

Growing Power of Civil Servants

PROF. G. V. Portus, professor of history and political science at the University of Adelaide, has an article entitled "Glimpses of Parliament" in the "Australian Quarterly." In this he touches on the invasion of the privileges of the legislature and the judicature by civil servants.

Following are extracts from his article:—
As the social service conception of the State emerged more legislation was required to meet the increasing activities, and these requirements are not lessening. For Parliament to attempt this legislation in detail is impossible. It not only requires more skilled technical knowledge than Parliament possesses, but also its mass is overwhelming.

All that Parliament can do is to pass certain general laws authorising the Government to make provision for this new service or to interfere in that direction. As a result, Parliament tends to lose both its legislative and its deliberative character.

The vague general authority extracted from Parliament by the Government does not suffice to carry out its vastly increased policies. Details have to be filled in. By whom? By those who have to administer the new policies—civil servants, railway commissioners, bank boards, forestry commissioners, and the like. They make regulations to carry the Government's policy into effect, and those regulations have the force of law.

The Lord Chief Justice of England, Lord Hewart, wrote a book reproaching Parliament for yielding up its law making function and for allowing the civil service to place itself beyond the jurisdiction of common law. I can see no prospect of any reversal of this tendency, whether Lord Hewart likes it or not. It is part of the price we have to pay for the entrance of the modern State into so many fields which the eighteenth and nineteenth century States carefully avoided.

Parliament, Prof. Portus adds, has also lost much of its deliberative character. Again the pressure of Government business has been the villain of the piece. Modern Parliaments can only pass the measures which the Cabinet initiates. This is a matter not of constitutional competence, but of time. The Government wants all the time there is for the spate of its own legislation. Measures are not so much debated as dictated.

The Socialists, with their belief in State enterprises, are helping still further to extend the functions of the State, and, incidentally demonstrating that Parliament is unfitted for the task which political evolution has laid on its shoulders.

The truth is that in Parliament we have a machine originally constructed for uses so different from those to which it is now put that its alteration has become inevitable. As it evolved, Parliament was a machine for reviewing and deliberating about legislation—in short, for delaying government. Many people talk as if Parliament were still in that stage. But nowadays the need for a machine to govern, not to delay government. To do the work of the twentieth century, the machine has to be changed.

HISTORY Centenary Popularises Archives Department BUSIEST YEAR

The present year has been the busiest on record for the Adelaide Archives Department, as, on the eve of its first Centenary, the whole of South Australia seems to be history-minded.

Day by day, a procession of interesting and interested people passes through the doors of the appropriate old-world building in North terrace, intent on many and varied quests. Among them are budding authors and playwrights engrossed in the dramatisation of great moments of the past for entry in "The Advertiser" novel and play literary competition, artists seeking inspiration and accurate local color for pictures and posters, business firms preparing illustrated advertising matter such as catalogues and leaflets, pageant organisers and "Back to" country town committees.

The majority, however, consist of the general public who make use of the archives to the full, seeking records of the arrival of their parents and grandparents in this or that sailing ship before 1848, and the settlement of city and country districts. Some remain but a few moments, and there are others who sit silently for hours, and prolong their visits over weeks and months.

In charge of the Archives Department since its inception in 1920, Mr. G. H. Pitt holds the key to an index system of 300,000 manuscripts, both official and private, and, with a personal knowledge of the voluminous records and photographs, can quickly conjure the past for all concerned.

Historic Humor

His day, as theirs, is full of interest, and historic research has its humor. The outstanding visitor yesterday was an elderly Irishman who came to look up the personnel of an emigrant ship of 50 years ago. He reflected that he had bought his passage papers from another intending passenger, under whose name he travelled. This man, being a school teacher, the substitute did his best with a small deck school of children on the voyage, and, to his surprise, was apprised, by means of the papers, that he had a sister on board. In those cautious days, single women were segregated in the fore-cabin and single men astern, but those with bona-fide sisters were allowed to converse with them for a couple of hours morning and evening. The Irishman recalled with amusement the very affectionate daily greeting of sister and brother, but the end of the story wrecked romance, as, on arrival in South Australia, each married somebody else.

The Archives Department was inaugurated in 1920 as a result of the enthusiasm of Professor G. C. Henderson, Professor of History in the University of Adelaide, who suggested the establishment of a place where original South Australian records could be made available for students. Unlike the Mitchell Library in Sydney, which absorbs all historic matter, Adelaide specialises in the assembling of original manuscripts only, with illustrated material, sketches and maps. The response of the people of South Australia in the matter of presentations has been most generous, and in its 15 years of existence the Archives have become remarkably replete with valuable documents, photographs and information, an invaluable compendium of the history of South Australia and the Territory.

