

THE NEW JUDGE

MR. JUSTICE ANGAS PARSONS.

CONGRATULATED BY THE BAR.

There was a large and distinguished gathering of members of the South Australian Bar at a sitting of the Full Court on Monday morning when Mr. Justice Angas Parsons presented the commission appointing him to the Supreme Court Bench, and was the recipient of the heartiest congratulations from former colleagues in the legal profession. Among the barristers present were the Attorney-General (Hon. H. N. Barwell), Mr. Paris Nesbit, K.C., Mr. E. B. Grundy, K.C. (president



Mr. Justice Angas Parsons.

of the Law Society of South Australia), Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C., Mr. E. E. Cleland, K.C., the Hon. P. McM. Glynn, K.C., Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., Mr. F. Villeneuve Smith, K.C., the Crown Solicitor (Dr. F. W. Richards), and the Lord Mayor (Mr. F. B. Moulton). The public galleries of the court were thronged, among the spectators being many prominent citizens, and a fair sprinkling of ladies. Mrs. Angas Parsons and her two sons, Sir Langdon Bonython, and other relatives of the new judge were provided with seats in the jury box.

The Chief Justice (Sir George Murray), Mr. Justice Gordon, and Mr. Justice Poole took their seats on the Bench, and Mr. Justice Angas Parsons handed to the Chief Justice his commission under the hand of His Excellency the Governor, and the public seal of South Australia. The document referred to the confidence placed by the Crown in the integrity, loyalty, and ability of Mr. Angas Parsons. The commission having been read by the Master of the Supreme Court (Mr. W. L. Stuart), the Chief Justice invited the new judge to take his seat on the Bench.

The proceedings throughout were dignified and strictly formal.

The Attorney-General, in addressing Mr. Justice Angas Parsons, said—it is with feelings of very great pleasure indeed that I appear in court this morning for the purpose of extending to your Honor the sincere congratulations of the Bar upon your elevation to the high and honorable position you now occupy. Your professional life is well known to most of us. Your career has been one of signal success—success which has come to you partly as a result of the high endowments and superior talents with which you have been blessed, and partly from habits of conscientious and untiring industry. You have already given valuable service to this our native State as a Parliamentarian and Minister of the Crown. You are now to add to

that service as a judge of this court. I am glad indeed to be able to give you the assurance of the universal belief of the profession that the high and sacred duties of the judicial office will be honorably and ably discharged by you during your occupancy of the Bench. We know you to possess a number of those attributes which best become a judge in the exercise of his many duties. Being deeply imbued with those principles on which the law itself is founded, you will no doubt know well how to apply these principles in the justice you administer. To powers of intellect, learning, and industry, you have ever added kindness of heart and unvarying courtesy of demeanor. Believe me, you carry with you in entering upon your new sphere of activities the respect and good will of every member of the profession. We feel confident that the honor of the profession and the honor and character of every man who comes before you will be safe in your hands. Again, on behalf of the Bar, I sincerely congratulate you and express a wish that you may be long spared to administer justice in this honorable court.

His Honor, in replying, said:—Mr. Attorney-General and members of the Bar—I have to thank you most sincerely and most warmly for the very kind words of welcome which you, Mr. Attorney-General, have so eloquently expressed on behalf of the members of the legal profession. I have to thank you, gentlemen, for the honor which you have done me in welcoming me as a judge of this court. The words the Attorney-General so generously used, and the expressions from so many of my fellow-members of the Bar have done much to give me that degree of confidence in myself which is an essential part of the equipment of a judge. Had I relied on my own judgment, I might have declined the honor which you, Mr. Attorney-General, acting for the Government, saw fit to offer me. At that period of life which I had reached, with so many diverse interests and with so much that seemed so important to me and those who are nearest to me to be considered, but above all, through reluctance at leaving the Bar itself, it seemed a matter of considerable difficulty to disturb the foundations on which so many projects seemed to depend. I have, however, been generously assured that in your opinion, gentlemen, I am fit for the work, and I have been profoundly impressed by some of the gentlemen of the Bar who know me best, telling me that they thought it was my duty to accept the appointment. A very eminent Australian judge, whom we all know well and respect, said to me not many months ago, that the only persons who know whether a man is doing good work at the Bar are the members of the Bar itself. When Lord Reading was being farewelled by the Bar of England a few weeks ago, on his appointment as Viceroy of India, he said he did not feel disposed to guess at the reasons which led to his selection for that post, but he was prepared to abide by the assurances and assertions of those who were competent to judge. To borrow the wisdom, though not the vernacular in this place and at this time, of the immortal Captain Cuttle, "the bearing of these observations lies in the application of them." When I look back on such men as Way, Boucaut, and Bunder, not to mention and by no means to forget their distinguished predecessors, and when I have regard to the learning and to the wisdom of their honors by whose side I am now privileged to sit, I realize that the task which I have undertaken is by no means a light one. My colleagues on the Bench have welcomed me with a very rich and generous welcome. That welcome I shall never forget. Neither shall I ever forget the welcome which you have given me gentlemen, to-day. And perhaps you will allow me to say that I shall never forget the letter which you, Mr. Grundy, as president of the Law Society, were good enough to send me on hearing of my appointment. I hope I may be allowed to add that my life amongst you at the Bar has been for me a singularly happy one. I hope that our relations may continue. As in Hamlet's days, so now, the times

