

Sixty Years Ago.

In 1866 there were no trains in the south, and passenger transport to and from the city was via Willunga, by coach. At that period Port Elliot was a shipping port to which numbers of small vessels came, and some remained there. One Sunday, I remember seeing a ship on the rocks, a little north of Commodore Point. A flying fox was rigged, and used until things became dangerous. The boat was laden with wheat, and after she broke up the beaches were strewn thickly with corn. This, however, is by the way. A tramline ran from Goolwa, via Middleton and Port Elliot, to Port Victor, and over this was carried wool brought down from the Murray, wheat, and other products of the district, for shipment at either Elliot or Victor, or (as the latter was more frequently called)—The "Point"—a passenger truck somewhat similar to the tramcar now used, to take people over the half-mile jetty to Granite Island. The truck, however, was not a two-decker, and it had good, hard, solid seats. All passenger and freight trucks were drawn by horse traction.

It was by passenger truck that we arrived at the Point in 1866, and a very small village it was. The Crown Hotel occupied its present position. In the reserve opposite was a building which had been used as a temporary home, or hostel, for domestic servants brought out from England; but why they were dumped down here the writer cannot say. There were only five or six houses in addition to the hotel and servants' home. The latter place subsequently became the police station. The original of Field's butcher shop—opposite the Crown—I believe stood there at that time. Our destination was Encounter Bay, which, although the population was small, was regarded as the township. The bay includes a long sweep of coastline, but domestically, it was the bight from the Bluff to the Inman River. Although but a lad, old enough however, to take notice, the feeling of delight and exhilaration I then experienced as the beauty of the surroundings unfolded, made impressions that have never been obliterated. But little of the bay could be seen from Port Victor because of the trees. All around was thickly timbered, mainly by splendid gum (eucalyptus) trees, and the region was alive with birds. The hills encircling the bay were also densely timbered, and the whole district made a very strong appeal to one's sense of beauty and romantic instinct.

Nature's Choice Gifts.

To those born in cities the country, as a general rule, never seems to make the same appeal. The country is simply a pleasant place in which to spend a short holiday; but life to them is bound up with the busy haunts of men, the lure of business, and the crowded street, with all its attendant glamour and sparkle. So many of them are unable to commune with Nature, receive her silent messages, and revel in the glory and sweetness of the wonderful work of the Creator. Although the writer was city bred, having first seen the light in Geelong, Victoria, he was fortunately transplanted to this State at an early age, and had the advantage of living where Nature had been lavish in her great gifts, until the time came to go out and take part in the busy world's work. Never for one moment during 50 strenuous years of city life and labour did the love of the country decline. A whiff of ozone from the ocean, a breath of the pungent eucalyptus, the sweetness of the wattle in bloom, or the scent of the mallee on a hot day would bring back a flood of happy memories.

To come back to it all after so many years is delightful, and has had the effect of very considerably rejuvenating a physical wreck. But one notices with regret that the woodland beauty has been marred, the giant gums have practically all disappeared, and the hills around the bay are almost bare of timber. The old homestead of the late Rev. Ridgeway William Newland, the pioneer pastor of the south, was once hidden, embowered in a picturesque forest of gums, sheoaks, wild peach and cherry trees, and native shrubs, in which an orchestra of native birds, parrots of many species, magpies, wattlebirds, kookaburras, thrushes, black magpies, and other varieties filled the air with melody, which thrilled in the ether and made one's heart sing. Now the old homestead is exposed and somewhat desolate in appearance; the orchestra, like the Tramways Band, has been disbanded, while the native birds are few in number and some species have practically disappeared. The ubiquitous sparrow, which destroys the nests of many native birds, and the sombre starling are, however, in strong evidence. The beautiful gaudily-plumed blue mountain parrot, the crested cockatoo, the jar or black magpie are seldom seen. The black-and-white magpie and a few kookaburra are extant. The liquid notes of the former are still as sweet as of yore, but the laugh of the latter appeals to one as somewhat sarcastic.

To be Continued.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

To-night, in the Elder Hall, a concert will be given by members of the Conservatorium staff. Included in the programme are a varied number of instrumental and vocal items, among which special attention is drawn to William Hurlstone's sonata for bassoon and piano by Mr. W. H. Foote, the well-known master of woodwind instruments, who will be accompanied by Mr. W. Silver. Other items of much interest will be a bracket of Schubert's songs by Miss Hilda Gill, Gabriel Faure's sonata Opus 13, for violin and piano, by Miss Maude Puddy and Mr. Charles Schilsky; two of Karg-Elert's organ solos by Mr. Harold Wylde; Locatelli-Piattis Adagio and Minuetto for the 'cello, by Mr. Harold Parsons; and as a finale, Miss Puddy, Mr. Silver, and Mr. Pearce will play at one piano Percy Grainger's "Zanzibar boat song." Plan at S. Marshall & Son's, Gawler-place.

