

Seeking an Outlet

"EYES ON AUSTRALIA"

"Japan looks forward to Australia as an outlet for its teeming millions. All the Japanese whom I met were aware of the little use that Australia is making of its northern areas."

"Japan is fully seized of the possibilities of Australia. . . . These comments were made by Mr. Robert M. Steele, the well-known public accountant, who recently returned to Adelaide from a visit to the East."

"Two things that appealed to me most forcibly were the perfect system of railways and the size of the mercantile marine," said Mr. Steele, "but perhaps overshadowing both was the intimate knowledge held by all classes of the people of the neglect of the northern areas of Australia by Australians."

"Japan is quickly absorbing and benefiting by Western ideas. The knowledge of conditions existent far from its shores is surprising. Thrift and ability to concentrate to the maximum advantage on the task in hand are outstanding features of the people."

"During my sojourn in Japan I had an opportunity to meet many business men, including merchants and bankers. They were of the opinion that Japan was not being treated fairly by Australia. Two merchantmen in particular mentioned that Mr. W. M. Hughes (former Prime Minister) had expressed unfriendly feelings toward Japan, and had said that Japan was Australia's enemy."

"It was surprising to learn that all classes of Japanese had such intimate knowledge of the little use that is being made of the northern areas of Australia. Even the guard on the train spoke of it, and when I enquired the cause of his interest and the reason for his knowledge of the English language, he replied that he was a graduate of the Tokyo University. There the teaching of English is compulsory. This University was established 300 years ago. Custom there now is forcibly indicative of the opportunities that are given to every class to gain knowledge. Western ideas are paramount in their teachings, and no avenue of learning is being neglected. English is spoken almost everywhere."

Surplus Population

"Guide-books of Japan state that only 22 per cent. of the country is arable. Travellers, however, gain the impression that the percentage is much higher. For hundreds and hundreds of miles ricefields are seen. Here men and women toil industriously, and all are intent on the maximum production. When, however, one remembers that the coastline of Japan extends for more than 2,400 miles, the casual tourist admits that little is seen of Japan."

"Notwithstanding all the rice grown, Japan has for many years imported large quantities of its staple article of food. That is added proof that the nation is over-populated. Missionaries from China say that Korea is also over-populated, and that the same applies to Formosa. Authorities in the East all declare that Japan must look elsewhere for the absorption of its surplus people."

"Missionaries fear that Japan means to obtain Manchuria and Mongolia. An outlet is urgent, and the Japanese leaders are shrewd enough to choose the most promising and most profitable one for their people."

"The Japanese look askance at the American. This disapproval has been emphasised since the passing of the Immigration Bill, which prevents Japanese settling in America."

"Regarding trade between Australia and Japan, I regret to say that the outlook is not promising. Reports were that trade with this country was declining. Japanese merchants say that they are financially embarrassed, and that they cannot find the accommodation with which to buy goods from Australia."

"In contrast there is a keenness among American producers to help the Japanese. America is anxious for, and assiduously seeking, trade, and in consequence is offering much more favorable terms. In addition America is a closer provider, and holds the advantage of faster and better transport services."

"There should be an outlet for Australian fruit and wines in Japan. I found Japanese fruit to be poor in quality, and mostly the wines were of Continental brands."

Too Poor to Fight

"There is much concern in the East whether Japan and America will go to war. While there is an unmistakable note of unfriendliness between the two nations, it is generally recognised that Japan is too poor to contemplate a serious war for many years."

"One hears everywhere in the East that America is sitting on the fence if regard to the Chinese trouble. I doubt if that is so. America is making a

great deal of capital out of the fact that it has befriended China for many years, and also of the gift of the great Rockefeller Hospital at Peking. Critics of America, however, overlook the Washington Conference, where it was agreed that Britain, France, America, and Japan should act jointly in the event of trouble in the Pacific.

"Australians must not lose sight of the fact that Japan is a progressive nation," concluded Mr. Steele. "Its people are readily absorbing the teachings and lessons of the Occidental. And always there is the bald fact that Japan is greatly over-populated, and that an outlet for its surplus people is an urgent question."

REC. 25.8.25
GREEK POETRY.

REPERTORY CLUB EVENING.

Members of the Adelaide Repertory Theatre Club found much of interest in a splendid programme at the Lady Colton Hall on Monday evening. Mr. S. Talbot Smith presided. As on former similar occasions the principal item was a short lecture. Professor Darnley Naylor spoke on Greek poetry.

The professor said they were using words from a Greek source every day, studying dramas that were basically Greek, and even when they bought fruit and fish they still got Greek. (Laughter.) He wished, however, to refer to Greek poetry, and at the outset would remind them that it existed more than a thousand years before Christ. No one knew where Homer came from. Most likely he came into being in Asia Minor or further east. What was of greater importance, however, was his extraordinarily beautiful poetry. He was the inventor of the hexameter, which the English had never succeeded in reproducing. It was as a new goddess sprung from the head of Zeus, completely dressed. The poet took joy in playing with his metre. The variety of Homer's subjects was marvellous—battles, marriage, persons and incidents which lived in the memory for ever, strong and powerful and full of lovely pathos which had never been surpassed.

