

# UNIVERSITY DEBATE.

## Third Win for Visitors.

The Liberal Club Hall was crowded on Tuesday night, when the last of the series of debates between the English universities' team and the Adelaide University took place. The Acting Vice-Chancellor of the University (Professor Rennie) presided. The adjudicators were Mr. F. Kelly and Professor McKellar Stewart. The British team affirmed "That western civilization is becoming a degenerating influence to mankind," and were represented by Messrs. A. H. E. Molson, P. Reed, and R. Nunn May. They were opposed by Messrs. M. R. Kriewaldt, G. C. Harry, and A. L. Pickering, for Adelaide.

### The Affirmative Contention.

The visitors in affirming the proposition defined western civilization as that which had grown up in Europe and America since the industrial revolution of the last century and a half. Far from allowing man to develop on noble lines, it was becoming a definitely decadent and degenerative influence all over the world. Industrialism had rendered the conditions of certain peoples appalling, and had herded them in slums, often submitting them to the ravages of disease. That terrible price was paid for nothing of great value to mankind. Conditions were being ameliorated, but they were likely to be bad so long as the industrial system survived. Even in Ford's factory—the highest product of scientific factory organization—men were so condemned to one repeated process that their minds became numbed and their bodies stunted. Man invented machines to be his servants; but he was now a servant of the machines and was rapidly developing into a machine himself. The tendency in literature was degrading. While the "best sellers" might be brilliantly witty and clever, they lacked the real soul of highest literature. The music of the masses was an extraordinary collection of sounds produced by extraordinary instruments. There was hope for western civilization, as contended by the opposition; but when hope was held out for a movement it was premised that it was already in a bad way. Western civilization was undoubtedly having a detrimental effect on the physique. They pictured the race of the future as bald men and bearded women, both toothless, and with ears like cabbage leaves. (Laughter.) They doubted whether the marvellous achievements of science had made man happier, and also whether the prevailing prosperity was in the best interests of man. Christianity was a hopeful influence, but was there any sign of the world turning to Christianity? Freedom, far from increasing under Western civilization, was vanishing. The materialistic craze had overcome the artistic instinct. All the material progress of Western civilization was based on the inventions of earlier civilizations. There was no sign that the masses were advancing intellectually. The assertion that the world had made moral progress was even more doubtful than that it had made intellectual progress. Politicians used to buy votes in the House with their own money; now they bought them in the country with the taxpayers' money. In spite of the increasing wealth, luxury, and speeding-up of life, they did not believe modern man was any better, more intelligent, or happier than his ancestors. Materialism had outstripped intellectualism, and there was no sign of the latter catching up. In that lay the degenerating influence.

### Adelaide's Reply.

The Adelaide men, in opposing the motion, granted that some things could be remedied. Their opponents had to prove that the evil causes they mentioned were sufficiently great to produce the awful result predicted. The three hopeful factors of Western civilization were Christianity, education, and knowledge. Cynics might sneer, and agnostics criticize; but all believed that Christianity was a vital force, and that Christians were the salt of the earth. The social significance of education—the ability to read and write—gave every man the hope of catching a glimpse of the glories of the world. The social hope of knowledge was the urge to learn, which was eventually bound to be of use to man. None could deny that great advances had been made in accumulating wealth, in inventions, in discovering knowledge, and in science, all of which tended to make man wealthier and happier. There were creakings in the machine, but it worked in the best interests of man. Western civilization, as it had welded small communities into nations, was now blending the whole into one unified world, better fitted for habitation by man. The social result of civilization was man's increasing power over the forces of nature. Christianity, influencing the leaders of civilization, was improving the conditions under which man worked and spent his leisure. The opposition had limited the debate to the period since the industrial revolution, but had disregarded the powerful and uplifting influences of eminent modern novelists and dramatists. The material advancement of western civilization had been so great that when the intellectual progress was brought into line the world would be in a highly satisfactory position. It was not possible to predict degeneration in such a short period as sized upon by the opposition. The opposition case fell down when they admitted that there was

hope in the remedies suggested for various evils indicated. Such movements as town-planning for the removal of slums and the application of science to the remedying of certain evils proved the salvation of western civilization. Its hope lay in that it was able to make use of all knowledge made available by previous or present forms of civilization. The audience was called upon to vote on the merits of the debate and on the question itself. They decided that the visitors had won; but that western civilization was not a degenerating influence. The judges gave their verdict in favour of the British team.

