

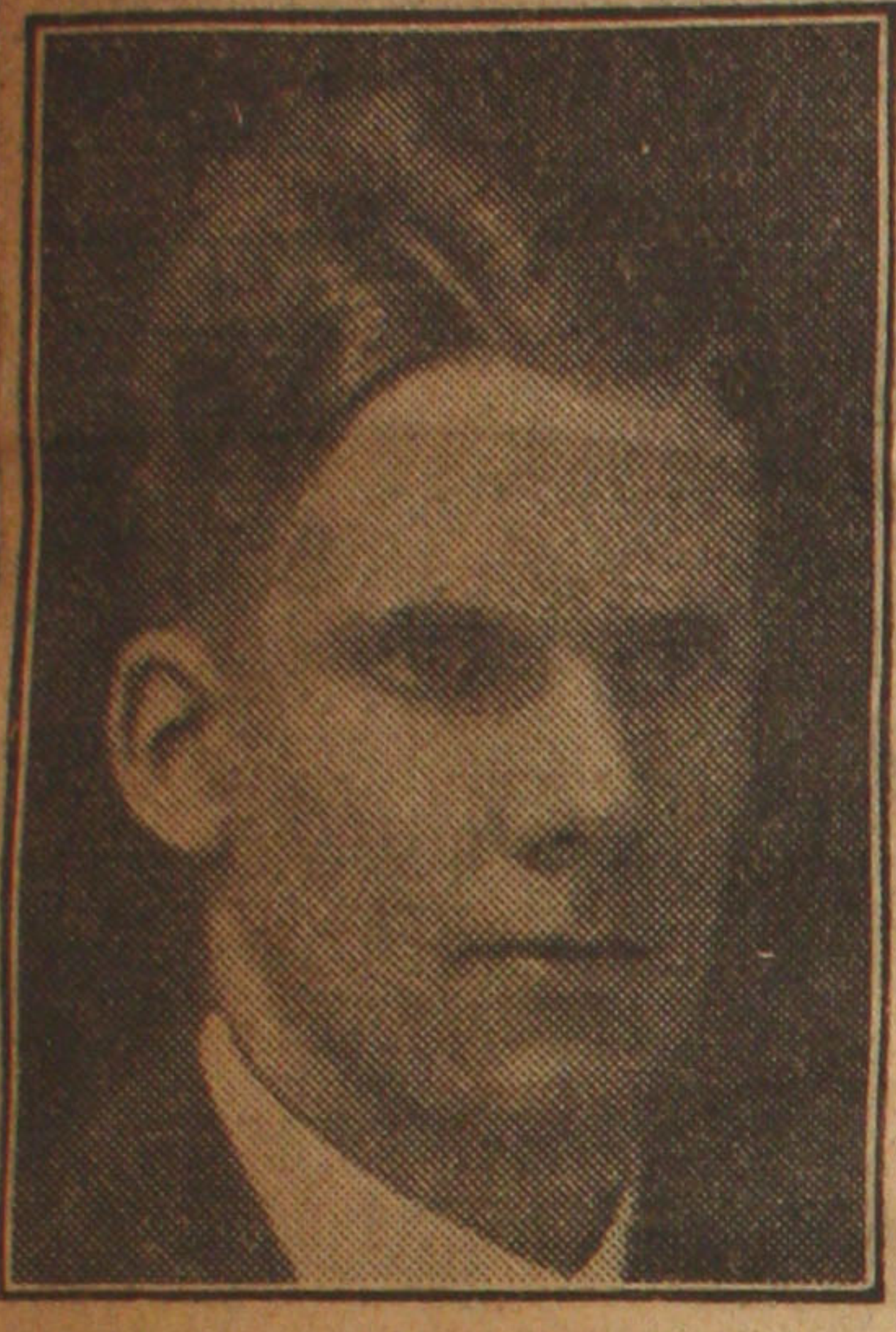
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# THE NEWS

ADELAIDE: THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1929

News has been received from Oxford that Mr. H. Norman Tucker has gained the Degree of Bachelor of Civil Law. Mr. Tucker won an entrance scholarship to St. Peter's College. In 1919 he passed the senior examination and gained a Government bursary, and also won one in law in 1920 on passing the higher public. This he relinquished, as he wished to continue his education at college. At St. Peter's he received the Prankerd and Westminster scholarships (twice), and the Smith history prize, and also the benefits of



Mr. H. N. Tucker.

the J. W. Downer scholarship. In 1922 at the University Law School he headed the list in all his subjects, and was awarded a Stow prize. He also won the debating prize for the first year law students of the University Debating Society. He took his L.L.B. degree in 1925, and shortly afterwards was admitted to the bar. He then went to England. After some months of travel he entered University College, Oxford, where he gained the B.A. (honors) degree in jurisprudence. Mr. Tucker intends to leave for Quebec on July 26, and after three months' travel in Canada and the United States will leave for home at the end of October. He is the youngest of the three sons of Mr. E. J. Tucker, of Strathalbyn.

