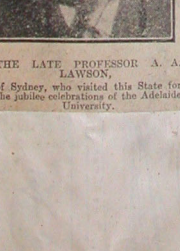
REC. 29·3·27

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

First Student's Concert.

The 1927 season at the Elder Conservatorium opened on Monday evening with a successful students' concert. There was a large audience in the Elder Hall and the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) was present, also most of the teaching staff of the Conservatorium. The director (Professor Harold Davies) announced that the next concert would be given by the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet, and the programme would include Beethoven's "String quartet in G major," to mark the Beethoven centenary commemoration. The vocal numbers were well presented. Miss Jean Berry was twice recalled for her singing of the "exit and aria, "Have I lost thee (or ever)" from Gluck's "Orpheus," in which her usually clear diction added much to her expressive rendering. Miss Stella Sobels, at short notice, took the place of Mr. Ray Piercy, who was unable to sing through indisposition; and her high, pure soprano was heard to advantage in "If there were dreams to sell" (John Ireland), and especially in the last high, soft notes of a song by Cadman. Mr. Harold Lidemann was well received in the aria, "Eri tu," from Verdi's opera, "Un Ballo in Maschera," in which his mellow voice told admirably, especially in the expressive passages towards the close. Miss Ethel Greenwood gave a pleasing interpreting of two songs by Cyril Scott—"Lullaby" and "Pierrot and the moon maiden. Misses Alma Strempke and Vera Mayfield, whose voices occorded well, gave two vocal duets, "Sull 'aria che soave zefiretto" (Mozart) and "Friendship" (Marzials). The two violinists of the evening were Miss Katie Toerger, who was heartily applauded, and twice recalled for her performance of "Habanera" (Sarasate), in which she displayed delicate technique; and Mr. Fred Groth, who presented the first movement of "Concerto in A minor" (de Beriot). A striking feature of the concert was a "cello ensemble number, "Aria" (J. S. Bach) by Mrs. Edgar Savage, Miss Helena Harris and Mr. Geoffrey Coldsworthy. The finely impressive character of the music was beautifully expressed and the tone rich and sonorous. Mr. Arnold Parley was to be congratulated on the organ accompaniment. The four piano items were well chosen, and the playing consistently good. Quite outstanding was the rendering of "Concerto in F minor" (Schulz) by Miss Jean Norman, the orchestral part being given on the second piano by Mr. William Silver. Miss Norman has a charmingly clear liquid touch, and combines power with delicacy of treatment. Misses Jean Barbour and Ethel Allchurch were deservedly applauded for their presentation of the first movement of the suite for two pianos (Rachmaninoff). Two other attractive piano numbers were "Ballade in G minor" (Chopin) by Miss Joan Mellowship, and "Rhapsodie in E flat minor" (Dohnanyi). Misses Alice Heegan, Muriel Prince, and Joan Mellowship acted as accompanists. The next concert will be given on April 11.

REC. 29·3·27



THE LATE PROFESSOR A. A. LAWSON,

of Sydney, who visited this State for the jubilee celebrations of the Adelaide University.

ADV. 29·3·27

THE ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

A STUDENTS' CONCERT.

The first concert of the 1927 session of the Elder Conservatorium was given last evening under particularly happy circumstances. There was a large attendance, and a most interesting programme, items illustrating the talent of the performers and the careful and expert nature of the instruction they have received being enjoyed by the audience. The programme was of a most varied character, consisting of instrumental and vocal items by eminent composers. Each of the performers was loudly applauded.

Misses Jean Barbour and Ethel Allchurch opened the entertainment with a suite for two pianos, first movement, by Rachmaninoff. The young performers played well together, and gave a creditable interpretation of this fine work. Cecil's "Exit, Eri tu," from "Un Ballo in Maschera," was sung in fine style by Mr. Harold Tidemann. Mr. Fred Groth played de Beriot's violin solo, "Concerto in A Minor," with skill. The vocal duets, "Sull aria che soave Zefiretto," from "Le Nozze di Figaro" (Mozart), and "Friendship" (Marzials), were sung with nice restraint and tuneful effects by Misses Alma Strempke and Vera Mayfield. The good command of the instrument was shown by Miss Joan Mellowship in the piano solo, "Ballade in G Minor" (Chopin). Miss Ethel Greenwood's sweet-toned voice gave a pleasing interpretation of two songs by Cyril Scott, "Lullaby" and "Pierrot and the Moon Maiden." A 'cello ensemble, "Aria" (J. S. Bach) was well played by Mrs. Edgar Savage, Miss Helena Harris, Mr. Geoffrey Coldsworthy (Elder scholar), with organ accompaniment by Mr. Arnold Parley. Miss Katie Toerger's piano solo, "Rhapsodie in E Flat Minor," was given with excellent taste and expression by Miss Toerger. Miss Jean Berry's full and tuneful contralto voice proved well suited for the singing of "Exit, Eri tu," "Have I lost Thee, Love, for Ever," from "Orpheus." Her vocal skill and good execution were displayed by Miss Katie Toerger (Elder scholar) in the violin solo, "Habanera" (Sarasate). Miss Stella Sobels took the place on the programme occupied by Mr. Ray Piercy, who was indisposed. Her songs, "If there Were Dreams" (Ireland) and "The Moon Drops Low" (Cadman), and showed her well possessed of a high, pure soprano voice. The programme concluded with the piano solo, "Concerto in F Minor" (Schulz), played by Miss Jean Norman with excellent effect. The orchestral part was played on a second piano. The accompanists were Misses Alice Heegan, Muriel Prince, and Joan Mellowship. The management of the concert was in charge of Mr. Harold Davies.

