

ADVERTISER 29.5.25

# SOUTH AUSTRALIAN MUSIC.

## A DEMAND FOR THE BEST.

Jazz, though pleasant, is uncouth. Mr. Foote says, and is only one degree removed from a first-class corroboree.

"South Australia has a genuinely intellectual community," said Mr. W. H. Foote on Thursday, "and this fact is evidenced by the attendance at good concerts, because high-class popular music requires a cultivated mind for its enjoyment. After all," he continued, "jazz is very pleasant, but it is certainly uncouth, and the fact that it is one degree removed from a first-class corroboree or barbaric syncopation is only due to the pretty percussion

instruments used in its performance. An appreciation of orchestral music, the result of four years' hard work, is just beginning to show. I was brought from London by Dr. E. Harold Davies to develop players for orchestral instruments. How far we have succeeded in this ideal is clearly shown, for as an indirect result of the success of the South Australian Orchestra, various other orchestras have been formed, notably at Unley and Norwood, both of which contain players trained by me on what we call master instruments. This all points to a greater interest and enthusiasm in orchestral work and it shows that already a greater number of players are available."



Mr. W. H. Foote.

"I have not been able to do all the work that has arisen in connection with the public demand for good music," said Mr. Foote. "There is, for instance, the South Australian Grand Opera Company, in the formation of which Mr. Savery took such an interesting part. He wished me to collaborate, but as I had already had to relinquish my post with the Adelaide Glee Club, this was impossible. I thought when the Tramways Symphonic Band was disbanded I should have had much more leisure, but this is gradually being filled."

Mr. Foote was most enthusiastic concerning the forthcoming season of orchestral concerts. "The playing of the orchestra is better than ever this year," he declared, "and the final rehearsal yesterday was an inspiration. More could be done, of course, with the establishment of a permanent orchestra. Sydney has once more approached the New South Wales Government for support in a similar undertaking, and I think we can safely say the work accomplished in South Australia has given them a measure of moral support."

Mr. Foote's object has been to introduce the work of one British composer at each concert, but as only five concerts will be given, this circumscribes what can be done. The work which will be undertaken this year is particularly varied, and the syllabus covers a wide field. With regard to the recently-launched effort to secure a national band, Mr. Foote said he sincerely hoped it would be attended by success. "I am positive the people want it," he said. "When I first started conducting the famous Henley concerts the seating accommodation consisted of 50 chairs, and even then the people stood in hundreds to hear the beautiful music. When the last concert was given there were 2,000 chairs occupied, and this represented only part of the attendance. To be efficient, a band of that nature must be public. It is far too big a problem for any private individuals to handle. Many of the instruments which I introduced in the Tramways Symphonic Band were either unknown or neglected when I arrived here. Take that saxophone, for instance, which it took me three years to get. It has an interesting history as an instrument, for it evolved at the same time as the saxophone. The inventors or builders were both French bandmasters,

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## MUSIC IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

### Mr. Foote's Valuable Work.

Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M., the conductor of the South Australian Orchestra, and who conducted the popular Tramways Symphonic Band, was interviewed on Thursday. At the outset he said that he would like to thank the people of South Australia for their magnificent support in his work here. He was very grateful. The first concert for this year of the South Australian Orchestra would be given on Saturday evening. Mr. Foote waxed enthusiastic on the performances of the players under his baton. "They are playing



MR. W. H. FOOTE, A.R.C.M., Conductor of South Australian Orchestra.

better than ever," he said. "The rehearsals have been very fine, almost inspiring. I am sure our people will recognize this fact. South Australians are an intellectual community, as represented by the attendances at the orchestral concerts, for high-class music demands a cultured mind to appreciate its charm. Jazz was very pleasant, but uncouth, and only one degree removed from a first-class corroboree and barbaric syncopations, by virtue of the pretty percussion instruments used in its performance."

#### Four Years' Work.

The results of his four years' work, continued Mr. Foote, were just beginning to show. He had been brought to Australia from London by Professor Harold Davies to develop players for orchestral instruments, and since arriving, as an indirect result of the success of the South Australian Orchestra, various other orchestras had been formed, such as the Unley Orchestra and the Norwood Symphony Orchestra, which contained players whom he had trained on essential and important instruments. He felt very satisfied about that, as it pointed to an increasing interest and enthusiasm for orchestral work, and indicated the greater number of players now available. Mr. Foote went on to say that he had been very busy, and had not been able to do all that had been offered to him, particularly in connection with the South Australian Grand Opera Company. Mr. Savery, who had taken such an interesting part in its formation, had wished to secure his help, but he had too much work to do and had had to relinquish the Adelaide Glee Club on this account. But now that his symphonic band had ceased to exist he had more leisure, although it was gradually being filled again. The work being done by the South Australian Orchestra this year was again of a varied nature, as would be shown by a perusal of the syllabus published, and which could be obtained from the Aeolian Company, Rundle street. He had endeavoured to include in each programme a work by a British composer, but the giving of only five concerts limited the programme, and all fancies could not

satisfied. If there were a permanent organization much more could be accomplished. He had noticed that Sydney had again secured financial support from the Government, and he was convinced that the efforts made in South Australia had given the Sydney people a measure of moral support in approaching the Government there. That thought brought him to the efforts being made here to secure a national band, which he hoped would be successful. He was satisfied that the people wanted it. One had only to visit Henley during the summer, particularly on Saturdays and Sundays, to know what the tramways band meant to them.

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### ALLIANCE FRANCAISE.

