

LUNCH HOUR MUSIC

Organ Recitals Begin

The first of a course of twenty weekly midday free organ recitals by Mr. John Horner, drew a crowd of musicians and music-lovers to the Elder Conservatorium Hall yesterday. Designed for the recreation of business folk and University students, pleasantly varied programmes have been prepared.

Yesterday's recital opened with John Sebastian Bach's prelude and fugue in A, a characteristic composition of the great master. Mr. Horner rendered this with high artistry, bringing out its rare beauty in the manner of a skilled Bach exponent. Cesar Franck's "Piece Heroique," which followed, is indeed happily named. Played with the art that conceals art it created a deep impression. In lighter vein came the recitalist's own arrangement of Roger Quilter's felicitous "Children's Overture." This joyous composition went merrily, aided in no small degree by the judicious registration by which the three manual instruments were made to do things ordinarily associated with five manual concert organs. The final piece was the popular "Grand March" from "Tannhauser." This was taken vivaciously, the speed startling hearers accustomed to the conventional more leisurely tempo. Yet the pace was in accordance with the marked metronome indication, "minim 72," and the effect certainly sounded far more Wagnerian than that produced by the usual stolid version.

Mr. Malcolm Wilson, possessor of a baritone voice distinctly above the average, sang Wilfrid Sanderson's "Pass, Everyman, Pass!" in good style to the recitalist's excellent pianoforte accompaniment. At next Thursday's recital, Mr. Horner will render characteristic compositions of Bach, Handel, Rheinberger, and Elgar.

Adv. 13-4-31

FARMERS' PROBLEMS

Professor Richardson Explains

MACHINERY COSTS

Some of the problems of the farmer were placed so well before the Federal Public Accounts Committee on Saturday by Professor A. E. V. Richardson, director of the Waite Institute of Agricultural Research, that the chairman (Mr. P. E. Colman, M.H.R.), acknowledged that it was the most interesting evidence so far placed before the committee.

"About £1,000,000 a year must be charged to the agricultural industry in South Australia for depreciation of farm machinery," Professor Richardson said. He was explaining the increased costs imposed on farmers as a result of the Federal fiscal policy, which had greatly increased the cost of farm machinery.

In 1929 there was machinery to the total value of £7,985,000 in use on South Australian farms. This sum was represented largely by harvesting machinery which had a life of not more than five or six years. He would place the annual depreciation at somewhere about 12 1/2 per cent.

Some of this could be saved by lower prices for machinery, said Professor Richardson, but the farmer was penalised all round by the high cost of transport and other services.

Mallee Lands

"There is no fundamental reason why lands on the West Coast, with 10 inches of rainfall during the growing period, should not yield the same as the lower north," he continued.

It was an important economic fact that mallee land did not reach full productivity for 10 or 15 years, whereas



Dr. A. E. V. Richardson

on virgin grass land the maximum yield could be obtained with the first crop. He explained the necessity for burning off mallee shoots year after year. For this reason, many farmers on Eyre Peninsula were not following on account of the need for getting a good stubble burn every year. Otherwise, the land would have to be reclaimed. In the older settled regions, 90 per cent. of the wheat was grown on prepared fallow, whereas on Eyre Peninsula only about 29 per cent. of

the land was fallowed.

"The mallee farmer must be tided over until he has properly cleared his land," said Professor Richardson. "Settlement schemes that do not appear to be justified to-day in many instances, will be justified ultimately."

Subject to investigations now being carried out by the agricultural settlement committee, Professor Richardson estimated that eventually 1,500,000 acres would be cropped in the western districts, with an average yield of not less than 10 to 12 bushels. About 1,200,000 acres, with an average of 10 bushels, was the reasonable limit for the Murray mallee within the next 20 years.

Professor Richardson said there had been mistakes in land settlement in the past, as the result of Federal policy. Mistakes had also been made by the States in their enthusiasm to promote agriculture. It might have been wiser to "go slow," but that could not be done in the case of mallee lands. Roads, railways, and water services had to be prepared from the outset to enable the farmer to make a living.

"Had we taken ten years over the settlement of returned soldiers instead of trying to do it in two years," he declared, "we should have had time to get the land at a reasonable price and also to avoid over-production of things for which there was obviously no overseas market. Nevertheless, the sentiment of the time made haste inevitable, and the Commonwealth was equally to blame, through urging the States to press on with land settlement."

