

Adv. 9-4-30

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA

A FRIENDLY SUGGESTION

To the Editor.

Sir—It is generally understood that this orchestra may pass out of existence unless considerably increased support is given to this venture during the coming season. While not wishing to detract from the painstaking work being done by the present conductor, yet one cannot but think that public interest would be much increased were a conductor from one of the eastern States engaged to conduct our orchestra for a season. The policy of introducing fresh conductors is adopted by many orchestras in England and on the Continent, resulting in renewed interest among musicians and public alike. Could not Mr. Fritz Hart, of Melbourne, be engaged for the 1930 season. The Melbourne Town Hall is literally packed when he conducts in that metropolis, and I am sure that the vividness of his interpretations and allround musical qualities of this musician would be a revelation to the supporters of orchestral music in Adelaide. I would gladly head a list of subscribers to a fund to pay the necessary expenses of such a conductor as Mr. Fritz Hart.—I am, sir, &c.

JOHN DEMPSTER, City Organist.

Adv. 9-4-30

South Australian Orchestra
From "South Australian":—I do not think there is any chance of Mr. John Dempster's suggestion to get Mr. Fitz Hart, of Melbourne, to conduct the South Australian Orchestra being put into effect. Mr. Fitz Hart in Melbourne does no more than the South Australian conductor does in Adelaide. Whenever one of our classical programmes is put on, the Town Hall is insufficient to hold the crowd. Very few conductors in Australia can compare with the South Australian conductor, and this is not to be wondered at considering his musical abilities and international experiences. I have seen both gentlemen conduct, and can appreciate what they are putting in to give to the people only of the best.

From "Dissatisfied":—The City organist, Mr. John Dempster, suggests that there is a possibility of the South Australian Orchestra passing out of existence. I am inclined to agree with him, that a change of conductor may solve the problem. But would it not be better to have a frequent change, and to occasionally give some of our younger conductors an opportunity. The interest would be tenfold, if (say) Mr. Fritz Hart should conduct the first concert; Professor Harold Davies, the second; and then say, Norman Sellick, or one other of our promising young conductors. Who can tell but what a Toscanini may be unearthed.

Reg. 9-4-30

Professor A. E. V. Richardson (Director Waite Research Institute) left yesterday for Melbourne to attend a meeting of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. He will return on Saturday.

Adv. 10-4-30

South Australian Orchestra
From C. H. Souter, North Adelaide:—The letter from Mr. John Dempster can hardly be allowed to pass without notice. How a strange conductor can be expected to get more out of an orchestra than one who has brought it to a remarkably efficient state, is a question that the ordinary amateur may well be excused from attempting to answer. I wonder if any professional could tell us? It is rather late in the day for us to express our admiration for the work of the South Australian Orchestra, and its able and enthusiastic conductor; but if there be any money available for the purpose it should be given for the support and upkeep of the orchestra itself, and not for the importation of what one may be excused for calling foreign talent. If our orchestra were in Melbourne, under Mr. W. H. Foote, it might, and probably would, attract as large and enthusiastic audiences as that under Mr. Fritz Hart, and for as long periods.

From "Gamba":—That "friendly suggestion" moves me to proffer yet another. Cannot we have visiting organists from Melbourne for civic recitals here? What is sauce for the orchestral goose should, I think, be condiment for the organ gander. If "Dissatisfied" agrees, perhaps he would further exercise his genius as a selection committee of one.

Reg. 10-4-30

The Senate of the University of Adelaide at its meeting next Wednesday will deal with the election of a member of the Council. There is only one nomination, that of Professor Kerr Grant.

Mr. R. J. M. Lucas, Librarian of the Adelaide University, is still confined to his bed, and it will be a considerable time before he is able to resume duty.



