

Req. 22nd October, 1903.

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THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

ARRIVAL OF DR. PARKIN. THE SCHEME EXPLAINED.

A man of high scholarly attainments and with a thorough knowledge of modern educational movements and tendencies, Dr. G. R. Parkin, C.M.G., is eminently fitted to carry out the important work associated with the elucidation of the Cecil Rhodes Scholarships scheme. Dr. Parkin, who arrived in Adelaide on Wednesday morning, is principal of the Upper Canada College, Toronto, and has visited various parts of the empire in behalf of Lord Rosebery, Lord Grey, Lord Milner, Dr. Jameson, Sir Lewis Mitchell (of Capetown), Mr. Alfred Beit, and Mr. Hawkesley, who are the seven trustees under the will. He has already travelled through Canada, the United States, South Africa, and New Zealand, and when he leaves Western Australia he will have completed his tour of the Commonwealth. Dr. Parkin possesses a remarkable personality, and his speech stamps him as a man of broad intellectual sympathies. He spent his boyhood with 12 brothers and sisters on a Canadian farm, and when 16 years of age left home to enter upon a university course, which was obtained by dint of personal energy and courage, and unaided by either social influence or monetary assistance. The present is not his first visit to Adelaide.

Dr. Parkin considers the Rhodes Scholarships scheme to be the most liberal of its kind in the world. "If I were younger," he remarked, "I'd work the tips of my fingers off to secure the remarkable advantages which one of the Rhodes Scholarships will embody. As a youngster, I spent hours at night studying my Greek; and, if I were a young man to-day, with this golden opportunity before me, I would work with an enthusiasm perhaps even greater than that which marked my efforts to educate myself as a boy."

Speaking of the allocation of the scholarships, Dr. Parkin remarked:—"The first selection for Australia, which will send 18 scholars, will be made in 1904, the students chosen going into residence at Oxford in October of that year. It will be three years before the scheme is in full operation, and then there will be nearly 200 students enjoying the scholarships at Oxford. They will receive an allowance of £300 a year, and the scholarships will exist practically for all time. Mr. Rhodes took every care that the fund should have the greatest possible security."

Mr. Rhodes left not merely the money for the great scheme, but also the whole of the residuum of his estate. It is a somewhat interesting fact that while the money has been left personally and individually to the trustees, a body of men with a wide national view, it has been made known that they propose to use it as a national trust. The scholarships will probably mean an expenditure of between £50,000 and £60,000 a year. The scheme covers the greater and smaller states in the English-speaking portions of the empire, and also in the United States, and in a lesser degree Germany. South Australia, like the other states in the Commonwealth, will have under the scheme an opportunity of sending three students to Oxford. That will mean that your state will enjoy an expenditure of £900 every year. One scholarship will be allotted next year, the other in the following year, and the third 12 months after that, so that when the scheme is in full working order there will be three young men from South Australia continuously at the college.

Regarding the allowance to the Rhodes scholar, it is an interesting fact that the expenditure of the present students at Oxford averages between £175 and £250 a year, so that the allowance of £300, which will be made under our scheme, must be considered a liberal one. There is no need for a student to spend more than £250 during his three years' course at Oxford in trying to get out of the university the best advantages, both educationally and socially. Even then he should have sufficient left to enable him to spend a holiday during vacation, and I would strongly advise the Rhodes scholars from these parts to spend their holidays in Germany or France, so that they might pick up the Continental languages, and thus add greatly to their educational course. When the whole of the students are at work at Oxford there will be close on 200 young men as a result of the magnificent bequest made by the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes. About half of this number will come from the colonies, and the remainder from Germany and the United States.

"My object in visiting all parts of the empire is to carry out the somewhat difficult task of arranging for the selection of candidates in each state or province. I have already done this in the United States, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, and all the Australian States except this one and Western Australia. The trustees find it impossible to adopt any system which will embrace the varying conditions in all the countries interested, because the educational advantages are so very different. The chief point they keep in view is that the method of selection will secure complete impartiality without reference to political, denominational, or any other influence. The trustees naturally are anxious that the best men shall be sent to Oxford. The main question which I have to settle is regarding the age of the scholar and his collegiate standing. That is obviously a delicate and important task, but by interviews with the various educational authorities I hope to be able to satisfactorily accomplish it. In the United States and Canada the age limit generally favoured is between 19 and 25, and as far as I have been able to ascertain during my tour in these parts the opinion of the authorities

is in favour of somewhere about the latter age. New South Wales has decided to send graduates of the university; Queensland, boys from the school; and New Zealand has insisted upon a two years' university life; so has Tasmania. The Victorian officials are somewhat doubtful as to whether it should be the university graduate or the boy from school. Of course, I have yet to find out the wishes of the South Australian people.