Professor Rennie bade farewell to the visitors and Mr. May stated that he hoped his audience would realize that the debates were not the primary object of the tour. The primary object was to learn about the people and the universities of Australia.

REC. 26.5.26

## RICHARD WATSON'S CONCERT.

### Brilliant Farewell Night.

The popularity of that gifted young Elder Scholar, Richard Watson, was exemplified on Tuesday evening at the Adelaide Town Hall. It was a night of triumph for this Adelaide vocalist. There was a crowded assemblage, and an excellent programme was contributed by leading local artists, who gave their services as a mark of the esteem they felt for Mr. Watson. The Elder Scholar won his distinction five years ago, and has spent the three years to which he was entitled at the Elder Conservatorium, first with Mr. Winsloe Hall and latterly with Mr. Clive Carey, Mus. Bac. Early in July the brilliant student will leave for London to continue his course at the Royal College of Music. Last night witnessed one more step along the road to success, and the central vocalist fulfilled his share of the entertainment with characteristic efficiency. Despite the customary reserve that attends his platform work, Mr. Watson was obviously pleased with the enthusiastic reception accorded his two set appearances. Those brackets of songs had to be considerably added to in response to the ovations they aroused. Included in the audience was Signorina Toti Dal Monte, attended by Mr. Claude Kingston, who was keenly appreciative of the singer, and applauded him liberally. Other members of Dal Monte's party included Signor Augusto Beuf and Mr. William James. Professor Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., was also with the prima donna. A wonderful atmosphere was created by the introductory instrumental number by the Elder Conservatorium String Quartet. The "Andantino cantabile" and "Schergo" (Tschaikowsky) was presented in true spirit by Mr. Charles Schilsky (leader). Misses Kathleen Meegan and Sylvia Whittington, and Mr. Harold Parsons. Then followed a generous sequence of vocal, pianoforte violin, and violoncello solos.

Mr. Watson's first appearance—heralded by prolonged applause—was made in Gounod's "She alone charmeth my sadness," and in the famous Puccini excerpt from "La Boheme." "The song of the coat." In the former, Mr. Watson excelled himself, singing the recitative with befitting invocation, and the lilting aria with delightful freedom. This number indicated his remarkable range, and the final note, the lower C, was easily taken. A keen dramatic sense permeated the operatic selection, which was invested with intense feeling. In response to tumultuous recalls, Mr. Watson gave the "Simon, the cellarer." Still his listeners were unappeased, so John Ireland's "Sea fever" was generously added, and served to accentuate the beautiful quality of the voice. It was fitting that Richard Watson should conclude the programme. His selections were from the compositions of Schubert—"The wraith" and "The wanderer." Both called for special interpretative power, and the vocalist revealed deep insight and true vision in his reading of these classics. "The wraith" is full of pathos in its invocation to a tragedy of love, and the mellow tones of his rapidly maturing basso, fittingly translated that sorrowful theme. Fine things were done with "The wanderer," that was interpreted in the very spirit of Schubert, and which was the greatest offering amid a notable selection. Even then the audience asked for more, and Mr. Watson courteously acquiesced.

Miss Valda Harvey commenced the solo portion of the evening with a contrasting vocal bracket, "Depuis le Jour" (Carpentier) and "The spring" (Pecchia). In both songs purity of tone and dramatic interpretation signalized the performance of the young soprano, who had to pay the encore penalty. A pianoforte group by Miss Irene Kemp was, as usual, a musical treat. Miss Kemp chose two Spanish dances for her contribution, "Andantino quasi allegretto" (Granados) and "Seguidillas" (Albeniz), both of which were invested with true musicianship. The brilliant executant had to return and play Paradie's "Staccato," which was an outstanding item in the evening's programme. Mr. Charles Schilsky can be always relied upon for a scholarly performance, and his violin solo, the famous "Preislied" from "The Meistersingers" (arr. by Wilhelmj) was a gem, both as regards technique and expression. Miss Elsie Woolley's selection of the great aria from "Samson and Delilah," "Softly

awakes my heart," proved a popular choice, and was rendered with befitting temperamental appeal. For a recall, "Drink to me only with thine eyes" was forthcoming.

