

# SURVEY OF OLD GUILD SYSTEM.

## Comparison with Present Industrial Laws.

### Sir Henry Braddon's Interesting Lecture.

Keen interest was evinced in the Joseph Fisher lecture given by Sir Henry Braddon, in the Victoria Hall, Adelaide, on Wednesday night. Sir Henry took for his subject "A survey of the old guild system, and a comparison of some of its features with the conditions of to-day under present industrial laws."

Mr. S. Russell Booth, who was supported, among others, by the Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor Rennie) on the platform, said it was the first time that evening that a gentleman had delivered two such lectures here, and it was at their request that Sir Henry had again come to Adelaide. He had previously spoken on "Company law" in a Joseph Fisher lecture 13 years ago.

Sir Henry said responsible people in Australia realized that all was not well with industrial conditions, but there would



SIR HARRY BRADDON.

be wide divergences of opinion, both in diagnosing the trouble and in suggesting remedies. He was concerned rather with diagnosis than with remedy. He thought it would be useful to take a glance backward to, at any rate, one of the systems of the past, particularly to determine whether such a survey suggested some line of action for their own troubles. The guilds of the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries achieved an extraordinary success, a success merited and explained by the fine characteristics underlying their activities. Later, world conditions began to alter, with ever-increasing rapidity. The guilds were too inelastic, too jealous of their privileges to adjust to the change, and in a century or two they passed away. In their best days they were animated by excellent ideals, and they were admirably suited to the conditions of those times, but, like most institutions operated by fallible men, there were less desirable features, and gradually these led to decay, and, finally, the obliteration of the guild. In those older days communities were predominantly agricultural, industries were relatively small, and markets were mostly confined to folk living in the immediate vicinity. Political subdivisions were small and many, and the "free cities" were largely self-contained. In many of these "free cities" the guilds rose to their highest pinnacle into virtual republics, return for the status they secured, the guilds undertook certain public duties, and paid dues to various authorities. In their best days they were animated by a fine sense of civic obligation, and they carried out some wonderful work in architecture, roads, canals, and the like. Guilds were sometimes simple, embracing one craft, and sometimes complex.

### System Explained.

Within each guild proceeded the speaker, there was much that was admirable. There were three grades, the master, the journeyman, and the apprentice, all equal in each grade. All three grades were proud of the skill of that particular craft, and all jealous to maintain its reputation. Only an approved master, of good character, could take in an apprentice, and the former was under encumbrances himself to teach the lad. He could not devolve that duty upon any one else. The apprentice lived in the master's house, and first on a basis of fees paid, and later as the apprentice became debt he earned wages. He had to be industrious and obedient, and correction by the master could take the form of beating, provided he did it himself. If a master were inhumane his conduct became the subject of enquiry by the guild officers, and, if necessary, the apprentice would be released. The journeyman, after completion of apprenticeship, also lived with the master as a companion, though the one paid, and the other received wages. If he had the means to start for himself the journeyman might become a master at any time, but as the means were often lacking a journeyman might remain so for life. The master could not dismiss a journeyman until the former had made good his case for dismissal before a mixed tribunal of masters and journeymen. Taken as a totality the system worked excellently, though there were occasional troubles, and even strikes, though rare, were not unknown. Hours of work were determined by daylight, resulting in long hours in summer, and short in winter. Good artificial light was unknown, and daylight was necessary for the fine standard of work upon which the guilds insisted. The long summer hours were mitigated by many holidays, something like 30 in the year, and no work was done on Sunday or holidays. Wages were always difficult to compare, because of the imperfect data of those older days. For that reason it was not easy to establish comparative purchasing powers. Wages were paid partly in money, and partly in housing and clothes. There seemed to be some fairly valid grounds for the statement that in the thirteenth century journeymen had enough to live on decently. Probably as matter of comparison, rather better paid than in Europe in the days immediately preceding the war. All masters had equal rights in each guild. The strong were not permitted to crush the weak. Masters were forbidden to buy up raw materials, so as to detrimentally affect others. There were in some guilds regulations for compulsory sharing of raw materials in such cases, and sometimes the guild itself bought for all. No master could pass a journeyman to another master by the offer of higher wages. There were no secret discounts or allowances to buyers, and no individual advertisement. The guild was a voluntary association of men, carrying on a certain trade, and pledged by oath to defend the common interests. In operation the guild was in effect what they would style a corporation, a legal entity.

