EDUCATION CONFERENCE.

EMPIRE DAY OPENING.
REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT.

RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.


The Federal Conference on Education was opened yesterday by the President of the Council. The attendance was large and representative, and embraced visitors from all parts of the Empire.

Among those present were Lord Tennyson, Sir R. G. Talbot, Sir John Cockburn, the Agent-General, the Vice-Chancellors, and other representatives of all the leading universities in Britain and the colonies, among them Sir Philip Jones of Sydney, Dr. MacFarland of Melbourne, and Professors Gurney, Brown, and Cook.

The president, in his opening address, cordially welcomed the delegations and stated that the conference had received official sanction and encouragement from the Imperial Government, and he hoped it would be the first of a series of similar conferences held in different parts of the Empire.

VICTORIAN EDUCATION.

STATE'S BEST ASSET.

CLAIM FOR UNIVERSITY.


The Victorian Exhibition at Bentaon, in a vigorous speech, objected to the system of free, secular, and compulsory education in Victoria. It was so constituted that any student possessed of brains and application was passed from primary school to University at little or no expense to himself. (Loud applause.)

Education, he declared, was Victoria's best asset, and it was worth the country more than all the gold that could be produced by the Government paid for it. He claimed that the Melbourne University, with its chairs of mining and architecture, was ahead of anything of the kind in Germany.

ELDER CONSERVATORY.

The first orchestral concert of the season will be given this evening. The soloist will be Miss Ada Swadling, and the orchestra will be conducted by Mr. R. S. Parsons, who will make his first public appearances since his return from Europe. The programme includes the overture to "Eugénie," Schumann's "Nacht," and Mendelssohn's "Notturno," from Weber's "Der Freischütz." Tickets, which are transferable, are sold at the rates given below:

- £1, first class to the soloist's home.
- £0.50, second class to the soloist's home.
- £0.25, second class to all tickets over the single. All tickets may be obtained at the Conservatory office.

EXTENSION LECTURES.

The second of the series of University extension lectures, "Life in Classic Times," was delivered by Mr. J. A. P. Menzies, who is one of the College's lecturers, and who has already given a series of lectures on Greek and Latin literature. The lecture was delivered at the Technical College. Mr. O. von Ries, who has attended an audience larger than that of the previous evening.

The great importance of the character sketches in the life of the lectures, was said to be the objective of the series, to give the students an understanding of the life of the ancient world. The lecture was well received, and the audience was enthusiastic.

We are informed that all the tickets have been sold for Professor Henderson's course of lectures on "Drama," which begins next week. The professor has consented to repeat the course, and the first lecture will be repeated on Monday next.

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