

"DEMOCRACY HAS FAKED ITS BOOKS"

Economic Equilibrium Destroyed By Tariff

Burden: Prof. Melville

LOWER STANDARD ONLY ESCAPE

"AUSTRALIAN democracy has faked its books, and consistently spent more than its income. A nation cannot for long avoid the consequences of such questionable action, and the longer the end is deferred the worse it must be," said Professor L. G. Melville in the second of his extension lectures, delivered at the University last night.

"In South Australia since the war we have had in our accounts deficits £500,000 a year greater than we have admitted," he said. "This amount we should have raised annually by taxation, but we raised it by loan instead."

Inequitable distribution of the costs of Federation was pressing with great severity on South Australia, West Australia, and Tasmania, and unless some relief was secured the financial position of South Australia threatened to become extremely damaging to the people of the State.

"The tax on the people of South Australia to support secondary industries in other States has become so great when combined with local taxation that the only apparent escape is to make standards of living lower than in other parts of the Commonwealth."



Prof. Melville

Professor Melville said, "The effect of the tariff has been to weigh very severely on the export industries of States such as South Australia, and it has helped to destroy the economic equilibrium of those States. Unless some further assistance is forthcoming from the Commonwealth, South Australia will have to look forward to heavier rates of taxation and a lower standard of living than the other States."

"In such circumstances secession is likely to become a more acute question than it has been in the past. If South Australia now turns its eye longingly towards secession it would be only because it was unable to obtain redress for the burdens that Federation has placed upon it."

Budget Increases Difficulties

"The present tendency, however, is to increase our burdens rather than to provide us with compensation. The recent increases in the tariff, prohibitions and embargo placed on imports, must aggravate the troubles from which South Australia is now suffering, while the recent Budget and particularly the sales tax will have the effect of making it more difficult for South Australia to regain her balance."

"I believe that the results would be obtained if in each State and in the Commonwealth there were established an economic council, whose responsibility it would be to review the economic actions of the Government and report to Parliament just as the

Auditor-General today reports to Parliament on the financial actions of the Government," he said.

Great expenditure that was occurring all over Australia with the object of developing the country and increasing the population, without any serious attempt being made to measure the cost, said the Professor, was really reducing national income per head. Losses which should have been raised from the public by taxation were charged to loans and passed on to posterity.

Whenever any Government attempted to face the position it was turned out of office by a country which believed that it need make no sacrifices because of the errors it had made through its too great optimism.

The Great Illusion

"There are two principal aims we should set before us as a nation," said Professor Melville. "One is to populate an empty continent, and the other to make the national income to be shared by the population as large as possible. No doubt we have been striving in a muddled sort of way in this direction, but we have allowed sentiment to obscure the issue, and in the general confusion we have been led on by the great illusion that national income would always be large enough to make effective the wishes of the parliamentary majority."

"The economist has always complained that, unlike the pure scientist, he has had no laboratory in which to conduct experiments. Australia has provided that laboratory, and with it all the thrills and amazements that Alice must have felt in Wonderland."

The argument of the Federal Government was that they must shut out goods manufactured by people receiving lower wages than Australians and thus protect the standard of living and provide employment, the lecturer went on. When tariff protection was accorded the bounty was collected directly by the manufacturer in the form of higher prices for his goods than he could obtain in the absence of the tariff. The establishment of industries by means of tariffs and bounties resulted in the establishment of sub-marginal concerns which could not provide the normal Australian standard of living. Instead of concentrating the loss on a section of the community it was being spread over the whole population; but every time a sub-marginal industry was established the average standard of living was lowered.

The Australian standard was supported by the great wealth per head produced in a few profitable industries, such as wool, wheat, and metal. A tariff or bounty could not protect the standards, but only reduce them. The only method of protection lay in maximising the national income per head, and that could not be done merely by juggling with the tariff.

In Australia the tariff had stifled some mining production, and helped to make production in other primary industries unprofitable. Sugar, butter, wine and dried fruits were unable to face the rising costs, and could continue only on a levy from the consumers. The production of wool, wheat, and metal was also in a precarious condition.

