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### MUSIC TEACHERS' CONFERENCE.

#### An Interesting Syllabus.

Music teachers of the State are promised a period of pleasure and profit at the forthcoming conference to be held in the Elder Conservatorium at the University of Adelaide from July 6 to 18. Lectures will be delivered on a great variety of subjects associated with musical education, and a number of concerts and recitals will also be included.

Speaking of the arrangements yesterday to a representative from the Register, the director of the Conservatorium (Dr. E. Harold Davies) said:—"The conference has been arranged to give music teachers of the State an opportunity to meet and discuss the many problems which are constantly before all of us, also that we may have the opportunity of becoming better acquainted, and so be able the better to help one another. The syllabus includes a good many recitals and concerts. The reason for this is obvious. Teachers who are out in the country districts and unable often to visit the city have very little chance of hearing good music, and in their interests alone such an arrangement of this must prove advantageous as well as profitable. The general discussions of the conference cover a fairly wide range, and the opening address on musical education will touch especially on the many modern advances which have taken place during the last few years. A similar conference held four years ago was very largely attended, and created a good deal of enthusiasm among teachers. The desire was then earnestly expressed that it should become an annual fixture. That, however, has not been practicable, but I confidently expect that the forthcoming meetings will be no less appreciated than those of the last conference. I believe also that great good will come of this happy reunion."

All recitals and concerts will be open to the general public, but the discussions and lecture will be confined to those who have formally enrolled themselves as members of the conference.

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Mr. R. N. Kershaw, a former New South Wales Rhodes scholar, who is now attached to the secretariat of the League of Nations, arrived in Adelaide by the express this morning. Mr. Kershaw will remain in Adelaide for a few days. Tomorrow night at the Institute, North terrace, he will deliver an address on "The League of Nations at Work." He was met at the Adelaide Railway Station by Mr. J. Howard Vaughan (chairman of the executive of the South Australian League of Nations) and Prof. H. Darnley Naylor (vice-president of the League).

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#### SCHOOL FORESTRY.

Now the public are being made aware of the danger with which the world is threatened from a shortage in timber supplies, people interested in the subject are noticing with approval the steps being taken to remedy the position. Experts maintain that the interest of children should be aroused and much benefit is expected from the arbor days held in the various schools of the State. The time is fixed by arrangement with the school committees, and for the convenience in distribution of trees by the Forest Department the date selected is some Friday in June, July, or August, according to the locality. Experts declare that while this plan is commendable, it can hardly be as far-reaching in its results as the scheme of school forestry plantation in existence in Victoria. A recent issue of the "Education Gazette" of that State contained the following interesting extract:—"It was gratifying to find on a recent visit to the plantations established by some of the schools in the North-Eastern district that splendid progress had been made, and that a feeling of pride concerning their school plantations is growing in the school communities. At Chiltern, the area planted is showing excellent growth, some of the trees being six or seven feet high, and healthy and vigorous. A fine area adjoining the school has been secured for plantation purposes. The fencing is complete, and the planting will be continued there this year. Already the parents realize the value. After watching the growth for two years one parent has decided to plant ten acres as an insurance for his family." Local forestry and educational authorities consider that the Victorian scheme should receive favorable consideration from the South Australian Government.

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ST. PETER'S COLLEGE.

#### ANNUAL MEETING OF OLD SCHOLARS.

The annual meeting and smoke social of St. Peter's Collegians' Association was held at the college on Wednesday night, when the Chairman of the committee (Mr. C. R. Cudmore) occupied the chair.

