

Register Aug. 24th 07.

CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

To the Editor.

Sir—The published report of the Board of Enquiry into the music-sellers' allegations concerning the Elder Conservatorium, taken in conjunction with the letters which have appeared in The Register on the subject, appear to constitute a complete answer to the charges and imputations of Messrs. Chas. Cawthorne and others. Their statements are absolutely discredited, and the bottom has apparently been knocked out of the "agitation." And not any too soon either, for the thing was getting rather tiring. The falseness of the circulated reports regarding the professional staff of the Conservatorium having been established after enquiry, the natural presumption is that some members of the music trade and profession wanted to have a "go" at that institution, and to stir up bad feeling by creating a false impression without any reasonable cause for complaint. In this connection Mr. Frederick Bevan's letter of Saturday and Mr. Chas. Cawthorne's of Tuesday seem to reveal the "god in the machine," and the "agitation" may now be taken for what it is worth. Nevertheless the question still arises—What steps are to be taken with regard to the originators and circulators of the allegations?

I am, Sir, &c.,
W. L. BROOKS.

Register Aug. 27th 07

To the Editor,

Sir—Mr. Chas. Cawthorne flounders deeper and deeper in the mire with each fruitless attempt to extricate himself. The significant thing about what he terms Mr. Frederick Bevan's "attack" on him is the fact that in his letter Mr. Bevan mentions no name whatever. It was purely a case of "if the cap fits, wear it," and it is evident that immediately Mr. Bevan produced the cap Mr. Cawthorne was the individual who found it did fit perfectly, and has been wearing it ever since with great effect.

I am, Sir, &c.,
W. L. BROOKS.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

MOUNT GAMBIER, August 27.—Professor Henderson, M.A., of the Adelaide University, arrived last night to deliver a course of three University extension lectures on "The leaders of the puritan age," the arrangements for which were made by the local University committee. The lectures will be given in the old institute hall. The first one was held last evening before a small audience. The subject was "Wentworth, Earl of Strafford." There was a large audience this evening, and Professor Henderson's subject was "John Milton, poet and idealist." To-morrow evening "Oliver Cromwell," the concluding lecture, will be given. Mr. F. H. Daniel (Chairman of the local committee) presided.

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NARRACOORTE, August 24.—On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings Professor G. C. Henderson, M.A., of the Adelaide University, delivered a course of three lectures in the institute hall here on "Leaders of the Middle Ages." There were fair audiences present, and the lectures were of a very intellectual kind. On Thurs-

day evening the professor lectured on "Richard I., King of England;" on Friday on "Francis of Assisi;" and on Saturday night his subject was "Louis IX., King of France."—A team of footballers from

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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES

A course of three lectures will be delivered in the Victoria Hall, Y.M.C.A., by Professor Henderson, M.A., on September 9, 16, and 23. The theme will be "Poets of the nineteenth century," and the professor will deal with the work of Wordsworth, Tennyson, and Browning. Copies of the syllabus and tickets are obtainable at the Y.M.C.A.

Register Aug. 26th 07.

THE CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

To the Editor.

Sir—In reply to "W. L. Brooks" I wish to say that no false reports were made by the music trade, but complaints were made, and one charge (not by me). The music trade do not wish to stir up bad feeling with the Conservatorium, but they do object to certain members of the staff competing with their business. A reply to the council's report will be sent to the press on Monday. There has been delay, because a member of one of the firms was absent from Adelaide. My personal letter was in reply to an attack made on me by Mr. Bevan, and gave the true facts. I should advise "W. L. Brooks" to make sure of what he is writing about in future.

I am, Sir, &c.,
CHAS. CAWTHORNE.

Advertiser Aug. 29th 07.

STUDENTS' RAILWAY TICKETS.