"Do Not Fear Russian Wheat"

Touching on another phase, Professor Richardson said, "I do not fear the competition of Russian wheat. If Australia can get back to the pre-war ratio of internal prices to export levels, and provided that research and educational services can be maintained, we can grow wheat in competition with the world." In the period 1908-13, the internal price level was represented by 100, and in 1920 it was 236. This had fallen, by 1929, to 172, but the price of primary products was well below the pre-war level. South Australia was absolutely dependant on primary production, particularly wheat, which, with wool, was the least pampered industry in Australia.

Fiscal Adjustment Necessary

The higher internal price level was the inevitable result of Federal fiscal policy, the encouragement of secondary industry and Arbitration Court awards, which led to an increase in the cost of every commodity the farmer used, said Professor Richardson. He could see no hope for the future without fiscal adjustment or a great increase in agricultural efficiency.

Increased efficiency could be brought about by research and more facilities for agricultural instruction, he said. Good work was now being done by the departmental instructors (of which more could be provided) and the Agricultural Bureau.

Lead the World in Dry Farming

In reply to a question put by a member of the committee, Professor Richardson said it was difficult to make a comparison between the efficiency of farmers in Australia and those in other parts of the world, owing to climatic differences. Nevertheless, he had noticed in his travels that Australia led the world in regard to the utilisation of dry lands. They could profitably farm land which was considered impossible in other parts of the world. "In America a 15 inch rainfall is considered the lowest limit of wheat growing" he said.

Adv. 14-4-31

COST OF EDUCATION

Although the Education Department is the last in which a spirit of blind economy should be allowed to operate, it will be surprising if the committee appointed to enquire into its working has no suggestions to offer, as to how savings can be effected, additional to those made last year. When it is known that the annual cost of education has risen in six years from £795,376 to £1,088,412, it is difficult for taxpayers to help persuading themselves that their pockets are unduly raided. A good deal of this expenditure is unavoidable, and the difficulty of meeting it, like that of meeting other obligations, is due to the disabilities which South Australia, like the rest of the smaller States, is suffering under Federation. But the fact that a large proportion of the expenditure cannot be escaped, does not relieve the Government and Parliament of the necessity of eliminating whatever expenditure cannot, in the present state

of the Treasury, be shown to be indispensable to the welfare of the rising generation. Outlay on education, which, in happier times, might have been approved, even when not vitally necessary, is inexcusable when the State requires every ounce of financial strength to keep the wolf at bay.

Many critics have come to look askance at free education carried beyond the primary stage. Early this month, Professor Kerr Grant, whose right to speak on the subject as an educationist of forty years standing is indisputable, ventured the opinion that the average young man would be better without a good deal of what the State, in the provision of secondary schools, tried in its generosity to do for him. Professor Grant appropriately recalled the case of Michael Faraday—in connection with whose epoch-making discoveries, preparations for a centennial celebration are proceeding—as showing what a youth, laboring under every social disadvantage, could do for himself, when thrown on his own resources. Not long previously, the Bishop of Port Augusta (Dr. Killian), discoursing on

the same theme, complained of the number of quite well-to-do people who thought it no disgrace to be beholden to the taxpayers for the secondary education of their children. When the State made primary education compulsory, justice could always be pleaded for making it free, too. If the nation prescribes a course, it should, like an individual, pay for it. But whether a student attends a secondary or technical school or not, is a matter for himself or his parents; and one cannot but agree with Dr. Killian that those who "spend hundreds of pounds on frivolities and amusements" might fairly be expected not to inflict an unnecessary burden on the taxpayers. Were fees charged for admission to the State high schools, as they are for private high schools, no harm would be done to those who could not pay them, since there are always bursaries to enable poor children of more than average ability to drink as deeply as they please of the Pierian spring. There is, too, the Workers' Education Association, to enable adults to fill up any gap in their mental equipment which the schools have left. We note that the closing of small schools, and the correlative extension of the correspondence system, has had no small share of attention from the committee which is enquiring into our education system. This gives point to the rather disparaging view of "long-distance education," as it is sometimes called, expressed by the Director of Education in his evidence before the Federal Parliamentary Committee of Public Accounts last week. If it is the experience of South Australia that the correspondence schools are only 60 per cent. as efficient as the ordinary country schools, it is not the experience of New South Wales, where education by post has had a much longer run than in any other part of Australia. Four years ago the Director of Education in the senior State spoke of the "amazing success" of this form of education, which has several obvious advantages, one being that it brings education into the home itself, enlisting for it the interest and co-operation of every decent parent, and another that it lifts the relations between teacher and child out of the formal into the friendly category. If an extension of the system will give us the economy we must have, we need not be deterred from adopting it because of any doubt of its efficiency.

