

The lecturer would deal with buildings in use. He wished also to attack the theatre to his drama in some sense, and to ask why they did not in their time have something of the kind of drama which Shakespeare gave in the great Elizabethan age. Professor Strong described, with the use of a diagram, the construction of a typical theatre of those days. The shape of the interior was like a huge wooden O. In some of the Elizabethan theatres, he said, the stage was a temporary one, and it was taken away when the playhouse was used for certain other purposes. In others the stage was permanent. The buildings were mostly of wood and plaster, and only in a few cases of brick. That was, perhaps, a disadvantage from some points of view. The public theatres, of which The Theatre, the Globe, and several others were types, differed from the so-called private theatres. The theatre occupied by Shakespeare's company, Blackfriars, was a private one. It was closed in, and performances were given by means of artificial light. Probably the stage was a little more elaborate than in the public theatres, and the prices were higher. On certain occasions, in some of the Elizabethan playhouses, there were seen, besides the superior people in the galleries, and the Lords, who sometimes occupied the boxes when not being used by the actors, young men of the town who actually sat on the margin of the stage, and watched the performance from there. It must have been disconcerting for the actors, especially as the men persisted in keeping up a fire of conversation with the people in other parts of the playhouse. One question which they had to give consideration to was, "How far could they imagine the Elizabethan producer and manager in the habit of varying the scenes?" They were told that in 1636, the scenes of a play were varied several times by the ingenuity of the great architect and mechanic engaged. Many more instances of the same kind of variation were cited. They had it on record that three English towns were represented simultaneously on the same stage. Since Shakespeare's time practically no poet had held the stage. The lecturer explored that lamentable and tragic fact, which, he said, was largely due to the decline into which the modern stage had fallen.

Professor Strong was heartily thanked for his address.

A man of striking personality, and one who has rendered distinguished service to the Church and the community of Tasmania for many years, is the Ven. F. T. Whittington, whose resignation of the position of Archdeacon of Hobart has been announced. He is a South Australian, a son of the late Mr. W. S. Whittington, and a graduate of the Adelaide University, where he took the LL.B. degree. At one time he was organising chaplain to the Bishop's Home Missionary Society, and he served the Church at Port Pirie and Kanganda. In 1891 he accepted an appointment as missionary chaplain attached to the Cathedral at Brisbane, and he was also secretary to the Australian Board of Missions. During an official visit to New Guinea he contracted malarial fever, and on medical advice he sought the colder climate of Tasmania, where he was appointed a canon of St. David's Cathedral, Hobart. He was rector of Newtown for some years, and in 1901 was installed as Archdeacon of Hobart and Launceston, having served for some time as archdeacon of the whole of Tasmania. In 1907, when rearrangements were made, he became Archdeacon of Hobart. He has acted as vicar-general and administrator of the diocese on several occasions. Referring to him recently, Bishop Hay said:—"It is with sincere regret that I announce a change of a somewhat epoch-making nature. The Ven. Archdeacon Whittington has resigned his position as Archdeacon of Hobart. After his noble record of service in this diocese and his intimate association with us all, his resignation is to us, what he says it was to himself, 'a solemn act.' He feels it imperative to secure leisure if he is to complete the biography of Bishop Broughton, upon which he has been engaged for some time. It is a work which he is doing in the interests of the Australian Church, and, when completed, will be of historic interest. In the opinion of the highest authorities, Archdeacon Whittington is the one to whom this task is well entrusted. We have therefore accepted his resignation, although we cannot disguise from ourselves the serious loss which his less active share in our diocesan work and affairs will be to us."

of Messrs. John Darling & Son. Thereafter the story of the expansion of the firm of John Darling & Son is the history of Mr. Hill's business career, for he has been associated with it ever since. He comprised the whole Adelaide staff when he entered Messrs. Darling & Son's employment, for the city office was then a small one, the headquarters being at Port Adelaide. The town branch was in the building now occupied by the Colonial Mutual Life office, King William-street. Mr. John Darling, junior, had only just joined his father in the business when Mr. Hill was engaged by the firm. Messrs. John Darling & Son at the time were laying the foundations of the present wide and flourishing business and the Adelaide and Port Adelaide branches were their only offices in those days. Now the firm is represented in South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and Western Australia, and has 180 branches in South Australia and 250 in the other States.

After six months as office boy Mr. Hill was transferred to Port Adelaide for three years, after which he returned to Adelaide and took charge of the office there. A few years later Adelaide became the head office of the business, and Mr. Hill was appointed manager. On the death of Mr. John Darling jun., on March 27, 1914, Mr. Hill, as one of the executors, became a member of the firm. He is also a director of John Darling Limited, which has offices in Adelaide and London. The only principal still in the business who was in the grain trade when Mr. Hill joined it is Mr. C. H. T. Connor, who in 1876 was a member of the firm of Morgan, Connor & Glyde.