The Executive Council have confirmed by law No. 100, made by the South Australian Railways Commissioner. It is as follows:—

Scholars and Students' Tickets on South Australian Lines.—1. Return tickets are issued at the following rates to scholars and students travelling for the sole purpose of receiving instruction:—(a) Not exceeding 18 years of age, one-quarter of the adult ordinary fare; over 18 years and not exceeding 25 years of age, one-half of the adult ordinary fare. (b) Subject to the same conditions regarding age, return tickets are issued at the same rates to scholars and students during ordinary vacations at end of school terms for journeys which need not necessarily be to or from their homes. (c) The minimum charge for any ticket is 1/6 first and 1/ second class, and the return halves of tickets are available for four calendar months. 2. Monthly tickets are issued under the following conditions at the rates shown:—(a) Not exceeding 18 years of age, one ticket covering 60 trips at one-twelfth of the adult quarterly fare, or one ticket covering 26 trips at one-twenty-fourth of the adult quarterly fare; over 18 and not exceeding 25 years of age, one ticket covering 60 trips at one-sixth, or one ticket covering 26 trips at one-twelfth respectively of the adult quarterly fare. (b) The minimum charge for any of these tickets is 1/6 first and 1/ second class. (c) A deposit of 1/6 (first class) and 1 (second class) is required at the time of application, and will be retained during the currency of the ticket. (d) The necessary form of school certificate may be obtained at any station most convenient to the scholar, and the application, with such certificate duly signed, must be made at the booking-office three clear days before the ticket is required for use. (e) A ticket is available for the calendar month only, and must be snipped by the ticket collector for each single journey travelled. (f) Each ticket is available only for the person and between the points named on the ticket for a continuous passage on each trip, no break of journey being allowed. (g) The ticket will not be available after date of expiration, and if not handed to the issuing officer within three days after expiry, the deposit will be forfeited. (h) A duplicate ticket, at fare originally paid, will be issued only upon production of a printed form of declaration before a justice of the peace. Only the departmental form will be accepted, and this may be obtained at any station where these tickets are issued. (i) No portion of fare paid, in consequence of failure to produce the ticket when demanded, will be refunded. (j) These tickets are not available on Sundays or public holidays.

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LAURA, August 29.—The last of the series of University extension lectures by Professor Darnley Naylor, M.A., on "Life in classic times in Rome and Greece" was given last night in the town hall. The subject was "Theatregoing in Athens." There was a good attendance, and the lecture was much appreciated. At the close the Chairman of the centre (Mr. G. I. Bills) moved a vote of thanks to the Professor, which was seconded by Mr. D. Roper (President of the institute), and carried. Professor Naylor, in acknowledging the vote, paid a tribute to the intellectual tastes of the townspeople, the attendances at the lectures having been exceedingly gratifying. He acknowledged the kindness and hospitality extended to him during his stay in Laura.—At the meeting of the com-

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THE MUSIC TRADE AND THE CONSERVATORIUM.

To the Editor.

Sir—In reference to the University council's report as to the music trade at the Conservatorium, we wish to state that, knowing we could not use our witnesses, we simply complained, and did not make any charges. We wished to have the practices complained of discontinued. If we have succeeded in this our object has been attained.—We are, &c.,

CAWTHORNE & CO.
WOODMAN'S (E. T. Collins).
R. CORRELL.

The Morning Herald. W.A.
August 29th. 1907.

MUSICAL EDUCATION.

COMPETITION AMONG THE EXAMINERS.

AUSTRALIA ASSERTS HERSELF.

The arrival in this State at the present juncture of two music examiners from the universities of Melbourne and Adelaide presents a striking commentary on the Lyne tariff. Under the now notorious schedule, music examinations and examiners are, it would seem, about the only Australian requisites not heavily taxed. Nevertheless, instead of lifting up their voices in an appeal for artificial protection, the musical authorities of Australia—as expressed in the universities alluded to—content to rely upon the protection already afforded by geography, time, and patriotism, have entered upon an aggressive campaign against the invaders who for years past have been exploiting the field unchallenged. In a guise quite new to the non-musical section of the community, it is the old doctrine of Australia for the Australians. The history of the movement was recounted yesterday by Mr. H. A. Thomson, who was being interviewed in his triple capacity of organising secretary of the campaign, teacher of pianoforte at the Melbourne University, and examiner in Western Australia for the forthcoming public examinations under the dual control of the Melbourne and Adelaide Universities.