Mr. Clive Carey, Mus. Bac., presented a delightful threefold group of British compositions for his vocal item. The refinement of art was apparent throughout those quaint and lovely writings—"The monkey's carol" (Stanford), "Blue-bells from the clearings" (E. Walker), and "The bellman's song" (Elizabeth Poston). Sustained applause was expressed by the additional "Billy and me," sung with similar charm. Mr. Harold Parsons is deservedly one of the most popular of our concert artists. He gave a masterly interpretation of the 'cello arrangements by Popper of Liszt's "Ungarische rhapsodie." In response to plaudits, a dance measure by Goens was submitted with equal facility. Miss Hilda Gill won encomiums for her contralto number, "O, Don Fatale!" from "Don Carlos," and this dignified songstress was worthy of the recognition that resulted in an extra item, an attractive "Lullaby." Miss Irene Kemp added to her previous triumphs with the pianoforte solo, "Gavotte and variations" (Rameau-Leschetzky), which concluded the items by the supporting artists.

Many floral tributes were handed up to the platform during the evening. None was more deserved than that which was given to Miss Alice Meegan, in recognition of her sympathetic and delightfully played accompaniments. Miss Meegan spent an exacting night at the keyboard. Prior to the concert, a number of girls considerably augmented the funds by sales of daintily prepared sweets. Mr. Gus Cawthorne had charge of the concert arrangements.

ADV. 25.5.26

## THE IMPERIAL DEBATERS.

### "AT HOME" AT THE TOWN HALL.

The members of the English and Scottish Universities' debating team, who are at present visiting Adelaide, were tendered an "at home" by the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Wallace Bruce) at the Town Hall on Monday morning. Mr. T. P. MacDonald, who was forced to remain in Melbourne owing to an attack of influenza, and Mr. R. Nunn May, who was taken ill with the same complaint upon his arrival in Adelaide on Saturday morning, were absent. The remaining members of the team, Messrs. P. Reed and A. H. E. Molson, attended, and there were also present a number of students of the Adelaide University and a representative gathering of prominent citizens.

The Lord Mayor (Mr. Wallace Bruce) said the Lady Mayoress and he were delighted to have with them as principal guests, two of the members of the National Union of Students, a body representative of all the British universities, and he embraced the opportunity of extending to them, on behalf of the citizens of Adelaide, a very warm and hearty welcome to the Queen City of the South. They were delighted to see with them Mr. Molson, of the Oxford University, and Mr. Reed, of the London University. To both these gentlemen he desired to express the hope that they would thoroughly enjoy their stay in Adelaide. He regretted the cause of the absence of Mr. MacDonald and Mr. May, and he asked their colleagues to convey to them their best wishes for a speedy recovery. It would be a pity for the visitors to leave South Australia before obtaining first hand information regarding some of the local industries, and he could assist them in any way to make their stay in Adelaide enjoyable, he hoped they would permit him to do so. He felt that the visit of the debaters was only another evidence of the desire of all sections of the British Empire to be drawn closer together, and to obtain first hand information of some of the farflung portions of the Empire. He had little doubt that their friends, while they could not doubt teach Australians many things, had approached Australia in a truly British spirit of being willing to learn.

Mr. Bruce said it was not so much the experience gained and the words uttered at the debate itself, but the knowledge the debater obtained and the education he received in making himself familiar with the subjects for discussion. This was only obtained by a vast amount of research work, which must in the obtaining improve the intellect and make one better fitted to form an intelligent judgment on the great problems that confronted the Empire to-day. He felt that it was a notable coincidence that while they were that day entertaining a representative of the famous educational city of Oxford, the Australian cricketers were being entertained in Oxford. "On the trained speaker, with a clear, analytical mind and an intelligent vision of the future, largely rested the responsibility of educating the public mind upon all important questions," said the Lord Mayor. "The work and study that you are performing to-day qualifies you to be better able to ex-

press yourselves in clear and defined lines upon questions that play an important part in moulding public opinion, so essential to the welfare and advancement of the British Empire, of which we are all so proud to be considered part."

