

POLITICS AND AGRICULTURE

(By Harry Thomson)

It is not a great many years since a certain South Australian politician discovered that when things are different they are not the same—and announced his discovery to an admiring world. The discovery has a peculiar virtue as applied to members of Parliament, and in particular to members of Parliament when they become members of Royal Commissions, for they all do. In the old days Aladdin rubbed a lamp and was immediately endowed with omnipotence. In modern times the member of Parliament moves for a Royal Commission and is immediately endowed with omniscience. He is also endowed with liberal expenses, but, of course, that carries no weight.

A more important consideration is that he casts off all the limitations that generally afflict him in common with the rest of erring humanity. For example, it may be that as a mere member of Parliament, and in common with other members of Parliament, he has allowed rural industries to fall into such a hopelessly unprogressive state that they are in danger of extinction. All his experts and all his reports and all his departmental officers cannot help him or patch up the industries. "All the King's horses and all the King's men cannot put Humpty together again."

Politician Never Beaten

But a member of Parliament is never beaten. Always in the last resort he may turn himself into a Royal Commissioner and the thing is as good as done. Unlimited knowledge comes rushing in, unlimited evidence is taken by the commissioners, and unlimited interim reports and progress reports and majority and minority reports go rushing out.

Besides being more picturesque, and, at any rate, not less profitable, this method of solving difficult expert problems by means of a Royal Commission has certain obvious advantages. Agriculture, for example, has become a highly scientific, technical, and expert subject. There is a real danger in allowing anyone with expert knowledge to have too much to do with running things. Otherwise what would happen to democracy and the right of every man to know a little bit more about running his neighbor's business than that neighbor does himself? Knowledge is all very well in its place, but there are distinctions and degrees in knowledge, and they may be dangerous. Since all men are free and equal it is safer to come to these expert questions with an open, not to say a vacant, mind.

Experienced and Able Men

It is no doubt with some such admirable motive that the treatment recently accorded to the Advisory Board of Agriculture was framed. On that board were certain men of great experience and ability, drawn from different portions of the State. They gave of their time and trouble freely and met at regular and frequent intervals. One whom I take merely as an example of the class on the board was Mr. W. S. Kelly. At the conclusion of the war when the Australian Government was faced with the problem of keeping an army interested for many months while waiting to be repatriated they decided on vocational classes. One group was agricultural. Mr. Kelly was specially chosen out of the whole of the Australian Imperial Forces to organise certain branches of this. Incidentally he wrote in a few weeks a book called "Beef, Mutton, and Wool," which was circulated at Government expense, and gained instantaneous and lasting success.

Expert Service

Mr. Kelly became widely known by the best breeders of sheep and cattle in England, and is equally widely known in this State as a successful and scientific farmer. For several years he gave of his services without stint to the Advisory Board. The others on the board did the same. Actual travelling expenses running to a few hundreds a year were incurred, rather than one-fourth the average cost of a Royal Commission whose mem-

bers are as a rule paid in addition, as members of Parliament, to try to prevent rural industries languishing. These are experts ranking with the best in the State. To save a few paltry hundreds they have for all practical purposes been disbanded, three months after the announcement of a proposed commission to enquire into rural industries.

Probably when this commission is appointed some of these men will be called on to give evidence. It can be little but a resume of the work they have been doing and the recommendations they have been making for years past. At best their recommendations will be incorporated in a report, laid on the table of the House, and probably pigeonholed. It and they deserve a better fate. Surely some machinery can be found for utilising in a semi-permanent form the services of these men. Rural industries are of the highest importance to the prosperity of the State. None of them can be understood without a great deal of experience and expert knowledge. There are few greater benefits that could be conferred on agriculture generally than making available regularly such a fund of information and knowledge as those in question possess.

Reg. 22/7/25

SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE.

The first of three lectures dealing with the application of science to agriculture, and illustrated with lantern slides, was given on Tuesday evening by Professor A. E. V. Richardson (Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute) at the Prince of Wales Lecture Hall at the Adelaide University. In his lecture Dr. Richardson dealt with the importance of agriculture to national welfare; contrast of ancient and modern agricultural methods; the progressive development of modern agriculture; the influence of scientific discoveries on agricultural practice; the application of the discoveries of the chemist, biologist, geneticist, pathologist, and engineer to the improvement of agriculture; and the progress of agricultural science in other countries. Realizing the immense benefit of such lectures to the agricultural community of this State there will be published in The Register the whole of the lecture. The first instalment appears this morning in the Man on the Land page. On Tuesday next Dr. Richardson will give his second lecture, and the third lecture will be given on Tuesday, August 4. Both will also be given in full. The second lecture will deal with the creation of new varieties of plants; the relationship between the development of theories of evolution and scientific methods of breeding; methods of developing new varieties of plants—1. Selection. Methods of selection, improvements effected by selection. 2. Hybridizing—The structure of the flower and the actual methods followed in hybridizing garden flowers, fruits, and farm crops will be illustrated. The role of selection and hybridization in the improvement of farm plants. 3. Importance of genetic research in providing a scientific basis for the further improvement of our native plants and farm crops.

