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# A POPULAR APPOINTMENT.

## MR. T. J. M. NAPIER THE NEW JUDGE.

As was generally expected, Mr. T. J. M. Napier, K.C., was on Wednesday in Executive Council appointed a judge of the Supreme Court. The appointment will date from March 1.

Probably no appointment which the Government could have made to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court bench, caused by the death of Sir John H. Gordon, would have given greater satisfaction to the legal profession than that of Mr. Thomas John Mellis Napier, K.C., L.L.B., which was announced yesterday. The loss of Mr. Justice Gordon was a heavy blow to the administration of justice in this State, for although he had been in indifferent health for some years, his many strong qualities, his long experience, and his keen analytical intellect conspicuously fitted him for the high position which he adorned for twenty years. Mr. Napier is another Scotsman of distin-

Like many other eminent advocates a good deal of his success has been due to his skill and ready discernment in the cross-examination of witnesses. He is one of the comparatively few practitioners who know when to let a line of questions drop, and in his role as counsel it has been a rare thing with him to destroy a strong position erected as the result of a well-planned series of queries, by putting one question too many. Naturally judicial in temperament, his training has assisted in developing the many qualities which are needful to the adequate discharge of the various and onerous duties devolving on members of the judiciary of this State, where great versatility and wide knowledge in all the branches of jurisprudence are requisite. In England judges specialise on the different branches of the law. In South Aus-

The new judge was born at Dunbar, Scotland, on October 24, 1882. He is the third son of Dr. Leith Napier. When

Mr. Justice Napier was about five years of age the family removed to London, and he was educated at the City of London School, until he left England for South Australia in 1898. He served articles with the Right Hon. C. C. Kingston, K.C., and continued his studies at the Adelaide University, where he graduated LL.B., in 1902. In 1903 he was admitted to the Bar, and soon afterwards he entered into partnership with Mr. A. J. McLachlan, the firm subsequently being joined by Dr. T. J. Browne, who is now a member of the firm of Symon, Browne, and Symon. In 1917 Mr. Napier joined the legal firm of Glynn, Parsons and McEwin, which about three years later amalgamated with that of Baker & Barlow, under the style of Baker, Glynn, Parsons, McEwin & Napier. Subsequently Mr. Angus Parsons retired to go on the bench of the Supreme Court.

It is a coincidence that within a comparatively short time two members of this legal combination—Mr. Angus Parsons and Mr. Napier—should have been called to the bench of the Supreme Court. Mr. Justice Napier filled a number of important offices in connection with his profession. He has been law lecturer at the Adelaide University, a vice-president of the S.A. Law Society, and a member of the statutory committee of that body. He is a prominent Freemason, and takes a deep interest in literature. In September, 1921, he received his commission as K.C., and the honor was regarded in legal circles as thoroughly well earned.

## MR HEATON LECTURES IN ENGLAND ABOUT AUSTRALIA.

An important innovation is the first special course of University lectures delivered by an Australian lecturer on Australia. These were begun by Mr H. Heaton of the Adelaide University at the London School of Economics. His subject was "Factor controlling Australian Development". The scope of the lecture was comprehensive, and it was well received. Mr. Heaton will subsequently lecture at Cambridge. (Mr. Heaton is not an Australian by birth but has been connected with Australia and New Zealand for years and is an authority on Australian affairs. He was a lecturer at the Adelaide University until he left recently for England.)



MR. JUSTICE NAPIER.

grounded ability, and he also possesses all the essentials of a great judge. His career at the Bar has stamped him as an advocate of high ideals, jealous for the traditions of an honorable profession, a man of great erudition (not only as a lawyer, but as a student of life, literature and history), a keen logician, and a sound lawyer. Master of a pleasing and unassuming style in address, alert to see the weak points in the argument or the facts of his opponent's case, always courteous, whether in court or in ordinary professional or social spheres, he has long been regarded as a leader of men as well as a leader of the

tralia all the judges sit in Criminal Courts, the different divisions of the Civil Court (including matrimonial), and appeal jurisdiction. While at the Bar Mr. Justice Napier has been engaged in a number of heavy and exacting cases. His practice has been for the greater part on the civil side of the Supreme Court, and in the Industrial Court, and everywhere he has won the confidence and respect of his brother lawyers, and of the litigating parties, his opponents usually being ready to admire his fairness, as well as his alertness to seize on any legitimate point in his favor.

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Mr. Geoffrey Sandford Reed, of the firm of McLachlan, Reed, & Griffiths, solicitors, has been appointed honorary secretary of the South Australian Law Society in succession to Mr. C. A. Edmunds, who resigned after a term of 10 years' service to open the way for other members. The new secretary received his education at Prince Alfred College, and afterwards entered the employ of Messrs. Holland and Lathlean. Five years later he was awarded his LL.B. degree, and a short time later was appointed Associate to Mr. Justice Buchanan. On account of the enrolment for war service of the Associate to the Chief Justice, he was appointed to that position, and remained in it until he joined the A.I.F. himself. After returning from military service in England about March, 1919, he resumed his position with the Chief Justice. Subsequently he became a partner in the firm of McLachlan, Reed, & Griffiths, and has been practising as a solicitor for several years. He is a popular member of the profession, and his appointment will be generally welcome. He is a son of the Rev. William Reed, of Bloomsbury street Hyde Park.

EDUCATION REPORT. The report of the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy, B.A.) on his visit to Great Britain, the Continent and America is now in print, and will be considered by the Government in Cabinet on Monday. It is understood that Mr. McCoy makes certain recommendations particularly in regard to an extension of technical subjects and agriculture. The Minister of Education (Hon. T. Pascoe) stated on Friday that there would be drastic alterations, but any changes made would be gradual. "If the recommendations are agreed to," he added, "the curriculum of the teachers' college will be considerably altered."

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## TEACHERS' TRAINING COLLEGE.

EXTENSION OF THE CURRICULUM. Upon his return from his official visit abroad last year the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) furnished a report to the Minister of Education (Hon. T. Pascoe) on the result of his enquiries into education affairs in other countries. The Minister stated on Friday that he had perused the report, and had prepared recommendations, which he would submit to Cabinet for consideration. These would relate to what he considered would be improvements in the education system of the State. If agreed to by the Government, it would be of an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary character, added Mr. Pascoe. The recommendations, if adopted, would mean the alteration of the curriculum of the Teachers' Training College, by the inclusion of agriculture and technical subjects. The idea of the department was to sow the seeds of education on those lines in the primary schools.

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Teachers Meet at Easter During Easter week the annual conference of the Australian Teachers' Federation will be held in Adelaide. The South Australian delegates are Mr. William Bennett (president of the Public Teachers' Union), Mr. F. J. Gartrell (president-elect), Miss Phoebe N. Watson (vice-president), Miss Adelaide Melthke (representing High School Male Teachers) and Mr. M. J. Gerlach (representing Primary School Teachers).

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## THE CHILDREN'S LIBRARY.

Before sailing on a proposed visit to England, Miss M. Darnley Naylor selected a number of favorite children's books and presented them to the board of governors of the Public Library for the children's library. The gift numbers 127 volumes of all kinds, from the stories of such authors as Kipling, Lewis Carroll, and Stevenson, to books on natural history, biography, poetry, and many other subjects. The board recorded its appreciation of Miss Naylor's gift.

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Owing to the accession of Mr. T. J. M. Napier, K.C., to the Bench, Mr. George C. Ligertwood, of Messrs. Bennett, Campbell, and Ligertwood, is joining partnership. Before he joined Messrs. Bennett and Campbell Mr. Ligertwood was associate to the present Chief Justice.