

Peach Trees Gazette

Peachester History Committee Inc. Newsletter Number 163 ~ January/
February 2020

INIGO JONES & WEATHER FORECASTING



EDITOR'S NOTE: Most *Gazette* readers would be aware that PHC holds a very significant collection of Inigo Jones' publications, in which he sets out his theories and the need for continuing research. We hope, now that the Heritage Centre is established, to highlight Inigo's work, especially in relation to solar activity and cycles. Following is one of the many newspaper articles available via *Trove* which reflect the extensive interest in his work, both within Australia and internationally. This report (shortened for the *Gazette*) also reflects his frustration with the lack of support from the Australian Government.

Daily Examiner (Grafton, NSW), Friday 12 August 1938

SUN SPOTS

Inigo Jones' Forecasts

INCREASING SUCCESS

COMMONWEALTH AID

In the correspondence files of Mr. Inigo Jones, director of the Bureau of Seasonal Forecasting, Crohamhurst Observatory (Q) is an acknowledgment of a letter he wrote to the Premier Mr. Forgan Smith, at the beginning of this year, forecasting a cyclone at Mackay in March... The cyclone came in March (says an exchange). There is another letter from the manager of one of the largest pastoral firms in Australia, congratulating him on the value and accuracy of his forecasts, and adding, "I must confess that I am astonished to hear your bureau has not received Commonwealth recognition." Sir Hubert Wilkins, the famous Australian explorer, wrote to him in February, discussing plans for selecting the site for a weather station in the Antarctic. "After that expedition" says Sir Hubert, "I hope, in 1939, to come to Australia and start work on the comprehensive Antarctic plan. Hope at that time I may visit you and get the benefit of your advice." Those letters are portion of the evidence Mr. Jones produces to support his claim that his work is worthwhile, and that the

FIRST LONG RANGE FORECAST

He quotes the first long range forecast he issued in 1923 as an example of the attitude of the Federal authorities. In that forecast he predicted that the end of a dry spell would come on January 11, 1924. Actually, it came three weeks before, on December 20. An attempt was made to show that his prediction had been useless.

... When he opened the Crohamhurst Observatory in 1935, his Excellency the Governor (Sir Leslie Wilson) said: – "Mr. Inigo Jones tells us months, weeks and days ahead what the weather is going to be. While in a matter like this, no one can hope to be infallible, it is a fact that since the last adjustment in October 1933, the accuracy of his forecasts has increased to above 80 per cent." ...

SOLAR ACTIVITY

In brief, Mr. Jones' investigations seek to test the relation between solar activity as indicated by sunspots and the movement of the principal planets, and their effect in creating weather cycles. He has corresponded with scientists throughout the world on the subject, and has issued many papers and booklets. The publications go to University libraries in all capital cities, to meteorological bureaux, State Ministers, other observatories, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, public libraries, the Commonwealth Statistician and agricultural organisations. In the exchange and correspondence list are the names of more than 150 well-known men and institutions abroad. Under the heading of England, for instance, are the names of Sir Oliver Lodge, Lord Rutherford (before

his death), Dr. Brunt (Professor of Meteorology, London University), Sir James Jeans, Sir Hubert Wilkins. In the 23 European names are those of the Academy of Science, Paris; the Koninklijk Nederlandsch Meteorologisch Institut, Holland; Professor Dr. Hans Hermann Kritzinger, Berlin – a cosmopolitan collection. North America is represented by 39 names. Mexico, Jamaica, Haiti, Brazil, India, Batavia, Hong Kong, Ceylon, Japan, Manila, South Africa, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, are all included.

In a letter from Professor Stratton, director of the Astrophysical Observatory, of Cambridge, appears this passage: "The point you make about the different effects of north and south spots on the North and South Hemispheres is important. It was not overlooked at the Paris conference last summer, when it was decided that future statistical sunspot data should be divided into the four separate zones, N.W., N.E., S.W. and S.E. I wonder whether you get the quarterly solar character numbers from Dr. Brunner at Zurich? If not, I suggest that you write to him and ask him to put the Crohamhurst Observatory on to his circulation list. You can add that you do this at my suggestion if you like. I shall look forward with interest to see what results come from your work."

METHOD CHANGED

As a result of Mr. Jones suggestion, or "point" as Professor Stratton describes it, the method of publishing sunspot observation in bulletin issued by the International Astronomical Union was changed. Such interest among reputable scientific men and organisations abroad, Mr Jones believes, compares unfavourably with the interest of the Government. He has many more letters illustrating the interest. For instance, one written in laborious copper plate in green ink to Mr. I. Jones comes from W. A. Degeorgio, Weather Bureau, Tashkent, U.S.S.R. It says: "With great pleasure I have read, in the journal 'Socialist Reconstruction and Science 1936', a short notice reprinted from 'Nature' which deals with your remarkable success in the field of long-range weather forecasting, based on the investigations on sun spots. I beg you to

be so kind to send me, if it is possible, the description of your method, and also of the prognosis."

From the United States a weather expert writes: "In our weather forecasting work as members of the American Meteorological Society we have from time to time heard of your great success in long range weather forecasting. We have been unable to secure copies of the various booklets and papers which we understand you have put out from time to time, and which we have heard highly praised."

Among the letters, of course, are some from meteorologists, who express interest tempered with caution. But there is none so direct as the letters that say: "The work is not of sufficient merit to justify any support from the Commonwealth Government."

Mr. Jones is still hoping however, and so are his supporters, who include many graziers and farmers in various States. He wants to see the work continued. Assistance would not be for him personally, but for the work, and he has already announced that the Observatory will be handed over to the State when it is free of debt. They call him the prophet who wants no profit.