

THE LATE MR. McCOY

University Council's Appreciation

At the monthly meeting of the Council of the University on Friday, the Chancellor (Sir George Murray), referring to the death of Mr. W. T. McCoy, said that since the last meeting of the Council an event had happened which had caused the deepest regret. He referred to the death of Mr. W. T. McCoy. The members of that body become, after their election, so long and so intimately associated with one another that the passing away of one was a matter of individual and general concern to the rest. Mr. McCoy was one of their colleagues for nearly ten years, and during that time he took an important part in their proceedings. A graduate of Sydney University, he came from Tasmania, where he held the position of Director of Education, to fill that office here. The close relations established between the University of Adelaide and the Education Department of the State for the training of teachers had led to the practice of electing the Director of Education to a seat on the Council of the University. Mr. McCoy was more than a willing candidate. He was anxious to promote the interests of the University as to work for the improvement of primary and secondary education in the schools for which he was responsible. He saw that both were branches of a great public service, and that each was ancillary to the other. In his comparatively brief term of office he achieved outstanding success. The State system of education he raised to a standard comparable with the best in other countries, and within the University he exercised an influence that was both potent and welcome. If he had characteristics which they admired and respected in him more than others, they were his practical common sense, his honesty of purpose, and his frankness and directness of speech. He never intervened in debate without attracting close attention. His opinions always carried weight. The loss of such a member must be felt for a long time. No one was indispensable, but no two of them were quite alike. It would be difficult adequately to fill the place of Mr. McCoy. They joined in expressing, on behalf of the University, profound sympathy with Mrs. McCoy and her son and daughter in their sudden bereavement. He hoped that their appreciation of Mr. McCoy's good work would bring them some solace. He moved "That the Council record its deep regret at the death of Mr. McCoy, its high appreciation of his work in this State as Director of Education, and as a member of this Council, and its profound sympathy with his family in the great loss they have sustained."

The Vice-Chancellor, Sir William Mitchell, in seconding the resolution, said he saw a great deal of Mr. McCoy on University questions outside that room and he always went to him with the greatest confidence. Although his directive interest was with the schools, his real interest concerned education, and he looked to the highest form of it to attract the lower, and especially to be a stimulus to his teachers, and through them to the schools. The Council directed that the resolution be recorded and a copy of it sent to Mrs. McCoy.

Adv. 2-9-29

BEQUESTS TO CHARITY

WILL OF MR. HAROLD FISHER

Provision is made under the will of Mr. Harold Fisher, formerly of Montefiore-road, North Adelaide, for the payment of bequests to several charitable organisations and other bodies. Mr. Fisher died on July 7, and his will has been admitted for probate. The value of the estate is sworn not to exceed £51,294. He left £5,000 to the South Australian Cricket Association for the purpose of erecting a grandstand on the northern end of the Adelaide Oval. He also made the following bequests:—St. Mark's College, Incorporated, North Adelaide, for the purpose of founding a scholarship or scholarships of any nature, or kind, and upon and subject to any terms, conditions, and provisions which the Council for the time being of the college might think fit, £3,000; to the District Trained Nursing Society of South Australia, the South Australian Institute for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb, Incorporated, Brighton, and the Royal Institution for the Blind Incorporated, North Adelaide, each £300; to the Adelaide Children's Hospital, North Adelaide, and the Travellers' Aid Society, each £200. He bequeathed to his aunt, Sophia Victoria Farrar, and his cousin, Edith Mary Langdon, an annuity of £30 each. For each completed year of service in his employe the sum of £12 is left to Philip Harry Hanks, his chauffeur, and Victor Edwards, gardener. The personal belongings, motor car, and other articles are left to his widow, Mrs. Russell Maude Fisher. The residue of his estate is to be held on trust by his trustees to create a realisation fund to make payments to his widow and dependents.