The Chairman moved the adoption of the annual report and balance sheet, which stated that the funds of the association had increased by £248 15/ There was a surplus of income over expenditure of £7 10/10. The governors of the college had given £20 and Mr. C. W. Hayward £3 towards the cost of old scholars' day. During the year 19 life and \$3 ordinary members had joined the association, and 28 ordinary members become life members. Owing to an epidemic of influenza the attendance at the annual banquet in the Adelaide Town Hall on July 23, 1924 was not so large as usual, but the dinner was an enjoyable and successful function. Two days later the Rev. J. S. Moyes, an old scholar, preached the annual sermon in the school chapel. He had recently been appointed Archdeacon of Adelaide, an elevation upon which all congratulated him heartily. An old boy's day had been held at the school on December 6, 1924, an innovation which had been a gratifying success. It was intended to make it an annual function. Capt. A. E. Dean, of Bombay, and Mr. K. A. Duncan, gained the right to nominate candidates for the old scholars' bursaries. C. B. Sangster had been awarded the John Creswell memorial scholarship. A lacrosse match between the old scholars of St. Peter's and Prince Alfred Colleges, on July 25, 1924, resulted in a victory for the former. The football match between old scholars, on July 23, was won by Prince Alfred College. Mr. John Creswell had been elected a governor of the college in place of Mr. J. B. Hughes, who retired by rotation. Designs had been approved for old scholars' blazers and ties. The committee desired to perpetuate the memory of Mr. T. A. Caterer by a yearly prize or scholarship, and members were being circularized with a view to raising funds. Already £52 had been subscribed. He referred to the death of the late Mr. John Barker, who for many years, he said, had been one of the governors of the school, in which capacity he gave valuable service. Deep sympathy would be felt by all members with the relatives. It was gratifying to have a surplus on the year's operations, in view of the increased expenditure of the Old Scholars' Day. The association had 1,163 paid-up members, which was a gratifying increase. The number was 1,048 in 1922, which dropped to 1,040 in the following year. There was a big fall to 880 in 1924, so that the present membership was a great increase. Archdeacon Moyes had been head of the school, and they felt pride in his new dignity. (Applause.)

Mr. W. H. Selway seconded the motion, which was carried.

#### Head Master's Congratulations.

The Head Master (Mr. K. J. F. Bickersteth) stated that they should congratulate the South Australian polo team, which last week won the interstate match. Every member of the team was an old scholar of St. Peter's College, and he did not think another college in Australia could show a record like that. He also congratulated the college on having given the first master to St. Mark's, the University Residential College. Those who had followed the inauguration of that foundation were delighted to think that they had such a highly qualified and energetic person to mould its destinies. Those who had watched the events of its first term felt that great things would be done there, and that they had the right man in the right place. The college retrieved its laurels at football last year, having defeated Prince Alfred for the first time for three years. Though not successful at cricket, it should be remembered that the scoring in the interschool match last season was phenomenally high. Referring to the Rev. "Tubby" Clayton, he expressed a hope that the old scholars would give a warm welcome to that gentleman when he visited Australia. His object was to initiate the "Toc H" movement of public service in Australia, and he was coming here with the approval of the Prince of Wales and the leading generals of the recent war. (Applause.)

Officers were elected as follows:—President, Sir Lancelot Stirling; Treasurer, Mr. S. B. Labatt; Committee, Messrs. G. C. Campbell, J. Creswell, C. R. Cudmore, A. E. H. Evans, C. C. Hayward, T. K. Moorehouse, H. Thomson, and K. C. Wilson; Auditors, Messrs. J. B. Hughes and W. Neill.

The musical programme consisted of songs by Messrs. C. Ferguson, J. Fisher, and W. Harman, and selections by Cawthorne's Orchestra. Mr. George Gardner was pianist.

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Professor A. E. V. Richardson, Director of the Waite Agriculture Research Institute, left for Melbourne by the express on Thursday afternoon. He has been asked to attend a conference in connection with the Institute of Science and Industry, called by the Commonwealth Government. This conference will be held in Melbourne on Saturday morning.

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### ANOTHER PUBLIC SERVICE LOSS.

#### Reported Appointment for Mr. R. J. Dumas.

It is understood that Mr. R. J. Dumas, B.E., F.S.A., S.M., Dip. E.E., engineer-in-charge of the construction of Lock No. 3 on the River Murray, has received an important position in the Water Supply Department of Western Australia, and will leave the South Australian service shortly. Mr. Dumas was an applicant for the position of Hydraulic Engineer in South Australia, which was recently filled by the appointment of Mr. H. E. Bellamy.