Prof. Kerr Grant

adv. 12-4-30

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA

ITS EFFICIENCY QUESTIONED

To the Editor

Sir—One of the correspondents, in dealing with the South Australian Orchestra, said that it was "remarkably efficient." Of course, I know that Sylvia Whittington and Harold Parsons are members; but these and a few others do not make the orchestra. An orchestra is no stronger than its weakest players, and goodness knows, there are a number of them who should be in the students' orchestra. I wonder what Harold Parsons and Sylvia Whittington would say if they were asked what they sometimes thought of the orchestra; only it would not do to let the professor be listening. When some amateurs rush into print trying to ram down people's necks that the South Australian Orchestra is remarkably efficient, and that we have the finest conductor in Australia, then it is time that the public of South Australia should be enlightened. However, enough of that. Mr. Hill the other day made mention that £50,000 was paid annually to the University. If Mr. Hill is genuine in his efforts to relieve unemployment in South Australia he might divide some of this money amongst the musicians who were thrown out of employment on account of the talkies. What is the secretary of the Musicians' Union doing in the matter? He is very quiet. I should think if he were to organise an orchestra from the unemployed musicians that he would get some assistance from Mr. Hill, and then perhaps we would hear a little better music. Living in hopes.—I am, sir, &c.,

GLENELG.

Adv. 14-4-30

S.A. ORCHESTRA

To the Editor

Sir—Will "Counterpoint" please enlighten me as to what Mr. Foote's "vast Continental experience" consists of? Was it as an orchestral conductor? I think that a few years ago, when the orchestra was conducted by Dr. Harold Davies, and Mr. Foote was a playing member, a very much better standard was maintained than exists at present. There are many local musical enterprises that I would rather support, in the way of financial assistance, than the South Australian Orchestra as now conducted.—I am, Sir, &c.,

"CANON," Rose Park.

Reg. 15-4-30

FIRST CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT FOR YEAR

Students Reach High Standard

At the first concert of the season given by advanced students at the Elder Conservatorium last night, performances reached a high standard.

In the piano-forte group, the outstanding item was Bach's Sonata in E flat for two pianos, played with fine interpretation by Misses Jean Finlay and Joan Mellowship. Other good piano-forte work was done by Miss Betty Solomon, Miss Jessica Dix, and Miss Jean Virgo. Mr. Norman Chinner's organ solo, Sonata-Pascale (first movement), Lemmens, was played with fine musicianship. Miss Edith Chadwick's singing of If Thou Art Near (Bach) and Blise (Schubert) was one of the most artistic performances of the evening. Miss Joy Badenoch was another to distinguish herself vocally, and Miss Iris Hart, Mrs. Dulcie Hocking, and Mr. Gerald Moyse also gave good performances.

In the instrumental section the Quintette, Op. 44 in E flat (first movement) by Schumann was much enjoyed. It was performed by members of the ensemble class and the whole presentation was excellent. Miss Katie Yeager's violin solo, Sonata in G minor (first and second movements, by Tartini) was cleverly expressed, and Miss Ella Solomon was applauded for her rendering of Ries' Adagio. Messrs. James and Alan Gibbs gave Sebastian Lee's Duo for two celli. Accompanists were Misses Alice Meehan, Jean Barbour, and Jean Renou.

NEW LABORATORY FOR WAITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

GOVERNOR LAYS FOUNDATION-STONE

Gift of the Family of Mr. John Darling

The value of the application of science to agriculture was stressed by his Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven) yesterday at the laying of the foundation-stone of the John Darling laboratory at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute.

The erection of the new building was made possible through the gift of £10,000 by the family of Mr. John Darling. It will form the northern wing of the laboratory block, of which the Sir John Melrose building is the southern wing.

The Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) presided, and with him on the platform were the Governor, Lady Hore-Ruthven, the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell), the warden of the Senate (Mr. Justice Angus Parsons), the Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council (Senator J. J. Daly), the Premier-elect (Hon. L. L. Hill), the ex-Premier (Hon. R. L. Butler), the Director of the Waite Institute (Professor A. E. V. Richardson), Sir Langdon Bonython, Hons. J. Cowan and W. H. Harvey, Dr. F. S. Hone, Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, and Mr. W. J. Young. The Lord Mayor (Mr. Lavington Bonython) and the Lady Mayoress were also present, as well as the Director of Education (Mr. W. J. Adey), Messrs. W. R. Bayly, W. J. Isbister, K.C., and A. J. Price, members of the Council of the University.