The age after the epic was the age of lyric poetry, dating from 600 B.C. to 200. The Greek poets gave them all the forms known—lyric, elegiac, drama, tragedy, and comedy—every device, in fact, with the exception of rhyme. It was just possible that had they used rhyme they might have written nonsense, but they did not. He would make no comment on modern poetry. (Laughter.) The work of the lyric poets which had survived was but fragmentary. It was, however, very beautiful. He instanced the Sapphic metre, and quoted from the work of Alcaeus and Anacreon. Examples of elegiac and iambic metres were found in the work of Hipponax, who also invented a modified form of the latter. Of the lyric writers Plato the philosopher was, curiously, an example. Few people realized what a poet was lost in Plato. Had he turned his attention to drama he would have won a high place in it. Callimachus was well known by the beautiful translation of William Cory of the verses to Heraclitus. Livingston had said there were four really clear notes in Greek poetry, the note of freedom, of directness, of humanism and of sanity. Of the first the professor said the Greeks discussed everything with the naturalness of children. They flinched from nothing. There was nothing they left aside as if they feared to look into it. The questions they discussed were those which children asked every day, and which most people "fucked" answering. Their poetry, too, was direct. It went right to the point. They did not leave a mystic border. Some people might call it bald, but it was not that. The Greeks wanted to be simple, as all Nature was simple. They did not thrust their emotion before the reader, but let him feel the freshness of it himself. By humanism was meant that the world was to be enjoyed here and now. The future was dim, gloomy, perhaps non-existent, and the Greeks, therefore, said, let us be happy here and now. Plato gave as his four wishes—health, personal beauty, money honestly come by, and to be young with one's friends. There was sanity in Greek poetry because the Greeks never rhapsodized, never became foolishly mystic, but looked at the world clearly and saw it whole. They took healthy life for their subject. Their poetry was the reflection of the sane and balanced lives they lived themselves. (Applause.)

A short play, "Fancy Free," by Stanley Houghton, was admirably presented. The characters were cast as follows:—Fancy, Florence Brown; Alfred, Charles Langley; Ethelbert, Jack Ham; and Delia, Marie Coghill. An excellent musical programme was supplemented as follows:—Song, "Sol-veig's song" (Grieg), Miss Marjorie Walsh; violin solo, "Chanson de Berceau" (Hansen), Miss Marie Coghill; pianoforte solo, "Scherze waltz" (Mozz-kowski), Miss Maimie Horgan; and a group of songs from Shakespeare, by Mr. Clive Carey. These included "O mistress mine," "Colleen Asthore," and "It was a lover and his lass." Mr. Carey also sang as encore "When the heart of a man is distressed with cares," from "The Beggar's Opera."

GREEK INFLUENCE IN POETRY.

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR DARNLEY NAYLOR.

The Lady Colton Hall was crowded on Monday evening when an excellent programme was presented by members of the Repertory Club. An address on Greek poetry by Professor Darnley Naylor was listened to with intense interest.

Professor Naylor was introduced by the chairman (Mr. Talbot Smith). He said words of Greek origin were continually in use. They found it in their everyday language, in the study of the drama, and even when it came to buying fruit and fish they could not escape the Greek influence. It was more than 1,000 years before Christ since Greek poetry loomed on the horizon of literature with Homer. Where Homer came from nobody knew, any more than they were certain whether he was one man or a collection, but these things faded into insignificance when they came to consider the poetry of Homer, whoever or how many he was. It was impossible to reproduce the full beauty of the hexameter in English poetry, but the Greek poet played with the metre for sheer pleasure. Greek poetry was infinite in its variety. It was at once strong and powerful and full of lovely pathos, and the description of Hector parting with his wife was yet to be surpassed. With regard to the thumb-nail sketches, they left their impression indelibly, and the description of the priest, Leodes, with his wine-reddened face and his soft white hands, was a splendid example of this. It could be horrible, but not repulsive. From Homer to Callimachus was a full eight centuries. After the epic poetry of Greece they came to the lyric, and it was true that all the forms of poetry known, with the exception of rhyme, perhaps, had come to them from the Greek. Had they used rhyme the Greeks might conceivably have written a great deal of nonsense, but fortunately they had not done so. Elegiac and iambic writers made their appearance from 600 to 550 B.C., and Hipponax of Ephesus had introduced to them the limping iambic. They all knew and admired the beautiful Sapphic verse, and where would they find a finer love ode than that of Sappho? Few realised what a wonderful poet Plato was, and, as Quiller-Conch said, it was intensely difficult to draw the line between the romantic and classic. Plotinus was reputed to have written a truly magnificent verse. Quite probably the Poet Laureate of the day wrote it, but if there was any doubt as to the authorship there was none as to the beauty and majesty of the lines. Callimachus had given them a wonderful thought when, in speaking of a dead friend, "a handful of grey ashes long, long ago at rest," he had said, "We tired the sun with talking and sent him down the sky." There were four outstanding features in Greek poetry: four clear notes of ringing music. They were freedom, directness, humanism, and sanity. Those who spoke of Greek directness as baldness were utterly wrong. The Greek told the essential facts; he left the person to whom he presented that picture in words to experience the appropriate emotions for himself. He cared deeply for the beauties of nature but without rhapsodising, and he believed that life was something to live to the full and enjoy. He never studied the extraordinary or morbid as a rule, but took healthy life for his subject, never knowing "the poisonous atmosphere of sick-rooms," nor that subtle "delicate air of decay," but lived a whole fine life. (Applause.)

