

SIR JOSIAH SYMON.

Eightieth Birthday on Monday.

To have led an exceptionally strenuous professional and public life, and yet retained his physical vigour and mental alertness at the age of 80 years, is an achievement which Sir Josiah Symon will have secured when he celebrates his birthday on Monday.

Sir Josiah Symon is the senior K.C.M.G., in Australia. He was a protagonist of Federation, one of the founders of the Commonwealth, a foremost member of the memorable Australian National Convention, which framed the Constitution, and Chairman of the judiciary committee responsible for its judicial system. He visited England in 1890, after the people had adopted the Constitution, to assist its passage through the Imperial Parliament and prepare the way for the delegation of 1900, and received the congratulations of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, then Colonial Secretary, in the following letter:—

It has been a great pleasure to me to submit your name to the Queen on the occasion of the new year for appointment to the dignity of a Knight Commander of the Order of St. Michael and St. George. It gives me great satisfaction to inform you that Her Majesty has been pleased to approve my recommendation. Let me take this opportunity of expressing to you my congratulations on your well-merited distinction. You have rendered eminent services to the cause of Federal unity in Australia, both as an advocate of it in the country and in your capacity as a member of the Convention and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, and I am very glad that your successful labours should receive this public recognition.

In the South-East. Sir Josiah Symon was born at Wick, County of Caithness, Scotland, on September 27, 1846, and arrived in South Australia on September 15, 1866. He was articled to his cousin, Mr. J. D. Sutherland, then practising at Mount Gambier. While there he was associated with Mr. S. J. (afterward Sir Samuel) Way, who had gone there as counsel in the actions brought by settlers in the Hundred of



SIR JOSIAH SYMON, K.C.

Caroline against Mr. W. J. T. Clarke, owner of Mount Schank Station, for damage to their property by a fire which originated at the station. In recognition of his services he was invited by Mr. Way to transfer his articles, which he did in June, 1870, the firm then being Way and Brook. The latter died in 1872, and Sir Josiah, who had been admitted to the Bar on November 21, 1871, joined Mr. Way in partnership in January, 1873. He was retained to undertake the prosecutions for the Crown at the south-eastern circuit in October of that year.

Interrupted Holiday Trip. In January, 1876, while on a holiday trip to England, Sir Josiah received a cable message at Ceylon from Mr. Way, informing him of the death of Sir Richard Hanson (Chief Justice), and intimating that he (Mr. Way) had the opportunity of being appointed Chief Justice if he would return. Sir Josiah did so, and in April, 1876, took Mr. J. W. Bakewell into partnership. He was then called on to meet the demands of a heavy practice, and conducted important Government and other cases. He visited England in 1879, travelling by way of America. With a reputation for energy and ability in his work he became the acknowledged leader of the South Australian Bar. He took silk in 1881, at the early age of 34, and in 1884 was offered a Supreme Court judgeship, in succession to Mr. Justice Andrews, which he declined.

Entry into Politics. Just prior to the general election in 1881, the young barrister accepted the position of Attorney-General. In the election which immediately followed he fought for the Government as a candidate for Sturt. When the first Government formed by Sir John Bray took office, Sir Josiah became Leader of the Opposition. In the election of 1884 the party led by Sir Josiah

was returned with a substantial majority, but the leader having intimated that he was not prepared to take office as Premier and Attorney-General, owing to increased professional duties and a growing family, Sir John Colton formed a Ministry, and on the advice of Sir Josiah, he took Mr. C. C. Kingston into the Government as Attorney-General. Having represented Sturt for six years, Sir Josiah retired to contest the district of Victoria at the general election of 1887, to fight the issues of freetrade and payment of members, and was defeated. While on a visit to England in 1886 he was offered a seat in the House of Commons for a Conservative constituency.

In the Federal Arena. When the Federal movement was seriously launched by Sir Henry Parkes, Sir Josiah became his wholehearted supporter and was unremitting in his advocacy until the National Federal Convention was secured, when he was chosen as one of the 10 representatives of this State, the Constitution in 1898 being approved and passed in form for submission to the people of Australia for their approval. During the whole Federal fight he was President of the Commonwealth League and the Federal League. His service in the cause resulted in his selection by the judiciary committee of the convention as its Chairman, and for the leadership of the States Rights' Party. His attitude on the question of appeals to the Privy Council, and his advocacy of their abolition or limitation caused great controversy. He was a member of the Commonwealth Senate from its inception until June, 1913, and was returned at the head of the poll for South Australia at each of the two Senate elections. He was Attorney-General in the Reid Ministry, 1904-05. His notable contributions to national politics and his eloquent speeches in the Senate were recognised by many tributes from brother legislators and others. In 1911 he represented the Commonwealth of Australia at the Coronation naval review at Spithead, and in its name presented to the battleship Commonwealth the challenge shield and service of plate subscribed by the citizens.

