

## TAX ON BOOKS

### Protest From Adelaide

Booksellers, literary societies, educational authorities, and readers view with alarm the heavy additions made in the taxation on imported books and periodicals under the Federal Budget.

The chairman of the Booksellers' Association (Mr. Beavis B. Beck) stated yesterday that a tremendous burden was already being borne by the parents of school children and all students, because primage and sales tax added 60 to 85 per cent. to the English cost price. It was estimated that the latest increases in taxation would add 75 per cent. to landed cost.

A protest and a request for the exemption of all books and periodicals from primage and sales tax was sent last week to the Federal Cabinet and members," he added. "The message was sent on behalf of a conference of library, school, and reading interests, and meetings are to be held in other States for a similar purpose.

### "Sales May Diminish"

"The increases are so great that sales are expected to diminish, and the revenue obtained last year will not be realised this year. English periodicals, published at 1/-, and for which 1/8 is now paid here, will probably go up to 1/8. There are many anomalies also, which are irksome and inequitable. For instance, a phonetic journal is classed as advertising matter, and the retail price here is now 3/6. The exchange rate is in itself a heavy burden."

Mr. Beck added that the headmaster of one of the leading private colleges had estimated that parents had to pay nearly twice as much as they should for school books, owing to the amounts levied in taxation.

"The Tariff Board was strongly of opinion that a duty on books and periodicals would not be in the best interests of Australia," said Mr. J. Morley Bath, manager of Rigby, Ltd., wholesale and retail booksellers. "It was considered that unemployment would be caused owing to the dislocation of the book-selling trade, and the retaining of knowledge would be made more difficult."

## 'SAME OLD RUT'

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### Baden-Powell on Education System

### "ALL WRONG"

(News' Special Representative)

LONDON, July 14.

"THEY are fine boys and girls in Australasia, but the educationalists are following the example of Britain and are bringing up the children by mass production methods. That is all wrong," said Lord Baden-Powell in an interview.

The Chief Scout, who recently returned from Australasia, continued:—"I have watched the modern child's mind changing since the Scout movement began in 1888, but the authorities are still in the same old rut. Modern youth demands freedom and does not want reading, writing, and arithmetic. On the contrary it clamors for self-expression. Yet educationalists pack the children into classrooms to evolve on a mass production model."

"Can we survive if we continue to hold the theory that children can be equipped by a process similar to that of turning out a cheap motor car?" he asked. He added that there should be smaller school classes and every child should be carefully nurtured.

### "FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS"

Mr. W. J. Adey (Director of Education), commenting on the message, said this afternoon that Lord Baden-Powell's criticisms of modern education were quite reasonable. "Educationalists throughout the world realised the need for less stereotyped teaching and efforts were being made to meet the needs of the modern child."

Smaller classes were operating already, and opportunities for more freedom and self-development were given all children. The system of educationalists throughout the world realised the need for more elastic ways than ever before.

"As far as I know," said Mr. Adey, "Lord Baden-Powell did not visit any of the departmental schools in South Australia while he was here. Financial limitations prevent education becoming the ideal thing which Lord Baden-Powell evidently has in mind," he concluded.

Mr. Anthony, in the Assembly this afternoon, drew the attention of the Hon. L. L. Hill (Premier) to the cable message. The Premier said that he had not seen it, but would bring it under the notice of the Director of Education.

## Education Costs

THE report of the Education Committee, which was prepared for the guidance of the Advisory Committee on State Finance and the Government, shows that a careful investigation has been made of the education system of the State, and that the problems it presents have been studied from the standpoint of the financial position of South Australia and from that of the necessity of giving the best training possible to the children.

Recommendations in the majority report presented by Mr. J. Wallace Sandford and Prof. J. McKellar Stewart include the closing of 154 small schools at which the average attendance is less than 10, reductions in travelling allowances for pupils, amalgamation of the smaller high schools, charging of fees for pupils attending high and higher primary schools, removal of domestic arts and woodwork from the syllabus of primary schools, reduction in the cost of administration of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery, decreased maintenance grants to students at the Teachers' College, increase in rentals paid by teachers for school residences, and abolition of bonuses to teachers.

Mr. W. J. Adey (Director of Education) prepared a minority report in which he said, "It is with reluctance and some misgiving for the future of super-primary education that I support the suggestion for fees."

Although there may be details which need modification, the majority report provides a basis upon which to start in effecting economies in the Education Department. It is surprising to learn that for the year ended June 30, 1930, the expenditure of the department was 34.9 per cent. of the total revenue of the State from direct taxation.

The attitude of Mr. Adey is understandable. Super-primary education has been his life study, and in the circumstances his agreement, even though it is "with reluctance and misgiving," in the suggestion for the charging of fees in the higher schools, is of great significance.

Because of the work of the committee Parliament has been provided with a foundation upon which to consider ends in expenditure on education. In doing so it must bear in mind the financial position of the State, and at the same time endeavor to avoid inflicting unnecessary hardship.

## BOOK TAX

### Position of Musical Associations

The committee appointed to press the protest voiced at the combined meeting of educational, professional, technical, social, political, musical, and religious bodies on Thursday night against the present Federal taxation and primage duties on books, met yesterday and made preliminary arrangements to carry on the campaign.

The following musical associations have joined in the protest:—Elder Conservatorium of Music, Bach Society, Musical Association of South Australia, Adelaide Philharmonic Orchestra, South Australian Orchestra, Adelaide Glass Club, Adelaide Probation Society, Musicians' Union, Adelaide Competitive Choir, News Symphony Orchestra, and Unley Orchestra.

A statement issued yesterday on behalf of these organisations stated that the increase in costs on all music, brought about by the sales tax, primage, demurrage and the difficulty in presenting original invoices to the Customs as well as the exchange rate, was practically pushing out of existence a number of musical societies and classes which had been established for many years. It had been the practice of societies and music teachers, to obtain their supplies from what is known as "professional discount." To the amazement of all, the Commissioner of Taxation had now ruled that any goods supplied at a discount were to be classed as wholesale, and therefore were subject to sales tax.

"Music and books are most essential to the advancement of knowledge," the statement continues, "and the reputation of a civilized country is known and judged by its attitude to the fine arts."

Because of its inability to pay the taxation demanded by the Federal Government, the Melbourne Public Library is unable to avail itself of an offer of a valuable collection of British musical works. Students and teachers of music have suffered from the depression. Among the latter unemployment and privation are already widespread, and the imposition of other disabilities must necessarily increase the suffering already existing.

Among the associations represented at the meeting on Thursday night were the Justices' Association, and the Boy Scouts' Association.