is given in our public schools and universities, the ignorance of public men, and the culpable indifference of successive Governments to the intellectual glory of their country," all these received from the distinguished mathematician such energetic and severe handling that attention from all sides was drawn to the urgency of the reforms for which he pleaded. In particular Sir David Brewster was drawn into the discussion, and in a long and highly favorable review of Babbage's work in the "Quarterly Review" this distinguished alumnus of Edinburgh University sketched and compared the existing states of science on the Continent and in Great Britain, to the detriment of the latter, and then proceeded on constructive lines to suggest measures by means of which a revival and extension of scientific labors might be brought about in the British Isles. The main portion of his argument may be passed over. Its conclusion is of high interest, and deserves quotation in full:—"An association of our nobility, clergy, gentry, and philosophers can alone draw the attention of the sovereign and the nation to this blot upon its fame. Our aristocracy will not decline to resume their proud station as the patrons of genius and our Boyles, Cavendishes, Montagues, and Howards will not renounce their place in the scientific annals of England. The prelates of our national church will not refuse to promote that knowledge which is the foundation of pure religion, and those noble enquiries which elevate the mind and prepare it for its immortal destination. If this effort fail we must wait for the revival of better feelings and deplore our national misfortune in the language of the wise man—'I returned and saw under the sun that there is neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understandings, nor yet favor to men of skill.'". It was in such words that Sir David Brewster first threw out a suggestion for what was "his boldest and most successful experiment," the founding of the British Association. It was a simple enough suggestion, and its idea is very obvious and very familiar to us in these days, when every section of the community has in some sense its "union." It is not without interest to notice that as a matter of fact the idea of this association to urge forward and aid scientific labor, to instruct the nation upon the worth of scientific endeavor, to enlighten politicians regarding their duties towards scientific men and to bring these men into closer contact with one another, seems to have been suggested to the Scottish mind of Brewster by the meetings of scientific men, which had been taking place in Germany since about 1822. But wherever the orginal suggestion may have come from the first and brilliantly successful efforts to establish a British Association were undoubtedly due to the untiring persistency and ardor with which Brewster in 1830-1 approached not only his colleagues in science, but also the Government of the day under Lord Grey. York was chosen as a suitable, because central, place for the first meeting. A Philosophical Society had flourished there for eight years, and the strong scientific tastes of the people of York were well known. To the secretary of this society Brewster wrote begging him to ascertain if York "will furnish the accommodation necessary for so large a meeting, which might, perhaps, consist of 100 individuals." One cannot resist the temptation to state here that at the jubilee meeting in York in 1831 the number of members attending was 2557. "The principal objects of the society," continued Brewster, "would be to make the cultivators of science acquainted with each other, to stimulate one another to new exertions, to bring the objects of science before the public eye, and to take measures for advancing its interests and accelerating its progress. The society would possess no fund, make no collections, and hold no property." York responded enthusiastically. On September 26, 1831, no fewer than 353 persons attended the inaugural meeting, and on the following day the society was brought into being under the presidency of Lord Milton (president of the Philosophical Society), and a system for the conduct of similar meetings was presented by Dr. William Vernon Harcourt.

The Australian meeting of the British Association is thus the eighty-fourth gathering. The constitution under which proceedings will be conducted has undergone but little change since the early years, and considering the growth of the association and the widening of its activities this speaks well for the scheme submitted by Dr. Harcourt. It is with interest that one sees in his name the motion—"That all members of Philosophical Societies in the British Empire should be entitled to become members of the association," and one would like to know whether in supporting his motion Dr. Harcourt foresaw the possibility of the extension of the hunting grounds of his association far beyond the limits of the British Isles.

The Daily Herald
24:4:14

FREE UNIVERSITY.

