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ment of the natives. In answer to those who asked for permission to shoot the aborigines the latter said that he would never allow the innocent and the guilty to be punished in that way, and demanded that offenders should be brought to Adelaide to be tried in the Law Courts. Unfortunately, however, the position was too serious to prevent the battle at the Rufus River between a police party sent out by Sir George Grey and 150 natives—the greatest battle ever fought in Australia. One hundred and fifty natives, armed with 400 spears, took part in that engagement, and 30 of them were killed and 10 wounded. The police fired on them only under the most imperative necessity. On the return of the party to Adelaide an enquiry was held, and the Chairman of the Board was Capt. Sturt. By the way, he hoped they would all join some day in honouring Sturt. He was beginning to think, although he was not emphatic on the point, that that man was the greatest explorer Australia had known. (Cheers.) The result of the enquiry was a vindication of the doings of the police party. Under Sir George Grey's administration, however, the most amicable and satisfactory relations had been established with the natives by 1844. An impression prevailed in South Australia that the aboriginal tribes on the banks of the Murray were the most ferocious in Australia, but he had come across no evidence to confirm that belief, and the authority of Capt. Sturt and John Edward Eyre was in an opposite direction.

—Civilizing, Not Conquering.—

Sir George Grey was interested in the civilizing, not the conquering, of the natives, and he went about it in two ways. Lord Stanley had written to him:—"I believe the best way to civilize a native is to make him do a fair day's work for a fair day's pay." There was much to be said in favour of that method. When he was in South Africa recently he was convinced that the greatly maligned De Beers Company had done a lot towards civilizing the natives by merely employing them on its mines. The effect on the life of a native who had regular work was very great. Sir George Grey resorted to extraordinary expedients in putting Lord Stanley's theory into practice, and one of them was to pay the niggers three times a day instead of once. (Laughter.) He found that much was to be gained by dividing their pay in this way—by keeping the glittering coin before them. It was with the native children, however, that Sir George hoped to do the best of his work. He wrote to the Secretary of State in 1844:—

"The whole of my experience in Australia has led me to conclude that no means are more likely ultimately to bring about the civilization of the aborigines than bestowing a useful education on the children, and by having them brought up in quiet and respectable European families." He established three schools for the aboriginal children—at Walkerville, Port Lincoln, and Encounter Bay, and the most prosperous was the first named. He was afraid that the result was not very important. Old despatches disclosed the fact that Gladstone had written asking why no reports had been forwarded relative to the Port Lincoln and Encounter Bay schools, and enquiring the reason for the decreased attendance at the Walkerville School—a fact which suggested its own tale. Still, Sir George Grey should not be discredited for the failure of his educational scheme. (Hear, hear.) The question was whether, when they got Europeans and native races side by side, it was possible to civilize the latter before they were practically exterminated, not necessarily by violence, but through the bad habits of the whites which the natives unfortunately too readily assimilated without at the same time embracing the virtues of their superiors. (Laughter and cheers.) It had been said that intellectually, the native children were on a level with the average European, but it was one thing to perceive something intellectual and another thing to live up to a higher standard. It was impossible to eradicate in a generation or two habits formed by the customs of centuries. The English people had realized that, and the Kaffirs were now allowed to live their own lives in Africa so long as they did not violate the fundamental laws of civilization. Sir George Grey acknowledged the zealous assistance he received from the colonists of South Australia in his efforts to civilize the natives, and specially mentioned four German missionaries and the Wesleyan mission ladies.

—Superseding Gawler.—

Turning to the financial side of Sir George Grey's work, it was interesting to note that when Governor Gawler was in office the revenue of South Australia was £42,000 a year, mostly derived from duties on spirits and tobacco. Gawler was here for two years and seven months, during which time he spent £320,000, including £170,000 from May, 1840 to May, 1841. (Laughter.) Efforts to borrow in England failed, and when Sir George Grey arrived the colony was bankrupt. There was something in Gawler's contention, however, "that a young colony must have an outfit." There were surveys, roads, and bridges to make, and immigrants to support, and the revenue of the colony could not stand the strain. But while Gawler was enterprising and lavish in his expenditure, Grey, who succeeded him, was enterprising with economy. He set about the big task of equalizing the revenue and expenditure. He abolished the Government Stores Department and the office of registrar, the occupants of which was drawing £400 a year, although there was no Registration Act. (Laughter.) He cut down the expenses of the gaol by £800 and those of the post office by £600. In short, the expenditure was reduced to £28,000, and withal the efficiency of the public departments was not impaired. (Cheers.) At the same time the Imperial Government allowed the new Governor to spend half the money received from land sales to be spent on roads, bridges, surveys, and the natives, instead of it all going to the immigration fund. It also sanctioned the collection of duties on other imports not coming from England—the old country enjoyed colonial preference in those early days. (Cheers.) But the colony was bankrupt, and naturally the land sales fell off. Further, the people did not drink so much, which was really a serious matter—(laughter)—although, in other circumstances, Sir George Grey would have been delighted at the fact. At any rate the number of hotels decreased from 70 to 40, and that meant diminished revenue. In November, 1841, there were 2,227 people in South Australia

dependent on the Imperial Government for subsistence at a cost of £23,000 a year, their allowance being 1/8 a day and rations.