The Alliance Francaise met at the Grosvenor on Wednesday evening, when Professor Coleman Phillipson gave an address on "The spirit of comedy." Outlining the difference between the intellectual quality of wit, and the spontaneous dash of humour, he showed that wit is studied and polished, but humour is a thing of temperament and quick imagination. Dealing with the comedies and tragedies of literature he pointed out that the two were closely allied. In the case of Charles Dickens, while writing of the tragedy of the lives of the people, his pages were full of humour, in which sympathy and tenderness mingled. Tragedies of Shakespeare and other dramatists showed a clashing of forces, the overcoming of what was good, and the death of those chiefly concerned. Comedies, while depicting opposition, always ended in a reversion which made things end happily. Looked at broadly, life in its entirety was a tragedy, but in the various situations met with through life, there was much comedy into which humour entered. Humour set a middle course between the exaggerated optimist and the pessimist; it supplied a sense of the incongruous and kept the balance true. At the close of his remarks Mr. W. W. Goodhart proposed a vote of thanks to Professor Phillipson for his entertaining and instructive address, and for his warm interest in and assistance to the alliance. His departure from Adelaide would be a great loss to the society. The vote of thanks was seconded by Madame Wait, and in reply Professor Phillipson said that in that city of culture, London, he should remember the happy associations he had enjoyed with the Alliance Francaise of South Australia and he would hope to make visits to Australia from time to time. He thanked those present for their appreciation of his efforts. Vocal numbers were contributed by Mrs. Phillipson and Mrs. Back, and recitations by Mrs. Phillipson and Miss Alice Norton.

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### Elder Conservatorium

The first concert to be given by the Elder Conservatorium string quartet at the Liberal Union Hall on Tuesday evening promises to be one of exceptional interest.

The programme comprises one of the most beautiful of the Mozart quartets, two fascinating movements from the popular D major quartet by Tschaiakowsky, and finally the G minor piano quartet by Gabriel Faure, a French composer who died recently, and who was one of the most gifted creative artists of modern times.

Mr. Harold Wyldie will be the pianist. Plan for the first concert is now open, and students' concession tickets are available at Correll's Music Stores, 118 Rundle street.

Adv. 1.6.25

### A STRANGE CASE.

#### ALLEGED EUCALYPTUS POISONING.

LONDON, May 29.

The coroner to-day when enquiring concerning the death of Mrs. Tugwell, aged 52, said death was supposed to be due to eucalyptus poisoning. If that was proved true it would be of considerable medical and legal importance, because no similar cases were on record. It was stated in evidence that the room where her death occurred reeked of eucalyptus, and two empty bottles were beside her bed. Dr. Bronte, the pathologist, said the woman's throat was yellow, which was a definite sign of the volatilisation of eucalyptus. This was the first recorded case of eucalyptus poisoning.

The coroner returned an open verdict. He said the symptoms were similar to those of laudanum poisoning.

Professor Brailsford Robertson, to whom the above cable message was referred yesterday, said it was not altogether uncommon, although perhaps not frequent, to hear of cases of poisoning from taking an overdose of eucalyptus, although he had not heard of any with a fatal result. It all depended on the size of the dose taken. Eucalyptus was certainly not meant to be used as a beverage.

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## SCHOOL FORESTRY

### SUCCESS IN VICTORIA

#### South Australia Considering

At present the Education Department of South Australia has under consideration the question of promoting a school forestry plantation scheme similar to that which has met with such success in Victoria.

Mr. Tate (Director of Education in Victoria) brought the matter under the notice of the State Department, and said that he had found that wonderful progress was being made with the scheme.

No decision has been reached by South Australian authorities, but it is considered likely that this State will fall into line with Victoria.

Reports from the eastern State indicate that on plantations established by some of the schools in the north-eastern district excellent progress has been made, and that a feeling of pride concerning their school plantations is already growing up in the school communities.

At Chiltern the area planted is showing excellent growth, some of the trees being six or seven feet high, and healthy and vigorous. A fine area adjoining the school has been secured for plantation purposes. The fencing is complete, and planting will be continued there this year. Already the parents realise the value. After watching the growth for two years one parent has now decided to plant 10 acres as an insurance for his family.

It is added that trees planted in the Beechworth district are showing vigorous growth, and already beautify part of the Rocky Mountain mining lease. At Bright, which, it is stated, must take pride of place for methodical, systematic preparation and planting and picturesque position, out of 1,400 trees planted last year more than 98 per cent. are making vigorous growth.

Three areas, at Porepunkah, on the dredged bank of the Ovens River; at Myrtleford, on Renown Hill, and at Stanley, will be ready for the first planting this year.

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### ELDER CONSERVATORIUM STRING QUARTET.

The first concert to be given by the Elder String Quartet at the Liberal Union Hall next Tuesday evening promises to be one of exceptional interest. The programme comprises one of the most beautiful of the Mozart quartets, two fascinating movements from the popular D major quartet by Tschaiakowsky, and the G minor piano quartet by Gabriel Faure, a French composer who died recently, who, without doubt, was one of the most gifted of modern creative artists. Mr. Harold Wyldie will be the pianist. The series of chamber music concerts to be inaugurated on Tuesday will offer lovers of this form of the art opportunity of hearing it under the most favourable conditions, i.e. in a small hall, for which chamber music was originally intended. Plan for first concert now open, and students' concession tickets available at Correll's Music Stores, 118 Rundle street.

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Dr. H. Heaton, Director of Tutorial Classes and Lecturer in Economics at the Adelaide University, has been offered the Macdonald Chair of Economic and Political Science at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. The vacancy has arisen owing to the appointment of Professor Skelton, the former holder of the position, as political and economic adviser on Imperial affairs to the Dominion Government. Dr. Heaton states that in all probability he would accept the position.