"The qualification of the students is that they shall be up to the requirements of the Oxford University. The Rhodes trustees hold the view that no man should be sent to the college as a holder of a scholarship with an education lower than that which should gain him admission into a university. In addition to the other requirements Oxford is now asking for a knowledge of Greek. Besides all this, it was the wish of Mr. Rhodes that the students should be sound in wind and limb, and that they should possess an athletic record and should have earned the testimony of their master and teacher as to their force of character and promise of future influence. You will see, therefore, that a very great deal depends upon those appointed to select the scholars."

Dr. Parkin will leave for Western Australia on Thursday next, and during his stay in Adelaide he will meet the representatives of the university, secondary schools, and other educational institutions.

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AMUSEMENTS.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

The annual concert by the ladies' part-singing class, conducted by Miss Guli Hack, A.R.C.M., took place at the Elder Conservatorium on Thursday evening, and attracted one of the largest audiences seen at the institution for this year. A programme containing five pieces new to Adelaide, and of fair musical importance, was presented with a large measure of success, and the concert proved both interesting and enjoyable. The two most important items were Pergolesi's "Stabat mater," which opened the programme, and Jadasohn's "Midsummer Day," a romantic and tender little cantata. In these, and indeed throughout the concert, the work done by the chorus—a large, powerful, and well-balanced contingent—calls for warm praise; their attack was invariably good, the intonation satisfactory, and the signs of expression were observed with commendable unity and taste. The soprano solos in the "Stabat mater" were given with admirable finish and intelligence by Miss Katie Joyce, and the contralto role was well sustained by Miss Nellie Jarvis, though on one or two occasions she manifested a tendency to slightly deviate from the pitch. The remaining soloists were Misses Nellie Beck, and May Otto, and Mrs. Clayer. A small orchestra of strings, led by Mr. Eugene Alderman, rendered excellent service in the accompaniments. In Jadasohn's cantata the chorus again gave a good account of themselves, and sang with gratifying brightness and vigour. One of the heaviest solo parts devolved upon Miss Jarvis, who interpreted her numbers with strong dramatic feeling and much taste. Miss Martha Bruggemann also had an exacting part as the soprano soloist, but came through the ordeal in a most praiseworthy manner, and all her efforts gave evidences of careful and adequate preparation. Miss Ida Viner Smith, whose contralto voice is yet a little veiled in quality, presented a couple of the solos in a commendable manner. The accompaniments were capably played on the organ by Mr. A. H. Otto, and the pianoforte by Miss Violet Parkinson. Tchaikowsky's little work, "Nature and love," for chorus and soloists, proved a pleasing and attractive composition, especially in its choral portions, which were well rendered. The principals were Misses Martha Bruggemann and Nellie Beck, and Mrs. Clayer. The remaining items were "The flight into Egypt" (Max Bruch), in which the solo was entrusted to Miss Nellie Landseer, whose vocal powers are at present rather unequal to such a task; and Lassen's merry chorus, "The Spanish gipsy girl," which was rendered with appropriate vivacity and spirit. Miss Hack, who conducted, manifested excellent control over her forces, and deserves warm praise for the efficient way in which the arduous programme was carried out. At the conclusion of the concert she was presented with a number of beautiful floral offerings, and was heartily cheered by the audience and the performers.

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

The following are the number of candidates entered for the forthcoming examinations at the University of Adelaide:—Junior public, 550; senior, 400; higher, 72; and junior commercial, 34. The entries for the same examinations last year were as follows:—Junior, 581; senior, 346; higher, 70; junior commercial, 20. The sittings will begin about November 16, and extend over two or three weeks.

