

Mr. ARCHIBALD said there was not much to gain by challenging anything in the Budget speech. It was a matter for congratulation considering the seasons he had passed through that the Treasurer on behalf of the Government could show such a very good record. There was the usual challenge to the speech on behalf of the Opposition, and of course it was held that it was utterly impossible for any Treasurer of any Government to bring in a Budget speech that could be any good. They knew that sort of game. It was as old as the hills. Whether the Treasurer was right or wrong it made no difference to members of the Opposition, who challenged his statements

just the same, and raised the oft-raised cry of "stinking fish." One would think to hear them talk that South Australia was the only portion of the English-speaking world where mistakes were made. The Treasurer was found fault with for instance in connection with the borrowing of money in 1884 to pay for pastoral improvements, and found fault with moreover by members who were in the House when that was done. No doubt we had got the best of assets to show for the money and an error was made, but what was the use of stirring it up now. South Australia was not the only fallible colony. Fair criticism let them have by all means, but let them also be patriotic. If we had had a succession of good harvests he might understand the cry of "stinking fish," but it was playing it too low down to spit the colony's credit now, and he protested against it. He was not a financial expert. (Mr. Copley—"I thought finance was your forte.") Once he thought farming was Mr. Copley's forte, but that hon. member knew as much about it as a donkey did of geography. The Treasurer had practically admitted that the pruning-knife could not be used more in the public service. It might, perhaps, be used more at the top, but certainly not at the bottom of the tree. Take the Customs Department. There the salary of the officer in charge was less than that of his predecessor. He wished, however, to refer to the rank and file—the working staff. What a strain they had undergone during the last four years with the Westralian trade, which had been such a boon to South Australia, so strong! They heard a great deal about those who had borne "the heat and burden of the day" when wool was 1s. 6d. and land a half-crown a mile—there were a good many now who would like to bear "the heat and burden of the day" under such conditions. Surely they should also consider those bearing "the heat and burden of the day" now that things were not so bright. Let the Treasurer, then, recognise the work done in the Customs Department, and treat the officers a little better. They were all liable to mistakes, but he did not think the Treasurer would deliberately do an injustice to any section of her Majesty's subjects. Owing to the bad seasons our territorial revenue was fast diminishing. Some men were paying rent who could not afford to do so, but other Crown tenants had never paid rent and never intended to do so, and the sooner their cunning game was hit on the head the better. The Pastoral Board was given power in respect to rent on pastoral country. Why not have a similar board to deal with agricultural rents? Some such an arrangement would be all the better for the Government as far as territorial revenue was concerned. He was told that three lessees east of the Burra were paying from 30s. to £1 a square mile. Now, if they were paying such a rent it was as bad as any Irish rack-renting, and there should be a change made. The Treasurer should be able within a fair margin to say what he is going to realise from territorial revenue. The Government should be able to take the returns for 20 years from pastoral or agricultural land, and on this basis fix a fair average rent to be paid in good seasons or bad seasons alike. He did not think any public good would accrue from the Treasurer keeping large sums on deposit with the banks, so that he was not disposed to censure him on that score. He asked the Treasurer not to be scared by these financial experts. They told him—"You must go into the money market this week; the Russians will be in Paris in a fortnight and the Germans will be in Moscow in a month, and instead of being able to borrow money at 3 per cent. there will be a panic in London and the rate will be up to 6 or 7 per cent." He was inclined to agree with Mr. Goschen, one of the ablest financiers of the old world, that capital will be obtainable at 2 per cent. in a few years, and he hoped the Treasurer would go on quietly and convert the loans as they come due. The Adelaide University was costing some £4,000 a year, and what were we getting out of it? It was a sham and a farce to have a university for a third of a million people; one university for Australia would be all we could want. All it did was to create a class of persons with shoddy aristocratic ideas. (Mr. Copley—"That sounds funny from you with your ideas of education.") He appreciated education as much as any man, and he had received most of his education from the books of men who had a university education, but there was not a graduate from the University of Adelaide who ever wrote a line worth reading, or said anything worth listening to. The sooner this farce was done away with the better, for the class who came out of the University were levying war on the community. What was the Medical School wanted for? (An hon. member—"To teach young doctors.") Were they going to teach young doctors at a school drawing its patients from a third of a million of people? (Mr. Copley—"Can't we raise a variety of diseases in a third of a million?") No; not compared with a population of 30 millions. We had here a medical man who didn't know the leprosy from the toothache, and another who didn't know smallpox from the itch. It was all very well to laugh, but this was a serious matter. Did anyone ever see such barefaced rascality? We had an eminent luminary (Dr. Poulton) who had come to the conclusion that in consequence of the state of the Adelaide Hospital and the Medical School we should have a free hospital, and in an attack of enlargement of the heart he had offered to subscribe £100 a year for five years. Dr. Poulton was entitled to £200 a year as lecturer to the University School of Medicine, and if he could only attach his new patent hospital to the Medical School at the University he would get £200, so that his enlargement of the heart would still leave him £100 to the good.