Efforts are being made by the A.N.A. in Victoria to increase the free places in the Melbourne University. In a deputation to the Premier Mr. J. Lemmon, M.L.A., Mr. A. M. Taylor, chief president of the association, and Mr. M. M. Phillips, formerly president, gave their views as to how the university should be reformed, quoted the liberal policy of New South Wales in providing 200 free places each year, urged that the way should be gradually paved for a free university, and advocated the establishment of tutorial classes and the correspondence system of study in connection with the Melbourne University. Mr. Watt, in elaborating his reply, said that an ultimate free university would cost more than was generally thought to be the case. He was impressed with the idea of extending the tutorial classes, and it would commend itself to the Government. He was also impressed with the proposal to give tuition by correspondence. All that he could promise, however, was that the requests would be carefully considered when those of the Melbourne University authorities, who asked for £20,000 a year additional grant as well as for big buildings grants, came before the Cabinet. Subsequently a deputation representing the Trades Hall Council and the University Extension Board asked Mr. Watt, while supporting the requests of the Melbourne University generally, to set aside £2000 a year to establish the tutorial classes and assist the University Extension lectures. A sum of £300 would be required at once. Dr. J. W. Barrett, speaking of the extension lectures, said that the idea was to appoint and economist at £800 a year and railway travelling expenses, to organise lectures. Mr. Watt stated that this would probably be a cheap form of education. He would strongly recommend the proposal to the Cabinet. This would include the request for £300.

The Daily Herald
April 24th 1914

THE JOSEPH FISHER LECTURE IN COMMERCE.

"Problems of Transporation and Their Relation to Australian Trade and Commerce" is the subject of the "Joseph Fisher Lecture in Commerce" to be delivered at the Prince of Wales Theatre this evening by the Hon. David J. Gordon, M.L.C. After stating the economic influence of modern methods of carriage on industrial expansion in a continent of vast distances, the lecturer will refer to the manner in which other countries have faced this question. He will then deal with Australian railway systems, the influence of heavy grades and gauges on freights and working expenses, and make special reference to the importance of developing inland waterways — the locking of intermittent rivers in order to make them permanently navigable. The lecturer will also explain the national need of good roads and the influence of harbors on oversea freights, and will show how all these agencies of transport have a direct influence on production and trade, the social life of the people generally, and the future progress of Australia.

The Advertiser
April 28th 1914

THE JOSEPH FISHER LECTURE IN COMMERCE.

"Problems of transportation and their relation to Australian trade and commerce" is the subject of the "Joseph Fisher lecture in commerce," to be delivered at the Prince of Wales Theatre this evening by the Hon. David J. Gordon. After stating the economic influence of modern methods of carriage on industrial expansion in a continent of vast distances, the lecturer will refer to the manner in which other countries have faced this question. He will then deal with Australian railway systems, the influence of heavy grades and gauges on freights and working expenses, and make special reference to the importance of developing inland waterways —the locking of intermittent rivers, in order to make them permanently navigable. The lecturer will also explain the national need of good roads, and the influence of harbors on oversea freights, and will show how all these agencies of transport have a direct influence on production and trade, the social life of the people generally, and the future progress of Australia.

The Daily Herald
April 29th 1914

TRANSPORTATION

PROBLEMS OF CIVILISATION

AUSTRALIA'S WANTS

UNITED AND PATRIOTIC EFFORT NEEDED.

The biennial Joseph Fisher Lecture in Commerce, the delivering of which is a condition under which the late Mr. Joseph Fisher endowed a scholarship at the Adelaide University, was delivered last night in the Prince of Wales Theatre at the University by the Hon. David J. Gordon, M.L.C. The lecturer's subject was "Problems of Transporation and Their Relation to Australian Trade and Commerce." He said:—

"The problem of transporation is the problem of civilisation. Railways, roads, and rivers are factors of the first magnitude in the industrial and social life of a nation. Transportation is the essential factor in both industry and commerce, for unless transporation is available production in excess of the most elementary personal needs is useless and commerce is impossible. The theory of efficient transporation is reducing the unit in the cost of production. Increased production stimulates consumption, multiplies avenues of employment, and adds to private and national wealth, from which the community draws daily sustenance.