

ORCHESTRAL VALUES.

VIEWS OF CONSERVATORIUM DIRECTORS.

A distinguished visitor in the Australian world of music has been on a brief trip to Adelaide, Mr. W. Arundel Orchard, Mus. Bac., Director of the State Conservatorium of New South Wales since 1923. He has been representing that State at the annual conference of the Australian Music Examinations Board. This body has just concluded its session at the University of Adelaide, and Mr. Orchard will leave for Sydney to-day. Yesterday a representative of The Register sought him out, in order to ascertain what progress was being made with the reconstructed New South Wales Orchestra, since the departure of Mr. Verbruggen. Mr. Orchard said that when he was invited to reconstitute that body, he found practically no orchestra left, despite the previous expenditure of approximately £40,000 in five years. Determined to justify the faith of his promoters, the new Director began to create an orchestra. There were a fair number of students in the Conservatorium, whom he appointed principal string players; but for the important sections of woodwind, brass, harp, and percussion, he had to depend upon such players as were available for engagement from time to time, outside the range of picture houses and theatre orchestras. "This meant a great measure of uncertainty as to whether competent and suitable players could be secured for symphony work," he explained. "But despite these disabilities, the work was carried on for nearly 18 months. Then I came to the end of my resources, feeling that it was impossible to proceed further in that way. Finally, I evolved a scheme and presented it to the Government, in which the grant of a subsidy of £3,000 a year was requested. This would enable me, I explained, to appoint permanent teachers and various players of woodwind, brass instruments, and the harp, at the Conservatorium. I further submitted that I could then offer a number of scholarships for each instrument, and also be able to give at least six orchestral matinees for children, who would be admitted to these concerts at the nominal charge of one shilling."

Well-deserved Success. Mr. Orchard extolled the power of the press in taking up his scheme. Within two months the Government had acceded to his request. Of course, there was a tremendous amount of organization, but everything went ahead smoothly, so that there were 54 scholarships available for various instruments. This year the second season of orchestral matinees for children was being arranged, in addition to the regular series of subscription concerts.

"How have the young people responded to the opportunity to hear good music?" asked the interviewer.

"Excellent," was the reply. "I give little explanatory chats, not only on the pieces performed, but also on the various groups of instruments, which are taken alone in short passages, and then in combination. This has aroused intense interest among children and adults also, and numerous gratifying letters have been received testifying to the delight and pleasure experienced by the writers, and their appreciation of that unique method of learning about orchestral music. This is the more encouraging," declared Mr. Orchard, "because one feels that audiences are not being merely built up for the present, but for the future also. As an example, it was thought by some people that the orchestral subscription concerts would be jeopardized, by additional children's matinees; but, on the contrary, there was an increase of over 50 per cent. last season."

Mr. Orchard remarked that last year, in consequence of the re-organization of the orchestra, he was able to give adequate accompaniment during the reunion season of Fritz Kreisler last August, when the members played at three concerts such concertos as those of Beethoven, Brahms, and Mendelssohn. At the final gathering Mr. Kreisler not only paid a warm tribute to the orchestra, and expressed his pleasure to have played with the members, but he further congratulated Sydney upon such a possession, and begged the public to see to it that the organization never disbanded, but became permanent. This year the Butt-Rumford concerts had similarly been accompanied. Asked about the method of establishing permanent musicians, which had been the difficulty in the Verbruggen period, Mr. Orchard explained that 10 leading players were employed as professors in the Conservatorium, and they had control of 54 scholarship students.

The Case for Adelaide.

The Director of the Elder Conservatorium (Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc.), commenting on Mr. Orchard's remarks, pointed out the urgent need for some similar scheme being adopted in South Australia. The enormous importance of the School of Music was not fully appreciated. A reference to the University Calendar revealed the fact that, out of a total approximate of £22,000 received last year by the University, in students' fees, £9,000 had been forthcoming from the School of Music. Such a fact spoke for itself. A large number of talented and earnest students of music engaged in a long and arduous course of study, continued Dr. Davies, with a view to qualifying for a professional musical life. The existence of a permanent orchestra, subsidized even to the extent of £3,000 a year, would provide a splendid objective for that incoming talent.

Asked how the fees received from the School of Music compared with the expenses, Dr. Davies said that it, merely, the Government subsidy on Sir Thomas Elder's original bequest of £20,000 were shown on the credit side of the balance sheet, the School of Music would be actually self-supporting. "In fact," concluded the Director, "it is, practically, the only faculty of the University which is paying its way."

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REG. 3.5.26

Team to Visit Australia.

LONDON, May 1. The international confederation of students announces that the funds difficulties have been overcome, and that a team of British University debaters will visit the universities of Sydney, Queensland, Tasmania, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth.—Reuter.