Generosity of Donors

Sir George Murray said the laying of the foundation-stone represented one more contribution by private donors to the institution founded through the beneficence of Mr. Peter Waite. It had been proposed by the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research that it should co-operate with the University of Adelaide in soils research at the Waite Institute under Professor A. J. Prescott. The council undertook to provide and pay for extra equipment and additional staff, and asked that the University should provide the laboratories. The University had no funds, but Mr. Harold Darling, on behalf of himself and brothers and sisters, gave £10,000 to enable the building to be erected. The act of the Darling family in coming forward at a critical moment and their generosity in providing the whole of the funds required for the building placed the University, the people of South Australia and of Australia generally, under a lasting obligation to them. (Applause.) It was not the first gift they had made to the University. In 1920 they presented £15,000 for the erection of a building which accommodated the larger part of the medical school, and which bore the honored name of their father, Mr. John Darling. They thus stood high among the great benefactors to whom the University was deeply indebted. No other University in Australia had received so many gifts of large amounts from private citizens of its own State as the University of Adelaide. (Applause.) The names of Hughes, Elder, Waite, Bonython, Barr Smith, Angus, Darling, Jury, Vere Melrose, Symons, Marks, and Kell Sheridan readily appealed to one. The present gift of the Darling family made their name doubly conspicuous. He hesitated to put it that way, for the desire to be conspicuous was repugnant to them. Their only wish had been to help a cause which they believed worthy of their support. (Applause.)

Assistance of Governments

They should not be unmindful also of the assistance which had been rendered the Institute by successive Governments and Parliaments of the State and by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. The new building would be the northern wing of the block of which the laboratory presented by Sir John Melrose was the southern wing. The central part was erected by money contributed partly by the University, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and the Empire Marketing Board in London. In the Waite Institute they had an institution unique in Australia, and which, he believed, was destined to become famous the world over. Overseas scientists like Sir John Russell and Dr. Orr had been impressed by the excellence of its organization and by its promise to benefit agricultural interests of Australia. Their wish was that the name of his

Excellency would be preserved while the stone lasted as that of one who was associated with the early history of the Waite Institute and one who gratefully co-operated in achieving its success. (Applause.)

Compliment to South Australia

His Excellency, after referring to the generosity of Sir John Melrose and the Darling family, said the offer of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research was a compliment to South Australia and the Waite Institute, and it showed the high opinion which existed among the authorities as to the value of the Waite Institute and the way it was organised, administered, and staffed. There were many private and patriotic citizens in South Australia, who did everything they could to endow and assist institutions which helped the general progress of the State, and he believed that the record of the State in that respect was probably unique. The



Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven

fact, in spite of the financial depression and the difficult times they were passing through, that they invariably found that anything which would be of benefit to the State would never languish for funds was sufficient proof of that. What could be of more practical value to Australia than the encouragement of scientific agricultural research and the systematic investigation of soils problems, which was so essential to the development of the agricultural resources of the State. So the Darling family they had an institution which probably ranked among the finest in the world. It was almost impossible to assess its value. (Applause.)

Increasing Export Trade

He thought he was right in saying that probably one of the most momentous problems they had to solve at present was how to increase the volume of Australia's export trade in the commodities of which they produced a surplus, and how to adjust their adverse trade balance and restore credit overseas by increasing the export of primary products. They also wanted to improve the quality of their primary products. Competition was becoming greater every day. They had to compete against countries that were always looking out for new ideas, countries which had a lower standard of living, countries where labor was less highly paid, and countries which were thousands of miles nearer to the great markets of the world. They were serious drawbacks. It was only by increasing the productivity of every acre, man, and animal that they could possibly hope to hold their own. It was only by doing everything possible to lower the cost of production that they could counteract the disadvantages under which they labored. Anything that tended to lower the cost of production in their primary industries was of great value to the State, and anything that tended to increase it had the opposite effect. That was why in any scheme put forward for the benefit of the country they had to ask whether it directly or indirectly affected the cost of production of the primary industries. There was another side to the question they could not ignore. Science was also finding substitutes for primary products, and the price of them was rather inclined to fall than to rise. Those were difficulties they had to consider, and it was only by scientific development that their primary industries could be sustained against the competition of the world. He thought that science would furnish a very valuable and solid contribution to the solution of some of their most pressing problems. Unfortunately, without financial assistance scientific research could not be exploited to its fullest extent.