REGISTER 15.6.25.

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ADVERTISER 16.6.25.

FEDERAL FORESTRY SCHOOL.

The Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) stated yesterday that there appears to be some misunderstanding regarding the Forestry School proposed to be established by the Federal Government at Canberra. It is not intended that this school should supplant certain existing schools under the control of State Forestry Departments. There are two types of training required for the forest services of Australia. First, high training is necessary to equip an expert technical forester, and secondly every member of the service should receive a general training. Two types of school are consequently necessary. The higher is of the nature of a post-graduate course, and students must be well educated before they can gain admittance to this school. The staff must be highly trained and have had long experience of forest management, the equipment must be of such a nature as will make the best teaching possible. The lower school will accept youths whose education is not so high. A thorough general school education is all that is necessary as a qualification for entrance. The staff and equipment of such a school is not on such a high level of excellence as that of the first type. The training given in it is to fit the boys to become foresters for the general work to be done in the forests. The best forester is one who has taken the general course and shown such aptitude and skill that he is admitted to the higher school. Such a man when he has passed out satisfactorily and has had a few years' experience in the forests, is a capable forester to whom may be entrusted the management of forests. Australia to-day requires a considerable number of highly trained foresters, but one central school should be capable of supplying these experts. Indeed, there is only room for one such institution in the country. On the other hand, a far greater number of general foresters are required, and their training can best be given in each State, where they may also absorb the local conditions of the forests. The foresters of the continent all realise these differences, and in three States already general training schools have been established. Western Australia has one at Ludlow, Victoria one at Creswick, and New South Wales one at Narrara. No forester regards these as anything more than schools to give a general training to the rank and file, and to enable a small percentage of cadets to qualify for higher training. The school the Federal Government propose to establish at Canberra will supply this training. It will not, however, do away with the necessity of the lower training. On the contrary, it is hoped that as a result of its establishment the other States will see the importance of setting up institutions of the Creswick type.

REGISTER 16.6.25.

The State Administrator and Mrs. Poole will be present this evening at the concert by members of the staff of the Elder Conservatorium. On Thursday His Excellency and Mrs. Poole will attend the Metropolitan High Schools combined concert in the Adelaide Town Hall.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

EXCELLENT F CONCERT.

A crowded auditorium was a fitting tribute to the beautiful programme submitted by members of the Elder Conservatorium staff on Monday evening. It was the fifth concert of the 1925 season, and the Elder Hall has never resounded to more spontaneous or more richly deserved applause. Every number was a gem, and these six comprised such variety that the assemblage was privileged to hear—a sonata for piano and violin, a trio on one piano, organ, 'cello, and vocal solos, and a sonata for bassoon and the piano. Apart from the very great value of students of such an exemplification of efficient and earnest musicianship, the general public were treated to a thoroughly enjoyable sequence of instrumental and vocal numbers. Nothing finer could be imagined than Gabriel Faure's "Sonata for Piano and Violin," with which the evening opened. In Miss Maude Puddy and Mr. Charles Schilsky, this gifted composer, whose death was announced last year, found sympathetic interpreters. Of all the modern French school of composers, none have eclipsed the gifted Faure, and last night this was vividly illustrated in the lovely themes interwoven in those four movements of the sonata. A note of elevation characterized the whole work, illustrative of the inspiration that must have prompted such beautiful harmonies. The introductory Allegro called for extreme delicacy of treatment, and the effective pianissimo passages were well managed. The sustained passages of the Andante were full of nobility, and both artists distinguished themselves by an apparently effortless rendering of music written in an extremely difficult tempo. In the third movement the Allegro Vivace was rendered with requisite brilliancy, and great speed. Similarly enthusiastic passages permeated the Allegro Quasi Presto, which brought the sonata to a satisfying finale. The velvety touch of the pianist, and the restrained emotionalism of the violinist and his clever technique, constituted a most effective collaboration.