REG. 3.5.26

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

The Council of the University at its meeting on Friday received from Mr. Justice Angus Parsons an offer to present a bust of Sir Langdon Bonython to the institution. The council accepted the offer on behalf of the University, and directed that its grateful thanks be forwarded to the donor. The bust, which is of bronze, was exhibited in the Royal Academy Exhibition last year, and was executed by the eminent sculptor, Alfred Drury, R.A.

REG. 4.5.26

THE EDUCATION REPORT.

A Year of Progress.

The report of the Minister for Education (Hon. L. L. Hill) for 1925 was made available on Monday. He remarks that the work of all branches was marked by solid progress, and that the progressive building policy initiated in 1924 was carried on.

INTER ALIA

The Teachers' College. Principal Dr. A. J. Schulz remarks inter alia:—The total number of student who attended the college during the year was 299 (107 men and 102 women). The college, as far as conditions permit affords the students opportunities for relatively full life of varied experience for the development of body, intellect, taste, and character. The examination results have been particularly satisfactory. The corporate life of the college has continued in vigour in spite of the deficiency of suitable rooms, grounds, and other facilities. The students provided themselves with opportunities for football, cricket, athletics, tennis, hockey, basketball, rowing, and swimming, as well as for debating, musical work, and social activities of various kinds. The students' self government in all that related to their own affairs (sports, social functions, &c. and even to some extent intra-college discipline, together with the financial arrangements involved) has continued to prove very successful. It is interesting to note that the establishment of similar councils at the Melbourne Teachers' College, and most recently at the Sydney College as well. Of course, the corporate life that is possible in a day college must necessarily seem rather meagre when compared with that which is possible in a residential college. Nevertheless, comparatively little as the maximum that is possible in a day college may be, it is well worth all the work that is required to obtain it. Its high value for the development of students' outlook and character is well known, although too complex and subtle and intangible to be easily capable of analysis and exposition.

INTER ALIA

Lysenologist. Dr. Davey's work embraces the examination of exceptional children for the purposes of diagnosis, prognosis, and advice as to future teaching and training. She reports that "These children may be those retarded in school work, they may be mentally dull and backward, they may be of an anti-social nature or possess delinquent tendencies, they are all those who in some way are maladjusted to their present environment of school, home, or society. During the year the retarded children, selected by the head teachers, have been examined in 10 schools, as well as one or more children in other schools and children sent by the State Children's Department and the Children's Court. The total number of children examined was 560. The results are as follow:—Normal, 222; dull, 161; morons, 139; imbecile, 38; total, 560. The survey of the seven schools that are now completed shows that 1,655 children need an opportunity class, 71 require a special school, and that 10, who

are incapable of school work, need either an occupational centre or institutional care. For the success of the work in the future I cannot urge too strongly the establishment of a special school for the definitely subnormal child. Not only does the mentally retarded child in the ordinary grade lose the education he is capable of gaining, but he loses his self-respect, he becomes the habitual loafer, and his presence in the ordinary school is detrimental to the teacher, the other children, and himself. In the special school the curriculum is made to suit his needs, he learns to work, he is happier among his equals in ability, and he is more likely to become self-supporting after school life."

NEWS. 3.5.26

ECONOMIC FACTORS

Industry May Suffer

GOODWILL ONLY SALVATION

(By A. L. G. Mackay)

The man in the street, busy with his every day affairs, naturally enquires—"How is it that this coal trouble has arisen, why has it stolen upon us suddenly, like a thief in the night, and what is it all about?" The position is critical because British industry is just managing to keep its head above water, and an industrial upheaval would plunge it below, with the possibility that it might never rise to the surface again. It was this possibility which led Mr. Stanley Baldwin (Prime Minister) to advance a subsidy to the industry last year in the hope that a six months' interlude would enable it to get on its feet. Such a happy result has not followed, and the British Government is now in the unhappy position of having to repay the subsidy out of taxation, the miners' wages, the owners' profits, or out of credit.

Not knowing which source to tap, the Government in September last appointed a strong commission, and the task it was set may be outlined, briefly, as follows:—"The British coal industry is finding it hard to sell its goods, both at home and abroad, because of the high price demanded; neither profits nor wages can afford to carry the necessary reduction in price; there is plenty of coal in the mines, plenty of miners to mine it, plenty of owners to organise the industry, and plenty of people wanting coal; the Sankey Commission in 1920 failed to find a solution, the subsidy granted in 1925 has not solved the problem. What is to be done?"

To this very complex problem the commission returned the following answer:—"The coal subsidy must be stopped as from April 30 and never repeated. Wages must be reduced. The loss of wages must be made more palatable by informing the men that the owners will be left without profits in most districts. There must be affirmation of the principle of compulsory profit-sharing, the portion of the men to be given in the form of shares. A system of family allowance must be organised within the industry."

These recommendations were presented early last March, and the owners and the men have been since considering them. As April 30 approached it became obvious that the terms were satisfactory to neither owners nor men.

Recommendations Considered

Let me briefly consider the recommendations, bearing in mind the fundamental propositions that there must be no reduction in the quality of the domestic market (or in the world market, as a matter of fact) if people are to buy British coal, and that the price of British coal must come down, since it enters into the cost of every form of British manufacture.