The new Economic Club was formed on Tuesday night, at an inaugural meeting of University students who are studying for the degree of economics. The club aims at developing a spirit of good fellowship amongst members, and the scientific study of national problems. Officers are—Messrs. J. B. Blair (chairman), A. A. B. Cooper (secretary), N. Angel (treasurer), R. B. Dawson and L. T. Evans (committee).

Adv. 16-4-31

CONSERVATORIUM ORGAN RECITALS

For the second of Mr. John Horner's new series of lunch hour organ recitals, the Elder Conservatorium Hall was thronged yesterday. Opening with Bach's great A Minor prelude and Fugue, rendered in clear, well-phrased fashion which brought out its essential beauty and dignity, Handel's "Berenice" minuet followed. This delightful composition, with its flowing melody, presented in well-contrasted tone colors, proved particularly pleasing. In vivid contrast came Rheinberger's scholarly pastorelle on a mediaeval psalm tone finale from his third sonata. This received strikingly effective treatment, and created a deep impression. The recital ended with a brilliant rendering of Elgar's first "Pomp and Circumstance" march, in which the glorious theme that was afterwards made to do duty for the refrain of "Land of Hope and Glory" came out splendidly on richly resonant solo stops. Miss Rita Nelson sang "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings" (Liddle) clearly, melodiously, and expressively, to the pianoforte accompaniment of Miss Gwen Paul, and the organ accompaniment of the recitalist. At Mr. Horner's next recital, on April 23, he will render characteristic compositions of Bach, Beethoven, Widor, Gigout, and Schubert.

News 16-4-31

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM

Syllabus for 1931 Series of Concerts

The syllabus for the 1931 series of concerts arranged by Dr. E. Harold Davies (director of the Elder Conservatorium) is available at all music stores or at the Conservatorium. These concerts, which are always held on Monday evenings, offer to students as well as to lovers of music an ideal opportunity to hear a great variety of musical works at a nominal cost. First concert will be given on Monday, April 20, in the Conservatorium Hall, in which important works will be played by the string quartet. Intending patrons may obtain a season ticket which will entitle them to a reserved seat at all concerts, or single tickets may be reserved at Allan's box office for each separate concert. Plan opens on Monday.

Adv. 20-4-31

COST OF EDUCATION

IMPORTANT REDUCTIONS EFFECTED

To the Editor

Sir—The figures quoted in your leader about the cost of education on April 14 do not reveal all the facts. The figures published in the report of the Minister of Education for 1929 show a reduction from £1,112,811 in 1926 to £1,088,412 in 1929, and a further reduction has already been foreshadowed in your columns. It is evident from a perusal of the Minister's report that only "vitally necessary" expenditure is being incurred by the department.

Though we hold the highest opinion of Professor Kerr Grant as a physicist and mathematician, we do not recognise him as an authority on education. To assume that because Professor Grant has a brilliant record as a physicist he is an authority on education, is logically fallacious. The case of Michael Faraday does not prove anything. There have been thousands of boys since Faraday who "have been laboring under every social disadvantage" and "have been thrown on their resources," but who have not turned out to be Faradays simply because they lacked Faraday's genius. It would be interesting to learn if Professor Kerr Grant's views on education coincide with those of other professors at the University.

Secondary education, both of the academic type and the technical, is recognised as a necessary part of education in all civilised countries, and the greatest need at the present time is to give our children the best preparation possible for the battle of life. The imposition of fees for secondary education will have the cruel effect of casting more children in search of work, of which there is so little prospect at present.

At no time has the Director of Education in this State disparaged the correspondence school system. On the contrary, his reports and his speeches prove that he, in addition to the Director of Education in New South Wales, acknowledges the "amazing success" of this form of education. But it would surprise all educationists if the Director of New South Wales considers that the correspondence scheme has any advantage over the school-room method of education. We can only conclude that you have not the full text of his remarks on the subject.—I am, Sir, &c.,

F. R. FORGAN, General secretary, S.A. Public Teachers' Union.