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clinging on to and forcing home the principles of Liberalism; but they do not know as the pressman knows the heavy burdens he carried during the last couple of sessions of Parliament in piloting Bills through the House. For hour after hour, especially during the last Parliament, he sat alone on the Ministerial benches fighting the passage of Bills through committee, giving away nothing that was vital, and ever alert to see that seemingly innocent amendments were not permitted to be inserted into the measures. He was just as ready, too, to accept alterations where they would obviously prove of value, especially administratively. At other times he was one of the strongest and most caustic critics the Opposition has ever had. There is a certain pleasure in that, of course, which helps to make up for the dull and dreary hours occupied in getting through the Bills. Knowing his capacity as a political fighter, I put it to him that perhaps he was a trifle sorry he would not figure in the fighting line next March, when probably the greatest political battle in the State's history will be waged.

### Mr. Young's Admission.

There was pleasurable anticipation in his eye of the sights to be seen and the stirring life to be lived in London, full of war's alarms, during the next 12 months; but behind it there was regret that he would be out of the political fight here.

"Of course," he replied, "conditions have materially changed since I first agreed to accept the office, and in the meantime many features have arisen which considerably complicate the political position of the immediate future; but I am bound to say that my instincts would be in the coming fight."

"You are sorry, then, that you took the position?"

"By no means. I am looking forward to it very much, but I will say that if the appointment had been mooted now for the first time, I do not think I should have been inclined to have left my friends and colleagues in the field of action alone."

More than that he would not say, nor would Mr. Young give any opinion as to the fortunes of war in the coming election. Regarding his work in London, Mr. Young added:—"In the first place, I feel this is a time when any man would like to be right in the centre of things, and thus better appreciate and understand what is going on. Furthermore, the problems which will necessarily arise must create opportunities any reasonable man would welcome."

### Trade Prospects.

"The duties and responsibilities of the office have changed somewhat since the Commonwealth came into the field?"

"They have been affected to some extent by the creation of the High Commissioner's Office, and for some years there has been activity in immigration, although one must expect the latter to stand still, for the moment at any rate. Apart from that, I will prefer to leave it until I reach home, and from personal knowledge and experience learn exactly the full scope of the work that is before me. It will naturally be my ambition to keep the name of South Australia prominently in the minds of the people of Great Britain, and consistent therewith to work in co-operation with the other Agents-General for the advancement of the Commonwealth as a whole."

"You are aware that your three years of office will probably be the hardest period any Agent-General from this State has ever had to go through?"

"I would not say that my three years will represent the hardest period of all, but I can sincerely tell you that I count myself fortunate in assuming office at a time when there is something to be done beyond the ordinary. Possibly during the war, but at any rate immediately after it, there will be a great adjustment in trade matters, and it will be my duty to shape that adjustment so far as possible in favour of Australia, and to give effect to what I know to be the sentiment of the people generally, to very largely increase the trade between ourselves and the mother country."

"At the right moment a good man will be able to do a lot in London for this State?"

"I have to get accustomed to the new life, as it will be to me, and to learn how far any influence I possess is likely to reach; but I do hope to be able to do something at the psychological moment that will benefit Australia in trade matters. There is clearly a strengthening of the sentimental bond between the Dominions and the Motherland, and the thing is to take full advantage of that to build up our trade on so great a scale that there can never be any falling off."

### **He Will Closely Study Immigration.**

"Have you any proposals in regard to immigration?"

"The future of immigration is very difficult to read. This war is going to cause an awful toll on the able-bodied men in the homeland, and, of course, trade and industry will have to adjust themselves before one can scientifically measure the immigration desirable for Australia, and emigration desirable for Great Britain; but while it may not fall to my lot to actively assist the flow of immigration, I shall take the opportunity to carefully study the question in all its aspects, particularly that of boy life at home, which has always appealed to me as the best source from which to obtain our future colonists."

The observations of so fine a student of political and economic affairs are sure to be of value to South Australia. It is well to remember that Mr. Young has been a student nearly all his days. The prevailing impression is that he was born with a silver spoon in his mouth, but this is not so. His father was a Blyth storekeeper at the time the new Agent-General was born, and the family lived in a pine cottage. Mr. Young's parents, however, were deeply sensible of the advantages of education by impressing this fact on their sons. The result has been the bringing out of ability far above the average. From pine cottage to State representative in London at the age of 38 is a step that speaks for itself.

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MR. F. W. YOUNG.