

Adwertiser. Brygnerot 10⁴-14

Power and Knowledge.

The workers of Australia had acquired a great deal of power, and therefore a great deal of responsibility. (Cheers.) They must have knowledge if they were to rule the country wisely. (Cheers.) They must study economical questions, and they were very difficult. He felt their difficulty greatly. The lecturer (Professor Gonner) had only touched the fringe of them. As to the contrast between saving and spending, it was usually the contrast between earning and spending that he thought of. They generally attended to the earning of money, and did not give much thought to the spending of it. In fact, it might be said that they earned the money and their wives spent it. (Laughter.) That was a division of labor. (Renewed laughter.) Communities were beginning to think about spending, and that was a very healthy sign. If public bodies, with public spirit and interest, controlled the spending of a community they might do a great amount of good. Sometimes they incurred a great public debt. But if it was properly expended it was really capital if it was on waterworks, railways, and so on. They were for posterity, and they had a right to draw on posterity to pay off something. That was the real capital and saving of the community, and a body which devoted its mind to the wise spending of money was doing a public service, and in so far as they provided it with more money and saw that it was properly spent they were doing well. Corporate expenditure did better than individual expenditure. (Cheers.)

A Great Destiny.

Sir Oliver Lodge concluded:—
"Humanity has acquired the power of guiding its own destinies to a surprising extent. The reins are being put into its hands. It may make mistakes, but it must drive now and take the control. The guiding of the destinies of this nation will be doing more than serving the nation, for you will be setting an example which the older countries may follow. You will be doing a work under these untrammelled and free conditions which I hope will be felt throughout the whole of civilisation." (Cheers.)

A Big Subject.

Professor Bateson said the subject that had come before them was of a highly complicated nature, one that they had all considered more or less in their degree, but that only the trained political economist was competent in any way to deal with in public. In view of the words that had fallen from Sir Oliver Lodge he was tempted to say some trifle as to how the subject struck one who had had a training very different from that of an economist—that of a biologist. Spending and saving were processes of which every animal and plant was cognisant. Spending and saving went very much lower into the biological world than man. Wheat, for instance, was spending its energy in growing, and saving it in nourishment for its offspring. The degree in which they had it in their power to control their destinies was only beginning to be known. Science had only within the past 10 or 15 years seen at all how the destinies of man might be controlled in that fuller degree and had begun to realise the meaning of the physiology of heredity. They might decide exactly by what men they would be represented a few generations hence, just as a farmer might decide what wheat he would grow next year or the year after. It was sometimes forgotten that saving by civilised men was usually a mode of providing for their own physiological descent. Most of them did not save for their declining years, but thought that if they could save they would be providing for their boys and girls. It might be inferred that the natural process of choice as to the different strains by which mankind was represented would be to put all the different strains on an equality. They might have wished that all men were born equal and were physiologically equal, but they were not, and could not be. (Cheers.)

A Prosperous Community.

That was the first time he had had an opportunity of speaking to an Australian audience. The impression he had gained in that thriving and prosperous community—and other visitors had noticed it as well—was a relief he had experienced in not seeing types of dreadful poverty constantly in the streets. (Cheers.) So far as he had seen the people in the streets looked well fed and comfortable, and as if they had an opportunity of developing the powers in them to the full, and a pleasant, comforting thing it was to see such people. But nevertheless the struggle between the strains would go on, and it meant the awkward, painful, physiological fact that different people could develop to different degrees. There were some who would never develop beyond the lowest mediocrity, and others who would develop into Shakespeares and Newtons. (Cheers.)

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A HINT TO THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

Sir Oliver Lodge in a speech on Saturday referred to the loss the Adelaide University had sustained in the departure of Professor Bragg. Speaking in the Town Hall on Monday evening he mentioned another brilliant man who had previously been a lecturer at the Adelaide University, Professor Horace Lamb, one of the greatest living mathematicians in the world. "You have lost him," said Sir Oliver, "and you have lost Professor Bragg. You will lose others if you do not take care. I will give you a hint. When I first became connected with the Liverpool University as a professor, I had a great deal too much work to do. I had to lecture for five hours a day, and had to manage an incipient laboratory in addition. I only had a boy at 5/ a week to help me. That was too much to ask a man to do, and when the university authorities realised it they mended things and treated me with unexampled generosity. Professor Grant, of the Adelaide University, is in the predicament in which I found myself when I first went to Liverpool to a greater extent than is altogether wholesome. I do not think I need say more."

THE GOVERNOR'S OPINION OF ETHER.

The lecture on the ether of space, delivered in the Adelaide Town Hall by Sir Oliver Lodge on Monday evening, was a treat such as an Adelaide audience rarely enjoys. The close attention paid to the lecturer was quite remarkable, and the address was delivered in a form easily understood by all. His Excellency the Governor sought a means to express the appreciation felt by the audience, and the most emphatic tribute he could pay to Sir Oliver was to tell him that for an hour and a half not one member of the audience had thought of the terrible happenings that for the past few days had dominated their minds to the exclusion of all else. He desired to confess, he said, with a smile, that he had changed his views about ether. He was like the fish in the deep sea—referring to a parable told by the lecturer. He had always looked upon ether as a very nasty-smelling substance which one absorbed into one's anatomy before the surgeon began to operate upon one's body. Now, however, he saw that it was a very different thing, and he had a great respect for it. (Laughter.)