It would not be long before these men were treated with contempt by all the civilised world. There was a medical school in existence now, but the outside doctors would not use it. These men entered into a conspiracy to professionally ruin two men who left the old country to administer to the needs, not of the fat man but the sick poor of South Australia, and for this they were to be hunted down by a gang of men of the stamp of the conspirators to whom he had alluded. To take the medical profession as a body he really believed they looked at their connection with the healing art with pride, and that they valued it beyond the mere fees which it returned. He had always understood that medical men as a whole were gentlemen. He would challenge the vote for the Adelaide University when it came before the House. (Mr. Gilbert—"You know all about Universities.") He would be sorry to be the lackey of a lot of hospital wreckers.

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University Extension Lectures.

MR. FULLER ON "BIOLOGY."

The local University Extension Lectures Committee is to be congratulated upon having secured the services of Mr. Fuller, of the Adelaide University, for the second of the series of science lectures which it has been arranged shall be given in Port Pirie.

Mr. Fuller has the gift of imparting instruction on an abstruse subject in simple, direct language, and on Monday and Tuesday evenings those who were present to hear him will not regret that they availed themselves of the opportunity to learn something about a subject of which people generally are absolutely ignorant. The lectures on both evenings were illustrated by lantern views.

On Monday evening Mr. Fuller, after briefly dealing with some popular misconceptions in regard to science, explained that biology embraces the study of life and all living things, animal and vegetable. By patient research biologists have, step by step, gradation by gradation, been able to find the connecting links between man at the summit and specks of animated jelly at the bottom, arriving at the conclusion that a fundamental uniformity of structure pervades the whole animal and vegetable worlds, and that plants and animals differ from one another simply as diverse modifications of the same great general plan. The researches of the biologists had revolutionised the theory of agriculture, and had had a bearing upon that industry the importance of which could not be over-estimated. The theory of infectious diseases had also been elucidated by biological study. It is impossible to fix a border line between the animal and vegetable kingdoms, as, although it is easy to distinguish between the higher forms in the two kingdoms, it is by no means easy to determine whether some of the lower forms should be grouped as plants or animals. Higher animals differ widely in their external forms, but they are fundamentally similar to plants in their minute structure. The lecturer described in an interesting manner the minute cells or organisms of which both plant and animal life are built up, the cell being not only a unit of structure but of function. After devoting some time to these elementary particles, Mr. Fuller gave a brief history of the microscope, and described the splendid uses to which it had been put by biologists. At the close of his entertaining address the lecturer was heartily applauded.

Mr. Fuller delivered the second lecture of the series last night, and will give the concluding one to-night.

CONSERVATORIUM STUDENTS' CONCERT.

The second concert by the students of the Elder Conservatorium of Music was given in the University Library on Friday evening before a large and fashionable audience, which included Lady Victoria Buxton, Miss Mabel Buxton, and Captain Guise. A good programme, thoroughly representative of the principal departments of study at the new institution, was presented in a generally satisfactory manner, the performances of the students in the main reflecting credit upon their instructors. The most striking efforts of the evening were Miss Doris Cloud's playing of two movements from De Beriot's G-minor violin concerto and Miss Nellie Jarvis's singing of the pretty "Evening prayer," with its preceding recitative, from Costa's "Eli." The former lady, who is quite a youthful performer, exhibited a good tone, reliable intonation, and not a little technical dexterity in the "Andante" and "Finale" from De Beriot's work, and her efforts were so cordially appreciated that she achieved the distinction of being the only student recalled during the evening. Miss Nellie Jarvis displayed a highly pleasing light contralto voice, which she used with good judgment and considerable taste in the "Evening prayer," and with further training and experience should form an acquisition to the ranks of local vocalists. Miss Isabella Boreford also showed much promise in her singing of "A summer night" (Goring Thomas); Miss Alice Sayers achieved a fair measure of success in Bishop's "Tell me, my heart;" and Miss Mary Stewart was heard in "Who is Sylvia" (Schubert), but though possessed of a high pleasing voice was apparently too nervous to do herself justice. Miss Gladys Thomas played Sarasate's arrangement of Chopin's familiar "Nocturne" in E flat for violin solo, in which she showed considerable skill and taste, and was heartily applauded. Chopin's favourite "Ballade," Op. 47, in A flat, interpreted with fine technique and expression by Miss Catherine Cook, was one of the most enjoyable items of the evening, and the same composer's waltz, Op. 34, in A flat, was rendered in a most creditable manner by Miss Maud Brown, who exhibits considerable promise. Two little numbers from Jensen's "Wanderbilder," Op. 17, for piano solo, "Forest Chapel" and "At the inn," were given in careful and painstaking fashion by Miss Violet Parkinson, and Miss Minnah Gebhardt was responsible for a sympathetic performance of "O, rest in the Lord," from Mendelssohn's "Elijah." A ladies' part-singing class conducted by Miss Guli Hack, A.R.C.M., opened the concert with two choral numbers—"The Lord is my Shepherd" (Schubert) and "Come away, death" (Brahms), but unfortunately lost the pitch in the opening measures and did not succeed in regaining it during their efforts. The "Allegro" from Saint-Saens' trio, Op. 18, for piano, violin, and cello, a bright and highly effective piece of writing, was creditably rendered by Misses E. Ward, R. Read, and F. M. Ward, and a couple of movements from Beethoven's work, Op. 11, for the same instruments, played with fine precision and artistic finish by Miss E. Burford and Messrs. W. L. Harris and Kugelberg, was one of the most satisfactory items of the evening. The accompaniments were shared by Miss Guli Hack, Mr. Bevan, and Mr. H. Heinicke, who were heard in conjunction with their various pupils.