Gems Of The Collection

Among the gems of the collection are the George Fife Angus papers, letters of vital social, economic and political interest of the earliest days of the colony; photographs depicting early Adelaide, showing the quaint costumes and conveyances, women in crinolines, and policemen with beards and white trousers; and many valuable diaries, including the Peninsular War diary of Colonel William Light.

Two other diaries of note are those of Captain Sturt, salvaged from the fire of a rubbish-heap and saved for posterity by the astuteness of Mrs. Berry, his gardener's wife; and of John McDouall Stuart, the written story of his crossing of the continent, a minute manuscript in a tiny notebook carried in the explorer's shirt pocket. One entry, neat and methodical as all the others, reads, "I have kept the other two with me in case of my dying to-night."

The outstanding archives of the collection are on view at the Historical Exhibition, which will remain open to the public at the Art Gallery until tomorrow.

made intelligible to him the simpler classes of literature. Headmasters should remember that their scholars were living in an age of remarkable achievements, an age of not a little instability or danger. In this age specially it was upon a very small minority that discerning appreciation of art and literature depended, but more than the minority was capable of endorsing first hand knowledge. Given the authority the majority would respond accurately to literature.

Mr. Adey, in proposing a vote of thanks to Professor Stewart, congratulated the Adelaide University on appointing such a brilliant student from the homeland as its Professor of English. Mr. Adey said that for his part he would certainly abolish all examinations in English literature, but they could examine pupils in English composition.

The headmaster of Prince Alfred College (Mr. J. F. Ward) supported the vote of thanks, which was carried.

Adv. 19-10-35

PRESENTATIONS TO MR. F. BEVAN

Miss Hilda Gill Welcomed

A morning tea was held at the Elder Conservatorium yesterday, when a farewell concert was given to Mr. Frederick Bevan, senior teacher of singing, who has retired from the staff of the Conservatorium after nearly 38 years of service, and a welcome home was given to Miss Hilda Gill, who recently returned from abroad, and who will take over Mr. Bevan's work.

Two presentations were made to Mr. Bevan. A smoker's stand and a walking stick were presented by the Director of the Conservatorium (Dr. E. Harold Davies) on behalf of the Conservatorium staff, and a large box of smokes was presented by Mr. Walter Wood on behalf of old scholars.

Mr. Bevan, in asking Miss Gill to carry on the work, hoped that she would begin a women's part-song class.

Among those present were Sir William Mitchell (Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide), Mr. F. W. Eardley (Registrar), Mr. and Mrs. Arved Kurtz, Miss Maude Puddy, Mr. John Horner, Miss Sylvia Whittington, Madame Quesnel, Mr. Harry Wotton, Misses C. Gmeiner, Nan Stuart, Connie McArthur, Joyce Rofe, Gwen Collett, Hilda Sinecock, Jean Sinclair, Alice Cronin, Pauline Hyde, Kathleen Ashton, Felicia Francis, Gwen Paul, Dorothea Angus, Clarence Black, Vida and Minna Cozens, Alice Meegan, Enid Petrie, Thelma Martin, Messrs. George Pearce, Harold Parsons, Alan Cheek, Alan Coad, Clem Hardman, Colin McArthur, and John Ardill.

Young Architect To Study In London

Mr. F. Colin Hassell, who graduated in architectural engineering at the University of Adelaide in 1933, will leave by the *Ulysses* for London on Friday.



In London Mr. Hassell intends to enter an architectural office for further experience, and also to continue post-graduate study in architecture and engineering at the University of London. After 10 years at Prince Alfred College, Mr. Hassell gained a scholarship which took him to the Adelaide University. In his course at the University he gained 13 credits, eight of which were top credits. He was articled to Mr. Hubert H. Cowell, and later was employed by Mr. Philip R. Claridge, with whom he has recently been taken in as an associate architect. Mr. Hassell is an associate of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, and of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Mr. Hassell, who will probably remain abroad for two years, is travelling on a free steamer passage given by the Associated Shipping Lines on the merits of his course at the University.

News 19-10-35

The Assistant Government Meteorologist at Adelaide (Mr. B. W. Newman) was advised today that he would be transferred to Sydney shortly, to the post of assistant meteorologist at the Sydney Weather Bureau.



Mr. Newman entered the Weather Bureau at Adelaide straight from school in 1917, and with the exception of two years spent in the research department in Melbourne has been here ever since. He gained his bachelor of science degree at Adelaide University last year. The Sydney post which Mr. Newman will occupy carries with it added responsibilities, as Mr. Newman will do most of the forecasting. Mr. Newman is the third man in succession to go to Sydney from Adelaide to the position of assistant meteorologist there. The others were Messrs. E. W. Timcke, who went in 1920, and H. E. Camm, who left in 1928.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research advises that applications are opened for the appointment of two junior research officers to the staff of the soils division at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. Applicants must have a degree in agricultural science. Duties involve laboratory and field work.

The successful applicants will undergo a probationary period of 12 months pending a permanent appointment to the staff. Applications will close on November 9.