

South African Professor Takes Up Duties at McGill

WHILE government controls had undoubtedly helped keep down prices, nevertheless the cost of living has risen to a high level in the Union of South Africa.

This comment was made by Kenneth F. Byrd, B.A., B.Sc., I.A., upon his arrival here from Natal University College to take over his new post as professor of accounting in the school of commerce, McGill University.

The new professor, who has had lengthy professional and teaching experience in the field of accounting and auditing, was welcomed to McGill by Prof. A. F. S. Gillson, dean of the faculty of arts and science, and Prof. H. D. Woods, director of the school of commerce.

Born in Durban, Natal, Professor Byrd was educated first at Cardiff, Wales, and later at the University of London where he gained a B.A. degree with first class honors in English, an M.A. in English and a B.Sc. degree in economics.

Before taking his university training he went in for chartered accountancy and his first university teaching appointment was as lecturer in accounting at Natal University College in 1929. He was promoted to senior lecturer and in 1944, when a chair of accounting was established, was made first holder.

He has served as dean of the commerce building and dean of the faculty of commerce, and as a member of the senate of the University of South Africa, of which Natal University College is one of five constituent parts. The college is to gain its charter as a university this year. Profes-



Kenneth F. Byrd

... high living costs no novelty

sor Byrd said. It was a pioneer, he stated, in establishing university facilities for Indians and Bantus in South Africa. The new McGill professor served as chairman of the advisory committee for non-European students.

At McGill he succeeds to the post made vacant through the death of the late Col. R. R. Thompson.

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English Topic Of Address

Prof. K. Byrd Speaker At Literary Society

The origins of English literature, from the middle of the fifth century, to Chaucer, in the 14th, were traced last night by Prof. Kenneth Byrd, economics department, McGill University, when he spoke to the St. James Literary Society.

Professor Byrd, who was later praised for the "fluent beauty of his prose," noted that the Anglo-Saxon language has survived in large proportion in present-day English, despite the introduction of French and Latin, at various stages.

He said that King Alfred, who left a comprehensive history of his time, was also one of the first to institute any form of education among the old Anglo-Saxons. Many of the strongest and most virile words in the language can trace their origins to Anglo-Saxon times, he added, pointing out that the subject matter of Anglo-Saxon poetry dealt chiefly with heroes and the rugged life, symbolized by the sea, ships and mighty warriors.

McGill Scrapbook vol 12, p. 378 – English topic of address

Kenneth Byrd was a Professor of Accountancy in the Faculty of Management from 1948 until his retirement in 1972. He became Chair of the Department in 1964. For citation purposes, the volumes that Prof. Byrd appeared in were volumes 11 and 12. Volume 11 dates from December 1944 through January 1949. Volume 12 dates from January 1949 through December 1951.

Kenneth Byrd is listed in the Old McGill yearbook on the following page:
http://yearbooks.mcgill.ca/viewbook.php?&book_id=1949#page/18/mode/1up

Return to: <http://www.art-archives-southafrica.ch/BYRD.htm>