

DEATH OF NOTABLE CITIZEN

MR. HAROLD FISHER PASSES

PRESIDENT OF CRICKET ASSOCIATION

In business, sporting, and church circles, sincere regret will be felt at the unexpected death, after a short illness of Mr. Harold Fisher. He became unwell last Saturday week, but he developed pneumonia, and died at his home on Montefiore Hill yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Fisher was best known as president of the South Australian Cricket Association, in which position he succeeded the late Mr. Mostyn Evan. He was in England at the time the vacancy occurred, and agreed to take over the office, in response to a cable message sent to him. He was the son of the late Mr. Joseph Fisher, who was a well-known figure in the public life of the State more than half a century ago. His father was elected a member of the House of Assembly for Sturt in 1868, and remained a member until the Governor (Sir James Fergusson) dissolved Parliament in 1870. Mr. Fisher did not seek re-election, but two years later secured a seat in the Legislative Council, and remained a member of that chamber until 1881.

Born in 1867, and educated at Prince Alfred College, Mr. Harold Fisher joined the staff of Elder, Smith & Co., and later entered the service of Gollin and Co., North-terrace, of which firm he became managing director. He retired about ten years ago and interested himself in various movements, chief of which were the Cricket Association, the Automobile Association, and St. Mark's Residential College, North Adelaide. He was a warden for many years of St. John's Church and also of Christ Church, North Adelaide. He was treasurer of the day school, a member of the select vestry, and a most active officer of the church. He was chairman of directors of Reynella Vineyards, and was a director of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., of which Mr. W. A. A. West, who died last week, was also a director.

Since his retirement from active participation in public business, Mr. Fisher had spent a somewhat retired life. He was a man who thoroughly enjoyed the company of his old friends, whom he was always glad to welcome at his beautiful home at North Adelaide. For personal recreation he devoted much time to golf, and, summer and winter alike, he was generally to be seen twice a week at the Royal Adelaide Club's links at Seaton. His love for cricket was always rather that of an onlooker than a player, but there have been few big matches in Adelaide for the past 40 years that he has not attended. His services to the association as president have been most valuable, not only to the State but in the larger field of international cricket, and his guidance will be sadly missed. The family of which he is a member has held a high position in South Australia from the very early days of the State, and his late brother, Mr. Frank Fisher, and he did much to sustain the high standard of public service and good citizenship set by their forbears.

Mr. Fisher was married in 1890 to Miss Smyth a daughter of Mr. C. A. Smyth, Crown Prosecutor, of Melbourne. He leaves a widow and two sons, Mr. Claude H. Fisher, and Mr. Noel R. Fisher.

EXPRESSIONS OF REGRET

Great regret was expressed yesterday by Mr. J. A. Riley, a former secretary of the Cricket Association, who said he had many pleasing memories of relations with Mr. Fisher during the period they were together in office. The news of his death came to him as a great shock, and his loss would be severely felt by the community.

Archdeacon Jose said he had been intimately associated with Mr. Fisher in church work. He was one of those men without ostentation, who preferred to do good work in a quiet way. He would be greatly missed in church circles, and his place would be hard to fill.

Mr. B. V. Scrymgeour, who was associated with Mr. Fisher for a number of years in the affairs of the Cricket Association, said his courtesy and tact had at all times fitted him for the position he occupied. His place would be very difficult to fill. It could be truly said that he was a courteous Christian gentleman. Mr. Scrymgeour added, "I have lost not only a colleague, but a very dear friend."

FEAST OF WAGNER MUSIC

ORCHESTRAL PERFORMANCE

NEXT CONCERT FOR UNEMPLOYED

One of the finest of the many fine performances by the South Australian Orchestra was given in the Town Hall on Saturday night. There was a large audience, the members of which showed such appreciation and understanding of the music as to lead to the conviction that the efforts of this admirable organisation in educating and improving the public taste in high-class instrumental music are bearing good fruit. The various phases of the selections played were followed with intelligent interest and attention. It was, perhaps, an ambitious effort to select for the full programme the works of one composer, more particularly so when that composer is recognised as one who strove for exceptional effects, and with pronounced success, independent of what difficulties might be in the way. Then, again, it might be thought that such a programme would be deficient in diversity. Wagner, of course, is famous for his forceful vigor in emphasising powerful dramatic situations, but he also shows sufficient versatility to give prominence to the more refined phases of musical expression, as was amply illustrated in the selections given at the concert under review. The individuality and originality of his genius reach out in so many different directions that there is no fear of a listener to his music having any just complaints regarding absence of variety. That was the general feeling of the people who on Saturday evening followed so closely the great beauty of the music which was so well interpreted and finely played. The new departure in the choice of the one composer proved thoroughly justified, and consequently there is a hope that other composers may be similarly treated at future concerts. The instrumentalists, individually and collectively, are to be congratulated on their efforts, but chief credit, of course, is due to Mr. W. H. Foote for the manner in which he, as conductor, held the players together, and got them to follow his desires in what proved to be a masterly interpretation of a master's works. As leader, Miss Sylvia Whittington is worthy of special recognition.