Mr. Harold Wylde was set down for a bracket of organ solos, which were played with a clarity of fingering and given a thoughtful reading that characterize all Mr. Wylde's work. The organist chose two very modern numbers, by Karg-Elert, "Landscape in mist," and "Hymn to the stars." The player evidently believes in the value of contrasts, for the first named was a tone poem vibrating with a tremulous fabric of sound, and the other was a paean of praise, full of joyousness, and touching the heights in a bravura climax. An interlude was devoted to a triple group of Schubert's songs, with Miss Hilda Gill as soloist. "To music" was expressive given, and with characteristic finish. The haunting and declamatory "The young nun," was soulfully interpreted, and "Thou bringest peace" indicated Miss Gill's special gift in the realm of devotional singing. Full of nobility were Mr. Harold Parson's 'cello numbers, a bracket by Locatelli-Piattis. The "Adagio" was submitted with a typical earnestness that accentuated its melodic appeal. "Minuetto" made tremendous demands upon the player's technique, but bowing and intonation were beyond criticism. The 'cellist has not previously excelled last evening's solos.

An unusual and pleasing item was the sonata for bassoon and piano, by Mr. W. H. Foote and Mr. William Silver. This composition of William Hurlstone—a typical Englishman in the quality of his music—was interpreted in a masterly manner. The five movements teemed with a variety of moods, in which gaiety, pathos, the rhythm of the dance, a martial strain, and finally a medley of emotions, were all included. Mr. Foote has many times demonstrated his ability with woodwind, and, with the valuable assistance lent by Mr. Silver, he again proved that facility. So effortless was his work that it almost belied the difficulties attendant upon bassoon playing. The "Amen" to the programme was supplied in the unique form of a trio upon one piano. The exponents were Miss Maude Puddy, and Messrs. William Silver and George Pearce. "Zanzibar boat song" (Percy Grainger), with its swaying rhythm proved a happy item, skilfully presented. For the solo numbers of the evening, the accompanists were Messrs. Harold Wylde and George Pearce.

The next concert, by the Student Orchestra will be given on July 6, under the conductorship of Mr. W. H. Foote.

INDUSTRIAL REFORM

(By Dr. H. Heaton)

To those who believe that the age of miracles is gone a glance at the cables coming from Geneva must be disturbing. During the past three weeks representatives of Governments, employers, and employes in about 40 countries have been gathered together discussing and finally reaching an overwhelming majority of opinion in favor of day-baking! If it had not been day-baking it might have been the eight-hour day or unemployment insurance or unemployment prevention or juvenile labor or conditions for seamen or the employment of women or technical training, or any one of the other score of aspects of the modern industrial problem.

I suggest this is a miracle, or at least it would seem so if we could look at it through our pre-war eyes. For although international discussion of industrial laws was not unknown before 1914, the idea of international uniformity remained an apparently unattainable ideal, with much agitation, slow-groaning movement of diplomatic machinery, and little result. When Britain's position as workshop of the world was challenged by the rise of new industrial countries in the last quarter of the nineteenth century international competition became acute. Those who produced under the stringent factory Acts imposed by some Governments felt the unfairness of being subjected to the rivalry of products which came from factories where hours were long, child labor was allowed, and health or safety precautions were absent.

First International Convention

Many European social reformers realised that the conditions in backward lands must, in common fairness as well as common humanity, be levelled up. The Swiss Government therefore in 1889 proposed the first international convention, to be held at Berne. The former Kaiser, then young and headstrong, called the conference to Berlin instead. But little happened beyond the passage of pious resolutions concerning the employment of children in mines.

Fifteen years elapsed before another conference was held, in spite of vigorous propaganda by influential persons and a general admission that "something must be done." The only possible meeting was one of diplomats, who knew little about industrial affairs and had to refer every point to their Governments for instructions. Delay, circumlocution, official etiquette, and a lack of any active goodwill or enthusiasm all conspired to make achievement slow and small. A recommendation to stop the use of phosphorus in match-making and a resolution condemning night work for women—these were the sole fruits of 23 years' languid effort. Even then few Governments accepted the recommendations. The mountain labored long and brought forth a mouse.

Wave of Social Idealism

Today, thanks to the International Labor Organisation established by the peace settlement of 1919, the position has completely changed. Every year an international conference meets, and in the brief space of, say, a month's discussion, achieves more than the monocled diplomats did in 23 years. Why? Because, in the first place, the wave of social idealism which made us all believe that a better world would emerge from the triumph of right in the war produced a permanent machinery for discussion by all the parties concerned—Governments, employers, and wage-earners.

In the second place the very creation of this machinery prevented the evaporation of that idealism, and gave it a form from which practical results could ensue. Conferences tend to become futile things, meetings at which one lets off steam, if all the members belong to one side or one belief. An international conference of trade unionists says hot but empty things about the plutocrat, a world conference of capitalists says the same sort of thing about labor, a conference of Governments says—what does it say? But put the three parties together and the result is different. Wild statements may be made, but now they can be challenged. It is