"With Professor Ennis, elder professor of music in the Adelaide University, I arrived by the R.M.S. Moldavia last night," began Mr. Thomson. "Professor Ennis left for Albany this morning, there to conduct the first examinations ever held by the two universities in conjunction. However, I had better tell you how the whole thing has come about.

"Back in 1901 we—by which I mean the Melbourne University—awoke to the fact that four English examining bodies were doing all the music-examining work in Victoria. We then had a complete faculty of music, a chair of music and a conservatorium. Realising that as a university we were not doing our duty to the State if we could not provide as sound an examination as any from England, we, in the following year, entered the field against the English opposition. That the Victorian public has sympathised with our efforts is shown in the fact that, whereas, in September, 1902—when we held the first real national examinations of Australia—we had 426 entries, the entries for next month's examinations (1907) in Victoria total nearly 1,500. We started in some ten centres in Victoria; we now control over sixty centres in Victoria and twenty in Tasmania, to which State we carried our operations at the invitation of the local university. The English examining bodies doing business—one can call it by no other term—in Australia are the Royal Academy and Royal College—known conjointly as the Associated Board—Trinity College, and London College. Adelaide, in the past, has conducted her examinations in South Australia and Western Australia in conjunction with the Associated Board. But, on seeing that, after four years of development we had become the greatest music-examining body in Victoria, Adelaide cancelled her arrangement with the Associated Board, and threw in her lot with us, so forming what we honestly believe is destined to become the national scheme of Australasia. Thus our operations have now been extended to South Australia and Western Australia, and the first examinations to be held under the new regime of Victoria and South Australia in collaboration, against the outside world, will be carried out by Professor Ennis, at Albany, to-morrow. For my part I visit all the chief educational institutions in and about Perth to-morrow, with a view of explaining the advantages of our scheme over those offered by the English bodies. On Friday, when Professor Ennis returns from Albany, we will be examining together in Perth; on Friday evening I go on to Kalgoorlie and Coolgardie, to conduct examinations in those centres. We leave again for the East on Tuesday. As showing the strength and feeling in favour of this joint movement, I might mention that at a conference of the representatives of the universities of Australia and New Zealand, held in Melbourne, on April 28 last year, the following resolution was adopted:—

"That co-operation between the universities of the Commonwealth and New Zealand in the conduct of public examinations in music is desirable, such co-operation to be on the general lines of the proposed agreement between the universities of Melbourne and Adelaide, adopted at a conference held in Melbourne on April 23."

You spoke of special advantages which your scheme offers?

"Yes. Some of them are obvious. For instance, we are not under the heavy expense of sending examiners all the way out from England. By this saving we are able to offer exhibitions, bursaries, and the like, instead of presenting mere meretricious medals or hoods and gowns—'music and millinery,' as a London paper has termed the system adopted by the examining body known as the London College. We do not believe in these cheap decorations; education is our aim. We started by instituting free scholarships, tenable at the Melbourne University, and ranging in value from £10 to £90, the latter entitling the holder to three years' complete tuition. This should appeal to Australians, for it represents the profits hitherto made by the English bodies in Australia. Another advantage lies in this—all the English examiners are specialists, but, owing to the great distance to be traversed, only one at a time can be sent out to Australia. Consequently, whether he be pianist or violinist, he has to take all the work waiting for him, no matter what it may be. We, on the other hand, can afford to send specialists for each subject, and, furthermore, following the splendid example of the Associated Board in England, we can arrange for two examiners for the higher-grade examinations. Hence the presence of two examiners in Western Australia to-day, although one alone might have dealt with all the candidates, except two or three who are sitting for the higher grade. Our standard is higher and more searching than that of any other examining body operating here. For that reason, our examinations, while they will appeal to the better class of teachers, can hardly be expected to find much favour with another class, who desire only high percentages. However, this concerns us but little, for, unlike some of the English bodies, we have absolutely no commercial interests to consider."

These English bodies, then, are not on the same disinterested footing?

