

partment as the result of my visit, for that will be determined by the Government, but there are things that may come within my province to improve or rectify. It seems to me, for instance, that we are too stiff, too rigid, in our methods. In order to develop more originality and resource in our pupils we must give more freedom to some of our teachers. Our best men and women are at present too much hampered by restrictions, instructions, and inspections, and cannot, therefore, do their best work. I should not be surprised if, during the coming year, conferences are held with a view to making our organization more mobile. "Get a good man and give him plenty of rope," seems to be a good maxim to follow." Reverting to the question of imported teachers, Mr. McCoy said that, before leaving London, letters were beginning to arrive there from the first batch of 12 teachers sent to Adelaide. Many of them were published, and all told of the splendid reception they had been given by the people of South Australia.

Prohibition in America.
Finally, the Director touched briefly upon the big question of prohibition in America. He said that he had travelled in Quebec and Vancouver, which were not dry States, and in New York, Ontario, Manitoba, and Alberta, which were, and, during the whole of the trip, he had seen only two men who were the worse for liquor. Peculiarly enough, both were in the dry States. While in America no man had asked him to have a drink—Mr. McCoy did not explain whether he said this in sorrow or in joy—and no one had suggested that he could get liquor for him if he wanted it. He preferred not to express an opinion upon the effects of prohibition in America.

On Friday evening Mr. McCoy will be given a welcome home at the Price Hall by the teachers of the department.

Director's Thanks to Teachers.
The following is a copy of a letter which was received by the General Secretary of the South Australian Public Teachers' Union (Mr. T. H. Smeaton) from the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy, B.A.), in reply to a welcome sent to him on his arrival in Sydney:—"Would you please convey to the President and executive committee of the S.A. Public School Teachers' Union our best thanks for this kind and hearty welcome home. Mrs. McCoy and I received many messages on our arrival in Sydney, but none was appreciated more than that sent by yourself in behalf of the teachers of South Australia. May I add that the wonderful welcome afforded to the English teachers was equally appreciated. We are longing to be back among you, and will be very glad indeed when we see the lovely hills of Adelaide and our many kind friends once again. During my absence I have given special attention to rural schools, agricultural education, adolescent education, medical inspection, and the erection of school buildings, and I trust that many of the suggestions that I shall make will be carried out so that our system of education may take rank among the best. This much I may say, that during the course of my travels I have met with no more loyal, capable, and hard-working public servants than the teachers of South Australia, and I am confident that any new schemes that are approved will be carried out by them with the zeal and enthusiasm that characterizes their present work."

Register 5.12.23
Leading Article

EDUCATION AT HOME AND ABROAD.

In the sense that travel is one of the finest forms of education, Mr. W. T. McCoy has been seven months at school. He returns with vision widened and a mind enlarged by contact with the world's leading educationists; and the Government, in common with the Director, may be congratulated on a policy which has enabled the State to be represented at a notable educational gathering, and which will secure to its schools the fruits of Mr. McCoy's observations and experiences abroad. The Director of Education eschews the amiable but rather tiresome habit of returned travellers, of announcing that in South Australia everything is of the best in the best of all possible countries. Excessive patriotism or parochialism of that type is almost as vexatious as the perversity of the spurious cosmopolitan who

will praise nothing that is not of foreign origin. Mr. McCoy gives South Australia due credit for its advanced practice in the education of small groups of children in the outlying districts, but, in many other respects, "we have a great deal yet to learn." It is natural that old-established, populous, and wealthy communities should be able to take the lead in educational affairs. If this State had nothing, or if it were unwilling, to learn, it might as well have kept its Director at home. As regards, however, the calibre of its teachers, who are the backbone of all educational systems, South Australia will not readily yield place to any other country, and Mr. McCoy's tribute to his assistants, as a "loyal, hard-working, and deserving body of public servants," will be widely endorsed. It would be calamitous if the teaching profession were not maintained on a sufficiently lucrative and otherwise attractive level to ensure the adequate recruitment of the staff from the best local material available. While the English teachers selected by the Director in London are sure to "make good," and to provide a useful leaven to the service, importation can be resorted to only for the purpose of meeting temporary emergencies. The bulk of the teachers must necessarily continue to be drawn from among young men and women of Australian sentiment, and accustomed to Australian requirements and conditions.

Money and methods play equally important parts in the education system. Without funds the best plans for instructing the young idea are stultified, and funds are not always available. The Government, however anxious it may be to promote the cause of education, has to preserve a reasonable balance between the various spending departments, and to adjust the taxpayer's load to his economic capacity to pay. It has to strike the mean between what is theoretically desirable in relation to the schools and what is financially practicable. Mr. McCoy may find some of the reform schemes which he has brought from abroad wrecked on the old rock of the Government's inability to finance them. We could doubtless have the best education system in the world if we cared, or, rather, if we were able, to pay for it! The money difficulty, however, need not stand in the way of improvements in the spirit of education policy—the freeing of teachers, for instance, to give of their individual best to the scholars. A danger inseparable from large, uniform systems of national education is that methods are apt to become stereotyped, with the effect of turning out pupils whose minds are at once unmistakably stamped and cramped by the same machine. The Director has returned with the impression that "we are too stiff, too rigid, in our methods. In order to develop more originality and resource in our pupils, we must give more freedom to some of our teachers. Our best men and women are at present too much hampered by restrictions, instructions, and inspections, and cannot, therefore, do their best work." Experiments along the line of increased mobility, without reducing the general level of efficiency or discipline, may be expected to give good results. As for any plans involving heavier outlay, they will probably have to await more favourable times. At the moment, the urgent need is for the extension of school accommodation. In overcrowded schools with over-large classes, health and efficiency are both endangered. Any additional funds available to the Government are required for the alleviation of conditions which in some cases are a reproach to the community, and it would be anomalous to spend more money on methods while neglecting the very foundations of the education system.

