

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1929.

**WE MUST CLING TO THE HIGH SCHOOL**

If ever there was a time when the people were prepared to listen to pleas for economy in national expenditure it is today. The opinion is unanimous that taxation has reached its limit. Any Government which finds it necessary to impose new taxes will be unfortunate to the extent of ceasing to govern. The Taxpayers' Association of South Australia has therefore chosen an opportune moment to launch its attack on the rising costs of secondary education. But, if, as seems apparent, its objective is, with few exceptions, to stop free education at the stage of the elementary State schools, it is to be hoped that it will not succeed. The future of this country depends upon improving the education of the next generations. When a child leaves the elementary school he has received no more than the foundation on which his education is to be built. The high school provides the ideal medium through which that education can be carried on. There are many earnest thinkers who honestly believe that free education has been a failure. But the root of their objection is that education has not gone far enough. The conduct of the State is in the hands of the people. If they are an educated people when the future of the State is assured. If they are not then we will slip back while other nations go ahead, for everywhere the tendency is to increase, not reduce, the amount of free secondary education made available.

It is not enough that only students of proved ability who intend to continue their studies at the university and who need financial assistance, should have high schools provided for them. The ideal is that no normal boy or girl should leave school equipped with anything less than the equivalent of a high school education. We need at least such a standard to hold our own in the future of nations. There are those who argue that, because the people have not had to make sacrifices for the education of their children, they have not appreciated its value. They take the superficial view. Every parent who sends his children to the high school makes sacrifices. He has to cloth and maintain them at an age when they might be earning a few shillings a week to help in the costs of the home, but he does so believing that he is giving them a better chance in life. If free secondary education is checked the result will not be that parents who previously had their boys educated for nothing will now pay for it and relieve the ratepayers of that burden. For the most part those who can afford it do so already. It will simply mean that there will be practically no secondary education outside the private colleges. That would be the cruellest blow to the very best of our citizens—the parent who strives to give his children a better education than he enjoyed himself.

The cost of free education is certainly enormous and we are hard-pressed today to make ends meet. Until more prosperous times it is essential to go slowly even in the development of free secondary education. But prosperous times will come again and we should be dragging all the time towards the objective of a free and compulsory secondary education for every child—not to throw up the sponge at the first real struggle.

Secondary education is not a luxury. It is the absolute essential of an intelligent democracy.

**MR. W. J. ADEY**  
New Director of Education

**POPULAR SELECTION**

In Executive Council on Thursday, Mr. W. J. Adey (Superintendent of Secondary Education and Inspector of High Schools) was appointed to be the new Director of Education, as had been forecast in "The Advertiser."

The directorship, after the death of Mr. W. T. McCoy, was offered by the Government to Mr. C. Charlton (Deputy Director of Education), but in view of the fact that he is within about two years of the retiring age for the Public Service, and that a definite scheme of progress extending over a much longer period than that has been laid down by Cabinet for the department, he expressed the broad view that it would be in the best interests of the State for him to stand aside for a younger man, who would be able in the natural course of events to see the job through. The Government then referred the matter to the Public Service Commissioner for a recommendation, and the appointment of Mr. Adey is the outcome. Mr. Charlton will continue as deputy director. As previously indicated, Mr. Adey will carry with him to his new position the duties of Superintendent of Secondary Education. He is very popular in the service, and his appointment has been received with great appreciation, and particularly for the fact, aside altogether from his undoubted ability for the directorship, that he is a South Australian by birth, and has risen from the bottom of the teaching profession to the top of it.

**"A Wise Choice"**

The Premier (Hon. R. L. Eutler) stated on Thursday that he thought the people who knew Mr. Adey would agree that the Government had made a wise choice. In the first place, Cabinet desired, wherever it was possible, to give preference to South Australians in, and to members of, the public service in making appointments to Government departments, provided that they possessed the ability to fill the positions satisfactorily. There was no doubt regarding the ability of Mr. Adey, and, although he had not had very much experience as an administrator, his tact and clear judgment, combined with a cool, thoughtful temperament, were undoubtedly qualifications for a successful administrator. The Government felt sure that he realised the responsibilities of the high position to which he had been promoted, and they were confident that the Education Department, and through it the State, would make further progress as a result of his work.