The Attorney-General (Hon. W. J. Denny) welcomed the visitors on behalf of the Government. He was a whole-hearted sympathizer with the present tour, for it was only by such contests of brain and wit between local students and representatives of universities on the other side of the world that they could hope to achieve anything worth while. The tour of the Imperial debaters would cement the friendship between the Mother Country and all component parts of the Empire. He was sorry that two of the members of the team were laid aside with influenza, but the people of Adelaide felt relieved to know that Adelaide had nothing at all to do with the matter, the illness in both cases being the result of a Melbourne germ. (Laughter.)

Mr. Reed, in expressing thanks for the welcome, said he had an aversion to working overtime; therefore, he would not attempt anything in the way of a debate at that morning's gathering. (Laughter.) It had been stated in Adelaide, Melbourne, and elsewhere, that Mr. T. P. MacDonald was a son of the former British Prime Minister, and a brother of the Mr. Malcolm MacDonald who came to Australia last year. But that was not the case. In fact, he was not connected in any way with the MacDonald clan. Mr. Reed said he admired the city of Adelaide, as perhaps he had admired only one or two other cities in the world. He explained that the object of the tour was to meet the students of the universities of the Dominions, and, by getting in touch with the students and others with whom their tour brought them in contact, they were able to gain a knowledge of questions affecting the social life of the people in various parts of the Empire. When they returned to Great Britain they would be able to say that there were at least four men in that country who knew a little more about Dominion affairs than a few months ago. When he returned to England, Mr. Reed said, he would feel justified in posing as an expert on Australia, but while he was in Australia he would pose as an expert on England. There were people in other parts of the world who thought that England was on her last legs. But this was far from being the case. England, it was true, was beset with many difficulties, but she was making a big effort to overcome them. There was no greater pleasure to them in England than to feel that there were people in the Dominions who were ready to extend to them their deepest sympathy, and their practical help. He assured them that when his colleagues and he returned to Great Britain they would do their best to broadcast the knowledge of Australia which they had obtained during their visit. (Applause.)

Mr. Molson said it was an extraordinary revelation to them upon coming to Australia to find that they had come to a country whose people and ideas were so unmistakably British. The people of England had but to cross the Channel, and in two hours they found themselves in a foreign land. But after travelling about 14,000 miles to Australia, the visitors found that they were not very far from home, but very much at home indeed. Their coming to Australia opened up for them a whole vista of vision, for all that they saw was a revelation. "We realise that people in England have not the same opportunities of studying the questions in the Dominions that we have," said Mr. Molson, "and when we return home we shall tell the people there that there are abundant opportunities in Australia for the migrant of the right type. If I had not come to Australia I would not have thought it possible to build up such a fine country, with its thriving industries and beautiful cities, in a little more than 100 years." (Applause.)

On behalf of the University of Adelaide and the visiting debaters, Mr. K. H. Boykett thanked the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress for their hospitality.

NEWS. 24.5.26

## STUDY REWARDED

### University Degrees Conferred

Special interest is attached by University students to the ceremony of the presentation of degrees. At the University classics lecture-room this afternoon Sir George Murray, K.C.M.G., B.A., LL.M. (Chancellor of the University), conferred the following degrees:—  
 Bachelor of Laws—Messrs. John Meyrick Hague, and Anthony Harper.  
 Doctor of Science—Mr. John Campbell Earl (absent).  
 Ordinary Degree of Bachelor of Arts—Messrs. Bernard McCarthy and Hubert Harry Penny.  
 Bachelor of Engineering and Diploma in Applied Science—Messrs. Claude Lancelot McCloughry, John Alfred Vawser, Arthur Charles Main (absent), Wilfred St. Clair Osborne (absent), and Clarence Bertram Sieber (absent).