Reg. 22/7/25

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

Next Monday evening in the Elder Hall a students' concert will be held. An excellent programme of great variety has been arranged, which includes a number of exceedingly interesting items, both vocal and instrumental. Miss Alice Meegan, A.M.U.A., and Miss Muriel Prince, A.M.U.A., will be the accompanists. The boxplan is now open at S. Marshall and Sons.

News 21/7/25

SCIENCE ON FARM

Dr. Richardson to Lecture

The first of a course of three lectures on the application of science to agriculture will be delivered tonight by Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, (Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute). This is one of the Adelaide University Extension Lectures, and will be illustrated by lantern slides. The lecture will be under three heads—Importance of agriculture to national welfare, the influence of scientific discoveries on agricultural practice, and the progress of agricultural science in other countries.

PITT-COBBETT FOUNDATION.

A bequest of £5,000, left in 1919 by Professor Pitt Cobbett, D.C.L. (Oxon.) to promote better relations between employer and employe, was used by the trustees to endow a lectureship at the University of Tasmania. The lecturer is required to deliver annually a certain number of public lectures in industrial centres, to conduct a tutorial class, and to give a special course of lectures to University students. The lectureship was established in 1923, and a pamphlet has been issued containing addresses by Mr. J. B. Brigden, the Pitt Cobbett lecturer and professor of economics in the University of Tasmania, with the famous speech by the British Prime Minister (Mr. Baldwin) on the evolution of industry made during a debate in the House of Commons in the early part of the current year. There are also addresses by other specialists, which form the part of the pamphlet dealing with the modern outlook in employment relations. Eight lectures are devoted to the basic wage, which is covered from every point of view, including the cost of living criterion, wages without State regulation, piecework, capacity to pay wages, and child endowment. Without being dictatorial, the lectures contain the clear-headed data necessary to enable intelligent people to arrive at their own conclusions on these vital issues. An impartial and constructive criticism is given of the system of compulsory arbitration in Australia, a subject which demands the attention of the best brains of Australia. The pamphlet concludes with an enlightened address on capitalism and the future, which attempts to forecast developments from the present trend of natural forces. The style of the pamphlet is absolutely non-technical, and is calculated to be easily understood by the average thinking University student.

News 21/7/25

ADELAIDE SOPRANO

MISS TAYLOR WINS MEDAL

Foreign Stage Name Adopted

(REUTER.)

LONDON, July 20.

The Royal Academy of Music announces that the Pareparos Gold Medal for sopranos has been awarded to Miss Adelaide Cardanelli (Australia).

Miss Adelaide Cardanelli is better known to South Australians as Miss Helene Taylor, a young Adelaide singer, who recently won the Royal Academy of Music Gold Medal for opera.

Surprise will be expressed in local musical circles at the stage name adopted by Miss Taylor. It was the wish of the executive of the Helene Taylor Fund in Adelaide that she should adopt a British stage name.

Miss Taylor recently appeared in a season of Mozart's opera, "The Magic Flute," in which she took the role of the Queen of Night. The performance was in connection with the Royal Academy of Music, with the assistance of professional artists. London critics reported most favorably on the work of Miss Taylor.

Grateful Music Teachers

F. W. Eardley, Registrar of the University of Adelaide:—I have been directed to thank you for the generous publicity accorded to the proceedings of the Conference of Music Teachers which concluded its session on Saturday. The value of the conference has been greatly enhanced by the detailed reports. Although a large number of teachers were able to attend the press notices will be particularly valuable to many who were prevented by distance and other reasons from being present.

Members of the staff and the other contributors to the programme of the conference find special encouragement in the degree of public interest which has been taken in their efforts to advance the cause of musical education. I should be obliged if you would kindly convey our appreciation to the members of your staff who prepared so ably the reports of the sessions of the conference.

MISS HELENE TAYLOR.

An Academy Gold Medallist.

LONDON, July 21.

The Royal Academy of Music has awarded the Parepa-Rosa gold medal for sopranos to Miss Adelaide Cardanelli (Miss Helene Taylor, of Adelaide).—Reuter.

The medal is instituted as a memorial to Miss Euphrosyne Parepa-Rosa (Edinburgh, 1836-1874), daughter of a Wallachian noble, and sister of the English singer Edwin Seguin. A gifted British soprano,



MISS HELENE TAYLOR (Adelaide Cardanelli).

trained largely by her mother, Miss Parepa-Rosa, from 1852, appeared in opera on the Continent, and five years later made a fine impression in England. She visited America thrice in company with her second husband, Carl Rosa, whom she married in 1867. Her greatest successes were in oratorio. Her first husband was Capt. Carvell (died 1865), whom she married in 1863.

Miss Helene Taylor, an Adelaide orphan girl, who had studied the piano and violin, and possessed a voice above the ordinary, in 1920, won a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music against all comers in Australia and New Zealand, and obtained the gold medal for highest marks by a South Australian candidate. The scholarship was for free tuition for not less than two years, but carried on money with it. However, Miss Taylor, with her own savings and generous help from a public subscription, was enabled to proceed to London in 1922. In the following year the Royal Academy of Music awarded her a medal for singing and honours for the pianoforte; and last year she was awarded the degree of Licentiate of the Academy.

News 21/7/25

Professor Coleman Phillipson (former Professor of Law at the University of Adelaide) has cancelled his passage for Liverpool by the Anchara. He has postponed his departure from Adelaide until August 6, when he will leave by the Naldera.