In the overture from "Die Meistersinger," which was the opening number, the players made good use of the opportunities to display their talent in conveying faithfully the messages of the composer. There was no hesitancy in the attack, fine vigor, and an even tone being maintained. Equally effective were the more delicate and tender phrases, in which the strings were pleasingly prominent. The studies in contrasts were well drawn. The concluding movement, with its inspiring grandeur, was given with the necessary vim, and the audience could not fail to be other than most favorably impressed. Siegfried's Journey—"Götterdämmerung", with its weird and dreamy opening, depicting the approaching dawn, followed by themes from Siegfried, fragments of fire music and themes singly and in combination, leading to a somewhat abrupt finale, received artistic treatment. True Wagnerian effects were illustrated in the entrance of the gods into Walhalla ("Das Rheingold"). The crash of the orchestra in the part where the god Donner is supposed to smite the rock with a hammer, was so realistic as to be startling to those unfamiliar with the work. A magnificent finish was given to an exceedingly interesting interpretation of this selection. The delicate opening of the Prelude to Lohengrin served to show the exquisite work of which the strings are capable. The composition is characteristic of Wagner in a more subdued mood. There is enveloping harmony, and a conclusion which practically fades away to a plaintive whisper. The orchestra was quite equal to the rather different demands made upon the players by this piece. The Ride of the Valkyries ("Die Walküre"), which is so essentially characteristic of Wagner's unconventional style, was vividly presented. The distinctive themes were emphasised with a correctness in detail that reflected credit on both the players and the conductor, whose intimate knowledge of the composer's works was again evidenced. The Prelude to Act III ("Lohengrin") was another number in which the orchestra excelled. The finer tints in tone color of this composition were nicely displayed, and the whole presentation was satisfying in every way.

One of the most popular numbers was the overture from Rienzi, the last movement of which with its full toned harmony and brilliant coloring moved the audience to such a pitch of enthusiasm that it had to be repeated. One might well imagine that in conducting this number with a baton said to have been used by the composer himself Mr. Foote received inspiration direct from the hands of the master, so well did he bring out the finer points of the composition. The trumpets and trombones were particularly striking. Another popular number was the familiar overture from "Tannhäuser," in which the Pilgrims' Chorus was played with beautiful expression. The passages with the reverberation of the strings against the more robust brass, illustrating the thoughts of the composer on "the pulse of life," were played with skill. Most convincing also were the other familiar themes of this classic. This selection also met with such favor that the last movement had to be repeated. It formed a fitting finale to a memorable performance.

Amid a demonstration of approval from the audience at the conclusion of the performance, Mr. Foote was made the recipient of a gift in recognition of his success as conductor in the shape of a small bust of the famous composer whose works he had just interpreted so well.

Concert for the Unemployed
During an interval, the director of the Conservatorium (Dr. Harold Davies) announced that the programme would be repeated next Saturday night for the benefit of the unemployed and those in distress. Every member of the orchestra had

volunteered his or her services free of charge. (Applause.) That was a challenge to the public for patronage which he thought could not be ignored. The Lord Mayor had promised the use of the hall free, and even the Commissioner of Taxes on that occasion had agreed not to levy any taxes, which he believed was a record. (Applause.) The ushers had also asked to be allowed to give their services free. As the Lady Mayoress could tell them there was a large amount of distress, and assistance was urgently required to alleviate some of the sadness and misery. He hoped an audience would rise to the occasion and again fill the hall next Saturday night. He trusted that with that object in view all present would do their best towards making the concert known, and thus provide a substantial addition to the Lord Mayor's fund for the relief of the unemployed. (Applause.)

ADV. 8-7-29

RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

GERMANY AGAIN ADMITTED

LONDON, July 6.

Over 400 former Rhodes scholars assembled in the banquet hall at Rhodes House, Oxford, to-day, to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the foundation of the scholarships. Mr. Baldwin presided, and the Prince of Wales was the chief guest. The 19 Australians were headed by Mr. J. C. Behan, and the five New Zealanders by Mr. K. Sisan. For the first time since the war, Germany was included, the three toasts being the "King," the "President of the United States," and the "President of the German Republic."

Mr. Baldwin, in proposing "The Memory of the Founder," said he had received cable messages from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, New Zealand, and other parts of the world, where Rhodes scholars were similarly celebrating. He announced, on behalf of the trustees, that it had been decided that the scholarships should again be available to Germany, who was dropped out of the scheme during the war. The five scholarships taken from Germany in 1916 would remain with the colonies, but those now given would be extra, enabling four German Rhodes scholars to come to Oxford.

The Prince of Wales said he sincerely agreed with the renewal of the German scholarships. "I had the honor to-day to shake hands with an old German Magdalen scholar, though I had not seen him since 1914," he said. "Let us follow Cecil Rhodes's ideal, and forget past enmities."