"We have a number of industries which we could close down, pension off the employees and owners at full wages and profits, and save enough by importing the goods to make a profit on the operation," Professor Melville said.

As the tariff grew, the costs overtook benefits, because the benefits had natural limits, while the costs had not. Australian experience, like that of other countries, demonstrated the natural tendency of protection to increase, and as it increased it expanded. The people of Australia must soon face the question of how far this could go.

Adv. 22-7-30
ELDER CONSERVATORIUM
CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL

By ALEX. BURNARD

Chamber music, in many ways purity and simplicity itself, is yet at all times provocative to thought, and demands to be met half-way by conscious effort on the listener's part. The Conservatorium String Quartet—Mr. Peter Bornstein, Miss Kathleen Meegan, Miss Sylvia Whittington and Mr. Harold Parsons—had chosen an excellent and well-diversified programme for last night. A charming novelette by the fertile Russian, Glazounov, its simplicity of ensemble only an apparent one, was given an assured treatment by the four players. The Schuman Quartet in A minor is a fine example of abstract, unaffected German art. After the reflective introductory bars, we pass to the first movement proper—full of simple yet forceful ideas. The quartet's rubato playing alone shows their calibre. The four were always as one. The scherzo's texture was crystal clear. Again the straightforwardness of ideas was remarkable, with now and then a typically Schumannesque turn or modulation. The main subject is identical in spirit, and indeed almost in notes, with that of a Mendelssohn quartet scherzo. It would be interesting to note which of the two contemporaries first hit on it. Schumann is never more the philosopher than in his slow movements. Certainly in this andante he has caught the spirit of truth and beauty—a placid-seeming beauty that does not admit of a doubt. The final presto, strong and insurgent, is remarkably coherent, with well-balanced episodes. One of these, by the way, curiously suggests the complaining tones of the bagpipes. A clear-cut brilliance characterised its playing.

Mr. Harold Denton was in excellent voice in his group of four French songs. The first of Rhene-Baton's, "Un Bruit de Rames," contained some very unusual intervals, but the treatment was very suggestive of its subject—summer night on a river. The second was simpler, and ended in graceful berceuse style. But what a glorious song-writer is that other composer chosen—Gabriel Faure! With what naivete, yet with what certitude of touch, does he unfold his thoughts! "Clair de Lune" is ever a delight. It is typical Faure. Give a Frenchman fountains, terraces, peacocks and moonlight, and he will be sure to turn you out a lovely song. Mr. Denton's flexible, expressive organ responded to every slightest nuance.

Ernest Chausson's A major quartet, for piano and strings, ended the programme. Mr. George Pearce was at the pianoforte. Chausson reveals several traits that characterised his master Cesar Franck, notably the heightened, emotional line he often achieves. Indeed, the work is one succession of emotions. Another point of affinity is his penchant for broad, passion-laden spans for unison strings, that in the cooling process, a shrinkage took place, resulting in the wrinkling of the earth's surface. These depressions were filled with water, and formed the ocean. Originally there was but one ocean—the Pacific, and one great continent. In the processes of time, covering hundreds of millions of years, the great cracks in the earth's surface widened, and formed the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans. There was another theory that the moon was formed from portion of the earth's crust when a great upheaval occurred. This was given credence by the fact that the moon was of the same specific gravity as the earth. There was a suggestion that the particular scar from which the moon came was the Pacific Ocean. Many millions of years ago Australia was connected with Asia. With each great upheaval mountain ranges were formed, and the sea pushed further back.

Reg. 22-7-30
INSPIRING CHAMBER
MUSIC RECITAL

Conservatorium Staff In
Vivid Works

THE Elder Conservatorium string quartet gave a fine chamber music recital in the Elder Hall last night. Such beautiful playing as was heard in the brilliant Chausson quartette for piano and strings would be hard to excel.



Mr. Peter Bornstein

For the opening number the quartette played a delightfully colourful waltz novelette of Glazounov. The players were Mr. Peter Bornstein (first violin), Miss Kathleen Meegan (second violin), Miss Sylvia Whittington (viola), and Mr. Harold Parsons (cello).

