

WILSON

Sir Roland

(very indistinct tape)

[Tape commences at 20]

020 Biographical data (see Who's Who in Australia)

028 Undergraduate 1922-25

Born Ulverston. Deerpark High School.

Father a builder and contractor in Ulverston.

Details of schooling. Went to Catholic primary school.

Commercial course chosen rather than secondary, because latter required Latin.

Accidental influences on school career:

068 Professor Douglas Copland influenced R.W.'s father to send him to the university.

Reasons Prof. Copland interested himself in Wilson.

080 The Junior Common Room.

090 Commerce course chosen because of Copland's influence - as was decision to apply for Rhodes Scholarship.

Reference to V.C. Smith Managing Director of Cadburys.

115 Copland & J. Bridgen were not influential lecturers.

125 Life at Oxford - (Criel College).

135 Influence of L. F. Lyblin, government statistician - member of university council etc - but not formally a lecturer at university.

"Everything at the university more or less revolved round Lyblin" He filled in for people who were away - "remarkable all-round man"

An enormous influence on Tas government (esp. on LYONS) as well as university. Never sought notoriety or publicity.

170 In short, a EULOGY of Lyblin.

175 R.W. gave Lyblin memorial lectures "a ~~few~~ ^{couple of} years ago"

195 Was he in any sense a controversial figure?

"Not through most of his life. In very early days..."
"He was a little controversial in Tas. politics for 4 or 5 years before the War"

See Lyblin memorial lecture on Lj's career.

218 R.W. was the first fulltime Commerce student. Lectures started at 5pm - and only one at the time.

During the day "I used to sit in my boarding house studying"

22- The boarding-houses of Hobart: -

Wilson 2

26/- per week including laundry, and all meals.
"and a game of poker on Saturday night".

240 Proposal to turn Govt house into the university
"after they had ceased to appoint State governors".

The particular boarding house was No 22 LLY^(?) ST.
Not specifically for university students.

275 Very little social life at university. (?)
Cox of university B. But of football & tennis.
Pole vault champion of Univ of Tas.

307 Not very many women at the university. Most were
Teachers' College students. No recollection of any
outstanding women students.

335 Any concern for political issues? "Practically none".

348 More interested in his studies than any other aspect
of university life.

360 "Politics was a mild occupation in Tas. in those days"

365 No recollection of any particular aftermath of W. War I.

375 Technical & residential qualifications necessary at Oxford.

395 Got "Commonwealth Fund Fellowship" ... now known as
Harkness Fellowship.

University of Chicago for 2 years - returned to England
to fulfill requirements for number of terms in residence.

435 Taught Economics at Univ of Tas for 18 months 1930-11?

Wanted to go home to see family.

After 18 months offered jobs at Melbourne & Adelaide Univs
But C.H. WICKEN (?) of C'wealth Statistician became ill.
Giblin came to Canberra to hold post; and "he asked me
to come up ... for 6 months"

470 Stayed on as Asst C'wealth Statistician.

490 Coming back to Univ of Tas: "bigger frog in smaller
puddle"

Didn't feel he had made a mistake in coming back until
he marked the first set of examination papers - they were so
bloody dreadful.

This partly influenced his decision not to continue teaching.
Students not intelligent, but seemed to go to pieces in examinations.

525 Affection for Tasmania influenced him to "go down a few
years ago and help the organisation for rebuilding
the Univ."

Nelson 3.

570 The beauty of the Tasmanian landscape - & seascape.
"The Mediterranean couldn't hold a candle to it"
Ideal life: to live in Tas Government House, and
own a motor cruiser and a flying boat

615 The hatred that existed between E. Morris
Phillips and Professor Durbabin.

630 Anecdote, which includes reference to the
Financial Emergency Act to cut salaries by 20%
(- introduced in 1930?)

SIDE B
Phillips & Durbabin brought together by the threat to salaries.
People with power - listed

630 Relations between Univ & Govt "In those
days they were negligible"

Community involvement mainly via public
lectures - Tutorial Classes.

(very indistinct)

8
665 Extraordinary anecdote provided by two ancients
sitting in the sun at Scottsdale, who had heard
it from some ASSIGNEES - 're tobacco-making
by convicts, putting leaves of wild tobacco plant
into cuts in trees, spending ten years later by the
cork-bunches on the trees.

100 Comparison of Tasmania, Oxford, Chicago Universities.
"Learned a great deal out of books" at Tasmania -
"That's about all"

The advantages of the tutorial system by reason of the
small classes at Tasmania - which you wouldn't have got at
any other Australian university

130 Feeling of isolation in first year at Oxford.

140 Reactions of Oxford to Rhodes Scholars: tended to
assume all were Americans or Australians were 2nd class
Americans.

170 "I think I did much better" in a small university.

180 No criticisms of the University of Tas then or now.

189 END "I'd love a cup of tea"!