ADELAIDE'S MUSICAL APATHY

From E. HAROLD DAVIES, University:—Mr. Gravestock and I are both engaged in the same unprofitable task of "whipping the cat." In reality our points of agreement are more than our disagreements as to the causes which underlie the present musical apathy of this and other cities. If he had said that greater interest was being taken in sport and picture shows than in serious forms of art, I should willingly "second the motion." Or if he had gone further and affirmed that we were living in grossly material times, and that spiritual ideals were at a very low ebb, most thoughtful people would also agree with him. But, on the surface, and as an obvious reason for our diminished spending ability, it is undoubtedly true (1) that South Australia—albeit financially the poorest of the States—is just now experiencing its worst pinch, and (2) that charges of admission for overseas artists must necessarily be high, and so beyond the means of hundreds of students and music lovers. As a people we have not reached the point of making any real sacrifices for Art. In conclusion, I would remind Mr. Gravestock, not unkindly, that among those who bring "celebrities" to Australia, there is often a tendency to assume the role of public benefactors. Assuredly we want to hear great artists, but we also know that those who bring them are not moved by altruistic impulses. It is believed, and with good reason, that profits on what is generally known as "entertainment promoting" are very considerable. And when these vested interests are threatened with loss, there is always a great clamor. Even a 5 per cent. tax can produce a political riot. But business will go on as usual, and I doubt whether there will be many insolvencies among those who are catering professionally for public pleasure.

Adv. 5-9-29

EDUCATION CHIEF

Promotion of Mr. W. J. Adey

DISTINGUISHED CAREER

Mr. W. J. Adey (Superintendent of Secondary Education) will be appointed in Executive Council to-day to fill the position of Director of Education—which was rendered vacant recently by the death of Mr. W. T. McCoy. The appointment will carry with it his present duties, the position of Superintendent of Secondary Education being abolished. The starting salary of the new Director will probably be somewhat less than the amount of £1,250 a year which Mr. McCoy received latterly.

From Bottom to Top

The selection of Mr. Adey, who is a man of fine character and strong personality, will be received with much satisfaction in all branches of the Education Department. He is deservedly popular there, and also in all other circles in which he is known. Born at Redhill on May 27, 1874, he



Mr. W. J. Adey.

schools from 1880 to 1887. Then he entered the service of the Education Department as a monitor at the Millbrook school, being only 13 years old, and his progress has been attended with much distinction, he having risen from the bottom rung to the top of the ladder. He was a pupil teacher at the Houghton and at Sturt-street schools from 1890 to 1893, a student at the North Adelaide Training College during 1894, assistant teacher at Quora from 1895 to 1898, and at Sturt-street from 1897 to 1900, and first assistant at Sturt-street from 1901 to 1907. Mr. Adey acted as locum tenens for the head teacher at Clare from August to December, 1902. From March to December, 1907, he was a student at the Melbourne Training College and Melbourne University, and he also visited schools and colleges in New South Wales and Victoria to gain experience. In January, 1908, he opened and was appointed headmaster of the Adelaide High School, and he was subsequently principal of it, and in addition acted in the capacity of Inspector of High Schools. He has been Superintendent of Secondary Education since 1920, and has had general supervision of high schools, evening classes, higher primary classes, and domestic arts classes, the preparation of courses of study and regulations, the inspection of high schools, and the administration of the Teachers' College. In addition, Mr. Adey studied as an evening student at the Adelaide University in English and history, Latin, physics, geology, botany, and psychology, logic, ethics, economics, and philosophy. At the Melbourne Teachers' College he had nature study and also attended lectures on education, psychology, chemistry, zoology, and geology.

Other Activities

Among other positions which Mr. Adey holds are the following:—Membership of the Adelaide University public examinations committee (for over 20 years), the Faculty of Agriculture in connection with the University, the Deceased Soldiers' Children's Education Board, and during the Director's absence abroad in 1923 he was chairman of it; the Royal Society of South Australia; the South Australian Cricket Association; the Advisory Council of Education; the Metropolitan High Schools' Combined Concert Society (chairman); the Public Schools Decoration Society (vice-president); the League of the Empire and the Victoria League; the International Bureau of Education, Geneva (a corresponding member); the Henley Lodge of Freemasons; and the Industrial Stability Committee. Mr. Adey in his younger days was a first-class cricketer. In addition to playing in the annual North versus South matches in Adelaide while he was teaching at Quora, he was a member of the first Port Adelaide team that played in A grade, and later the North Adelaide senior club, and after that was a member of the well-known Coromandel Club. He has also taken an interest in tennis and sports generally, and is now associated with the Royal Adelaide Golf Club.

