Why Music Should Be Subsidised

Dr. Davies deplores the attitude of those who dictate our policies, both in the State and the Municipality, that art should be self-supporting. If it will not pay for itself, let it go, he plausibly argues. "It is a sad reflection upon our culture as English people," he says, "that, while almost every other civilised nation in the world has its municipal drama, its civic orchestra, or State Opera House, we alone are utterly commercialised to believe in the good of such things."

"Wide, well-lighted streets do not pay for themselves; deep drainage, an assured water supply and good sanitation are not self-supporting; in fact, if it is depends on voluntary contribution, the majority of our population would choose to live in undisturbed squalor, rather than pay for necessary improvements. Let me further add this and ask how long will our libraries, museums, picture galleries, universities remain open if they are expected to support themselves? What, again, would become of our courts, and all the prosperous agencies of society, if people were simply invited to subscribe for the maintenance, even in so valid a cause as public safety?"

"We all know quite well that these things must be paid for as a matter of obligation, and taxes are only levied for the purpose. But we draw the line at drama and music, the very greatest of the arts, and require that they should die out a prosperous existence on private enterprise; else—and worse still—we deliver them over to be exploited by those who are only concerned with the profits they may reap from them."

"It is too much to hope that, ere long, those in high authority may rise to a higher and fuller conception of their duties, by generously subsidising both music and drama."

"Nor would it be difficult to show that a few thousands of pounds annually spent in this way would be actually a wealth-producing investment. Let us put it in the form of a merely mundane question to the employer of labour. 'Which of two employees would you choose—one who in his spare time (and often in his employer's time, too) liberally devotes himself to racing and picture theatres, or one who finds his recreation in good music, good literature, or classic drama?' There is only one answer to so obvious a query, for in terms of all-round efficiency, as well as in conscientious devotion to duty, the latter will easily out-distance the former."

"The logic, therefore, of the proposition is that, by putting the greatest forms of recreation within universal reach, we raise the level of industry and the community's highest point; for it is true, as a great essayist has said, that in the pursuit of crude pleasures the appetite constantly grows, not with the eating, but because there is nothing to eat.

"THE S.A. ORCHESTRA is now entering on its seventh year of existence. From its inception onwards there has been a steady advance in artistic excellence, as well as a constant increase of public appreciation. Visitors to our State express surprise that such a splendid body of players should be found so far away from the great art centres. We have every reason to be proud of the Orchestra, and of the conspicuous ability of our own players and students who form its personnel."

How the Public May Help.

Some time ago Dr. Davies urged the music-loving public to "stand by the band," and it is possible for all to give their support is shown on page 3. The exceptionally reasonable rates of admission. The Executive invites hearty co-operation in its work for the advancement of Orchestral Music by the sale of Group Tickets (which cuttle the holder to preferential booking). These are issued at the following rates:—Free reserved 5 seats, transferable and available for any concert at £1 1/2 (plus tax); Four reserved 2 or 3 seats, transferable and available for any concert at £1 4/6 (plus tax); and, of the first two at most, will be made at reduced or without extra cost.

Gossip

To Perth University.

SIR WINTHROP HACKETT'S ESTATE.

Mr. W. H. Foote, M.M., A.R.C.M., Conductor of the South Australian Orchestra.

MUNIFICENT BEQUEST.

SIR WINTHROP HACKETT'S ESTATE.

To Perth University.

The Chancellor of the University of Western Australia (M.L.C.), during the course of his remarks at the meeting yesterday of the Chauvel Association, announced that Sir Winthrop Hackett, the first Chancellor of the Univer-

sity of Western Australia, during his lifetime, made provision in his will for a munificence in aid of Agriculture; furthermore, in his will, directed his executors to make various bequests to public bodies. Amongst these, a munificence in aid of the University was directed to be paid out of certain funds, and was to be devoted to providing scholarships for necessitous students. The as to these equal parts were-left to the University for the promotion of Art and Music, the University for the promotion of Art and Music, and the Anglican Church, be disposed of in the same manner as the said equal parts areween directed to be paid out. That is, as it is composed of £5,000,000,000, to which I have alluded, I draw your attention to this estate in the same position and in the same manner.

Other Legacies.

Sir Winthrop Hackett died in 1939, and there followed three of the most anxious years of Sir John's administration, during which the University was in a state of financial distress. Sir Alfred Langler, governing director of the University, has informed me that the University, in a letter dated July 3, 1945, and will shortly have paid off all liabilities and has been bequeathed to the University.

Sir Winthrop Hackett, except those that remain in the Anglican Church, that he would have the University and the Church, and in other words, the university and the church, from which the students are

In conclusion, Sir Winthrop Hackett, has, by a munificence of £5,000,000,000, to which I have alluded to in Sir Winthrop's will, now the sole heirs of the very valuable real estate left to Sir Winthrop Hackett.

That estate included the principal newspaper offices in the State, the daily morning paper we know well, and also the Western Mail, which is owned by Sir Winthrop's estate, and which throughout the years has been a valuable asset to the University, and has been a source of revenue to the University.

A Magnificent Gift.

If our state of the Southwestern University is realised, this bequest, constituting the majority of the munificent bequests that has ever been given to the University by an Australian citizen, and with the Chauvel, the Wilson, the Metcalfe, the White, and other legacies, which have been given to the various universities of Australian universities.

The thanks of the University and of the people of Western Australia are due to the great nobles of our land, to Sir Winthrop Hackett, who has given us such a rich legacy, to Sir Alfred Langler, who has watched over the interests of Sir Winthrop Hackett's estate, and to the University, which has been brought to fruition. Having brought such a legacy to pass, Mr. Langler's task is not ended.

Newspapers to be SOLD.

In order to fulfill Sir Winthrop's intention, and for the University, the University has been in a state of financial distress. Sir Alfred Langler, who has watched over the interests of Sir Winthrop Hackett's estate, and to the University, which has been brought to fruition. Having brought such a legacy to pass, Mr. Langler's task is not ended.

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