Adv. 21-8-31

STUDENTS PLAY "KING ARTHUR"

Conservatorium Opera Class Performance

The Norwood Town Hall was thronged last night for the first of two performances by the Elder Conservatorium opera class of "King Arthur, or The British Worthy," by John Dryden and Henry Purcell. Dating back to 1691, it abounds in quaint humour, and some of the music is almost Schubertian in its tunefulness. Mr. Harold Wylde, at the piano, with occasional effective tympani support from Mr. H. Sparbier, worked wonders with the incidental music and accompaniments. Mr. Windlee Hall conducted with skill and judgment, and the "dramatic opera" was skilfully produced by Mr. Esmond George.

Outstanding performances were given by the Misses Demica Harvey (Philidel), Ruth Hustler (Emmeline), and Bergit Kerwick (Cupid). Messrs. Len McLaughlin (King Arthur), Colin McArthur (Merlin), and A. W. Welch (Conon) did well. The first act hung fire, but the other three atoned. The weakest feature throughout was the chorus work. "Come, Fill Our Parts" sung in politely mechanical fashion, is not impressive. Dances arranged by Miss Phyllis Keitch were delightfully done.

"King Arthur" will be repeated tonight, with a change of rolls.

Adv. 22-8-31

"King Arthur" Again

With a complete change of roles, the Elder Conservatorium opera class at the Norwood Town Hall last night played "King Arthur" with, on the whole, better effect than on Thursday. The chorus work showed great improvement, particularly in the first act, which was very ragged. If You Dare" was marked by tuneful virility. In this number, Mr. James Currie, as the Frost King, sang and acted with spirit, and acted in splendid style, the chorus folk supporting him in admirable fashion. Much good work did well were the Misses Christobel Patrick (Emmeline), Stella Sobels (Philidel), Hilda Barnard (Cupid), Messrs. F. Patrick (King Arthur), Harold Burrows (Conon), and Lindsay Dawkins (Merlin). As the two "dealers in magic and spells" Messrs. Howard Jackett and A. W. Welch were to a matter-of-fact in speech and deportment to be convincing. A delightful feature was the dancing of Miss Phyllis Leitch and her associates.

Adv. 22-8-31

Status of Australian Professors

Melbourne, August 21.

Serious consideration was given at an informal conference of representatives of Australian universities today to the problem of attracting scholars of the highest qualifications to professorships.

The universities represented were Adelaide, Sydney, Queensland, and Melbourne.

Finding that they are unable to obtain men of qualifications equal to present professors, some universities are refraining from making new appointments. If this becomes permanent it will mean serious loss both to the universities and the community. The conference, therefore, took the view that it would be better to reduce the appointments of junior members of the staffs rather than to reduce the salaries of senior members.

Salaries paid to professors in English and Scottish universities are from 20 to 50 per cent. more than salaries paid to occupants of similar chairs in Australian universities.

Adv. 22-8-31

McCOY SCHOLARSHIPS

The South Australian Public Teachers' Union has collected £762 among its members and from school children in memory of the late Sir Frank McCoy, and has found the money for two scholarships to perpetuate the memory of the late Director of Education (Sir Frank McCoy). The scholarships will be awarded to the boy and the girl who, in the opinion of the committee, will benefit most from a further course of study in the upper classes of a school under the control of the Minister of Education, the School of Mines, or the University; students whose circumstances make financial assistance desirable will be scholarships, and no scholarships unless there is a student.

Adv. 22-8-31

COST OF EDUCATION

Further Cut Would Impair Efficiency

PREMIER TO CRITICS

Describing the resolution as "ill-considered, inaccurate, and irresponsible, coming from what should be a responsible body," the Premier (Mr. Hill) replied yesterday to the criticism of the Liberal Federation regarding Education Department expenditure.

The attention of the Premier had been directed to a motion, carried by the council of the Liberal Federation, "protesting against the delay of the Government in making economies," and complaining that, although two months had passed since the report of the Special Education Committee, which had investigated expenditure by the department, had been tabled, "apart from vague statements by the Premier nothing had been done."

Comparative Figures

Mr. Hill pointed out that expenditure on education in 1929-30 was £1,000,000 less than in 1930-31, and the estimate for the current year was £979,000. That, he said, was a reduction of approximately £200,000 since 1929-30, despite the fact that each year 2,000 more children were added to the roll, the teaching staff had been reduced, and expenditure generally on education had been cut.