Dr. Harold Davies, in conversation with a representative of "The Advertiser," spoke of the advantages of the concert, which the season of music to be submitted to the public this year. He said there were 150 students in the Elder Hall, and, generally speaking, the features would be the same as those which were so successfully presented last year. There would be eight students' concerts, and these had been found useful and necessary as a training for students, since particularly in view of the fact that the numbers had so vastly increased, a record had been established this year in the enrolment of over 100 new students for the first term, and the total number of the principal subject students was about 500 at present. Conspicuous in the syllabus were the Chamber Music concerts to be given by the Conservatorium string quartet, which were so popular last year. These concerts were of the highest educational value. The first would be given on April 11, and to mark the Beethoven centenary the string quartet would play the great composer's quartet in G major. The syllabus, as it stood, however, did not show the additional performances by the opera classes conducted by Mr. Clive Carey. These would embrace a wide range of work, and would be three in number. The first would be Purcell's, and would be in the Elder Hall, and the final would probably be in one of the theatres. Dr. Davies said he was fully alive to the value of the concerts to all students of music, as well as to all music lovers, not only from the standpoint of their own attractiveness as a recreation. Only a small charge was made, and the concerts should be largely attended. The more widely such concerts were attended the better would it be for students and all concerned. The amount of musical talent in Adelaide was steadily growing, and was worthy of every encouragement. He would like to emphasise the point that the concerts were intended for the enjoyment and of the people as well as to give experience to the students, and he thought the public should realise that a privilege and a responsibility rested upon them in the matter. His desire was that the musical taste of the people generally should be cultivated, and that was one of the prominent objects of the concerts.

ADV. 29·3·27

POLITICS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

From SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON:—In the report of an interview with me on my return from abroad, which appeared in your issue of March 21, I am reported to the political position in South Africa as misreported in one sentence. As stated the paragraph, beginning at the twenty-first line, is opposite to fact. The information I tried to convey was that the Smuts party is composed of the Progressives, and includes all the liberal element except certain Labor extremists. The latter find that they secure more gain for their objectives by affiliation with the Hertzogites or "back" Boer faction.

ADV. 30-3-27

THE FORESTRY DEPARTMENT.

MR. LANE-POOLE INSPECTOR-GENERAL.

Melbourne, March 29.

Mr. C. E. Lane-Poole has been appointed to the new Federal position of Inspector-General of Forestry for the Commonwealth. A certificate proclaiming the new office, which will begin to function on April 1, has been published to-day. Previously Mr. Lane-Poole was adviser to the Commonwealth on forestry matters. His department will be the Forestry Bureau, under the Home and Territories Department. The Inspector-General will also be in charge of the new permanent school of Forestry at Canberra.

ADV. 30-3-27

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH.

COMMONWEALTH AND STATES CO-OPERATE.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has recently given a great deal of attention to the question of initiating research work on various problems affecting the agricultural industries of the Commonwealth. It was clear that in this field of work close co-operation and co-ordination were necessary if overlapping and waste of effort on the part of the various organisations were to be avoided. The Council therefore arranged for a conference of representatives of the State Departments of Agriculture, the Universities, and other interests concerned, to discuss a plan by which the Commonwealth could most effectively fill in a scheme of national agricultural research. The conference was held at Melbourne last week. The members were unanimous that there was a real need for Commonwealth participation in agricultural research, and they indicated that they would welcome such participation cordially. The conference approved the council advice which will be of the greatest value in shaping its future plans. One matter of special interest discussed was the question of establishing a Tropical Agricultural Research Institute in Australia.

Mr. G. A. Julius presided over the conference, and the following delegates represented South Australia:—Professor A. J. Perkins (Director, Department of Agriculture), Mr. W. J. Spafford (Department of Agriculture), Professor A. E. Richardson (Director, Waite Agricultural Research Institute), Professor J. A. Prescott (Waite Agricultural Research Institute), and Professor G. B. Osborne (University of Adelaide).