### PROPOSED UNIVERSITY EXTENSIONS.

A deputation, comprising the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Dr. Rennie), Sir George Brookman, and Mr. W. J. Ishister, K.C., waited upon the Minister of Education (Hon. L. L. Hill) on Friday, and asked that certain land at the rear of the University grounds should be dedicated to the council of the institution. The land was previously used in connection with the Jubilee Oval, and has on it a railway line and shed. It is intended, if the area is made available, to extend the University grounds to Victoria Drive to permit of the erection of a Graduates' Union building, and to provide extra facilities for the institution. The Minister promised to submit the matter to Cabinet for consideration.

His Excellency the Administrator (Mr. Justice Poole), and Mrs. Poole were present at the University Ball in the Elder Hall on Friday evening, and will be present at the opening of the S.A.J.C. Winter Meeting this afternoon. Next Tuesday Mrs. Poole will be present at the opening concert of Madame Galli Curci. On Friday Mrs. Poole will distribute the prizes at the University sports.

Mr. Clive Carey (teacher in singing at the Elder Conservatorium) was a passenger by the express which arrived in Adelaide from Melbourne on Friday. During his visit to the Victorian capital he sang at a gathering in connection with the Alliance Francaise, and also to members of the British Music Society.

# THE LOST BOOKS OF LIVY.

## A Serio-Comic Story.

Professor Darnley Naylor delivered an address before the Classical Association on Friday night on the lost books of Livy. On August 5, 1924, he said, the world of scholarship was deeply stirred by the announcement that an Italian Professor had discovered the lost books of Livy, the historian. These books were known to have been extant in the tenth century, and, although they had disappeared for nearly 1,000 years, there was nothing a priori impossible about their discovery. Livy wrote 142 books in all (say 30 modern octavo volumes of 300 pages each), but, of these 142, only 35 have survived viz., 1 to 10, and 21 to 45 inclusive. It is true that we possess brief abstracts (about 100 words each) of all save books 126 and 127. These abstracts have merely whetted the desire for more, containing, as they do, accounts of important events and personalities, authority for which is either meagre, or late and doubtful. Excitement, of course, would have been greater had Livy continued his history up to the year of his death in A.D. 17. Unfortunately he went no further than B.C. 9. Even so, the interest was great among the cultured, intense among savants, and agonizing among schoolboys. The happy discoverer was stated to be Dr. di Martino Fusco, of Naples University. He had a reputation as a classical scholar and was considered by his friends to be a man of integrity. He did not make his discovery known publicly, although the manuscript had been in his possession for more than 18 months; but, apparently he had, on certain occasions, broken through his reserve and mentioned to friends in a guarded fashion the good fortune which had fallen to his lot. A tradition existed that two codices of Livy's history lay in a Neapolitan Convent. Dr. Fusco had followed up this tradition, and, after a long and arduous search, his patience was at last rewarded. He saw before him in the vault of an ancient monastery, now covered by the military prison of Naples, the longed-for manuscript, written (as usual) in capitals, without division of words or sentences, and in a poor state of preservation. No one could well be surprised that he had spent some 18 months in producing a text of books 11 to 20, which should be legible and intelligible to modern readers.

### An Elusive Discoverer.

His continued reticence (the lecturer continued) raised doubts, and these were strengthened when eager reporters were unable to discover him in his home. He had, so it was stated, fled to the mountains in order to escape the glare of publicity which had suddenly been turned upon him. In the meantime Professor d'Elia, director of the Neapolitan Library, and Sr. Cocchia, of the University, had expressed themselves as having "doubts" of the genuineness of the discovery. The former, indeed, had hinted that even greater surprises were in store for the world; that a life of Christ written in the sixth or seventh decade of the first century was included in the new finds. A further item, but of minor interest, was the assertion that a German scholar (of whom more anon) had actually seen part of the Livian manuscript, and had been allowed to transcribe a few lines. Excitement grew apace as the weeks passed. On September 1 news arrived that Dr. di Martino Fusco was busy at Capri (ill-omened place of mad Tiberius's retirement) copying books 11-20. These were to be ready for publication in January, if only ardent journalists would abstain from disturbing the agitated discoverer. After the publication of these 10 books, the remainder would be distributed among other scholars for transcription. On September 8 the Royal Academy of Naples issued invitations to all its members for a meeting at which Dr. di Martino was to make an official statement. This was reassuring, but Dr. Martino published on the same date news of a typewritten note from Dr. di Martino, in which there occurred such cautious expressions as "The