## ASSAULTS ON THE ENGLISH TONGUE

The protest by Rev. Brother Le Breton against the slipshod use of the King's English by public speakers is timely.

Even the contention of Sir Archibald Strong (Professor of English Language and Literature at the University of Adelaide) that colloquialisms are sometimes permissible does not answer the arguments advanced by Brother Le Breton.

In a recent speech by a member of the Commonwealth Government it was announced that a certain proposal had been "turned down." Actually the Minister intended to say that it had been rejected. Presumably, if it had been accepted he would have said that it had been "turned up." In that case no one would have understood him.

Although Sir Archibald admits that the frequent or clumsy use of slang should always be condemned, he holds that it would be sheer priggishness to ban colloquialisms entirely from a platform utterance or a newspaper interview.

Apparently, therefore, the question resolves itself into one of how far a public speaker may go in defiance of the rules of grammar, and of what constitutes a colloquialism as distinct from slang or from a breach of the laws governing the use of English.

It is not suggested that writers or speakers should confine themselves to the use of such stilted and pedantic language as would make their utterances absurd. In appealing to the mass of people they must, so far as possible, use a vehicle of expression which will be readily understood by their audience.

However, this does not mean that the idioms of the slums, the argot of the underworld, or even the common errors of the uneducated should be perpetuated.

If this were done the "well of English undefiled" would soon become nothing more than a tradition, the language of the people would degenerate into a polyglot tongue devoid of all beauty, and in a brief period the written and spoken word would be almost unintelligible.

The English vocabulary provides for the fluent expression of beautiful thoughts. This is a characteristic which should be jealously preserved.

The appeal of Brother Le Breton to men in high places to avoid carelessness in speech and thus to set an example to the youth of the nation should not be made in vain.

## THE CITY ORGANIST

### VIEWS OF DR. HAROLD DAVIES

The position of Adelaide City Organist will fall vacant on September 24, when the present holder (Mr. W. R. Knox) will complete his second successive period of three years. At this week's meeting of the City Council it was decided to defer decision as to the appointment of a successor, pending the receipt of a report from a special committee. At present the position carries no remuneration, but it is understood that a proposal has been made to appoint a paid city organist.

Interviewed yesterday by a representative of "The Advertiser," Dr. Harold Davies (Director of the Elder Conservatorium) said he regarded the proposal as an excellent one. Adelaide, he considered, required a first-rate city organist, who should be paid an adequate salary. In this State, as elsewhere in Australia, people had hardly any idea of great organ music, and the tremendous progress in its interpretation that had been made in recent times. A few might remember the visits of W. T. Best and Edwin Lemare, but the modern school of English organ playing, which undoubtedly led the world, was hardly known here. Adelaide lagged behind Sydney and Melbourne, and even Brisbane—all of which had paid city organists of the first rank. Experience at the Conservatorium proved that organ recitals were wonderfully popular. Those given by Mr. John Horner, Mr. Harold Wyde, and himself, had been thronged. Adelaide deserved, and when it got the chance, appreciated organ recitals that dealt with the best in legitimate organ music, including good transcriptions of orchestral items, but eschewing the meretricious and banal. There was a large public for the finest things in organ music. Paying the city organist would make possible the provision of these good things for Adelaide, and in Dr. Davies's opinion, the pity of it was that this had not been done long ago.

Mr. J. E. Dodd, the well-known Adelaide organ builder, said the Town Hall organ was a splendid instrument, but it needed to be modernised. In view of the contemplated enlargement of the hall, he did not recommend any extensive reconstruction just now, but had prepared a plan for the provision of pneumatic pistons to replace the old composition pedals and stop action that made the instrument's playing so laborious, the remedying of certain mechanical defects, and the installation of two new stops, the whole costing less than £1,000. He had been in charge of the organ for over 40 years, and was satisfied that immediate requirements could thus be met.

Built by William Hill & Sons, of London, the Town Hall organ arrived in 1876, as a three-manual instrument, with 38 speaking stops and nine mechanical ones. In 1885, Messrs. Fincham and Hobday, of Adelaide, added a fourth, or solo manual of nine stops, with an additional five mechanical stops. The organ now has 2,886 pipes, and is blown by the largest unit plant for both flow and pressure, in Australia, delivering wind at a maximum of 22 in. pressure.

The first city organist was Mr. W. R. Pybus, who after holding the position for many years, resigned in 1917. He was succeeded by Mr. T. A. Jones, Mus. Bac., who held office till 1923. Mr. W. R. Knox was then appointed for three years, and when reappointing him, in 1926, for a further period of three years, the City Council decided that not more than two successive terms could be permitted to any city organist. The selection committee's recommendation will probably be placed before the council at its next meeting. The name of the new city organist, and the conditions under which he will be engaged, are, therefore, not likely to be made public before the end of this month.

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## MEDICAL CONGRESS

### IN SYDNEY IN SEPTEMBER

Sydney, July 11. The Australian Medical Congress will be held in Sydney from September 2 to 7. The organisers expect that 300 members from all parts of the Commonwealth and New Zealand will attend.

