

## THE PROGRESS OF VICTOR HARBOUR.

By Chas. R. Hodge.

To those who know the Victor Harbour of to-day, it is of interest to see how the town, or rather the nucleus of the premier watering place, appeared in 1861, as depicted by an old photograph, showing the Crown Hotel, Victor Harbour Hotel (now Victor Harbour House), and Field's butcher's shop. Ocean street appears a veritable bush track. The District Council of Encounter Bay was formed in the very early days, and the Rev. R. W. Newland was its first Chairman. Until 1914 Victor Harbour was under the jurisdiction of the council, but in that year it was created a municipality. Mr. Oliver Baaner, born in the town, was its first Mayor. The municipality is rather Lilliputian in area, its boundaries being the Hindmarsh River on the east, and the Inman River on the west. It is curious to find that the district council operates west of the Inman, and also east of the Hindmarsh, and part way to Port Elliot. Consequently the newly proclaimed township area of Hayborough is not within the Municipality of Victor Harbour, but under the jurisdiction of the Encounter Bay District Council, while the area of Ocean View is partly within the Municipality of Port Elliot and partly under the jurisdiction of the district council. The period is probably not far distant, however, when the boundaries of our corporate town will be considerably extended, and the municipality supersede the district council. Amalgamation, to some extent, would be of advantage, and probably advisable upon economic grounds.

### Revenue from Rates.

When the town became a municipality the revenue from rates was only £200 per annum, and those responsible for incorporation must have had great faith and vision, to begin operations with so small an income. Fortunately the town has extended, and population steadily increased, so that the revenue from rates is at present in the neighbourhood of £3,000 a year. The great increase in land values has also materially helped the exchequer, but even so the town council finds it difficult to cope with ever-increasing demands. The council is fully alive to its opportunities, privileges, and duties, and its watchword is "Progress." In view of the phenomenal progress of the town the avenues of possibilities for further foreshore improvements, expand. Indeed, the demands for extension or duplication of tennis courts, bowling green, and croquet lawns become greater and more persistent each year. The council and the improvement committee are unceasing in their efforts to meet demands, and accomplish required extensions with the least possible delay. No charge upon the rates is made for foreshore improvements, but these are financed by generous donations from visitors and liberality of the townspeople.

### Remarkable Advance.

The progress of Victor Harbour during the past five years has been astonishing, and somewhat romantic, but the year 1920 promises to eclipse all previous records. It is a well recognised fact that during the busy season, intending visitors, unless they book before coming down, find it impossible to obtain accommodation. In spite of additional provision each year, the town is always overflowing during the height of the summer, and it may be astonishing to know that hundreds of persons were unable last season to come here when they desired, and had either to wait, or go elsewhere. This year, Victor is running riot in the direction of extension, and there is quite a building boom at present. The old historic Crown Hotel has expanded from Ocean street to Railway terrace. The additions comprise 40 rooms, with lounges and balconies. The balcony on the eastern side overlooks Port Elliot, while that on the southern frontage joins the balcony of the old building, thus providing a promenade of about 300 feet. One special feature in regard to bedrooms in the new portion is the minimum of wood used, all architraves and skirtings being of cement, thus minimising the pest nuisance. It is anticipated that the building will be completed by the beginning of December. Several of the favourite guests homes are also enlarging their borders. Clifton (Mrs. Prince) will be a stranger to those who have previously made their temporary home there. Four additional rooms are being added to the front of the original house, while on the northern side a two-storied building of rooms is in process of construction. Immediately opposite Mrs. Blackwell is being a new guest house of 20 rooms erected. This will be known as "The Southern." Each of these houses will have spacious balconies and lounges, and most modern equipment. "Summerlea" has also been added to, and additional facilities for

### New Buildings.

In addition to the foregoing Mr. T. Barr Smith and Mr. D. J. Low are having residences built, while quite a number of other private houses are in course of erection. The capital value of buildings in progress at the present time exceeds £50,000, while the erection of others is contemplated in the near future. The E.S. & A. Bank has outgrown its present premises, and extension of business necessitates more room. A block of land nearly opposite the post office has been purchased, and a commodious modern building is to be erected shortly. Steps are also being taken to erect a commodious public hospital and a new congregational church. The expenditure upon these two buildings will probably exceed £20,000. Other projects in the air are:—1. It is rumoured that another large guest house, or a number of flats on the northern side of the town, will be built. 2. Although the town is provided with two picture theatres, the erection of a handsome palais is contemplated, an illustration of which appeared in the local paper recently.

Within the last few months, the handsome and commodious additions to the Union Bank have been completed, and a new railway station has been built. The improvement committee has also been active, with the result that the retaining wall and esplanade on the eastern foreshore has been extended northwards, the croquet lawn has been enlarged and its environment improved, while further facilities for bowlers has been provided. Additional tennis courts are also contemplated, when funds and labour are available.