#### A Brilliant Career.

Mr. R. J. Dumas was born at Mount Barker on January 17, 1887. He is the second son of Mr. C. M. R. Dumas, proprietor of The Mount Barker Courier, and was educated at the Mount Barker Public School. A three years' exhibition



MR. R. J. DUMAS.

scholarship took him to Prince Alfred College, and started him on a successful journey along the road to learning. In addition to form distinctions, he presently secured a scholarship, which opened the doors of the University and School of Mines for him for a period of four years. During this time he entered the Commercial Bank, but not for long. Throwing up his post, he devoted two years to strenuous study at the Varsity and School of Mines, completing the course of engineering, and gaining the B.E. degree, a diploma in electrical engineering, and Fellowship of the School of Mines. Subsequently he put in three months' practical work at the tramways converter station, and then joined the Engineer-in-Chief's Department in April, 1910. Most of his time has been spent on the drainage works in the south-east and on the River Murray works in charge of the construction of Lock No. 3, and as assistant engineer on the Blanchetown Weir. He passed his examination as a licensed surveyor, coming out top of the list. Mr. Dumas served during the greater part of the war period with the Engineers' Corps.

ADVT. 29.5.25.

#### STRING QUARTET CONCERTS.

From PROFESSOR E. HAROLD DAVIES:—"The series of three chamber music recitals to be given in the Liberal Club Hall by the Elder Conservatorium Quartet are worthy of wholehearted support by our many music-lovers. The quartet, led by Mr. Charles Sculsky (whose traditions are derived directly from the great Joachim), is striving to advance the cause of music in its highest form, and I sincerely wish these artists success. The first recital, which is announced for next Tuesday evening, will include a Mozart quartet, two movements of the favorite Tchaikowsky, op. 11, and the piano quartet of Faure—all works of the noblest impulse, and a feast of joy for those who may be fortunate enough to hear them.

ADVT. 30.5.25

The Bunday prize for English verse has been awarded by the Council of the Adelaide University to Miss Morris, of the Education Department.

Gold. 27.5.25

### THE FORESTRY QUESTION.



THE appointment of Mr. H. H. Corbin to the professorship of Forestry at the Auckland College once more brings up the question as to whether enough is being done in South Australia to provide future generations with the timber which, considering the state of the timber market in every part of the world, is becoming such a vital matter.

The Government of New Zealand has done more than the Australian Government to put the work on a sure foundation, and Mr. Corbin will no doubt find more scope for his energies and knowledge at the Auckland University than he has had here.

It is no doubt a compliment to this State that our University Lecturer should be chosen to fill the professorial chair at Auckland, but his acceptance of the position shows clearly that South Australia is behind the times in not having such a chair at the Adelaide University. And if Australia has had to come to Adelaide for its Professor where are we going to get someone to fill Mr. Corbin's place?

So often a break in the continuity of work means putting it back for a period, and it is to be hoped that this will not occur here at present.

On the other hand, it may bring our Government to the realisation of the importance of the work, and good may come of evil. This does happen sometimes!

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### WIT AND HUMOR

#### Professor Phillipson Defines

The Alliance Francaise met at the Grosvenor on Wednesday evening, when Professor Coleman Phillipson gave an address on "The Spirit of Comedy." Outlining the difference between the intellectual quality of wit and the spontaneous flash of humor, he showed that wit is studied and polished, but humor is a thing of temperament and quick imagination.

Dealing with the comedies and tragedies of literature, he pointed out that the two were closely allied. In the case of Charles Dickens, while writing of the tragedy of the lives of the people, his pages were full of humor, in which sympathy and tenderness mingled. Tragedies of Shakespeare and other dramatists showed a clashing of forces, the overcoming of what was good, and the death of those chiefly concerned. Comedies, while depicting opposition, always ended in a reversion which made things end happily.

Looked at broadly, life in its entirety was a tragedy, but in the various situations met with through life there was much comedy, into which humor entered. Humor set a middle course between the exaggerated optimist and the pessimist; it supplied a sense of the incongruous and kept the balance true.

At the close of his remarks, Mr. W. W. Goodhart proposed a vote of thanks to Professor Phillipson for his entertaining and instructive address, and for the warm interest and assistance in the Alliance. His departure from Adelaide would be a great loss to the society. The vote of thanks was seconded by Madame Wait. In reply Professor Phillipson said that in that city of culture, London, he would remember the happy associations he had enjoyed with the Alliance Francaise of South Australia, and he would hope to make visits to Australia from time to time.

Vocal numbers were contributed by Mrs. Phillipson and Mrs. Back, and recitations by Mrs. Phillipson and Miss Alice Norton. A preliminary notice was made with regard to the Bal Masque to be held at the Palais Royal on July 14 in honor of France's National Day. Supper and conversation closed a most enjoyable evening.