—Saved From Bankruptcy.—

The Imperial Government was getting tired of this, and almost decided to abandon South Australia, and to give orders for the removal of the immigrants to the control of Governors elsewhere. Sir George Grey came to the rescue. He cut down the money allowance by one-half, and knocked off the rations, and thus incurred frightful unpopularity in Adelaide. But he deserved to be considered a great and patient administrator. Everybody had landed in South Australia with the fixed idea of making a fortune. There was a mania among the people for land speculation, but nobody was willing to till the soil and develop the resources of the country. Sir George was determined to drive them into the country, so that they should make their way by steady industry instead of speculation, and his drastic treatment of the allowances was followed by the best effects, which told for the development of South Australia and the surmounting of her difficulties. Here were the results of his administration in a nutshell:—In 1810 the population was 14,610; in 1843 it was 17,366. In 1840 the area under cultivation was 2,503 acres; in 1843 the area was 28,600 acres. People were apt to attribute South Australia's sudden rise to the discovery of copper, but this country was on its way to prosperity before that metal had been found to any extent at all. The revenue and expenditure had been equalized in 1843. Copper was not worked to any extent before 1845, and in August, 1843 the Colonial Secretary (Lord John Russell) wrote to Sir George Grey as follows:—

"I have the satisfaction of assuring you that in reviewing your conduct of the financial affairs of South Australia, the Lords Commissioners concur with myself in attaching great importance to your services, and are not less ready than I am to acknowledge the zeal, the ability, and firmness which have characterized your efforts to retrieve the colony from the embarrassment in which it was involved. These efforts have happily been attended at length with complete success."

Sir George completely outlived his unpopularity, as was proved by the testimony which came to him from both the Imperial authorities and the citizens of Adelaide at the conclusion of his term. Lord John Russell, in the Imperial Parliament, declared that Sir George had solved the problem in South Australia with a degree of energy and success which he could hardly have expected from any man.

—The Foundation of Prosperity.—

He believed he could show by reference to the best evidence available that the prosperity of South Australia was due to the policy of Sir George Grey in compelling the people to fall back on the soil as the one way to relieve the colony of its embarrassment. He favoured rather the small settlers from the beginning to the end. Closer settlement was one of his cries from the time he left Ireland in 1836 to the time he left New Zealand in 1839, and he departed from South Australia with the colony in a flourishing condition. The Examiner, the only Adelaide newspaper that did not forgive him for his drastic policy, said on his departure:—"What a dust is made by the fly which sat on the axle-tree of the chariot." Preserving the metaphor, he might say that Sir George Grey was not the fly on the axle-tree, but the man on the box seat. When he took the reins the horses were plunging down hill at a maddening speed, but he managed to escape the precipice at the bottom, turned the horses' heads up the slope, and by 1843 the chariot had emerged from the wood on to the highway of prosperity, along which it had been travelling ever since. (Loud cheers.)

The lecture was followed by a series of limelight portraits, scenes of the early days, native drawings, and exploration maps. The next discourse will deal with Sir George Grey's Administration in South Africa.

Ad. 17th July.

THE TRAINING OF TEACHERS.

In his most recent report to the Inspector-General of Schools in respect to the working of the Education Department, Mr. C. L. Whitham, the Assistant Inspector-General of Schools, makes the following remarks on the subject of the training of teachers:—"I have had fair opportunities while at work in our most important schools to form an opinion as to the success or otherwise of our new system of training teachers. I admit that it is yet too soon to judge the system on its merits. It has, however, been in force long enough to discover some of its weak points, and it cannot be too soon to point out defects where defects are known to exist. There is no doubt whatever that in establishing the Pupil Teachers' School and the University Training College a great forward movement was made in the direction of getting a supply of men and women who would enter upon their great life work with deeper and wider knowledge than was ever possible under the old pupil teacher system. Nevertheless, from my own personal observation, and from the opinions expressed by several of our best teachers, it is evident that there is at present some weakness just where the old system was strong. The general complaint is that, both on their return from the Pupil Teachers' School and from the University Training College, many students, while having plenty to teach with their higher education, have lost so much in power of control and practical methods that much of the teaching is almost useless. Again, while under the old system our girl trainees received instruction in needlework all through their course, now this important branch of a girl's education is almost neglected. Again, while about one-ninth of our school children are infants, our present system makes no provision whatever for the training of special infant teachers. While in the infant classes the foundations of a real education are laid, we have not in