Critic and Lawyer

News 5.12.23

A participant in several branches of sport, Mr. S. Talbot Smith has been successful in his combined professions of law and journalism. He has recently been taken for Sir George Brookman, Mr. Harry Bluman, and Mr. Isbister, K.C.



Mr. S. Talbot Smith

Mr. Smith, who is the only son of the late Sir E. T. Smith, was born at Kensington in 1861, but spent his childhood in England, and received his education at Cambridge. He was called to the Bar, at the Middle Temple, in 1885. After his admission he returned to South Australia immediately, and took up the practice of law. He has also been a leader writer and book reviewer for Adelaide morning papers for more than 30 years, and is dramatic critic in Adelaide for "The Bulletin."

Institutions which have benefited from Mr. Smith's enthusiasm, judgment, and energy are the University Council (on which he has served for 20 years) and the Public Library and Art Gallery Board. He is chairman of the literature committee of the Institutes' Association and of the Repertory Theatre. He was for a long time an amateur actor with the Appendreena Society.

He was one of the first lacrosse players here. Having played for Cambridge University, he joined Adelaide, the only club in the metropolitan area at that time, when it was necessary to journey to Noarlunga for a game. He was a tennis match player for years, and still participates in the game. Cycling and various other forms of sport and athletics have also claimed his attention.

In an official capacity he was for some years on the ground and finance committee of the Adelaide Oval. He is patron or president of East Torrens district cricket and lacrosse clubs, and referee at the intercollegiate, University, and girls' intercollegiate sports. When the Amateur Athletic Association was revived in 1905 he was its first chairman.

Advertiser
7.12.23

News has been received in Adelaide of the appointment of Mr. F. M. Burgess, B.A., as master of classics and modern languages and housemaster at King's College, Kensington. For some time he has been a master at Scotch College, Claremont, Western Australia, in charge of classics and mathematics, and for three years he was acting sports master there. Mr. Burgess has had a distinguished scholastic career. In 1912 he passed the Adelaide Higher Public Examination, and in 1913 began his studies at the University of Adelaide. He won the Barr Smith prize for Greek, and the Andrew Scott prize for Latin. In 1914 he was bracketed for the Roby Fletcher prize for psychology and logic. In 1915 he won the David Murray prize for classics, and in the same year graduated B.A. (honors) in classics, receiving first-class honors in the final examination. Mr. Burgess is a son of the late Mr. T. M. Burgess, B.A., a Prince Alfred Collegian, and has been actively associated with the Congregational Church in Western Australia.

Register
6.12.23
"BARTS" GREAT FESTIVAL
Registered
6.12.23
Sir Joseph's Verco's Participation.

Sir Joseph Verco greatly enjoyed his visit to England, and all that it affords in the way of renewals of old friendships. However, he is not sorry to find himself once again upon South Australian soil. He said so when interviewed at his home in North terrace.

"It was all thoroughly enjoyable," he said, "and that eight months was from a scientific standpoint—profitably spent. But we missed the sunshine. We experienced cold, wet weather, much of the time at home, as it was a similar experience to the previous year. Yet visitors to England in 1921 found the climate almost oppressively hot. So much for the vagaries of climate."

Sir Joseph and Lady Verco continued their travels to England and Scotland, and happy memories have been brought back of the time spent in both countries. The octocentenary celebrations, in connection with St. Bartholomew's Hospital, was one of the chief inducements of the trip. Sir Joseph Verco studied at the famous hospital. He was requested also by the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association to act as representative at the annual conference which was held at Portsmouth.



SIR JOSEPH VERCO.

at the end of July. Among the features was a "talk"—about the insulin discovery in connection with diabetic trouble—given by no less an authority than Dr. Banting of Canada.

Dental Matters.

Sir Joseph Verco also looked into dental matters, with which he is closely in touch in South Australia. Several of the dental schools were visited, including the dental hospital in Leicester square, that of Guy's Hospital, and Liverpool. In Edinburgh and Dundee in Scotland, dental hospitals also were visited. He felt sure that Adelaide's dental hospital compared favourably with those in the old country.

"What about the changes in St. Bartholomew's Hospital since your day?" he was asked.

"Of course I noticed a very great improvement," he replied. "Naturally, with my memories going back to the 'seventies, the present magnificent structure greatly impressed me. The property—now that portion of the Bluecoat school has been purchased—runs right through from Little Britain on the one side to Newgate street on the other, with a portion of the General Post Office coming between. The medical school, out-patient department, resident quarters for the staff, and the new accommodation for the nursing staff which was opened while we were in London, and are still further to be enlarged—all bespoke tremendous progress."

"Did you meet any associates of your student days?"