**"Man of Conspicuous Ability"**

The Deputy Director of Education (Mr. C. Charlton) expressed pleasure when advised that the appointment had been officially announced. He added that he had known Mr. Adey personally since his appointment as first assistant at the old Sturt-street School in 1901. Their closer association commenced when the new director joined the executive as the representative of the Male Assistants' Association, of which he was the founder. In his occupancy of the offices of assistant secretary, minute secretary, and corresponding secretary of the executive, he earned the esteem of all the members by his infinite capacity for taking pains, his manly outspokenness and his untiring zeal. Those characteristics had distinguished him in all the positions which he had filled. Mr. Adey had climbed every rung of the educational ladder, from the lowest step (as monitor) to the highest (that of director). He held the distinction of having been the first head master of the Adelaide High School, the duties of which he filled with eminent success, and at the same time carried on those of the office of inspector of high schools. His work as Superintendent of Secondary Education, to which he was called in 1920, had been marked by his usual conspicuous ability. During his charge of the Adelaide High School he was necessarily placed in close personal contact with hundreds of young junior and probationary teachers, and those he had imbued with his own high ideals of duty and right-living. In all parts of the State there were men and women who held Mr. Adey in the highest esteem, and had for him a great personal affection, and were thankful for ever having been under the influence of so fine a man. Mr. Charlton added that for him had engendered a high regard for his gifts and a great affection for him personally. He knew of no man more capable of taking up the work of their late beloved director (Mr. McCoy), and it would be his earnest en-

davor and great privilege to render him whole-hearted support in the high office to which he had been called, and upon the appointment to which he most heartily congratulated him.

**Magnanimity of Mr. Charlton**

Referring yesterday to the appointment of the new Director, the Minister of Education (Hon. M. McIntosh) said that the attitude of Mr. Charlton, in so magnanimously waiving all claims to the appointment, indicated that he desired to place the service before himself, and it made the task of the Public Service Commissioner (Brigadier-General S. Price Weir) an easy one. Mr. McIntosh added that he was sure the appointment of Mr. Adey would be accepted with confidence and goodwill, and that he would carry out the proposals of the late Director to a successful issue. Both Mr. Adey and Mr. Charlton had the confidence of Mr. McCoy, and approved of his plans. There would be no great changes, therefore, as far as the education policy of the State was concerned.

**QUESTION IN PARLIAMENT**

Mr. R. S. Richards enquired in the Assembly on Thursday why the Government had withheld information from the House regarding the appointment of Mr. Adey, and later made it available to a section of the press. He also asked what salary would be paid to the new Director. The Premier (Hon. R. L. Butler) said the information was not given to the press by the Government or anyone else. It had been previously stated in the press that Mr. Adey would be chosen. Mr. Adey was appointed by the Executive Council that morning, and it was not usual to divulge the names of appointees before they were placed before the Governor. He asked for notice as to the other details in connection with the appointment.

**Official Meeting of Teachers**

A meeting of teachers in the department will be held in the Price Hall at the Adelaide High School, probably on the evening of Friday, September 13—to enable them officially to meet and congratulate the new chief.

**APPRECIATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

The new Director is engaged with the Minister in connection with Education Week on the Murray. He said yesterday that he was deeply sensible of the great honor and responsibility which had been placed upon him. He would follow a company of distinguished educationists from Mr. Hartley to Mr. McCoy. He would hesitate to take up the work of his late beloved chief if it were not that he felt that he fully enjoyed his confidence, and understood his aims and plans for the further development of the educational system in this State. He knew that he would 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 do justice to the position, the loyal co-operation of the teaching body was essential. Without it progress was impossible. In the past many hundreds of present-day teachers were pupils with whom he had come into daily contact, and he counted upon them to assist him to carry on the great work for the children of the State. The Minister of Education and his Government were thoroughly alive to the educational needs of the State, and were anxious that the department should lose none of its prestige. The schemes inaugurated by Mr. McCoy on his return from Europe and America were still in their initial stages. The immediate work of the department was to develop them. Much had been done; there was still much to be done; and this could be done only with the support of a sympathetic Minister, a loyal staff of officers and teachers, and the cordial assistance of parents, school committees and the press. These, he believed, would be behind him in working for the welfare of the children.