Mr. Adey, who resides at Burnside, has been twice married. His first wife—who was Miss M. E. Dyer, a daughter of Mr. C. Dyer, of Kellerberrin, W.A.—died in 1915. His present wife was Miss C. M. Weston, a daughter of Mrs. E. L. Weston, of Medindie. There are three children (two boys and a girl).

Adv. 6.9.29

CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT TO BE BROADCAST

The second of the series of concerts by the staff of the Elder Conservatorium will be broadcast from 5CL to-night. An exceptionally fine programme has been arranged. It will be under the personal supervision of Professor E. Harold Davies, Director of the Conservatorium, who will also broadcast explanatory remarks.

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The Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell) left yesterday for Brisbane, where he will deliver the MacRossan lectures on psychology.

EDUCATION DIRECTOR TO DO TWO JOBS?

Mr. Adey May Still Supervise Secondary Education

APPOINTMENT APPROVED

THERE is a strong possibility that the Education Department will dispense with a superintendent of secondary education, following the appointment yesterday of Mr. W. J. Adey, the former superintendent, to be Director. MR. Adey's appointment met with general approval. "The schemes inaugurated by Mr. McCoy are still in their initial stage. The immediate work of the department is to develop them," Mr. Adey said last night in a message to The Register.

"I follow a company of distinguished educationists, from Mr. Hartley to Mr. McCoy, and I would hesitate to take up the work of my late loved chief if it were not that I feel that I fully enjoyed his confidence and understood his aims and plans for the further development of the educational system in this State," Mr. Adey said.



Mr. Adey

"I know that I shall have the wholehearted assistance and willing co-operation of the Deputy-Director (Mr. Charlton), the Superintendent of Technical Education (Dr. Fenner), and the whole of the office and administrative staffs to enable me to do justice to the position. The loyal co-operation of the teaching body is an essential, without which progress is impossible. "In the past many hundreds of present day teachers were pupils with whom I came into daily contact, and I count upon them to assist me to carry on the great work for the children of the State.

WORTHY SUCCESSOR

"It was the earnest desire of the Government to appoint a worthy successor to one of the State's ablest administrators and worthiest of men. It is convinced that in Mr. Adey it has found this man," said the Minister for Education (Mr. McIntosh) last night.

SHOULD SATISFY COUNTRY

Mr. Cameron (Country Party member in the Assembly) said:—"I had no doubt from the outset that he was the man for the position. "I am sure his administration will give satisfaction to the important work in the country areas as well as in the city."

The President of the Teachers' Union (Mr. G. Charlesworth)—"It is a very popular appointment, and the right man has been chosen at the right time.

SALARY NOT ANNOUNCED

Will Superintendent Job Be Abolished?

"Why did the Government withhold information from the House regarding the appointment of Mr. W. J. Adey to be Director of Education, and later make it available to a section of the press?" asked Mr. R. S. Richards in the Assembly yesterday.

The Premier (Mr. Butler) said that the information was not given to the press by the Government or anyone else. Mr. Adey was appointed by Executive Council that morning, and it was not usual to divulge the names of appointees before they were placed before the Governor.

He asked Mr. Richards to place on the notice paper a question regarding the salary to be paid to Mr. Adey.

The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Hill)—"Do you propose to abolish the position of Superintendent of Secondary Education?" The Premier did not reply.

"WOULD BE RETROGRADE"

"The abolition of the position of Superintendent of Secondary Education would be a retrograde step of a most astounding nature," said Mr. Hill last night. "And speaking as a former Minister of Education I entirely disagree with it."

AGAINST ABOLITION

"I hope that Mr. Adey will not be asked to fulfil the positions of Director and Superintendent of Secondary Education, at any rate for an extended period. It would not be in the best interests of education and would be unfair to Mr. Adey," said the President of the Teachers' Union (Mr. G. Charlesworth).