NEWS 7-6-27

SCIENCE IN AGRICULTURE

Comprehensive Plan Outlined

GOVERNMENT ACTIVITY

Convinced that the solvency of the State will more than ever depend upon the sound and scientific advancement of the agricultural industry the Government is devoting a great deal of time and thought to the position.

The Hons. R. L. Butler (Premier) and J. Cowan (Minister of Agriculture) stated today that the comprehensive policy enunciated in the pre-election speech of the Premier would be observed. The first instalment will be submitted to Cabinet this week by Mr. Cowan.

Science and agriculture are to be harnessed. In the course of his speech Mr Butler declared that his party favored the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture, unencumbered with other administrative duties, who would be able to devote his time to the furtherance of the agricultural industries of the State. This would necessitate the appointment of a seventh Minister. When the time comes for the appointment to be made Mr. Cowan will in all probability be entrusted with the work.

Helping Farmers

Another proposal of the Premier, mentioned in his policy speech, was the appointment of the senior officer of the Department of Agriculture to take charge of the extension work. In the ordinary course Mr. W. J. Colebatch would probably have been called upon to fulfil the duties, but his appointment to the Irrigation Commission precludes that. It is understood that Mr. W. J. Spafford will now be asked to undertake this important work, with the title of Chief Agricultural Instructor. There are five agricultural instructors at work in various parts of the State, and Mr. Spafford will supervise operations. Gradually the staff will be increased from five to eight or ten.

Although the present instructors have helped farmers to some extent much remains to be done, and Mr. Cowan has now instructed them to make a survey of every farm visited, noting the area, methods employed by the farmers, livestock, and so on.

As instructors visit every farm in their districts, an accurate agricultural survey will be made. Needs of farmers, such as laborers required, will also be enquired into, and information gained conveyed to the Immigration Department. In this connection the Department of Agriculture and the Immigration Department will probably co-ordinate.

The staff of officers mentioned, Mr. Butler pointed out in his policy speech, if imbued with the right spirit and led by a man who realised the possibilities before a campaign of intensive propaganda, could do much to lift the agricultural returns of the State.

The instructors will go after the "slackers"; that is, the farmers who do not attend meetings of branches of agricultural bureaus and other institutions calculated to assist them, and who do not study literature, and by meeting them on the farm gain their confidence and induce them to adopt the best approved practices in agriculture. "A better farming campaign" is the slogan.

Scientific Research

Scientific research will play an important part in the forward movement. Among the more pressing needs are the necessity for the appointment of two or three agricultural chemists to assist the men on the land to tackle the problems which constantly arise, and the investigation of plant diseases. Mr. G. Samuel (pathologist at the Waite Research Institute) computes the annual loss of wheat at several million bushels annually owing to the ravages of preventable diseases. Take-all, red rust, and flat smut are doing great damage.

Wheat breeding will receive increased attention. Greater use will be made of the Waite Research Institute, where Dr. A. E. V. Richardson and Prof. J. A. Prescott will be helped and encouraged to continue their important scientific researches. The Government will, if necessary, provide additional funds so that the staff may be increased.

The nimble lucerne flea, which is spreading at an alarming rate, particularly over the damp areas of the State, is to be tackled in a determined attempt at extermination.

The establishment of a veterinary institute for the study particularly of animal diseases, and the appointment of a specialist in pasture are other matters that will engage the attention of the Government.

All-Round Extension

Importation of approved stud stock will be encouraged. The Government intends to co-operate with the Commonwealth authorities, the sister States, shipowners and breeders in paying the freight and expenses of stock imported. This follows on the deliberations at the recent conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in Adelaide.

Soil testing experiments are being undertaken at the Waite Research Institute, and eventually it is anticipated a soil survey of the whole of the State will be made. Crop competitions which are held under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture are to be encouraged, and in addition to the present 50-acre competitions whole farm competitions are being arranged in different districts.

Extension of the area under cultivation will form an important integral part of the scheme. Virgin Crown lands are to be brought into productive use wherever possible. There are still large areas which can be thus utilised.

A permanent agricultural board, the duty of which will be to take stock of all Crown lands suitable for settlement, and to report to Parliament on the number of persons that can be settled on a specified area, its suitableness for growing certain cereals or other primary products, cost of facilities, such as railways, roads, water supply, and so on, necessary to develop it, and proportion of cost of such facilities which should be a charge upon the land, will be appointed later.

Co-operation will be the feature of the general scheme, which is the most ambitious instituted for the advancement of agriculture in the history of the State.

ADV 6-6-27

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA.

A SUCCESSFUL CONCERT.