### Expectations.

If Victor Harbour cannot be a shipping port, it is, and ever will be, a place of beauty and a joy for ever. Doubtless interstate tourists will flock in ever increasing numbers to its exhilarating and picturesque shores. It should be included in the itinerary of the Adelaide Tourist Bureau, and particularly overseas tourists should be given an opportunity of visiting the glorious south coast with its historic associations. A clear vision of what the future has in store is the motive power impelling progress. Not only is there a building boom, but many properties are changing hands, and desirable building sites being purchased. In view of the rapid development of the district it will probably not be long before Victor Harbour has its electric tramcars running from the town around Encounter Bay to the Bluff, also a handsome commodious refectory, with spacious balconies, on the centre of Granite Island.

NEWS 7-4-26

Prof. E. H. Rennie, D.Sc., F.I.C., president-elect of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, which will meet at Perth, Western Australia, next month, has been Elder Professor of Chemistry in the University of Adelaide since 1885. He has held his Chair for more than 40 years, a longer period than any other professor at present in this University. He will be 74 years of age next month, and was born in Sydney, where his father, who lived to 91 years of age, was Auditor-General for many years. The professor was a Sydney Grammar School boy, and was a master there for five years. He graduated in arts at Sydney University when he was only 18. At the age of 25, some time after he had taken his M.A. degree, he proceeded to London to study science. He graduated as Doctor of Science at London University in 1881. After that Dr. Rennie was assistant for two years to Dr. C. R. Alder Wright in the chemical department of St. Mary's Hospital Medical School. He was also a teacher at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington.

NEWS 7-4-26

Mr. H. R. Marston, B.Sc. (Physiology and Bio-Chemistry Department, University of Adelaide) has received the annual report of the British Science Guild. He is secretary of the South Australian branch. A paragraph of the report pays a tribute to the work accomplished in the interests of science in this State, and specially commends works written by Prof. F. Wood Jones, D.Sc., on "The Mammals of South Australia" and Mr. Walter Howchin, F.G.S., on "The Building of Australia and the Succession of Life."

NEWS 7-4-26

Prof. G. E. M. Jauncey, who is associate professor of physics at the Washington University in America, was to have attended the jubilee celebration in August of the foundation of the Adelaide University. Owing to the illness of his daughter he has postponed the visit. Prof. Jauncey was born at Adelaide, where he graduated at the University in 1910, with first-class honours in physics.

## EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

### Training for Citizenship.

### Ideals of the Department.

The third conference of the Education Society was begun on Wednesday evening in the Institute Lecture Hall, North terrace. The deliberations will be continued each day until Saturday. Professor J. McKellar Stewart presided over a large attendance.

The President said that in the first of their conferences they had dealt with the question of freedom in education, in the second with the basis of a liberal education, and their present deliberations were to deal with the problem of education for citizenship. The society existed to promote interest in education, and, in particular, educational methods. They found themselves faced by an enormous educational machine. The greater part of the money paid in direct taxation in the various States of the Commonwealth went to support that organization, and religious institutions and private persons had invested large sums in building it up. Money so invested was well invested provided that the product of the organization meant some contribution to the essential wealth of the community—a wealth not measured in £ s. d. It was with the question in mind, "What is the end of all this organization?" that the subject of that conference had been chosen. It was almost a truism to say that education was directed to the turning out of men and women who would make their contribution to the common life of the State as citizens; but it seemed that the great problem of education was to know how they could treat the boy and girl as boy and girl, and at the same time as future citizens. If they looked at them only as future citizens, they were likely to miss their aim. If they treated them only as boys and girls they were likely to give them no direction or probably a wrong direction. The problem was therefore to strike a balance and concern themselves with the lines that education should take to fit the boy to be a good citizen. (Applause.)

### Leaving School.

The Lord Mayor (Mr. Wallace Bruce) said in framing an education curriculum much depended on how many years of the child's life was to be given to the school, and this period varied considerably. Where the child dropped all educational work at the compulsory minimum age—14 years—the task of the teacher was such that little time was left for anything else. In these cases (and unfortunately they were far too many), all that could be expected was to give the child the information of the greatest immediate utility and trust that the school of life would unfold for him the lessons of citizenship. Yet even with those children much could be done through the personality and attitude of the teacher. A good citizen was a person more easily recognised than defined. He must have a social consciousness. He must have awakened to the fact that over and above his own personal existence he had another life—as part of that great organized aggregation of humanity which they called the State. Secondly, a "good citizen" should have a social conscience. It was not sufficient merely that a man should throw himself into some phase of social or public service. His conduct had to be animated by a sense of responsibility and dignified by a proper regard for ethical values. To the social consciousness must be wedded the social conscience.

