

# IMPERIAL DEBATERS

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## POLITICS AND KINDERGARTENS

### VISITORS AGAIN SUCCESSFUL.

Whether white supremacy is in imminent danger of being overcome by the colored races or not? proved an excellent question for the University teams to debate at the Liberal Hall on Monday evening, even if their varied arguments did not bring it much nearer solution.

Sir Archibald Strong presided, and he kept one eye on his watch and one on the debater, and rang the bell, which warned the eloquent one that time was up, with a pointed disregard for the most telling peroration. The Adelaide team took the affirmative side, with the Northern Territory as a stamping ground. Mr. J. R. Kiernan, the leader of the local men, has a habit of pouncing on his facts and chewing them with apparent relish, finally swallowing them with a forceful snap of the jaws. He spoke of the relativity of statistics till they seemed as abstract as Einstein's own theory, and then came down to earth with a phrase that made mixed statistics as simple as mixed bathing, and nearly as shocking. He spoke of the yellow, black, and brown and red races, and proceeded to show that the white man's benevolence was keeping up the teeming millions of Asia instead of allowing them to be decimated by a benevolent Providence, in the shape of famine and war. There was a rising tide of color which would sap the walls of civilisation, which, he seemed to think, were in the vicinity of Darwin.

There was no need to announce that Mr. A. H. E. Molson came from Oxford University, although his trousers only looked like distant relatives of those super "bags" which are the alleged joy of the undergraduate there. The fact was apparent in his consciously cultured voice and his air of being a youthful sphinx which had looked out upon all the world with a tolerant eye. With his thumbs neatly crossed on his small laced fingers, he set to work to demolish the arguments of Mr. Kiernan, and built up an entirely new set for the next Adelaide man to knock down. He lumped Christianity, medicine, and sanitation all together as an example of Western culture, and he dispensed his own brand of the commodity with a gentle, almost pitying air of railleury. He could not see there was any rising tide of color, for there was no cohesion between the colored races, and never would be.

Mr. J. P. Brazel, on behalf of Adelaide, wore an extremely pained expression as he pointed out the dangers of trade rivalry of East and West. He regretted that he had not a map with which to illustrate his remarks, but he asked them to see a beautiful country rather in the terms of a cross-word puzzle, and nobody was surprised when the solution was Australia. He rocked backwards and forwards with geometrical precision as he enunciated his policy of "No Trespassers," and put forward the gloomy opinion that white supremacy was already on the brink of perdition.

Mr. R. Nunn May, of the Birmingham University, appeared to think he was addressing a somewhat overgrown kindergarten as he reasoned gently with the debaters of the opposite team much as he might have with extremely nice but dense children. He played with his facts as a cat would with a mouse, and then gave it as his somewhat immature opinion that the birth rates in colored countries would decrease as the standard of living rose. On the other hand, white population was steadily increasing. The fact that in China and Japan the people had the benefits of the cinema should be sufficient to ensure that they would demand a new standard of living based on the orgies of American millionaires. From this he dropped the kindergarten for Parliament, and when he spoke of "my friend on the other side" it might have been the width of the House of Commons between them rather than the small platform of the Liberal Hall. When he concluded with "Dam the rising tide of color," the aptness of the remark disguised the poverty of the argument in the best political manner.

Mr. B. G. Griff, who had last word for Adelaide, was in such haste to get to the root of the matter that he took some bewildering short cuts. He spoke with an earnestness that amounted to a passion for figures and facts. Millions of negroes were discussed and dismissed in one breath, and it was a short step from Singapore with a Chinese magnate driving in his Rolls-Royce to civil war in America. If there were such a war he assured his hearers that the Philippines would fall in 24 hours, and followed up this prophecy by heatedly enquiring why, if there were no danger, Great Britain had made Singapore "a great military base." There were those who would say "hosh" to his arguments, he continued. At this there was a loud "Hear, hear" from the English debaters. Mr. Griff innocently remarked that he had cracked no jokes that night, a statement which proved too much even for the gravity of the judges.