Music lovers whose taste is confined to the modern and lighter type of music, compared with the strictly classical work of the old composers, were afforded a treat at the Exhibition Building on Saturday night, on the occasion of the South Australian Orchestra's second concert of the season. The audience was large and appreciative, and expressed its pleasure of the tuneful programme by demanding encores of practically every number. Mr. W. H. Foote conducted in his usual able manner, and Miss Sylvia Whitington was the principal violinist. An innovation was an intimation given by Mr. Foote at the completion of the first number, that a few minutes' pause for general conversation would be made between the various items. Mr. Foote remarked that the idea was to remove some of the reserve occasionally felt at these gatherings and to promote a more friendly feeling.

Throughout practically the whole of the programme, which included seven numbers, a lighter vein ran through the compositions, and the waltz theme was prominent in at least three of the items. The first number, "Children's Overture," by the English composer, Roger Quilter, was novel and refreshing. It comprised a potpourri of nursery rhymes cleverly woven together, and provided a delightful recollection of the songs of childhood. After an introduction of ten bars in stately measure the overture gave place to merriment, and many familiar old-time ditties followed one another in quick succession, bringing the orchestra finally to an allegretto con spirito, followed by a Lento Maestro, in which was heard a flourish of arpeggios for the harp, the whole work closing with a Vivace movement of short duration. Eric Coates' "Joyous Youth," the second number, was in three movements; an introduction, serenade, and valse. The piquant phrases and bursts of melody reflected the joys of youth in all their freshness and fascination. Some particularly fine work on the part of the string instruments occurred in Svendsen's "Carnival in Paris." Svenden is not only the greatest conductor Norway has produced, but also one of the most eminent Norwegian composers. Breezy joy of life, luxuriant melody, and charming naturalness, and sound realism found their way into the composition, which depicted Paris in true carnival spirit. Strauss waltzes are always popular, and the waltz, "Wine, Women, and Song," as rendered by the orchestra, lost none of its attraction. It started with an andante, followed by an allegro in common time, which then gave place to dance sections of various character.

Of a distinctly more sober character than the other numbers was Sibelius's "Valse Triste," the yearning and shuddering sadness of the music depicting the dance of death as heard by a sleeping son sitting by the bedside of a dying mother, who joins in the dance and then sinks exhausted on the couch. Gathering all her strength, she invokes the dance once again. The gaiety reaches a weird, wild climax, there is a knock at the door, death stands on the threshold, the mother utters a despairing cry, the guests vanish, and the music dies away. Jarnefelt's "Preludium" was an excellent piece of canonic discourse between the wind instruments with a delicate pizzicato accompaniment by the strings. The programme concluded with the symphonic poem, "Ultava," by Smetana, which has been previously rendered with great success by the orchestra. The number is named after the river which flows through Bohemia, and commences with two flutes representing little brooks, which gradually grow into a large stream. A hunting scene is depicted, and also a village wedding. A descriptive dance of wood nymphs is carried out by the wood wind instruments, and the horns and trombones represent the spirit of old Czech warriors. The river flows more slowly past Prague, and the music disappears, the composition ending in two short chords.

REG. 8.6.27

THE NEW JUDGE.

Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C.

The Attorney-General (Hon. H. Homburg) announced on Tuesday that Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C., had accepted the Government's offer of an appointment on the Supreme Court bench. The appointment was forecast in The Register last week.

Mr. Piper is 61 years of age, having been born at Faversham, Herts., England, on July 5, 1865. A son of the Rev. Thomas Piper, a well-known Methodist pioneer minister in this State, he came to South Australia when quite young. After receiving his earlier education in the public schools, he gained an exhibition and continued his studies at Prince Alfred College. He was articled to Messrs. Fleming, Boucaut, & Ashton. He has been a member of the Bar for almost 40 years, having been admitted in July, 1886, when he was only 21 years of age. He entered into partnership with Mr. F. A. Joyner, and

MR. A. W. PIPER, K.C.

they were joined later by Mr. MacDiarmid. Mr. Piper transferred his interests in 1892, by going over to Messrs. Symon, Bakewell, & Stow, and for years he was a member of the first of Bakewell, Stow, and Piper. In latter years he has been head of the legal firm of Messrs. Piper, Bakewell, & Piper, which includes two of his sons (Messrs. H. B. and F. E. Piper). Mr. Piper has acquired a high reputation, and the honour of King's Counsel was bestowed him, appropriately enough, at the silver jubilee of his career as a barrister. He has taken an active, though unobtrusive, interest in public affairs for many years, and has held the presidential office of the Liberal Federation, the South Australian branch of the Royal Geographical Society, and the South Australian Literary Societies' Union. Mr. Piper was President of the Law Society of South Australia for five years, and is also a Past Grand Master of Grand Lodge of Freemasons of South Australia.

Profession "Highly Pleased."