"By no means. The London College is a limited liability company, doing an enormous trade in Australia. It does not even go to the expense of sending out examiners, having found it more profitable to appoint local men. The names of its successful candidates for New South Wales alone last year filled 72 printed pages. Yes, one might well say it is nearly time Australia conducted her own music examinations."

The Morning Herald, W. A.
August 20th 1907

EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC.

AN AUSTRALASIAN SCHEME.

Notwithstanding the temporary cloud which the Federation is under in the minds of many West Australians on account of some of the peculiar grievances of this State, there is one great scheme of Australian, or rather Australasian, significance afoot which cannot fail to appeal to the imagination and understanding of every intelligent citizen of the Commonwealth whose sympathies soar in the least above the merely physical welfare of his country. The Universities of Melbourne and Adelaide have joined forces in an effort to set a higher, and an Australian, standard in the musical culture of the people, and at the present moment there are in this State two gentlemen representing those institutions who are to conduct the first examinations under the new scheme. These are Professor Ennis, the occupant of the Adelaide University Chair of Music, and Mr. H. A. Thomson, a member of the teaching staff of the Conservatorium of Music which is attached to the University of Melbourne. With Mr. Thomson a representative of this journal had an interesting chat on the subject on Tuesday night.

Mr. Thomson said it was well known that four English institutions had for years past been conducting examinations in music throughout the length and breadth of the Commonwealth and New Zealand. These were, in the order of their merit, the Associated Board, Trinity College, the Royal College, and Victoria College. Of these the Associated Board alone possessed a royal charter. These institutions examined thousands of pupils every year in this part of the world, and took many thousands of pounds in fees out of the country. The Melbourne University Conservatorium of Music, in 1901, resolved to see if it could not do something to improve the situation and make some effort to substitute for these English bodies an institution and a diploma of an Australian character. If it was not good enough for such work, it considered it must be good for nothing; and, having no such mean opinion of itself, it lost no time in proceeding to business. It held its first examination in 1902, and received about 400 entries. Tasmania, though it had a university, had no chair of music attached to it, and announced itself an adherent, and three years later the entries amounted to nearly 1,500. The Adelaide University had a chair of music, and meanwhile had entered into an arrangement with the Associated Board to conduct in South Australia a joint examination, the local body taking two-thirds of the fees and the English body the balance. As the latter was better organised and did the bulk of the work, it soon insisted upon receiving a larger proportion of the money, and ultimately it took the two-thirds and left the one-third to Adelaide. Things were in this position there when Melbourne University suggested to Adelaide University that they should combine in a scheme for holding uniform examinations in their own States and Tasmania, and, if possible, in Western Australia. Matters came to a head at the jubilee celebrations of the Melbourne University in June last year, when the two universities resolved to join forces for that purpose. To their surprise and delight the Sydney delegates said their university must participate in such a truly national enterprise, and Sir Robert Stout, who represented the New Zealand University, said his colony would follow New South Wales, and thus make the scheme, not Australian, but Australasian. Melbourne and Adelaide had accordingly proceeded with the work, and were certain to be joined in the very near future by the other States mentioned, and by Queensland, which, having no University of its own, followed its southern neighbor in these matters. The first joint examinations would be held on the following day (Tuesday) by Professor Ennis, at Albany, so, as far as the four southern States were concerned, operations were in full swing.

When the Melbourne Conservatorium started the enterprise which had thus developed so rapidly it searched for the best model available, and decided that the Associated Board, with its royal charter, was the best. Its standard was reasonably high; its organisation was good; and it had done Australia the honor to send out examiners to do its work. Still, it differentiated between its English and colonial operations, inasmuch as it sent out only one man to examine students in all the manifold branches of the art, whereas specialists were provided for those at home. The Conservatorium, of course, had no difficulty in doing here what the board did at home, and the increase of nearly 400 per cent. in the number of its candidates in the short period of four years had more than fulfilled its expectations of success. The combined universities were now moving forward with every hope and expectation of a great future. They were establishing centres in all the States which had so far entered into the scheme, and were organising their campaign on the solid grounds of a high standard of merit and a national sentiment.