**Tribute by Teachers' President**

A tribute to the ability and popularity of Mr. Adey was paid last night by the president of the Teachers' Union (Mr. G. Charlesworth). He said that learning that Mr. Charlton had been consulted regarding the vacancy, and that the deputy director had said he would not accept the position, as he thought one with long service ahead of him should fill it, he thought a very wise choice had been made in selecting Mr. Adey, who was a very popular servant of the department. Mr. Adey had proved himself sterling worth in every position he had filled. As an assistant teacher he was pre-eminent in secondary education, as far as it went in those days, having helped many boys to secure scholarships. As headmaster of the Adelaide High School for 11 years, he proved himself an excellent disciplinarian and organiser. The department's choice when he was made superintendent of secondary education was a wise one. His appointment to his present position was a very popular one among teachers, and it was grati-

ifying that a South Australian had been chosen for the honor. With the able assistance of Mr. Charlton as deputy director, the public need have no reason to fear that the efficiency of the Education Department would be in any way impaired. It was felt, however, that in asking Mr. Adey to fill the dual position of Director of Education and superintendent of secondary education he had been set a formidable task. It was hoped that before long the Government would see fit to strengthen Mr. Adey's hands by again filling the position of superintendent of secondary education.

Adv. 14-9-29

**ANTARCTIC ICE PACK**

**EFFECT ON AUSTRALIAN SEASONS**

**ADDRESS BY SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON**

That the Antarctic currents might increase the rainfall in Australia's great arid wastes was the opinion expressed by Sir Douglas Mawson in an address at the Rotary Club luncheon on Friday. The president of the club (Mr. W. T. Rofe) occupied the chair. Sir Douglas said owing to the preparations for his trip he felt rather "washed out." He had visited his dentist and his doctor, and had spent the previous day in a court. (Laughter.) The equipment for the expedition had just been completed. They might be detained in the Antarctic for two years, but he hoped to get back and refit the ship in Melbourne next April. The Antarctic territory was about the size of Australia, and much of it had not even been seen. No country had a greater claim to the region than the Commonwealth of Australia, and whether the land there had economic possibilities was of great interest to Australia. It might have a commercial value, and eventually have a controlling influence over our climate. He did not say that by going down there they would be able to combat droughts, but knowing the meteorological conditions they could prepare for them.

**Antarctic Currents**

There had been a fantastic suggestion to tow icebergs to the Australian coast to alter the temperature. If they discovered that there was a cold current from the Antarctic it would be an important factor. It had been ascertained that there were cyclic alterations in the Arctic currents. By studying the currents they might make very important meteorological discoveries. Those currents would undoubtedly have an effect on cyclonic conditions in southern and central Australia and improve the rainfall. If the currents could not be induced to go north the alternative was to tow Australia 600 or 700 miles further south. (Laughter.) Unfortunately the largest area of Australia lay in the belt of country between the Antarctic and the equatorial air currents. Deserts occurred in similar latitudes on either side of the equator in different countries.

**Generous Donations**

He expressed pleasure that Mr. Robertson had given the princely sum of £10,000 to equip the expedition. Others had given liberal donations towards apparatus and other things. Manufacturers and businessmen had given great assistance both in Australia and Great Britain. They would have a fine equipment of Australian articles, which he considered equal to anything in the world. The Discovery was sailing to Cape Town, and the Nestor was now on its way west to the same destination. The South African Government had offered to help in every way. If expeditions were well handled there was no great risk of mortality. There was a tremendous lot of interest and fun in such an expedition, and those who had once made the trip were anxious to go again. He considered there was more danger in his recent motor car accident near home than in the Antarctic. (Laughter.) Expeditions had had the effect of opening up the whaling industry. The only thing he regretted was that the explorers got nothing out of it. (Laughter.) There were possibilities of mineral wealth, but he had never said that he expected very much from that source. There were, however, great possibilities in mineral wealth.

Replying to Alderman McEwin, he said he had stated that when returning from England he noticed that the pack-ice was 500 miles farther north than he had expected. He was optimistic enough to believe that the pack-ice would have a big effect on Australian weather conditions. That ice was drifting towards Australia, and perhaps it would have the effect of producing late springs. He hoped so.