of the committee appointed by the association to determine the conditions of the award.

MUELLER MEMORIAL MEDAL AWARD.

The Mueller Memorial Medal was awarded to Mr. Andrew Gibb Maitland, for his eminent services in the cause of geology in Western Australia, Queensland, and New Guinea. With the medal is also included a bronze medal and £52, estimated by Mr. D. Carment (general treasurer), as interest from the Mueller Memorial Fund.

Professor Edgeworth David outlined the career of Mr. Gibb Maitland, who, he said, was a pupil of the late Professor Green, and went to Queensland, where he worked for many years under Dr. L. Jack. During that time Mr. Maitland laid the foundation of his future life work. He made a great survey of all the arable beds of Queensland from the New South Wales border to the Gulf of Carpentaria. He made the discovery as he proceeded northwards from Hughenden that the water beds changed over. Later, in the early nineties, he was appointed Government Geologist of Western Australia, when in that State geology was little known. Utilising his information regarding Queensland, he conceived the idea, quite a new one, that in formations not suspected artesian water would be found. This prophecy proved to be correct, for investigations were made, with the result that bores now yielded supplies in the Carnarvon, Kimberley, and Broome districts. Mr. Maitland was really the pioneer of geology in Western Australia as they knew it now. They owed to him a fine geological map, which took in about a third of the whole area of the Commonwealth, showing the artesian basins and the most important mineral deposits. This was no small work for one man to accomplish. He further made a fine geological survey of Western Australia, and published an excellent summary of the geological and mineral resources of Western Australia. There was no one more modest and retiring than Mr. Maitland, and he (Sir Edgeworth) was sure his work would find a permanent place in the history of the scientific workers of Australia. In a quiet and determined way he had spent a life of service and sacrifice in the cause of geology in Australia. The man was worthy in every way of the honor about to be conferred upon him. (Cheers.)

The medal was formally handed by the chairman to Professor Wilmore, vice-chancellor of the University of Western Australia, for presentation with the good wishes of the Congress at a public gathering in Perth.

NEXT CONGRESS IN PERTH.

Professor Wilmore (Western Australia) conveyed an invitation to the association from over twenty public bodies of Western Australia to hold the next meeting of the association in Perth in 1926. He said most people in Western Australia thought they had earned the honor of being hosts to the congress, especially as they had not had the opportunity on any previous occasion. At a meeting in Perth in June the question was discussed, and with Mr. A. Gibb Maitland he was appointed to wait on the Government to discuss the matter of financial assistance. That day he had received a telegram from the Premier of Western Australia offering to make an amount of £1,200 available towards the expenses of the congress, on the assumption that the cost of printing the report of the congress would amount to £1,100. That was a definite offer, but it did not represent the limit of the resources available, and from what he knew the Government would see the congress through at any cost. (Cheers.)

The motion was supported by Professor Ross and Sir Edgeworth David, the latter adding, "I hope the motion will be carried, because Western Australia is a