The stopping of the subsidy. This is recommended because the subsidy so far has been an overdraft from the Treasury and the Bank of England; it has now to be paid back out of taxation, that is, out of profits, dividends, salaries, or wages. This is apparently commonsense. On the other hand, if the subsidy were continued on the understanding that the price of coal should be reduced by the amount of the subsidy, then the position would be one in which prices had been reduced, markets in consequence increased without a fall in wages and with the possibility of a rise in profits as the market continued to increase in consumption power. But where is the subsidy to come from if it is not to be collected from taxation, wages, salaries, profits, or dividends? We leave this for a moment; it is the heart of the settlement.

Reduction of Wages; no Profits.—This would mean a reduction in the local consumption market since wages and profits are the source from which buying and order giving flow. It would mean a reduction of prices in coal, and in consequence in all British manufactures, and might result in an increase of overseas markets. Against this we must set the fall in the domestic market to an equal amount; the two would have to be set one against each other to see precisely where the advantage was.

Compulsory Profit Sharing.—There are very few profits to share. It should be noted that if profits did arise for distribution they would be capitalised and shares issued against them. That is, for every £100 capitalised say £5 would be issued as a dividend to owners and men. The remainder would be put back into development. The sum of £5 would be issued as purchasing power to stimulate consumption. This does not promise much in the way of a virile domestic market, though the overseas market may be stimulated in other ways.

All Parties Right

A Family Allowance System.—This means the better distribution of what the men do get along the lines of family needs. It would place the married men, their wives and children, on a better footing in contract to the single men, but as a proposal it does not touch the fundamental question of reducing prices without reducing wages, salaries, profits, and dividends.

So much for a critical exposition of the Coal Commission report.

The object is to reduce prices without reducing wages, salaries, profits, and dividends. The owners complain that the men are going slow; the men retort that the owners are inefficient. Mr. Baldwin knows that neither owners nor men are to blame. The men are not doing their best because they distrust the owners; the owners cannot afford to instal up-to-date methods and pour out coal because there is no market which will buy the extra production. In desperation the Prime Minister says, "I shall create a market for you with my subsidy if you will reduce prices." The Chancellor of the Exchequer says to Mr. Baldwin, "I shall have to pay back your subsidy out of something—taxes, wages, salaries, profits, or dividends." Everyone shouts, "There is nothing to spare at present in taxes, wages, salaries, profits or dividends." And in this case everyone is right.

Herein lies the tragedy—everyone is in the right when his case is taken individually. Yet there must be a change, as the coal industry cannot pay as it is. There cannot be any going back, for that would mean an industrial upheaval. There cannot be any standing still, for that would mean sinking into the quicksands. What is to be done? The Prime Minister is probably right in pressing for a subsidy and asking that prices should come down to the extent of the subsidy. The Chancellor of the Exchequer can then collect the subsidy out of the increased productivity which will follow, if it must be collected; but it will probably be found that such a collection will not be necessary because the goodwill generated by such a settlement will create that frame of mind the British people have been waiting for since 1918.

Tragedy consists in the conflict between two aspects of the Good, hence the Good must have enough intelligence to prevent tragedy at all costs. Great Britain is too poor to be economical, mean, or petty minded, paradoxical though it may sound. Her only salvation lies along the path of intelligent goodwill, but the financial mechanism to support that goodwill has to be hammered out. This is the work which the Prime Minister, the men, the owners, the Treasury, and the Bank of England are engaged in at the present moment. And I rather fancy that the Federal Reserve Board of America is "listening in," though I may be mistaken.

REG. 4.5.26

INTER-VARSITY BOAT RACE.

The inter-Varsity boat race will be rowed in Tasmania on June 5, the course being on the famous Huon River. All the States, with the exception of Western Australia, will be represented. Strong crews have been entered by Tasmania (the present holders of the Oxford and Cambridge Cup) and Melbourne, while Sydney are expecting to improve their crew, which came second last year. The Adelaide representatives are mostly young oarsmen, and are practically the same as the crew, which won the maiden eight at the autumn regatta. They show great promise and are settling down to hard training under the able coaching of Messrs. Arthur Nicholls and Tasie. For the last two weeks they have been working hard, and are greatly improving. The personnel of the crew is as follows:—A. Walkley (bow), M. Ryan, W. Reid, C. Smith, M. A. Lindinger, S. E. Terril, N. McEacharn, and W. Morgan (stroke); D. Scott Young (cox).

REG. 6.5.26

Dr. K. S. Ketzal has been appointed temporary honorary assistant physician at the Adelaide Hospital.

REG. 6.5.26

At the Elder Hall on Monday evening, May 10, at 8 o'clock, the pupils of Mrs. Reginald Onese, Miss Sylvia Whittington, and Mr. William Silver will give a recital. Students and their friends are invited to be present.