"Yesterday, he proceeded the Premier "I received a letter from the chairman of the Budget Committee (Mr. Shannon) stating that he had been asked for originally for education in 1931-32 was £976,088, but after a close investigation of the figures of the Director of Education, this was cut by £99,034.

"Not a Real Saving"

"The committee inserted the following paragraph in the letter to me:—

"The committee desires to point out that, although the amounts now provided on any of the lines are already reduced to a point which impairs the efficiency of the departmental activities with the present standard of services, and are really insufficient to meet the ordinary requirements. In fact, it is certain that restriction in expenditure upon many operations is not a real economy, but a certainty, proved costly in the future. No further material reduction in the department's expenditure is possible on the basis of its present scope of operations.' That is an important opinion."

The Premier said a further cut of 10 per cent. in the vote to the University was inevitable, the reduction of the amount for the Education Department. He had received a letter from Mr. Miscamble, chairman of the University (Sir William Mitchell), on behalf of the council, pointing out that the conversion in Government securities which the University had made would result in a loss in revenue of £4,517.

"I do not agree," concluded Mr. Hill, "that the Liberal Party will oppose this reduction when the whole matter of educational expenditure comes before the House. The opinions I have given about education economies are a convincing answer, I think, to the unadvised criticism of the Liberal Federation."

News 24-8-31

MUSIC EXAMINERS FOR S.A.

Dr. Wood and Mr. Clive Carey Appointed

Examiners in South Australia this year for the associated board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music will be Dr. Thomas Wood and Mr. Clive Carey.

Mr. Carey is well known in Adelaide, where he taught singing and directed the opera class at Elder Conservatorium. He was appointed to the University of the United States of America and Canada, where he gave following recitals.

Dr. Wood took his M.A. and D.Mus. degrees together in 1929 at Oxford (Exeter College), where he was appointed a lecturer and precentor in 1924. He resigned in 1928 to have more time for composition. Since 1931 several orchestral, choral, instrumental, vocal, and prose works have appeared under his name.

Adv. 22-8-31

COST OF EDUCATION

TEACHERS AND THE UNIVERSITY

To the Editor

Sir—Will you kindly allow me to correct a grave error made by Mr. Forgan in his letter of August 19. Graduate teachers have always been made by Parliament, at, of course, the instigation of the Cabinet of the day, and that without any condition whatever. It should be known to your readers that some 30 years ago Professor (afterwards Professor) Bragg saw that it was desirable to improve the literary attainments of the public school teachers, and I know that they suggested to the Council of the University that all such teachers should be admitted to lectures and examinations free. All that the head of the Education Department of that day did could was to gratefully acknowledge that generous offer. Yours, &c.,

H. A. CURTIS, Brighton.

Adv. 26-8-31

No Successor to Mr. Young

The Government did not propose to appoint another chairman to succeed Mr. W. J. Young on the Advisory Committee on State Finance, said the Premier in the Assembly, in reply to Mr. Pattinson (Lib.). The committee had not been disbanded, although Mr. Young had resigned, and Professor Melville, another member, would be in another State for a year. The remaining members, Messrs. Stuckey, Hunkin, and Wainwright, would be consulted as the need arose.

Adv. 28-8-31

SCIENTISTS BACK FROM INTERIOR

Important Expedition

DATA ABOUT NATIVES

After having made scientific investigations among 150 aborigines at Cockatoo Creek, Central Australia, the University and Museum anthropological expedition returned to Adelaide last night. The party had been away three weeks.

Among all the natives among whom observations were made were still living their customary nomadic life, most of them being naked and subsisting on game and plants. Arrangements had been made for them to congregate at the camp site, and they were chiefly of the Iparra, Ngalla, and Anmagera tribes.

A member of the party stated last night that the expedition had been successful, and that the country was in fine fettle. In some places vast areas of wild flowers made striking pictures. The camp was 100 miles north of Alice Springs and 100 miles west of Mount Stuart Settlement. Excellent transport arrangements were made by Mr. Fred Colson, a man of great experience and resource.

Numbered with Paint

Cordial relationships were established with the natives, who submitted to examination in a surprising manner. Numerous observations were made. Numbered with celluose paint, the natives were passed from one section to another.

Personal and family history was noted, head, limbs, and body measured, and various physical features, such as brain, eye, and skin color, quantity and character of hair, dental condition, oral characteristics, diseases, and other characteristics recorded. Photographs were taken, and blood tests made.