A charming programme was presented by members of the club. A group of songs by Mr. Clive Carey was sung with delightful expression, and comprised "O mistress mine," "Colleen of Asthore," "It was a lover and his lass," and a song from "The Beggar's Opera." "Solveig's song" was a delightful number by Miss Marjorie Walsh, and Miss Marie Coghill was responsible for the violin solo "Chanson du Berceau" (Hansen). Later in the programme the talented young violinist appeared again giving a spirited Cossack selection. Miss Maimie Horgan, who acted as accompanist, showed her talent as soloist in the "Scherzo waltz" (Mozz-kowski). Those taking part in the play, "Fancy Free," were Misses Florence Brown, and Marie Coghill, and Messrs. Jack Ham and Charles Langley.

Professor Sir Edgeworth David, of the University of Sydney, who is going to London for the purpose of publishing his work on the geology of Australia, left Adelaide yesterday by the East-West express for Perth to confer with the State geologists in regard to additional information concerning the geological features of Western Australia. During his brief stay in Adelaide Professor David was the guest of Professor Howchin, who was for many years professor of geology at the University of Adelaide. It has not yet been determined whether the proposed work shall be issued in two volumes or one. Professor David expects to stay in England for about twelve months.

SIR ERNEST RUTHERFORD.

Sir Ernest Rutherford, the distinguished scientist, who is expected to arrive in South Australia by the Ascania on September 2, is due to deliver lectures on the structure of the atom, at Brookman Hall, School of Mines, on the evenings of Thursday and Friday, September 3 and 4. At present he holds the position of Director of the Cavendish Laboratory for Experimental Physics in the University of Cambridge. His visit is being awaited with the keenest interest by science students and others interested in the subject on which he is so recognised an authority. Sir Ernest is a native of New Zealand, having been born in that country on August 30, 1871. After having graduated in the University of New Zealand he proceeded with an 1851 exhibition science scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he at once took up re-



SIR ERNEST RUTHERFORD.

search at the Cavendish Laboratory. This led, in 1897, to a research degree, and the Coutts-Trober scholarship. In the following year he was appointed Macdonald Professor of Physics in the McGill University, Montreal, where he remained until 1907. The distinguished character of his work has always been extreme care in verifying every step by thorough experimental test, and it is on this account that a theory which at first provoked much adverse criticism, has become an established scientific principle. Sir Ernest was, in 1923, elected President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and is stated to be the youngest man to have held that position since the foundation of the association in 1831.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN BRANCH.

There was a large attendance at the weekly luncheon meeting of the South Australian branch of the Australian League of Nations Union on Tuesday, including about 40 members of the interstate ladies hockey teams now visiting Adelaide. Professor J. R. Wilton gave an interesting address on "Russia and the horrors of Bolshevism," depicting graphically the pathetic conditions under which the professors and students at the Lenin University, Moscow, were endeavouring to carry on, and the pitiable plight of the peasants, who formed the great majority of the Russian population under the present reign of misrule.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

There was a large attendance at the weekly luncheon of the League of Nations Union on Tuesday, including about 40 members of the interstate ladies hockey teams now visiting Adelaide. Professor J. R. Wilton delivered an interesting address on "Russia and the horrors of Bolshevism," depicting graphically the pathetic conditions under which the professors and students at the Lenin University, Moscow, are endeavoring to carry on, and the pitiable plight of the peasants, who form the great majority of the nation's population under present misrule.

Elder Conservatorium

On Monday a recital by students will be held in the Elder Hall. An excellent programme has been arranged, and includes many fine instrumental and vocal items, such as Max Bruch's "Kol Nidrei" for cello and piano, a concerto for two violins, a trio for violin, cello, and piano, two excerpts from "Samson and Delilah," and several songs by Handel, Strauss, and Wolf. Boxplan is at S. Marshall & Sons, Gawler place, where seats may be reserved without extra charge.