A Powerful Advocate. For 50 years Sir Josiah's fame as a powerful pleader spread, and in a large number of cases he afforded ample evidence of his gifts and learning. Having a remarkable capacity for lucid and forcible presentation, as well as a profound knowledge of the law, his forensic successes were generally looked upon as a matter of course in legal conflicts. He has been equally at home in complicated civil cases and in criminal trials. His tall, erect figure, quiet manner, and resonant voice, have been factors in his success as a pleader. In his speeches he sets himself out to please, then to convince. Balanced sentences, interspersed with occasional humour, and flavoured with an intimate acquaintance with the best English literature, have made his examinations and addresses before the Courts a pleasure to hear. For years a member of the Council of the Society of Comparative Legislation and International Law, he frequently contributed to its journal, and has also written largely on Federation and constitutional subjects. He is an hon. member of the Cobden Club, and the Anglo-Saxon Club, and for many years has been a Vice-President of the Royal Colonial Institute. A member of the Council of the University of Adelaide for some years, he has done much for the cause of University education, and last year was invited to represent the University of Sydney at a Congress of Universities of the British Empire in London. He was also President of the South Australian Law Society. He is regarded as one of the best informed Shakespearean scholars in Australia, and was formerly President of the Literary Societies' Union in this State. He is interested in country life and pursuits, and for 40 years has been proprietor of the well-known Auldans Vineyards Estate at Magill. He has always been fond of sport, particularly cricket, football, and horses. He has a beautiful home at Upper Sturt, but at present is residing at Buxton street, North Adelaide. He has always been a generous donor to deserving charitable objects, and particularly as regards the cause of education. Sons and daughters of Sir Josiah and Lady Symon served in the war.

THE UNIVERSITY. At the meeting of the University Council on Friday a letter was received from the Director of Mines expressing the appreciation of the work done at the mining and metallurgical laboratory by Mr. H. W. Gartrell in the testing of a bulk sample of copper ore from the Dome Rock Mine. The letter stated that the work Mr. Gartrell is doing in the laboratory is serving a very useful purpose, and is greatly appreciated by those who are in position to estimate its value. This laboratory is now housed in the extensions to the Bonython Metallurgical Laboratory recently built at the cost of Sir Langdon Bonython, and the equipment provided is such that under the charge of Mr. Gartrell it should prove a valuable asset to the State.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINIC

Urgent Need at Hospital

LECTURE BY DR. HONE

Dr. F. S. Hone told members of the Rotary Club this afternoon at their weekly luncheon that the essentials to prevention of tuberculosis were facilities for early diagnosis in contacts or suspected cases, hospital accommodation for early and late cases, supervision of the lives of arrested cases, and financial assistance to the dependents of affected persons. The most urgent need in Adelaide and the one most easily supplied was a tuberculous clinic or dispensary which could be established at the hospital.

Loss of £150,000

The lecturer confined his remarks to pulmonary tuberculosis, which, he pointed out, was spread from other human beings through infective sputum. The number of deaths from it in this State last year was more than 300. On a low estimate this meant an economic loss of £150,000. In Adelaide the mean mortality from pulmonary tuberculosis in the years 1920-1921 was 101, which was higher than that for the whole of Australia.

The human mind, Dr. Hone remarked, preferred short cuts and for years they had all dreamed of some magic remedy. That was the origin of the recurring interest in Smalpage's and other serums. At present no effective remedy was available and the problem had to be attacked in another way.

In the last year or two there had come a gleam of hope for some specific immunisation being available in the near future. Calmette claimed that he had prepared a vaccine of living modified organisms which would not set up tuberculosis, but would confer immunity after a course of inoculation. Such a method, if the successes claimed were confirmed by further experience, was along the lines of true prevention.

Inadequate Accommodation

For the present they must use every means to prevent persons lighting up into active disease and must prevent infected persons spreading infection. Dr. Hone added that the accommodation provided in this State for cases was totally inadequate. There was no organisation by which supervision of suspected or arrested cases could be obtained. As regards assistance to dependents of patients the procedure was illogical. The invalid was given a pension, but instead of assistance being given to his dependents if he entered a sanatorium the pension was reduced. The consequence was that he preferred to stay at home with all its disadvantages from a preventive standpoint. There should be provision of an employment colony scheme intermediate between the sanatorium and full work.