South Australia, at the present time, a single specially-trained infant teacher, or a single up-to-date infant school. I am not, in saying this, in any way reflecting on the teachers at present in charge of our infant rooms; many are amongst the brightest and most resourceful of our teachers, and all are hard working, enthusiastic, and conscientious. The root of the matter lies in the defects of the training and in the want of means. It is well known that when the originators of the new training system fought so hard to bring relief to the long overworked pupil teachers, and give to the present generation of young teachers richer culture, it was contemplated that a necessary adjunct would be a thoroughly equipped and up-to-date practicing school, and the means for this school have never yet been provided. Admirable and efficient as our present system is in imparting culture, it will remain weak on the practical side—which is by no means the least important side—until the defects I have pointed out are in some way remedied. Few people set a higher value on culture than I do, but as long as we insist on the almost herculean task which requires our young men and women to stand up and teach a mixed class of 70 boys and girls, their higher culture is of little value, if they have not learned to keep those 70 boys and girls mentally active and strictly and quietly obedient."

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SIR GEORGE GREY IN AFRICA.

SECOND EXTENSION LECTURE.

A PLEA FOR FEDERATION.

At the Adelaide University on Tuesday evening Professor Henderson delivered his second extension lecture on Sir George Grey, the scope of which was his career in South Africa. The lecturer said that Grey was sent to Africa mainly because he had been so successful in governing the natives of New Zealand, where he had secured the attachment and loyalty of the Maoris. One of the man's principal characteristics was his sensitive regard for justice—his passion for the poor and the oppressed.

—British Kaffraria.—

Sir George Grey had to face in South Africa the very difficult Kaffir question, and Earl Grey, when Colonial Secretary, expressed the belief that had Sir George enjoyed a free hand the British Government would have experienced no trouble with the natives. Even Bulwer Lytton, who recalled him, paid a high tribute to his ability, and spoke of his great power of extracting good from evil. The method adopted by Grey in dealing with the Kaffirs was to amalgamate the race with Europeans. His policy was summed up in the word "Unity." The lecturer described his plan for subordinating the authority of the chief to that of the British Government in the administration of justice, and referred to his efforts to sweep away the authority of the witch doctors, the influence of magic, and the power of charms in Kaffirland. The strange fanaticism, however, existed to-day, for when he was in Capetown recently making his researches he learned that the scientific methods of Europeans were making no headway against the native belief in magic and witchcraft. Sir George Grey, however, did an immense amount of good by building the hospital at King William's Town, erecting industrial schools, finding the Kaffirs employment, and promoting European settlement in their midst.

—The Boer States.—

One of the most interesting questions Grey had to deal with in Africa was that concerning the Boers. England had come to the determination to emancipate all the slaves in her territory, and the Boers, being discontented with that policy, had made their great trek north of the Orange River in 1836. He believed, however, that the strongest reason for that trek was the nomadic habits of the Boers fostered through many years of frontier life. It was worth remembering that many of the Boers were driven almost bankrupt by reason of the rapidity with which England's slave emancipation policy was carried into effect. He believed that the Imperial authorities erred on the side of generosity in their treatment of the Kaffirs. It was a positive injury—it proved to be cruelly so in the case of the Kaffirs—to grant a man a great number of rights before he had reasonable capacity to exercise them towards good ends. That fact was illustrated, among other ways, in regard to the use of liquor without restraint by the Kaffirs. Cecil Rhodes described that race as being "able-bodied children," and it was a mistake therefore to treat them as fully developed men. The Boers considered that severe discipline was absolutely essential to keep the Kaffirs in their place, and they too, erred very much in their policy, which had not the leniency of England's scheme to recommend it. It could not be proved that the Boers were slave holders in a legal sense. They adopted a form of apprenticeship for the natives, but what was not legal slavery might be virtual slavery. In mitigation of the Boers' policy it must be said that although a commando would treat the Kaffirs cruelly, the Boers individually were kind to them. The French revolution had gone completely over their heads. The great movement in England, which idealized primitive man, and other happenings that had altered the trend of thought in Europe, did not operate on the Boers because they lived apart from the world, and knew nothing of the terrific upheaval that had occurred in