are out of joint, and the outlook on life and the currents of life change rapidly. The administration of justice is a human institution and has to be applied to men with human passions and failings. If, gentlemen, a judge cannot be in the mid-stream of life, it is, I venture to think, well for him to know something of the trend of human thought and conduct. Intimacy, dignity, and mutual self-respect, can, I hope, dwell together among those with whom intimacy is worth while. Mr. Attorney-General and gentlemen, I thank you ever so much for your kind welcome.

At the gathering at the Supreme Court yesterday, on the occasion of Mr. Justice Angas Parsons taking his seat as a member of the Full Court, there was naturally some talk as to the past. The discovery was made that Sir Langdon Bonython and Mr. Paris Nesbit, K.C., could take the longest retrospect. Sir Langdon was reporting the court and Mr. Nesbit was attending it as articled clerk to Mr. Rupert Ingleby, Q.C., early in the seventies, when the judges were Sir Richard Hanson (Chief Justice), Mr. Justice Gwynne, and Mr. Justice Wearing.



The late Mr. William C. Medlyn, Secretary to the Adelaide Hospital Board.

NEW K.C.'s.

It is understood that two King's Counsel will be appointed shortly. The elevation of Mr. Justice Parsons, K.C., to the Bench and other changes have left vacancies in what is regarded as the normal number of those selected to wear silk, and the names of the Crown Solicitor (Dr. Richards) and Mr. J. M. Napier have been mentioned for additions to the list of honour. The recommendations for the appointment of K.C.'s are made to the Attorney-General by the Chief Justice, and then presented to Cabinet.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FORESTRY.

The experience of the past few years has tended to emphasize the importance of the conservation of natural timber supplies, and the reforestation of denuded areas. That a shortage exists is strikingly evidenced by rising high prices of timbers of all sorts, and such secondary products as paper pulp. The shortage is marked in all countries, and the rapidity with which the native timber resources of the chief forest-gearing areas of the world are being cut out indicates that the position of the future will be even more acute unless adequate steps are taken to ensure the planting and care of trees in areas suitable for timber production. The planting of forest trees is a business proposition. Money laid out in tree planting on properly conducted lines returns handsome profit, but the capital must be expended some years before returns can be expected, and hence in most countries, afforestation is left to the care of the State. Because it is a national matter it is well that the public should be interested, and particularly should they be aware of the penalties which follow neglect to make adequate provision for future requirements. The education of the public on these lines is one of the chief aims of the Australian Forest League. The South Australian branch (of which Sir Langdon Bonython is President), is rendering material assistance in this direction. The hon. secretary (Mr. Harold J. Finnis) intimates that a general meeting of the branch will be held at the Institute Building, North terrace, to-night, at which Mr. H. H. Corbin, B.Sc., will deliver a lecture illustrated by lantern views, and Mr. J. H. Vaughan, LL.B., will speak. The meeting will be open to the public, and it is expected that by these means, much will be done towards bringing the man in the street to a realization of the importance of forestry.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

THEATRICAL MANAGER'S GENEROSITY.

SYDNEY, March 1.