BREEDING OF PLANTS.

A Welsh Professor's Visit.

Professor R. G. Stapledon, director of the plant-breeding station at Aberystwyth, Wales, arrived in Adelaide by train from Melbourne on Saturday morning, after having visited the eastern States and New Zealand in connection with his official duties.

Professor Stapledon, when passing through Adelaide recently, paid a hurried visit to Roseworthy College and the Waite Research Institute. He then said he was very much impressed with the good work being accomplished at those institutions, and he felt sure that the latter would be of positive advantage in connection with agriculture in the State. Interviewed by a representative of The Register on Saturday, Professor Stapledon said Australian conditions were not suitable for the majority of English grasses, but while here he had interested himself in the different classes of clovers that abounded. At the institution at Aberystwyth experiments had been conducted to improve the productivity of English grasses and clovers. The work at that place had been in operation only since 1919, but already encouraging results of improved production had been obtained. Many portions of Britain being too wet for the production of wheat, and more suitable for the raising of sheep and cattle, the work of the institution was so to improve the varieties of grasses as to enable the holdings to carry greater numbers of stock.

Professor Stapledon will leave for Perth on the East-West express on Tuesday, and will join the ship there on his return to Britain.

HEAD MASTER'S TRAVELS.

Impressions of Mr. Bickersteth.

Having spent nine months abroad, visiting England and other countries, on a combined holiday trip and a mission of inquiry into matters of education, the Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, head master of St. Peter's College, returned to Adelaide by the Orsova on Saturday.

In an interview with a representative of The Register, Mr. Bickersteth said he had had a very enjoyable time, and was feeling "as fit as a fiddle." On his way to the old country, he broke his journey to visit Palestine, where things appeared to be shaping very well under the British mandate. His visits to different spots of historic interest were very pleasant. Jerusalem appealed to him particularly, and he was delighted with the beauty of northern Palestine, where the spring flowers bedecked the countryside. He bathed in the Dead Sea. The contrast between the peacefulness of the country under British



REV. K. J. F. BICKERSTETH.

control, and Northern Syria, which was under French administration, was very noticeable. He was unable to visit Damascus, where the Druse revolt had taken place. Italy was the next place of call, and he had a look over several famous cities, including Assisi, where the 700th anniversary of the death of St. Francis of Assisi was subsequently to be celebrated by thousands of pilgrims.

Overflowing Schools. In England the head master inspected a number of leading public schools, which were full to overflowing, and very good progress was evident. They had entirely recovered their normal state since the war, and the boys were in for as good a time as they had ever known before. The standard of education was very liberal. He considered Australia was abreast of the times in regard to teaching methods. A special feature of interest was his visit to Rugby, his old school, which was doing very well under Dr. Vaughan. Marlborough was another popular centre of education. He went to Christ's Hospital, Horsham. About 800 boys were boarded at the famous old Bluecoat School. At Cambridge he attended the Empire Universities' Congress as a delegate from the University of Adelaide. Mr. W. J. Ishister, K.C., was another representative from Adelaide. At that seat of learning, and also at Oxford, he saw a number of "old boys" from South Australia, who were doing very well.

Questioned as to the state of the theological colleges, Mr. Bickersteth said there seemed to be the beginning of "a turn in the tide," with respect to the number of students offering for ordination, although the ranks of the clergy were still short, the leeway not having yet been made up owing to the losses in the war. The prevalent feeling was that the worst was over and a fine feeling of hopefulness existed.

"England is Solid." "I was immensely impressed by the way in which the public behaved during the general strike," said Mr. Bickersteth. "Good humour, a spirit of mutual helpfulness, and a determination to remain law-abiding was shown all round." On the day following the strike he travelled from London to Cambridge, and was interested to see undergraduates acting as porters, and working alongside toilers who had gone back. "England is solid," he added. The English roads were wonderful, and he regarded them as the finest in the world for motoring. An enormous number of cars was to be seen everywhere. He visited Lords, and saw the second test match. The members of the Australian team were very popular wherever they went, and that applied especially to Collins. He saw the South Australian representatives, Richardson and Grimmett, the day before he left, and they were looking very cheerful, although showing effects of the strenuous demands of the tour, in which they had performed splendidly. The officials at Australia House were thoroughly alert in looking after the interests of the Common-