

CENSOR TALKIE PRONUNCIATION

Professor On Dangers Of U.S.A. Accent

EFFECT ON SPEECH

A CENSORSHIP of pronunciation for the talkies was suggested yesterday by Sir Archibald Strong, Professor of English Literature at Adelaide University. He has just returned from an Education Conference in Canada.

He doesn't condemn the talkies, but he thinks if the American accent and tricks of speech are heard from the screen day after day, Australians' speech will inevitably be influenced.

"That would seriously affect our national speech," he said.

"Rigid censorship of pronunciation in talking pictures should be seriously considered."

"When I was in Los Angeles I found that picture producers were beginning to realise that, in their own interests, they would have to set a standard of speech in spoken films."

"So that they are likely to attend to the censorship themselves."

Producers realised, Sir Archibald Strong said, that there was a big British Empire public to be catered for as well as the American public.

The American accent was not popular in Great Britain and the Empire, so the movie men were engaging players who spoke with an English accent.

The talkies have destroyed a great deal of the charm of films, Sir Archibald thinks.



Sir Archibald Strong

LESS ROMANCE

Gone is the silent romance that removed the films from the humdrum of ordinary life.

In its place is everyday life—expressed in words that overshadowed the pantomime.

But, he says, the talkies give more scope for the picturisation of good drama and literature.

Many good plays and novels that could not have been produced as silent films because of lack of action, will be splendid vehicles as talkies.

And so the literary and artistic side of the screen will benefit.

THRILLERS POPULAR

In America Sir Archibald Strong found that the only plays of literary value were being produced by companies of English artists.

The standard set by American dramatists and producers was very low. Mystery plays and thrillers were the most popular dramatic fare, and musical comedy and revue were flourishing.

PLEA FOR AN ARTS BUILDING

Sir Archibald Strong, of the Adelaide University, who returned on Tuesday from a trip to America, said there had been no foundation for the suggestion that had been made that he intended to leave Adelaide for Canada or the United States of America. Whatever suggestions had been made to him in those countries, he had never entertained the idea to seek or accept a position in either of them. His work in the University of Adelaide had been rendered pleasant by the friendliness of the students, the collaboration of his most loyal and efficient staff, and the kindness and consideration which had been consistently shown to him by the council. He wished, however, that some benefactor would recognise the crying need of all the arts departments in the University for proper accommodation. Their teaching was now most seriously handicapped through the lack of that accommodation, and one could not help contrasting the conditions there with the splendid conditions at the Canadian universities. Any benefactor who would supply the Adelaide University with an arts building comparable to the large and beautiful one at the Melbourne University would render an inestimable service to education in South Australia.

"EDUCATION AND LEISURE"

SUCCESS OF VANCOUVER CONFERENCE

Sir Archibald Strong, of the Adelaide University, who was a member of the South Australian delegation to the Education Conference held at Vancouver recently, and convened by the National Board of Education in Canada, stated on his return home on Tuesday that the conference dealt with the subject of "Education and Leisure." Discussion centred on the best method of supplying both adults and juveniles with facilities which would enable them to employ their leisure time for educational purposes which would be at once pleasurable and profitable. In that connection there was much consideration of literature, the drama, music, science, physical culture, wireless broadcasting, and the film. The conference succeeded completely in its main aim, which was to stimulate interest in education among the general public. It was deemed of extreme importance by the British education authorities, who sent a very strong delegation. The delegates from South Australia, in addition to himself, were Dr. A. A. Lendon and Messrs. Geo. Jeffrey and Alec Melrose. He contributed a paper to the conference on "Literature and Leisure," and delivered an address to the Vancouver Chamber of Commerce on "Education and Commerce."

Drama and Endowed Theatres

A plea, said Sir Archibald, was entered by Sir Charles Grant Robertson (principal of the Birmingham University) and himself at the conference in respect to the drama for theatres to be endowed by municipalities and the State for the provision of better plays, ancient and modern, than were commonly staged in commercial theatres. Speaking of the trend of American drama, he stated that while in New York he saw a considerable number of plays, but he regarded their standard of quality and the acting as being low. The outstanding plays which he saw were given by English companies. Among them were "Journey's End," a powerful war drama, and Drinkwater's "Bird in Hand." The finest acting which he witnessed during his travels was by Japanese. He attended several plays in Tokyo, and an outstanding feature of the acting was the extraordinary skill with which the parts of women were impersonated by men.