A trust to provide scholarships for higher education to children of parents without sufficient means to give their offspring such facilities, has been established, with the Governor (Sir Walter Davidson) as Chairman. The necessary funds are being provided by the well-known theatrical manager Mr. Ben F. Fuller, who recently gave enough money to enable a New South Wales Rhodes scholar to go to Oxford.

In an interview this evening Mr. Fuller said that when he reached his fiftieth year in about four years' time, he intended to devote his energies and means to the promotion of education. He referred to the recent gift of £40,000 by Sir Langdon Bonython for a great hall for the Adelaide University, and remarked that what he intended to do for education would make Sir Langdon Bonython's gift seem as small as that gentleman's gift made small what he (Mr. Fuller) had so far done.

VALUE OF FORESTRY.

THE NECESSITY FOR ORGANIZATION.

The South Australian branch of the Australian Forest League is entering upon a campaign with the object of bringing home to the people of the State the great necessity that exists for preserving the forests, for planting softwoods, for seeing that reforestation is systematically undertaken, and to endeavour to awaken the people to the value of a product which is now being wasted. In this connection a meeting of the league was held in the Institute Buildings, North terrace, on Wednesday evening, which served the dual purpose of placing before the members the half-yearly report of the executive, and to enable those present to enjoy listening to a lecture on "Forestry," by Mr. H. H. Corbin, B.Sc. There was a fair attendance, presided over by Mr. J. H. Vaughan, LL.B.

—Half-yearly Report.—

The half-yearly report, read by the secretary, stated:—The South Australian branch of the Australian Forest League was formed on June 9, 1920, at a meeting held in the Institute Building. At the meeting a constitution was adopted, and officers for the year appointed. Endeavours have been made to protect trees growing on the roadsides; and the Government has been impressed with the urgent need for introducing legislation designed to prevent unnecessary destruction of such timber. Negotiations are in progress for space in the Victorian forestry publication, *The Gum Tree*, for S.A. Forest League news. The Executive Council of the Australian Forest League met in Melbourne during January. At that meeting, the S.A. branch was represented by Sir Douglas Mawson and Professor A. J. Perkins. The affiliation of the league with the Empire Forestry Association was considered, but, as the intentions of the latter had not been definitely expressed, no action was taken. The question of the removal of the forests from the control of the State to that of a Federal authority was discussed, but no action was decided on. It was resolved that the attention of the State branches be drawn to the ridiculously small return from grazing licences in forest areas as compared with the great losses from fires that the issue of these licences resulted in, and that the branches be advised to take action for their abolition. It was agreed that "the protection of our indigenous flora and fauna generally" be added to the official aims and objects of the league.

In moving the adoption of the report, the Chairman said he regarded the meeting as the forerunner of many to be held in the endeavour to instil into the public mind an appreciation of the value of forestry, the necessity to conserve our timbers, and the opportunity that existed to produce wealth by the cultivation of timber. The difficulty in gaining this end was not that every one did not approve of the aims and principles, but that there were so many false friends prepared more to flatter the work than to help the movement. There had always been a want of continuity in the forest policy. Working plans should be laid down on the principle of looking years ahead, and proper provision made to carry them out. There was a wonderful opportunity to grow softwoods in the Mount Lofty Ranges, and to provide the Commonwealth with much of the timber it required. On the River Murray also there were great possibilities for timber growing, and the Coorong Valley was especially suited for the production of soft woods. They should aim at having in South Australia at least one million acres of intensely cultivated pine forests. One thing needed was that the work should be removed from political control. Following the example of the other States there should be established a Forest Board, the Chairman of which would be the Conservator of Forests, another should be a man of commercial experience in timber, and a third a man to deal with the financial aspects of the operation of the department. Away from the control of the Minister much better work would be done.

The motion was seconded by Capt. S. A. White and carried.

—Possibilities and the Future.—

Mr. H. H. Corbin, B.Sc., in opening an address on the question of forestry, said that it appeared to be his usual lot to tell the sad and sorry tale of forestry as applied especially to South Australia. Mr. Vaughan's suggestion as to control was a good one, for whether people liked it or not, the work of forestry would have to be very extensive in the future, and must be carried on most carefully. They must aim to make the work a financial success. The State needed per annum a great deal of timber, and every effort and careful organization were