The Schumann Quartette in A minor followed. The beautiful melody of the adagio, coming after the bright scherzo, was most effectively treated. The vigorous final presto gave scope for technical brilliance, and called for expert handling, which it received.

Four French songs were artistically done by Mr. Harold Denton. His light, even tone was particularly effective. The numbers were Un Bruit de Rames and Le Plainte du Roi (Rhene-Baton), and Le Secret and Clair de Lune (Faure). Mr. John Horner was a sympathetic accompanist.

Then came the brilliant performance of the dramatic Chausson Quartette in A major. The piano part was undertaken by Mr. George Pearce, who played admirably throughout the many vivid passages. Mr. Bornstein was heard at his best, and to Mr. Parsons and Miss Whittington must be given equal share of praise. They reached great heights in the lovely calm second movement. The closing repetition of the opening subject made a triumphant conclusion.

Adv. 23-7-30

"MOTHER OF LIFE"

LECTURE BY SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON

"The Ocean—the Mother of Life," was the title of a lecture delivered by Sir Douglas Mawson at the University on Tuesday evening.

Sir Douglas said that the history of the ocean was bound up with that of the planet, which came into existence between one and two thousand million years ago. The theory of scientists was that in the cooling process, a shrinkage took place, resulting in the wrinkling of the earth's surface. These depressions were filled with water, and formed the ocean. Originally there was but one ocean—the Pacific, and one great continent. In the processes of time, covering hundreds of millions of years, the great cracks in the earth's surface widened, and formed the Atlantic and the Indian Oceans. There was another theory that the moon was formed from portion of the earth's crust when a great upheaval occurred. This was given credence by the fact that the moon was of the same specific gravity as the earth. There was a suggestion that the particular scar from which the moon came was the Pacific Ocean. Many millions of years ago Australia was connected with Asia. With each great upheaval mountain ranges were formed, and the sea pushed further back.

Beginning of Life
The first life in the ocean, Sir Douglas said, according to scientists, was confined to minute floating organisms in the sunny portions of the sea, and then the seaweeds and other organisms of life gradually developed. About four hundred million years ago a simple form of plant life became numerous on the land. Sea life and plant life gradually developed until the more active sea creatures invaded the land and took up their residence there. Reptiles dominated among these, and the more active, such as flying dragons, took to the air. As the struggle for existence became more intense the animals developed. For this reason the sea animals had not advanced to the same degree as the land animals.

News 23-7-30
CONCERT BY STAFF

CONSERVATORIUM EFFORT

Swedish Visitor Impressed

"I listened to the concert with amazement," said Mrs. Elma Hornemann (formerly a member of the Royal Music Conservatorium of Denmark), commenting on the performance given by the staff of Elder Conservatorium on Monday night.

"I did not expect to hear such musicians in Adelaide," she continued. "The standard compares with that of any conservatorium I have visited in Europe. I was so impressed that I have sent back to Denmark a copy of the programme and have suggested that similar recitals should be held there. I now look forward with great interest to hearing a performance by the pupils."

Mrs. Hornemann is staying with her daughter, Mrs. J. Davidson, Kyre avenue, Kingswood, and will return to her native country in November. She was a member of the Danish Conservatorium for 15 years and has sung in many public concerts in Copenhagen.

Speaking of the training for musicians in Denmark, Mrs. Hornemann said that students must pass an examination before they could enter the conservatorium. These a most comprehensive course, which usually took three years to complete, must be taken before a diploma could be gained. Concerts were given every Saturday by the students, but the teachers were not to be

Adv. 22-7-30
FIRST-AID CLASSES
UNIVERSITY COURSES POSSIBLE

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE MEETING

A hint that, in the coming year, the Adelaide University might follow the example of the Melbourne University, and include first-aid teaching as a part of the engineering course, was given by the chairman (Mr. A. A. Simpson), in his address at the annual meeting of the St. John Ambulance Association, which was held yesterday.

Mr. Simpson said that he had interviewed officials of the University, and of the School of Mines on the subject, and he was very hopeful of seeing first aid an established part of the engineering courses of both institutions before long. He was pleased to be able to state that a number of University students had, during the last year, voluntarily attended lectures, and had passed the examinations.