Games in Physical Culture

Physical culture received a large amount of attention from the conference. Speakers emphasised the value of games in that regard as contrasted to mechanical physical drill. Mr. H. M. Richards (an English school inspector) gave a very interesting account of what was being done in schools in Great Britain in folk music. He stated that no fewer than 7,000 old folk songs had been discovered and recorded, and that many of them were being used in the provision of musical recreation.

Sir Archibald, questioned as to the possible effect of the American "talkies" in Australia, said there would be grave danger of the national speech being affected if the American accent were to be employed. In that case the advisableness of having a rigid censorship of American films would have to be considered. American producers were alive to the subject, however. Many of the leading performers for the screen at Los Angeles were having lessons in the correct English pronunciation, and English artists were also in demand. The problem might thus easily cure itself without interference here. On the subject of censorship of books, Sir Archibald stated that he was strongly against it. The existing laws of the land, he considered, were capable of dealing with doubtful literature. Where a book had an obviously sincere literary or scientific aim he thought that the prohibition of it by censorship would be a very unwise thing.

South Australian Orchestra

SIR—It was with infinite pleasure and satisfaction that I attended the S.A. Orchestra's first concert for this season. I recently noted with concern the statement that the orchestral concerts were run last year at a big loss. Seeing the apparent success of the seasons of concerts, I, with others, am at a loss to understand wherein the big deficit lies.

Would Mr. Foote or Dr. Davies be kind enough to inform the public what the financial position is?—Yours, "MUSIC LOVER."

CAREERS WOMEN CHOOSE

Arts Course Most Popular At University

MANY TEACHERS

NEARLY 500 women students are enrolled at the University this year. Their choice of a career varies from engineering to music; but the arts course still attracts more than all the other studies put together.

Medicine and science have about a dozen women students each, law half as many, and dentistry three. One girl is studying engineering. Leaving out the two or three studying for the Mus. Bac. degree, and the seven in search of diplomas, of the 200 odd women undergraduates, 184 are taking the Arts course, which usually leads to teaching as a profession. Of the 259 non-graduating students, the great majority are in the faculty of Arts.

TEACHING POPULAR

"It would probably be misleading to describe teaching as the most popular profession among University women," said one authority; "but it has certain obvious advantages."

"It requires no capital. Very few parents who pay for higher education for their daughters are prepared to go further and lay out capital on their profession."

"Teaching is also sure. There is always a demand for an efficient teacher with a degree, and now that there is a practical training for private school teachers as well as the University course, the young teacher has every chance of making herself efficient."

South Australian Orchestra

SIR—I am grateful for the interest and the appreciation shown by "Music Lover." His question is also as welcome as the answer to it is easy. With the approval of the executive, I would make the following brief statement:—

The S.A. Orchestra, like every other establishment of its kind, can never be self-supporting. Experience has shown this to be so in every part of the world. On the Continent, generous subsidies are made, either by the State or the various municipalities, for the maintenance of such organisations, while in America handsome private endowments, amounting to hundreds of thousands of pounds annually, are given for the upkeep of such orchestras as the Philadelphia, Boston Symphony, New York, Chicago, and so forth.

So far as the S.A. Orchestra is concerned, it consists at the present time of between 50 and 60 performers, the great majority of whom are on the professional list. The actual amount paid to the players reaches somewhere about £120 for every concert (including rehearsals). In addition to this, there is the hire of the hall, about £15, and the cost of printing and advertising, which, on the smallest scale, entails somewhere about £50 per concert, bringing the total expenditure up to at least £200. To this must now be added Mr. Foote's salary as conductor, and the executive finds, from the experience of the last seven or eight years, that not less than £250 in all is necessary to defray expenses every time the orchestra plays in public. Over and against this, the value of the house, after deducting the large amount demanded in taxation by the Federal and State Governments, does not often exceed £150.

"Music Lover" will, therefore, see that under such conditions it is quite impossible to "make ends meet." We cannot charge more for admission without defeating our object, which is to make the orchestra of real community value. We are, therefore, obliged to rely upon the additional help which may be given from time to time by public-spirited people who are anxious for its maintenance.