Mr. P. Reed combines a distinctive speech with an air of perpetual lumbago, and his attitude with his hands across his loins or in the region of the sciatic nerve recall the famous pictures usually associated with a well-known patent medicine. He never moved his feet, but he managed to address every quarter of the house. He declared that the arguments

of his Adelaide opponents boiled down to nothing, as they had boiled up in Mr. Griff's speech. He spoke of a decline in a native birth rate with a pitying sorrow for the ignorance of those on the other side. In his estimation the white race held their supremacy by something more than mere numbers. He thought their attitude towards the whole matter should be that of modern woman to dress, interested, but not wrapped up in it.

The adjudicators, Messrs. Francis Kelly, Harry Thomson, and A. Grenfell Price, and the audience were in agreement, for they chose the visiting team as winners in the debate.

On Monday evening the visitors and the local debaters were entertained at dinner at St. Mark's College, where they are staying during their visit to Adelaide.

REG. 25.5.26

## GOVERNMENT APPOINTMENTS.

From "FRIESIAN."—The custom of our Governments, past and present, has been to seek officers to fill important positions from outside the State, and to overlook those who have been trained within its borders. With all deference to the gentlemen who hold the positions at the head of the Education and Forestry Departments, both of whom were imported from Tasmania. We had a well-qualified forester in Mr. Corbin, who was trained in our University, and knew the country and its potential needs. But he was, perhaps, too near and familiar for the powers to recognise his abilities. He has since been secured by New Zealand, where he is doing meritorious work. Our Governments have also, in the past, allowed other brilliant men to be taken from us by the eastern States. The practice of belittling our own qualified men was again followed in the appointment of officers from other States in the recent reorganization of the Dairy Department. We may suppose that strangers from a distance loom larger than those we educate and train. All the four fresh dairy instructors came from the east; trainees of Roseworthy and others with good qualifications and long and wide experience were passed by, although they apparently had as good technical knowledge as those appointed. While it may not have been expedient or possible to fill all the positions locally, it was clearly a case of setting aside our own man without a sporting show. Some of them have given to the dairying industry a great deal of gratuitous service, and know what is needed on the farm and in the factory to advance production. South Australia has the proud distinction of obtaining the highest export grade marks for butter in the Commonwealth, and, I think, the highest production of milk per cow, while it has nothing to learn from the other States in stud and general herdstesting. It would be unfair to disparage or prejudice the instructors recently appointed; they are in no way to blame, and we hope they will do good service. The point to be emphasized is the persistent custom of putting so little value on our own trained men, when filling positions; apparently familiarity breeds contempt, and possibly bias may at times interfere with correct judgment.

REG. 25.5.26

## UNIVERSITY DEGREES CONFERRED.

A special congregation of the members of the Senate and Council of the University of Adelaide was held in the Classics Lecture Room at the University on Monday, when the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) conferred the following degrees:—Bachelor of Laws, John Merrick Hague and Anthony Harper (Professor Campbell); Doctor of Science, John Campbell Earl (Professor Rennie); Bachelor of Arts, Bernard McCarthy and Hubert Harry Penny (Professor McKellar Stewart); Bachelor of Engineering and Diploma in Applied Science, Claude Lancelot McCoughry, John Alfred Vawser, Wilfred St. Clair Osborne, Clarence Bertram Sieber, and Arthur Charles Main (Professor Chapman).

News. 22.5.26

## Dental Conference

Delegates from the dental faculties of the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney will meet in Melbourne on May 24 and 25. They will discuss the proposed extension of the degree course from four to five years. The question of conforming to the requirements of the General Medical Council of Great Britain and a proposal to form an association of the dental faculties of Australian universities will be discussed.

Delegates from this State will be Sir Joseph Verco, Dr. Arthur Chapman, and Dr. D. T. Campbell.

# COMMERCE STUDENTS.

## THE ANNUAL DINNER.

The seventh annual dinner of the University Commerce Students' Association was held at the Grosvenor on Saturday night. The president (Mr. C. H. Bressler) presided, and there were also present the Premier (Hon. J. Gunn) and the president of the Chamber of Commerce (Mr. Wallace Bruce).

The toast of "The University" was proposed by Mr. W. A. K. McKee, who referred to the high place in the affairs of the nation held by past students of the University. He said it was a good investment to spend money in the cultivation of the minds of citizens.