—The Rhodes Scholarships.—

"Pater" remarks:—"I noticed recently that the regulations in a neighbouring state allow of the admission of candidates who have been but three years resident in the state. As one who has been interested in these scholarships from the time of their first announcement, I beg to submit what in my mind are the three most important points as a basis for the regulations about to be framed:—1. That these state scholarships shall be bestowed only on those born and educated here. 2. That the age should not be younger than 19 or older than 25. 3. That the accepted candidate should have passed in the subjects of the first year's B.A. or B.Sc., or its equivalent, of the local University course. This latter regulation might then be so framed that any young man with pluck and energy enough might be eligible."

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

At the Elder Conservatorium on Thursday evening the ladies' part-singing class, under the conductorship of Miss Guli Hack, A.R.C.M., contributed Pergolesi's "Stabat Mater," Tchaikowsky's "Nature and love," "The flight into Egypt," by Max Bruch, the "Spanish Gipsy Girl," by Lassen, and Jadasohn's "Midsummer day." It is difficult sufficiently to praise Miss Guli Hack for the patience and care she has bestowed upon the students under her control, but from beginning to end she won the universal approval of the audience who listened to her and her pupils. The students' chorus consisted of nearly a hundred voices, and a most efficient orchestra was also partly composed of students. The principals were Mrs. Clayer, Misses Katie Joyce, Martha Bruggemann, Nellie Landseer, Nellie Jarvis, May Otto, and Ida Viner Smith. Miss Violet Parkinson played the pianoforte accompaniments. There was a very large audience, including the Chancellor of the University and Lady Way, and the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow).

Req. 26th Oct. 1903.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

DR. PARKIN AT THE UNIVERSITY. THE SCHEME EXPLAINED.

Under the Chairmanship of the Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way), a meeting of educationists was held at the University of Adelaide on Saturday morning to hear Dr. Parkin, the representative of the trustees of the Cecil Rhodes estate, explain the scheme of the scholarships extending throughout the world. The Attorney-General and Minister of Education (Hon. J. H. Gordon, K.C., M.L.C.) supported the Chancellor. There were also present the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow), Sir Langdon Bonython, Professors Rennie, Bragg, Mitchell, Henderson, Salmon, and Stirling, Rev. Dr. Jefferis, Rev. H. Girdlestone, Rev. H. J. Pope, Dr. Giles, Mr. R. Barr Smith, Mr. L. W. Stanton (Inspector-General of Schools), Inspector Wingham, and Messrs. G. J. R. Murray, J. R. Fowler, F. Chapple, and A. Scott.

Dr. Parkin said he was much interested in meeting the representatives of education in Adelaide. This was the last but one of a very large number of conferences which he had held practically wherever the English language was spoken. He had therefore become familiar with the range of the problem he had to explain to them. He felt that he could claim not only their best attention but their very best judgment in assisting the trustees. Perhaps he felt it more in a place like Adelaide, where the private generosity of citizens had contributed so much to build up an educational centre. They could understand how they were bound to give an adequate answer to the millionaires, who were coming to assist the higher education. The trust had greatly struck the imagination of the world on account of its idealism. After following the tracks of Mr. Rhodes in South Africa where he had added a new country one-fourth the size of Australia to the empire, and, after seeing all he had done there, he felt that he was one of the greatest of Englishmen, and perhaps one whose mind was travelling along larger lines than most men of our time. Mr. Rhodes had evidently two great ideas in his mind. The first was with regard to the empire. He was in his whole life an empire builder. He made mistakes, no doubt, but no man in the British Empire ever redeemed his great mistakes in a more remarkable manner than Mr. Rhodes. His view about the empire was apparently this:—A colonial himself, accustomed to colonial life, he saw the youth of the colonies growing up with all the splendid energy which they saw in Canada, Australia, South Africa, and New Zealand, and he said that if he could give those young men a touch of the culture of the old world and a perspective which could not be obtained in colonial life, but which could be got by coming in contact with the older civilization and a wider range of life, he would be doing the colonies a great good. So he made the arrangement that every state in the whole of the empire should be sending every year one young man to one of the great central universities of the empire, to receive an education of the character he intended. Any one who understood colonial life would at once admit that this man, sitting back in South Africa, and looking out upon the great world, had hit upon a great idea.