The success of the work on basal metabolism was beyond all expectations, and it was the first occasion on which such tests had been carried out on typical outback Australian natives. It involved delicate experimentation, which had to be carried out between 5.30 and 8 a.m. before the native had arisen from his sandy bed or eaten food. Some 50 many tests were made that the cylinder of oxygen was run out, and an emergency oxygen-making outfit had to be used.

Data of Great Importance

These observations recorded the rate of energy-production of the vital functioning of the body when at rest, and helped to throw considerable light on the manner in which the naked native adapts himself to his environment. Some of the data on changes of body temperature in extreme temperatures, interest to medical science, would add light to the findings which arose from the work at Coonibba (Eyre Peninsula) three years ago.

Another branch of work entailed observations of the special senses and intelligence of the natives—examination of visual, auditory, and olfactory acuity, strength and reaction time, and studies of ability to solve simple problems, and on discrimination.

An excellent series of plaster casts was secured of the faces, hands, feet, and chests of natives. Many photographs of ethnological interest were taken, and voluminous notes were recorded on various aspects of native life, arts and industries.

Motion Pictures of Ceremonies

Special attention was given to cinematography, and it was hoped that the several thousand feet of motion pictures taken would produce valuable records of unique interest and value. A certain amount of cinema film was devoted to securing scenes in natural color. The natives provided a number of daylight performances, depicting various ceremonies, and these were adequately photographed by still and motion cameras. No women or children were allowed to see, or be in the vicinity of, these ceremonies. On several evenings the party and the natives sat around the camp fire, "corroboree, in which the women also took part.

A valuable collection of native objects and implements was secured by the Museum representatives for their institution. Members of the museum staff also devoted some of their time to making a collection of mammals, birds, and insects; and ecological and botanical notes were made on rough. Notes of medical interest were secured on the pathological conditions and physical abnormalities met with among the natives.

The expenses of the expedition were mainly covered by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation, allotted to the University through the Australian National Research Council.

Personnel of Expedition

The personnel of the expedition and the sections of work undertaken were:—

Professors J. B. Cleland and T. Harvey Johnston—Blood tests.

Professor C. Stanton Hicks and Dr. R. F. Mason—Basal metabolism and associated physiological work.

Drs. Ida Campbell and R. H. Fulleine—Special physiological and psychological observations.

Dr. Ida Campbell and Mr. J. H. Gray—Anthropometric and anatomical observations.

Professor J. H. Wilkinson—Photography.

Mr. R. M. Hale (director S.A. Museum)—Plastic cast work and supervision Museum activities.

Mr. R. B. Tindale (S.A. Museum ethnologist)—General ethnology and social anthropology.

Mr. O. Stocker—Cinematography.

Mr. Alan Rait—Collecting and taxidermy.

Adv. 29-8-31

ADELAIDE SCIENTISTS HELPED IN WAR

Lessons of Value for Peacetime

An interesting story of how two famous former South Australians, Professor Sir William Bragg and his son, Professor W. L. Bragg, assisted in the application of science to war was given to the Rotary Club yesterday by the Chief Engineer for Railways (Mr. R. H. Chapman).

Speaking of the ways of detecting enemy gun emplacements, he explained how the positions were fixed by aerial photography, or by plotting from fixed posts behind the Allied lines from observation of gun flashes. A more effective method was used by the French, who used a line of microphones about 1,000 yards behind their lines, and calculated the position of German guns from the differences in the time taken for sound waves, emanating from the explosions, took to reach the separate microphones.

That plan was adopted by the British Army, and carried to a high stage of development by Professor W. L. Bragg. The same principle of a series of microphones was used for detecting enemy submarines in the Mediterranean and English Channel, and determining the position of the Allied minelayers which lost their bearings in the fogs of Gallipoli, whether, in which it was safest for them to operate. That branch was in the hands of Sir William L. Bragg, and the effectiveness of the plan considerably.

The war had taught the value of applied science, said Mr. Chapman, and the lessons learned there were applicable in peace. The advance of the pastoral and agricultural industries, which science had been allowed scope, proved its value. Many of our secondary industries also, such as mining and engineering, and motor body building, in which trained scientists were at the head of affairs, offered scope, just as strong. The application of scientific learning and principles to industries, or Government undertakings, would do much to dissipate depression.