### A Desirable Quality.

All of those qualities were of little civic value unless with them were found that quality which Britishers expressed so effectively as "sportsmanship," the ability to see the principle fought for as something over and above the particular men engaged in the fight. Referring to the personal influence of the teacher, Mr. Bruce said the history of almost everybody's mental and spiritual development was the story of their contact with other persons, and it was primarily to the teachers that they had to look for the fostering of the social consciousness and the social conscience. The study of economics could be effectively used to awaken the student's social consciousness. No other study emphasized so vividly the interdependence of man upon man, and the co-operative nature of their efforts even when superficially they appeared to be competitive. In arousing a sense of citizenship there was a great value in biography. Well-written lives of great civic figures could not fail to catch the hero-worshipping ten-

dency of young people. (Applause.) A good citizen should be trained to a habit of independent thought. A large section of its people must be able to think more than the thoughts of their fathers, and their neighbours, and their newspapers. Valuable as was independence of thought, it became a danger if the student were not provided with adequate standards to assist his judgment. Those standards must be supplied by a knowledge of the conditions and history of his own and other countries. All those good qualities would be of very little civic value if the citizen was not able in some way to communicate his ideas. It was one of the ironies of fate that too often the people with the knowledge had no adequate powers to convey it, while those abundantly blessed with powers of expression had nothing worth expressing.

### The Department's Ideals.

The Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy), in an address on "The Ideals of the Education Department," said the Lord Mayor had spoken of education from the standpoint of a commercial man, and he has indicated very clearly the chief characteristics of an ideal citizen. He would speak from the point of view of a Director of Education, of the aims and ideals of the great department of which he had the honour to be the permanent head, to explain their contribution towards the making of this ideal citizen. They aimed to impart to the child such knowledge and skills, to train him in such habits and virtues, and to place before him such ideals, as would enable him in the future to meet the needs of life, and to take an intelligent and effective part in the civic and social life of the community. The outstanding characteristic of the work to-day was recognition of the moral, the physical and the intellectual value of the child. All their efforts were put forth to develop his moral fibre as well as his physical fibre and his mental fibre. Education could stand still. Fortunately at the present time it was a very popular cry and there was a widespread feeling that what was good enough for them 20 or 30 years ago, was not good enough for their children. For example, in their day little heed was given to their physical welfare as pupils; but modern schoolrooms were fresh and bright, and clean and wholesome, and the problem was being tackled with great zest, and Parliament voted large sums of money to build new and up-to-date schools and to remodel old ones, so that their children might be taught under conditions that would at least conduce to good health, and not injure the eyesight. Further they cared for the physical welfare of the children by employing doctors, nurses, and dentists, to discover physical and dental defects and to report to the parents. This branch of the department was doing a wonderful work in discovering, and causing to be remedied, defects which were unsuspected by the parents.

### School or Apprenticeship.

They were often reminded, proceeded Mr. McCoy, that at the completion of a boy's school education he must take his place among the world's workers, and there were those who expected the school to turn him out ready for a particular calling or industry. But that was not the function of the school, it was the function of apprenticeship within the calling or the industry itself. The school might assist in a measure by providing courses that would be useful to the boy when he left school, but it should ever remember its duty was to sharpen his wits and to develop his intelligence, so that he might be able to adjust himself quickly to his new conditions, whatever they might be. It was not altogether what they taught, but how they taught that was essential. The State needed for its leaders men of education and personality, wise men, who could inspire, sane men of ability, foresight, and clear vision, and if the schools were to produce such men they must ensure that their future teachers were not only adequately educated, but that they receive a training that would enable them to realize their moral obligations to the community.

### Learning to Teach.

The Teachers' College supplies them not only with various types of teachers with adequate knowledge and scientific training for each branch of the work, continued the speaker, but also with men and women healthy in body and mind, who took life seriously yet joyously. The University also played an important and effective part. The cordial relations between the University and the Teachers' College had recently been further strengthened by the determination of the University Council to establish night lectures next year for the benefit of ex-student teachers and others.

### A Worthy Example.

In northern Europe, said Mr. McCoy, the education authorities made a great point of the building of character. Anybody visiting Denmark or Sweden would be impressed with how they tried to awaken and develop in the pupil the higher life, to sharpen his judgment, to extend his spiritual outlook, and to awaken pleasure in the work for the work's sake. Especially did they aim through the study of Danish (or Swedish) literature, history, poetry, and song, to cultivate a national spirit—a spirit of patriotism, and to arouse in the pupils a social sense. In short, the principal object of the autho-