

To Perth University.

Sir Winthrop Hackett's Estate.

PERTH, Friday.

The Chancellor of the University of Western Australia (Dr. Athelstan Saw, M.L.C.), during the course of his remarks, at the graduation ceremony in Perth to-day referred as follows to the Hackett bequest:—“You will remember that Sir Winthrop Hackett, the first Chancellor of the University of Western Australia, during his lifetime, made provision for the establishment of a Chair of Agriculture; furthermore, in his will after providing for his family, he made various bequests to public bodies. Among these was a sum of £50,000, to be divided into eight equal parts. The University was left six of these equal parts, three of which were to be devoted to providing scholarships for necessitous students. The other three equal parts left to the University were to be allowed to accumulate until they reached a sum of £40,000, when a Winthrop Memorial Hall was to be erected. The other two of the eight equal parts were left to the Anglican Church, for the purpose of the erection and maintenance of an Anglican University College, and especially of a chapel attached thereto. Not content with these proofs of his devotion to the University, Sir Winthrop bequeathed the balance of his residuary estate to these two bodies—the University and the Anglican Church, in the same proportions and in the same manner as the said eight equal parts are therein directed to be paid. That is, to-day, as prescribed in that clause of his will. Dealing with the legacy of £50,000, to which I have alluded, I draw your attention to the words in the same proportions, and in the same manner.”

Other Liabilities Paid Off.

Sir Winthrop Hackett died in 1916, and there followed three of the most anxious years of the war period for those administering his estate. I am happy to tell you that the present trustee of the estate, Mr. Alfred Langler, governing director of the West Australian, has informed the University Senate and the Diocesan trustees that he will shortly have paid off all liabilities and all the numerous legacies bequeathed by Sir Winthrop Hackett, except those to the university and the Anglican Church. In other words, the university and the church, for the purposes of the trust alluded to in Sir Winthrop's will, are now the sole heirs of the very valuable estate left by Sir Winthrop Hackett. That estate included the principal newspaper in this State—the West Australian, the daily morning paper we know so well, and also a weekly paper, The Western Mail, both of which circulate all over our State and have been flourishing for many years.

A Magnificent Gift.

If our estimate of the value of the estate is realized, this Hackett bequest constitutes one of the most magnificent bequests that has ever been made to an Australian university, and vies with the Challis, the Wilson, the McCaughey, the Elder, the Waite, and other legacies, which have enriched at various times other Australian universities.

The thanks of the university and of the people of Western Australia are due to the great and noble forethought of Sir Winthrop Hackett, who has given us such a rich endowment, and also to his trustee, Mr. Alfred Langler, who has watched over the interests of the Hackett estate with marked ability and success, and has enabled Sir Winthrop's desires to be brought to fruition. Having brought such a happy issue to pass, Mr. Langler's task is not ended.

Newspapers to be Sold.

In order to fulfil Sir Winthrop's intention, and for the university and the Anglican Church to carry out their trusts, it will be necessary to convert the estate, including the two newspapers, into money. To dispose of such valuable newspapers to the best advantage requires anxious consideration, but Mr. Langler, the University Senate, and the Diocesan trustees are working harmoniously together in order that Sir Winthrop's intentions may be realized in the fullest measure. I hope that at future degree ceremonies the Chancellor of the University will be able to add other chapters to the story I have begun to-day, until the work is finally completed, and the building or buildings, constituting the Winthrop memorial, are erected and remain for all time to mark the nobility of purpose of the first Chancellor of the University, the most generous of Western Australia's adopted sons.

Gossip

May 5, 1926.

Why Music Should be Subsidised

IN a very forceful manner Professor Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., pleads for support for the South Australian Orchestra. The Executive Committee are working very hard to secure a permanent existence for the Orchestra as well as to advance in every way the cause of musical education. That the general public really appreciate good music is evidenced by the large audiences which have consistently attended the S.A. Orchestra Concerts of previous years, but the expense of this high organisation is one which causes the Executive considerable alarm.

The Doctor speaks of the humiliating fact that “only in English speaking countries do we find the claims of art denied due recognition and support by either the State or Municipality. If any proof of this disregard were needed, there is the recent case of our own Tramways Symphonic Band. Here was an established organisation of high artistic value, which for fifteen years had given constant pleasure and genuine recreation to many thousands of people. It was allowed to perish ignominiously when an infinitesimal rate on the community would not only have preserved it, but also greatly enlarged the sphere of its influence.”

those who are only concerned with the profits they may reap from their promotion.

“Is it 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 purely mundane question to the employer of labor. ‘Which of two employes would you choose—one who in his spare time (and often in his employer's time, too) feverishly 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 contentment to their highest point; for it is true, as a great essayist has said, that in the pursuit of



PROFESSOR HAROLD DAVIES, MUS. DOC.
Director of the Elder Conservatorium and Chairman of the South Australian Orchestra Executive.



MR. W. H. FOOTE, M.S.M., A.R.C.M.
Conductor of the South Australian Orchestra.

Why Art Should NOT Be Self-Supporting.

Dr. Davies deplors the attitude of those who dictate our politics, both in the State and the Municipality, that art should be self-supporting. If it will not pay for itself, let it go, is the phlegmatic idea. “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 too 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 depended on voluntary contribution, the majority of our population would choose to live in undisturbed squalor, rather than pay for necessary improvements. Let us go further than this and ask how long would our libraries, museums, picture galleries, or universities remain open if they were expected to pay for themselves? What, again, would become of our courts, and all the protective 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 duly levied for the purpose. But we draw the line at drama and music, the very greatest of the arts, and require that they should eke out a precarious existence on private enterprise; or else—and worse still—we deliver them over to be exploited by

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 that it is possible for all to give their support is shown by the exceptionally reasonable rates of admission. The Executive invites hearty co-operation in its work for the advancement of Orchestral Music by issuing Group Tickets (which entitle the holder to preferential booking).

These are issued at the following rates:—Five reserved 5/ seats, transferable and available for any concert at £1 1/ (plus tax); total £1 4/6, or

Four reserved 3/ seats, transferable and available for any concert, at 10/6 (plus tax); total 12/3.

Ordinary charges for admission are 5/, 3/, 2/ and 1/ (plus tax), and either of the two first may be reserved without extra cost.