Mr. Behan conveyed goodwill and cordial greetings from the Australian scholars. He said, regarding the Commonwealth record, the Rhodes scholars had proved most successful, and the scholarship was now regarded as the blue riband of academic distinction.

ADV. 8-7-29

As announced from Brisbane in "The Advertiser" on Saturday, the Queensland Government have decided to establish a Bureau of Statistics and Economics, and have secured the services of Mr. L. G. Melville, professor of economics at the Adelaide University, to make a preliminary investigation into and report on the scheme. Professor Melville will leave Adelaide about August 12, and will spend two weeks in Brisbane. Formerly Public Actuary in South Australia, the professor is a brilliant mathematician and also a prize scholar in geology, science, and astronomy. Before coming to Adelaide he had a distinguished career at the Sydney University.

ADV. 10-7-29

PLATO'S POLITICS

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR FITZ-HERBERT

"Plato's Political Ideas" was the subject of a public lecture delivered at the University last night by Professor J. A. Fitzherbert.

The lecturer said Plato came of a wealthy family, and on his mother's side was connected with one of the noblest families. He had the best education of the day, and like most young men of energy and intellect, felt an inspiration to write poetry. It was natural that he should look forward to a political career. Plato drew the conclusion from the death of Socrates that it was unsafe for him to remain at Athens, and seemed to have travelled widely. Most of the Greek political thinkers permitted the State unlimited interference in the life and conduct of the individual. It was considered that the constitution must be a definitely co-ordinated body, directing every possible activity of the individual, and it would most easily come into being as the product of a single creative mind. To the Greek it seemed impossible to make a distinction between ethics and politics. The legislator fixed the type of the State, and likewise fixed the type of the individual whose private life was controlled as well as his life in relation to the State. Plato shared the Greek view that the State should be everywhere supreme in directing the actions and duties of the individual. There were written and unwritten laws, and the unwritten ones were no less sacrosanct than the written ones. The latter dealt with religious usage and social intercourse, and went back to high antiquity. In such matters the Greek was extremely conservative. The written laws formed the constitution and could not be easily altered. In Athens, a man who proposed to abrogate or amend the law exposed himself to prosecution on a capital charge.

World Ruled by Gods

According to Plato, at one time in the past the world was completely under the guidance of the gods; pain and poverty and want were then unknown. In those days men took advantage of their leisure to converse with each other. If they did that in the pursuit of wisdom and philosophy, it was a happy age. If they sated themselves with food and drink and indulged in vain gossip they were no better than the beasts. If they looked back through the pages of history it would be seen that the human mind reached its greatest heights in lands that were not flowing with milk and honey. Its most marvellous achievement had been shown in Greece, a rough land, not over rich, at a time when it was rent and torn with incessant war. Failing the god as ruler, the next State to be considered was that governed by one or more men possessing true knowledge and the art of statesmanship. The best State was not distinguished by the number of its rulers, in the opinion of Plato, who regarded law as merely an inferior means of securing good government. The ideal was a city of good citizens, in a suitable geographical situation, with area and population neither too great nor too small, in which a philosopher became a king, or a king became a philosopher. It was clear to the Greek that a single ruler had much more power to impose his character on a State than had a body of men. As a single ruler was the greatest power for good, so also was he the greatest power for evil. A tyrant was a slave to his own vices. The true king, according to Plato, had 729 times as much happiness as the tyrant.

An Idea of Aristocracy

One of Plato's ideas of aristocracy was a class of military philosophers, condemned to abandon their studies, in order to undertake the unpleasant task of ruling. Plato believed that justice was the supreme virtue that resulted in the due ordering of wisdom, courage, and temperance. His gloomy pictures of democracy were no doubt due to his own observation of Athens. He could never forget that it was the Athenians who had put Socrates to death. Plato held that in democracy each man followed his own desires. The State had no entity, but consisted of a number of individuals, each acting according to the whim of the moment. Plato was strongly of opinion that each man should have one duty, one function only; but in a democracy each man would feel capable of turning in a moment from one pursuit to another. The proper regulation of the State, corresponding to the proper regulation of the individual, entirely disappeared. It must not be imagined that Plato meant by democracy what was now generally called by that name. In his ideas of philosopher statesman, Plato later decided to free the philosopher from the practical business of government. The legislator was still to be a philosopher, but Plato seemed to have despaired of making the philosopher the executive head of the State; he was instead to educate the head. The best hope for the future of a State was a young absolute ruler, who came under the influence of the philosopher. The philosopher would create a good constitution and give it a fair start by imparting right ideas of the noble, the just, and the good. Plato's last great book was a handbook for such framers of constitutions. The works of Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle had deeply influenced national life. The justification for the existence of a university professor, who taught a subject of no apparent practical value, was when he helped others in any way to think clearly, and to form in their minds enduring notions of the noble, the just, and the good.