

Michael Sawtell Pays a Visit to Castlecrag Men's Brotherhood

An appreciation by Mr. Malcolm H. McLelland

A rather unfamiliar subject was given unusual treatment one Sunday evening just before Christmas when Mr. Michael Sawtell gave his views on Central Australia in general and the aborigines in particular to a gathering of men and women at Castlecrag, one of Sydney's northern suburbs. The occasion was the two-monthly meeting of the local Men's Brotherhood held at the tiny Methodist Church Hall; the meeting had been declared an open one, thus explaining the presence of wives and lady friends of members.

The air of the meeting was one of curiosity as Mr. Sawtell rose to speak during the tea. It was decided that, to give the speaker time to do justice to his subject, he be allowed to begin before the tea was over. It was quite obvious from the start that Mr. Sawtell bore a great love for his country and realised the great potential which lay latent in the "dead heart" of the continent. Every aspect of the inland was vividly described, and the speaker lightened his talk with a number of amusing personal anecdotes. The importance of the great waterways of the centre was emphasized among other things by Mr. Sawtell, and he succeeded in convincing his listeners of the essential truth of his remarks. A vote of thanks was moved during which it was said that it was certain that each of those present in his own individual way would do his best to promote the ideal presented by Mr. Sawtell.

Mr. Sawtell also gave the address in the church service immediately following the Brotherhood meeting, and in this he devoted most of his time to discussing the welfare of the Aboriginal people of Australia, both full-blooded and half-caste. The lamentable plight of some of these people, as pictured verbally by Mr. Sawtell, gave rise to much sympathy in the congregation. The speaker based portion of his address on the parable of the Good Samaritan, pointing out that the Aborigines were our neighbours, and it was our duty to "bind up their wounds, pouring in oil and wine" rather than to "pass by on the other side."

The analogous use of this parable has doubtless been employed for many different purposes, but surely none so fitting or pertinent as on this occasion. Not only are the natives of Australia our own neighbours, but they are even the companions of our home-land. We have an unlimited obligation to these people, the original inhabitants of the "Great South Land of the Holy Spirit". Each member of the congregation at Castlecrag undertook to send to the Prime Minister a letter requesting the granting of the Old Age Pension to aged de-tribalised non-exempted Full Blood Aborigines on Government stations. →

CATTLE FOOD FROM ORANGE SKINS

Cows throughout America are getting fat on a diet of oranges. More precisely, they're eating thousands of tons of a mixture of molasses, yeast and carbohydrates made from orange skins and pulp-waste products of the juice-canning industry.

These constitute 50 to 60 per cent. of the whole fruit as it comes from the tree.

The yeast, the richest natural source of complete proteins, could easily be refined and made palatable for human consumption, according to processors.

Approximately 1-million tons of the orange cattle food have been produced in Florida alone during the past few years.

Agricultural scientists have shown it to be an excellent starch and sugar feed for both beef and dairy cattle. A similar product made of dried grapefruit peel has been found to stimulate milk production.

Recent chemical tests have shown the orange yeast to contain significant amounts of the nerve vitamin thiamine—now considered necessary for the health of not only cows, but men.

Since the 1941-42 canning season, when citrus molasses first was produced on a small scale, there has been an almost explosive growth in its production.

Besides cattle feed, the molasses is utilised widely today in grass ensilage and in increasing the sugar content of all sorts of mixed feeds.



Vivianne Laurie, Irene Roberts and Mary Roberts, of Cubawee, make a very musical trio.

It may be said that Mr. Sawtell was able to convince his audience at Castlecrag of the worth and importance of his "one man cold war" against the Government on behalf of the Aborigines whom he loves so well.

Mr. Michael Sawtell, who is a member of the Aborigines Welfare Board, is a well-known lecturer and author and is much sought after as a speaker.