The announcement of Mr. Piper' elevation to the Supreme Court Bench has come as very welcome news to his numerous friends. The feelings of the Bar with respect to the appointment are shown by the following message from the President of the Law Society (Mr. T. S. O'Halloran, K.C.):—"The council and members of the Law Society, one and all, will, I am sure, be highly pleased and gratified to learn of the elevation of Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C., to the Bench of the Supreme Court. Mr. Piper has been a valued member of the council and of the statutory committee for many years, and was President for five years. We heartily join in the congratulations which will be showered upon him, although we shall greatly miss his services, and valued advice and assistance in all matters affecting the welfare and interests of the society. Mr. Piper's record in the profession is known to every one, and is a sufficient guarantee that he possesses the qualifications necessary to enable him to carry out the duties of the high office to which he has been appointed, with distinction to himself, and to the benefit of the community."

REG ~~ADV~~ 8.6.27

FLORENTINE RENAISSANCE.

LORENZO DE' MEDICI.

The first of a series of extension lectures on "The Florentine Renaissance" was delivered at the Prince of Wales Lecture Theatre, Adelaide University, on Tuesday night, by Professor W. K. Hancock (Fellow of All Souls' College, Oxford). There was a large attendance, which included the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell). The lecture was entitled "Lorenzo De' Medici," and, inter alia, described graphically the debt the modern world owed to the Italian restoration of liberal learning.

Professor Hancock described the appearance of fifteen-century Florence with the aid of lantern slides. Florence, he said, was an industrial and commercial city of a modern type. It was not, however, content with mere comfort. Nor did it know anything of modern "culture," with its implied antithesis between the real business of life and a luxury of the few, its suggestion of a class of prigs cultivating those graces for which ordinary men had no time. In Florence, beauty was the right and the delight of all citizens; it was as necessary as love or food. The love of liberty, like the love of beauty, burnt diamond-hard. Did the Medici destroy the liberty of Florence? It was sometimes said that they kept the people amused with games and drunk with beauty, while they filched away their liberty. The lecturer admitted that Lorenzo governed by "rigging the elections," but that had been the normal practice in Florence since the age of Dante. The Medici simply substituted a stable despotism for an unstable obligarchy. They were realist statesmen who understood the economic needs of the State, and they ruled by right of their efficiency. They did not imagine that life could be narowed down to politics and economics. Lorenzo's grandfather spent about two million pounds on architecture, and founded the first public library in Europe. He ransacked the world for ancient manuscripts, and was rich enough to buy professors competent to edit them. "What the modern world would have been if the Italian nation had not devoted its energies to the restoration of liberal learning," said the lecturer, "cannot even be imagined."

Lorenzo de' Medici grew up in an atmosphere of learning, sport, fun, and hard work. He was sincere in professing reluctance to accept the chief place in Florence, in the year 1469, when he was but 20. He saw that the pursuit of power would interfere with the pursuit of beauty and wisdom; yet, unless he held power, he would lose everything. This prince, like any pauper, had to pay attention to the mere machinery of life. In controlling that machinery, he derived some artistic satisfaction. Italy, like ancient Greece or modern Europe, was a collection of States seeking to achieve a balance of power, and at the same time to win special advantages for themselves at the expense of their neighbours. Two large modern States, France and Spain, were ready to take advantage of their divisions to invade and conquer them. Lorenzo's skill postponed that catastrophe. He was like a juggler tossing five balls in the air, and at the same time looking over his shoulder at brutal spectators trying to break into the ring. That feat he performed successfully. His death was the signal for Italy's calamities, and closed the first joyous period of the Renaissance.

Lorenzo, however, was not all politician. Macchiavelli's "political man," like the "economic man" of the political economists, was a fiction. Macchiavelli got angry with Lorenzo because he would not fit in with his theories. What deep design could there be in playing about the floor with children, a favourite pastime of Lorenzo's? But Lorenzo was always forgetting that he was a prince, and making a mere child, an artist, or a sportsman of himself. The ideal of the age was "the universal man"—the man who could do everything. Lorenzo, in addition to being the first statesman of Italy, and one of the best scholars of his age, was also a fine poet—the best poet between Dante and Ariosto. The lecturer gave examples of the versatility and charm of Lorenzo's poetry. He produced "everything except the epic." Life in Florence was joyous for all, not only for those at court. Florence was a prosperous city, and knew how to play. The lecturer described some of the games instituted by Lorenzo, remnants of which remain to the present day. The stern moralist might rebel at such frivolity. Bread and games! But the Florentines earned their bread, and why should they not have games? Bread and games was a good cry, for without bread the body could not live, and without some splendour and gaiety the spirit must die. The age of Lorenzo, however, was but a short-lived spring. Mediaeval monkishness and moral earnestness arose in protest against that free and joyous attitude to life, while the "barbarians" were preparing to invade Italy.

The two remaining lectures of the series will deal with Savonarola and Leonardo Da Vinci.