elements of the case may assume finally different values from those which a hurried study may lead one to assume." But saddest of all was an alleged statement, "There is a mistake. I am reconstructing codices of Livy of the sixth century. I have not found an original text." These words, if true, merely added further darkness, which was temporarily dispelled by a curious narrative given to The Leipzig Tageblatt on September 12 (the date is important) by the German scholar to whom I have already referred. This gentleman, by name Dr. Funke, had, so he said, paid a visit more than a year back, to "his friend," Dr. di Martino. At that visit he had seen the manuscript, and, with his friend's permission, transcribed some 12 words. Of these 12, five reached England. As first reported they ran thus:—"Ubi multitudo hominum insperata accessit." Not much to go upon, one would say. But at least no harm was done; for the words might have been written by Livy; indeed, in certain features, they were quite characteristic. They could be roughly translated, "When a surprising number of persons showed a surprising interest in the matter." The editor of The Manchester Guardian, rather cruelly, found in the words an oracular reference to the position of Dr. di Martino.

### The Betraying Infinitive of Purpose.

But within a few hours the most sanguine hopes were dashed (proceeded Professor Naylor). The other seven words transcribed by Dr. Funke came into the hands of Professor A. E. Housman. Most people know A. E. Housman as the author of "A Shropshire Lad," but he is also a distinguished Latinist, Regius Professor at Cambridge, and well known for his critical acumen and mordant wit. And what were the seven words? Somewhat corrupted, but clear enough for any scholar accustomed to manuscripts, they read as follows:—"Andire Gallum de sancti Martini virtutibus locuturum." Thus the "surprising number of persons" (above mentioned) had come "to hear one Gallus preach about the virtues of Saint Martin." It was a cruel blow. Livy had not yet written an infinitive of purpose nor had he heard of Gallus, born as Gallus was some centuries later. But Professor Housman went one step further: he gave the author, with chapter and verse, from whom the words had been borrowed. The last scene of the comedy had been reached, but before the dropping of the curtain Dr. Funke's spark was to be stamped out and a whiter light thrown upon Dr. di Martino. It soon became clear that Dr. Funke was entirely unknown to Dr. di Martino, and that the notorious lines had been copied by Dr. Funke from a Naples newspaper of September 2, 1924. This paper (The Mezzogiorno) had published them merely as specimens of uncial writing. The ingenious Funke had improved upon the third and fourth lines, and two German papers, in the largest university towns of Germany "fell plump (to quote Professor Conway) into the trap, and gave the rare amusement of hearing it close up tight, with a fine snap, at the touch of Professor Housman's finger."

### The Closing Scene.

A commission appointed by the Italian Government sat and reported (concluded the lecturer). Dr. di Martino made a complete withdrawal of his claims to have discovered anything, and gave an "explanation" of his "mistake." Nevertheless the commission added that the Government "would maintain continued vigilance." What these last cryptic words exactly signify no one seems to know. Possibly they are no more than a reiteration of the Government's purpose to prevent the exportation from Italy of any valuable monument of antiquity. Other interpretations, however, have been put upon the words, and of a more sinister kind. As these hint at a coming quarrel between church and State, we may leave the trouble to be settled by Signor Mussolini. Such is the "affaire Tite Live," half comic, half pathetic. But not least curious, among several curious points in the story, is the coincidence that The Mezzogiorno should have published 12 chance words from a late Latin writer intimating that "an extraordinary number of people were interested in hearing about the virtues of S. Martino," whose dark namesake (Martino Fusco) was to create an even livelier interest 15 centuries later.

Among passengers who disembarked from the mail steamer Orsova, at the Outer Harbour on Saturday, was Professor W. Mitchell (Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University). He left this State last November for the Gifford lectures on Philosophy at the Aberdeen University. He will leave Adelaide again early next year, when the lectures will be continued.