Medical men from England are expected to visit Australia especially for the congress, the chief of these being Sir Ewen Maclean, president of the British Medical Association, who will officially represent the English Association.

Professor Hugh Maclean, of St. Thomas's Hospital, has announced his intention of being present.

Dr. G. H. Abbott, president of the congress, will deliver the inaugural address at the Town Hall, and 1,500 medical men and their wives are expected at the ceremony. Most of the scientific discussions will take place at the Sydney University. One of the most interesting of these will be a general discussion on cancer.

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## PAID CITY ORGANIST

### Splendid Idea, Says Dr. Davies

ORGANISTS applaud the proposal of the City Council to appoint a paid city organist.

"A splendid idea. It should have been done years ago. We want a first-rate man, paid an adequate salary," was the comment of the Director of the Elder Conservatorium (Dr. Harold Davies).

"Experience at the Conservatorium proves that organ recitals are wonderfully popular," he said. "The mid-day recitals given by Mr. John Horner, Mr. Harold Wyde, and myself have been crowded."

Dr. Davies said Melbourne had long had a paid city organist. He was paid £750 a year, and gave, he thought, weekly recitals.

"It is only a fair thing that the city organists should be paid," said Mr. J. M. Dunn, organist at St. Peter's Cathedral. "Without reflecting at all on previous city organists, I think that is the only way to get a first-class man. I don't know what the City Council proposes to do, but it should not be necessary to go outside the State."

Mr. Dunn thinks popular programmes should be given to appeal to a wide range of tastes. "We should have some of the sugar, as well as the more serious music," he said.

### "ACCESSORIES OUT OF DATE"

"Playing the Town Hall organ almost amounts to physical exercise, owing to some of the accessories being out of date," said Mr. W. R. Knox, city organist, yesterday.

The organ was by far the best in Adelaide, he added, and it had some beautiful pipes. Minor defects could easily be remedied by reconstruction, which would not interfere with the organ. The instrument was made by Hill, of London, in 1875, and a manual was added here.

A local authority says it could be brought up to date for less than £1,000.

"We ought to be proud of our organ. It is a beautiful instrument, comparing favourably with those in other cities," said Mr. J. E. Dodd, an Adelaide organ builder, last night. "The stop action is out of date, but that could be improved by inserting pneumatic pistons."

## SIR EDGEWORTH DAVID HERE

### Collecting Material For Book

PROFESSOR Sir Edgeworth David, recognised as the greatest living authority on Australian geology, arrived in Adelaide by the Melbourne express yesterday. He will discuss the geology of South Australia with geologists here before finishing his book on Geology in the Commonwealth.

Sir Edgeworth will obtain all possible information from Sir Douglas Mawson about Sir Douglas's visit to the MacDonnell Ranges, about which an important work will be published before Sir Douglas leaves for the Antarctic.

The professor is also compiling a large-scale geological map, about which he will consult with Mr. R. Lockhart Jack, the Assistant Government Geologist.

Sir Edgeworth has taken part in several remarkable scientific expeditions. He was chief of the scientific staff with the expedition led by Sir Ernest Shackleton in 1907-9, of which Sir Douglas Mawson was a member. While he is in Adelaide he will continue his investigations into fossil remains in the foothills.

Sir Edgeworth was Professor of Geology at Sydney University for 37 years, and was geologist to the British Armies on the western front in 1918.



Sir Edgeworth David

## LAID 50 YEARS AGO

### University Foundation Stone

Fifty years ago tomorrow the foundation stone of the University of Adelaide was laid by Sir William Jervois (then Governor of South Australia).

Since that date the growth and progress of the university generally has been remarkable. It came into being through the Union College, now no longer in existence, which was founded in 1872 for the education of Presbyterian, Congregational, and Baptist ministers.

(At the time Mr. Walter Watson Hughes (afterward Sir Walter) offered to endow the college with a sum of £20,000, but members of the governing body suggested that he should devote his gift to the more general object of founding a university.)

The donor acquiesced, and an association was formed to further the project. The scheme was aided by the contribution of £20,000 by Sir Thomas Elder. A Bill was introduced into Parliament two years later, and passed both Houses.

The first meeting of the Council was held on December 11, 1874, when Sir Richard Davies Hanson (Chief Justice) was appointed Chancellor, and Right Rev. Augustus Short, D.D. (first Bishop of Adelaide) Vice-Chancellor. On March 12, 1875, 50,000 acres of country land as an endowment, was granted by the Government, also five acres on North terrace, as a site for the university. The foundation stone of the building was laid on July 13, 1879.

The university as now constituted has, beside the original structure, which serves for administrative offices, library, and lecture rooms, the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Prince of Wales building occupied by chemistry and geological schools, Elder anatomical building, John Darling building for medical science, physics and engineering building, Lady Symon building, Refectory and Men's Union building, and a temporary building for chemistry. Also in course of erection is a group of buildings including an insectory and pot culture house.

There are 20 professors and more than 60 lecturers and demonstrators. In addition there are 18 teachers in the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Mr. F. W. Eardley, B.A., is registrar.