The Registrar of the University (Mr. F. W. Eardley) responded. He traced the growth of the institution, which was founded on the endowment of £20,000 each by Sir Walter Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder. These had been followed by others from Sir Thomas Elder and the Hon. J. H. Angas, by the family of the Hon. John Darling, Mrs. Jury, and Messrs. Marks and Sheridan. Then there was the magnificent bequest of £100,000 by Mr. Peter Waite, another by Mr. Barr Smith, and more recently by Sir Langdon Bonython with a gift of £20,000 for the law school and £40,000 for a great hall, which would come into being in 1930. The private bequests to the University amounted to £423,000, in which was included the Joseph Fisher bequest of £25,000. This was best known to commerce students through the Fisher medal and the Fisher lecture. But these amounts were small compared with sums received from the Government in grants and subsidies. It was the life of the University that counted, however, for buildings would not make a University; rather were they the body to give the soul a chance to live.

### Must Have Unionism.

"The Commerce Students' Association" was proposed by the Premier, who said he had noticed among the aims of the association that it was established for the purpose of fostering a spirit of social intercourse. He was pleased that such was the case, for no body could accomplish much without some form of unionism. It need not be for aggression, but by free intercourse among their fellows and a better understanding of different points of view they would increase their powers of rendering service to the State. It was significant that commerce was the youngest branch of study at the University, and it might be supposed that the business men of the State, not being conscious that their assistants required a higher education, did not press for University teaching. It was not until 1888 that the University of Cambridge took the lead among British seats of learning by arranging examinations in commercial subjects, and fourteen years later Adelaide had followed the example. In 1902 there were 125 students enrolled, in 1926 there were 341, and since 1902 there had been 137 diploma graduates. It was stated on the authority of Dr. Heaton that the Adelaide School of Commerce was the largest in the British Empire, outside the London School of Economics.

Referring to the development of the Murray Valley, the Premier said the problem for politics was how to find a market for the products of that undoubtedly fertile area, and politics would have to call in the aid of commerce to settle the question. The alert business man would be a big factor in disposing of their products overseas. (Applause.)

The third third object in the constitution of the association was Mr. Gunn's was the desire to have a Chair of Commerce established at the University. Was it not possible that some successful merchant would immortalise his name and confer a benefit on the community by endowing such a chair? (Applause.)

Mr. C. H. Bressler responded, and Mr. C. W. Anderson proposed the toast of "Our Lecturer." In replying, Mr. A. L. G. Mackay referred to the appointment of Mr. A. H. Greenham, a diploma holder, to a high position in the Agent-General's office. He said that was an indication that the Government were watching the men doing the commerce course at the University, and the same men were going to fill the executive positions in commercial firms. Men of character were wanted, and men with a capacity for finding things out of their own accord, and these could be trained in their universities. He did not think University men were being made as much use of as they might be, and they wanted business men to bring their problems forward. The Government also might well appoint a University man to Commissions. This was being freely done in England and Germany.

"The Chamber of Commerce" was proposed by Mr. J. G. Thomas, and response was made by Mr. Wallace Bruce. Mr. Bruce assured the students that the Chamber of Commerce was deeply interested in them. He was also glad to hear that the Government supported the establishment of a Chair of Commerce. At one time he had thought Mr. Gunn was going to announce that the Government in-

tended to make the money available. (Laughter and applause.) "Kindred Societies" was proposed by Mr. K. H. Boykett, and responded to by Mr. Haynes Leader (Law School). A dance followed.

NEWS. 22.5.26

Mr. Justice Angus Parsons will celebrate his birthday tomorrow. He is one of the leading legal luminaries of this State. Born at North Adelaide 24 years ago, he received his education at Prince Alfred College, Roseworthy College, and Adelaide University, where he took his LL.B. degree. In 1897 he was called to the Bar. For six years he sat in the House of Assembly, and in 1915 he was Attorney-General and Minister of Education. A keen educationist, he is a member of the University Council. For three years he was president of the Adelaide branch of the Royal Society of St. George. He left recently on a trip to Britain.