If there are any other questions, I should be glad to give the fullest information to any who would either write to me, or see me personally. Audited statements of accounts are also available for inspection by any subscriber.—Yours, E. HAROLD DAVIES, Adelaide University.

DO YOU KNOW—?

That New York University has a Hall of Fame for Great Americans, established by two gifts totalling £70,000, in which to date 65 tablets have been placed? Only persons who have been dead at least 25 years are now eligible to be chosen. Fifty names were to be inscribed at the beginning and five additional names every fifth year thereafter, until the year 2,000, when the 150 inscriptions provided for will be completed. Men and women alike are admitted, and names are added on nominations from the public, seconded by two members of the University Senate and approved first by a committee of 21 electors and afterwards by the full College of Electors of 100 eminent citizens selected by the Senate.

the artistic instinct of men, striving for beauty, and wrought into great and enduring literatures. And through it all ran a high imagination, ever subject to a controlling mind—form everywhere, ruling inspiration to a splendid and logical end.

It is all triumphant art. But art in obedience to Law. Finally, the lecturer dwelt on the relation of music to life, and more comprehensively still, on the vital necessity of art in the scheme of civilisation. The truth was that beauty was as essential as bodily maintenance, and it was only foolishness which would call the one a necessity, and not the other. Was there anyone who could live without loveliness? And art, in its manifold forms, was but the reflex of that all-pervading beauty seen in the world around. Stirred and quickened by such perpetual avishing of his senses, man had aspired also to create loveliness for himself. And while his aspiration had made his art, it had equally expressed his ceaseless need for something beyond the utilities of life. Art was not a "luxurious fringe," or a mere conceit. It was a primitive and undying passion to which they must yield or die a spiritual death. There was an old Chinese proverb, "If you have two loaves, sell one and buy a lily." Those who valued their souls should buy a lily.

The lecture was illustrated with songs by Madame Carys Denton, and pianoforte works played by Professor Davies. The songs included "Silver" (Armstrong Gibb) and "I Attempt From Love's Sickness" (Purcell). The pianoforte illustrations comprised "La Cathedrale Engloutie" (Debussy), portions of the Bach "English Suite in E Minor," and "A Flat Major Fugue" (Bach), and examples of folk and other songs.

VARSITY NEEDS NEW ARTS BUILDING

Teaching Hampered: Sir Archibald Strong

BACK FROM CANADA

I WISH some princely benefactor would heed the crying needs of all the arts departments at Adelaide University for proper accommodation," said Sir Archibald Strong, Professor of English Literature at the University, on his return from an Educational Conference in Canada.

"Our teaching is seriously hampered through this lack of accommodation," he said.

"One can't help contrasting our own conditions with the splendid ones in Canadian Universities."

"Any benefactor who would supply our University with a modern Arts building would be rendering a great service to education in South Australia."

Sir Archibald said he had no intention of accepting an American or a Canadian appointment, as was rumoured.

"I have never entertained the idea of seeking or accepting a position in either country," he said.

"My work at Adelaide University has been made very pleasant by loyal collaboration of students, the staff, and the University Council, and I intend to stay here."

South Australian Orchestra

"Music Lover," Adelaide:—It was with great pleasure that I attended the first concert of the South Australian Orchestra for this season on Saturday, June 1. The executive must have felt elated at the large audience.

I recently noted with concern the statement of the executive that the orchestral concerts were run last year at great loss. Being deeply interested in instrumental music, I have rarely missed a performance of the orchestra for several years. With few exceptions I have seen a large audience attend each concert. I am at a loss to understand why there should be a deficit.

Would Mr. W. H. Foote or Dr. E. Harold Davies be kind enough to inform the public what fees are paid to conductor and members? I should think that a well-attended successful concert should be able to defray the expenses incurred.

There have been many appeals for donations toward the permanent establishment of a State orchestra. I believe that several have been made from time to time. But I have never seen a published statement showing the financial position.

Will Dr. Davies or whoever controls the finances of the orchestra please publish a balance sheet showing the true position?

[Dr. Davies said that he did not wish to make any personal comment on the position. It was a matter to the executive of the orchestra.]