Mr. Hill never entered politics, but he had a good record for the Unley City Council, of which he was councillor and alderman for about 8 years. In sport he was secretary of the Adelaide and Suburban Football Association from 1883 until 1886, and was secretary of the South Australian Association (afterwards called the league) in 1887-8. He was a footballer, cricketer, and swimmer in his youth. He is wrapped up in the young life of the community, and never loses an opportunity to encourage healthy sport and exercise. He was associated in running a gymnasium at Goodwood, from which between 60 and 70 young men went to the war. He has held various offices in the Goodwood Presbyterian Church and was president of the Literary and Debating Society for many years. That, like the gymnasium, had to go under during the war because so many of its members went on active service. Mr. Hill was a very active patriotic worker. He has been a member of the Soldiers' Fathers' Association since its inception, and is its president this year. He was chairman of the committee of Government wheat shipping agents during the war. He was for many years president of the Goodwood Institute and is still a member of the committee. He has also been a member of the advisory committee on science and industry since its first appointment. Mr. Hill is also a member of the executive of the State Commission in connection with the British Empire Exhibition. He has ever been an advocate of the right of South Australia to a fair share of the benefits of Federation. He has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce for a number of years, has been vice-president of the chamber for two years, and chairman of the Corn Trade Section for four years. Mr. Hill has been on the council of the Caledonian Society for 20 years, and was chief for three years.

individually, and less in association with our neighbouring States, in promoting its own domestic commerce, particularly in the gaining of markets abroad for our primary products," said the retiring President of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce (Mr. A. E. Clarkson), at the annual meeting of that body at the town hall on Friday.

"This State," he continued, "is in some respects, at a great disadvantage compared with our neighbours, and it rests with the State Government to organize independent methods of trade stimulation rather than engage in what might be described as 'junior partnerships.' Generally speaking the financial position in Australia is sound and hopeful. South Australia has reason to be gratified with its present financial standing and prospects. In the past year, our wool clip and also a large portion of the accumulated stocks held by Bawra, have been realized at highly satisfactory rates, making available substantial funds for the pastoral industry. The market has been uniformly active throughout the year, and has afforded considerable relief from



MR. A. E. CLARKSON.
Retiring President of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce, who asserts there is a need for the Australian States to work individually.

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INTER-UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.

The annual inter-university boat race will be rowed in Sydney on June 1. The following crew have been selected to represent Adelaide:—(Bow), Thompson, F. A., 10 st. 4 lb.; (2), Paltridge, T. B., 10 st. 6 lb.; (3), Tassie, G. W., 11 st. 8 lb.; (4), Formby, M. L., 10 st. 8 lb.; (5), Boykett, K. H., 12 st. 2 lb.; (6), Read, P. A., 11 st. 4 lb.; (7), Lord, J. S., 10 st. 7 lb.; (stroke), Maiden, L. C., 10 st. 11 lb.; (cox.), Hamilton, I. A., 8 st. The crew will leave Adelaide on May 19.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

A NEW PRESIDENT.

Mr. W. J. Hill (vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce) was on Friday elected president of the Chamber in succession to Mr. A. E. Clarkson. Mr. Hill was born in Adelaide on August 25, 1859. He is a son of Mr. John Hattersley Hill, building contractor, of Adelaide, and was educated at Pulteney-street School, when the Rev. W. G. Moore was headmaster, finishing at Prince Alfred College. Mr. Hill's father died in May, 1876, and in the first week in June of that year Mr. Hill, as a boy, entered the office



Mr. W. J. Hill.

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BE INDEPENDENT.

Commerce Leader's Advice

Protest Against "Junior Partnerships"

"I have no desire to be a 'little Australian' in outlook, nor 'unfederal' in my sympathies, but I consider it necessary to state that it seems advisable for our State Government to work

other harassing conditions. A large area of our pastoral country is at present experiencing an exceedingly dry period and the delayed rainfall is causing great anxiety. Cattle growers have been, as are still, experiencing a period of depression bordering on a crisis. Prices realized for beef are not nearly sufficient to cover the cost of production, and so serious is the position, that the Federal Government has granted a subsidy on imported meat in order that the industry may be temporarily carried on. The export competition of the Argentine meat interests has created a state of things very unfair to sellers, so much so that Australian exporters have not found it profitable to operate. The stranglehold of Argentine meat trade upon the British markets has emphasized the need of preferential inter-Empire trade."

Troubled Wheat Markets.

"Our wheat crop," Mr. Clarkson proceeded, "which was a fairly satisfactory one, has not yet been fully realized, owing to the lifeless market in Europe and the low price of the commodity prevailing there. Prices opened splendidly this year, but generally speaking, the farmers did not avail themselves of the early prices. The trend of events in the world's wheat market is slowly, but surely, modifying the attitude of the various wheat pools in Australia. Chaotic exchanges and the difficulty of arranging contracts with Central European countries created a very depressed position. The situation has been further aggravated by a falling off in the overseas flour trade, and grave concern has been occasioned by the agitation in the British House of Commons to prohibit the importation of grain in the form of flour. This measure may benefit the British milling industry, but it will certainly have a serious effect on the industry in this country. Conditions have been so uncertain that it was impossible to forecast either the depression or the recovery in prices experienced. To-day sellers are operating freely at more favourable prices and it is expected that owing to the improved demand for wheat in the British and Continental markets realization should now go on much more rapidly, and in consequence make large funds available in Australia. Two years ago the funds held by Australian banks in Lon-