The following resolutions were passed:—1. The Conference is of the opinion that in view of the number and magnitude of the problems confronting the agricultural industries of Australia, Commonwealth participation in agricultural research is desirable.

2. The field for the investigation of agricultural problems is almost unlimited in scope. In this field there are many problems of a regional or national character which require concentration of effort, and highly specialised research for their solution. There are problems also specially suited for investigation by the Commonwealth.

3. The research problems confronting the agricultural and live stock industries may be classified broadly into three categories:—(i.) Investigation of the principles governing the practice of farming and the rearing and feeding of stock. (ii.) The search for new varieties or breeds of plants or animals. (iii.) Investigations of diseases of plants and animals with a view to control.

I.—Investigation of principles underlying the practice of agriculture and live stock husbandry covers an exceedingly wide range of problems, physics, biology, production of farm products, production of new plants and animals, plant nutrition (including improvement of agricultural and pastoral lands), animal nutrition and physiology, dairy work. Investigations in this field would include such fundamental subjects as water, and which must be conducted by the Commonwealth, and practical problems of a local character, which would be of great value in application of existing knowledge.

II.—Problems of new varieties of plants and animals. (i.) Plants. Many valuable work has been accomplished by various State Departments of Agriculture, in the production of new and valuable varieties of wheat have been and valuable varieties have already led to a considerable increase in the wheat production. This work should be encouraged and extended to other farm crops which have not been subjected to intensive work. Two distinct types of problems are involved—(a) Plant genetics. An investigation of the biological, morphological, and other characters of plants, and (b) Plant breeding. An investigation of the genetic factors involved in disease resistance. (ii.) Plant breeding. The application of genetic principles to the systematic improvement of plant varieties. The former group of problems should be conducted by the Commonwealth. The latter (plant breeding) should be carried out by existing organisations. (iii.) Animals. A somewhat similar division of problems may be made regarding animals:—

Animal Genetics.

The genetic analysis of the economic characters of live stock, including the main quality and meat yield, milk yield, wool quality, and yield of wool and carcass quality, egg and meat quality and fertility of poultry and bees. Establishing a group of research problems which are of national importance, and require knowledge and research for their solution, and form an appropriate field for Commonwealth investigation. The application of the results of scientific principles to the breeding and improvement of farm animals. This field of work should be left to existing State Departments of Agriculture.

The field work in connection with diseases of plants and animals is vast, and must increase with the intensification of production.

Plant Diseases, Plant Pathology and Entomology.—The problems associated with disease in plants may be divided broadly into two groups.—I. Investigation of the life history of the causal organisms, and the determination of infection and conditions of attack with a view to suggesting control measures. The application of these results would be the elimination of insect, fungus or other pests within definite regions. The former problems would be suited to the Commonwealth investigation, while the latter should be carried out by the State institutions.

Veterinary Work.—Animal diseases might be regarded as within the sphere of the Commonwealth, and they should be conducted in association with the States as regards field work.

4. The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research should render a service to the agricultural institutions of the Commonwealth by acting as a clearing house for information on research projects in progress of Australian and other universities. The States should supply information on research projects in hand or contemplated, and the Commonwealth should supply the States with similar information regarding its projects in agricultural research.

5. The Commonwealth could also render a service to Australian agriculture by issuing a journal of Australian scientific research which would afford a means for the publication of papers on agricultural subjects which are too technical for inclusion in State departmental journals, or which are not of sufficient international importance to be included in the scientific journals abroad.

6. In view of the great number of Australian agricultural problems remaining unsolved, and the great difficulty experienced by the State Departments of Agriculture in obtaining suitably trained investigators, it is strongly recommended that the council should adopt a scheme which will enable the universities to attract students to the faculties of agriculture and veterinary science by notifying that appointments will be available for suitable men on the completion of their university course or towards the completion of such.

7. We consider that the ways in which the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and the State Australia in the matter of agricultural advancement are by the establishment of a relationship of co-operation and co-ordination with the State Departments of Agriculture, the universities, and other institutions concerned with agricultural and live stock industrial interests. It is understood that such co-operation would be compatible with the independence of individual organisations undertaking research activities.

8. It is desirable that the phases of agricultural research indicated above should be carried out as far as possible with State departments and universities, and that such practice should be encouraged but not forced unnecessarily. It may be necessary to create new institutions.

9. To effect the desirable co-operation and necessary collaboration indicated throughout this memorandum, it is considered that the council should bring into existence a standing committee on agriculture, consisting of representatives of the heads of the State Departments of Agriculture, representatives of the council, such Standing Committee on Agriculture to act as the advisory and consultative body on matters relative to agriculture and live stock research undertaken by the Commonwealth