

CONSERVATORIUM ORGAN RECITAL.

The Elder Hall was crowded on Thursday for the luncheon hour organ recital of Mr. John Horner, F.R.C.O. A programme of modern English organ music was given with the high artistry which Adelaide has quickly learnt to associate with the Conservatorium organist.

NEWS 2-8-28

MUSICAL EXAMINATIONS

Work of "Unrecognised" Bodies

PROTECTION SUGGESTED

Legitimate musical institutions in Australia are being hampered in their work by unrecognised bodies which, without charter or authority, confer on their students caps, gowns, and hoods—priceless regalia for photographic purposes.

Excellent examinations in music, perhaps too many of them, are conducted regularly in Australia, he says.

The Australian Music Examinations Board works under the aegis of the combined universities of the Commonwealth. It has a commendable syllabus. It is lofty in its aim, and is most effective in educating both teachers and students.

Then there are the examinations conducted by the Associated Board of the Royal College of Music and the Royal Academy of Music. The visiting examiners are Britons, and their work is usually such as to gain the esteem of teachers.

There are also examinations conducted by Trinity College of Music, Incorporated (London), which is the only other recognised examining board in Australia.

Unfortunately, continued Mr. Mitchell, there are two other bodies which conduct music examinations in Australia. One is a "limited liability" company, and the other an "unlimited" company.

The standard of their work, he contended, cannot compare with that of the Australian Music Examinations Board, of the Associated Board, or of Trinity College.

"Without doubt," said Mr. Mitchell, "huge sums of money pass annually into the pockets of the promoters and stockholders—money that should be retained in Australia for the needs of the music students of Australia.

"These 'colleges' have no status in England. They are ignored by the Teachers' Registration Council of Great Britain and by the Board of Education.

Mr. Mitchell thought that it was time that a Teachers' Registration Council was appointed in each of the States for the safety of students. Such protection was already provided in the legal, medical, and dental professions.

Serious injury was being done to the cause of education in music, and the sooner a remedy was devised to deal with existing evils, the better would it be for music in Australia.

FORESTRY PROBLEMS

Mr. R. L. Robinson in Adelaide

FORMER RHODES SCHOLAR

Look to your forests and plant for the future is the advice of Mr. R. L. Robinson, O.B.E., B.A., B.Sc., technical commissioner to the British Forestry Commission which will visit Australia to attend the Empire Forestry Conference to be held in each State and concluded at Canberra.

"Ruthless devastations of existing forests must be checked," he added, "and adequate plantations provided for posterity. The forthcoming conferences, which will be begun in Perth and continued in Adelaide on Thursday, August 30, should do much to place the industry on a sound and progressive basis in Australia."

Mr. Robinson will be remembered in Adelaide as a brilliant student and second Rhodes scholar for the State. Today his business is forestry, but he is not forgetful of the aesthetic side, and his plea to plant more trees should not fall on deaf ears.

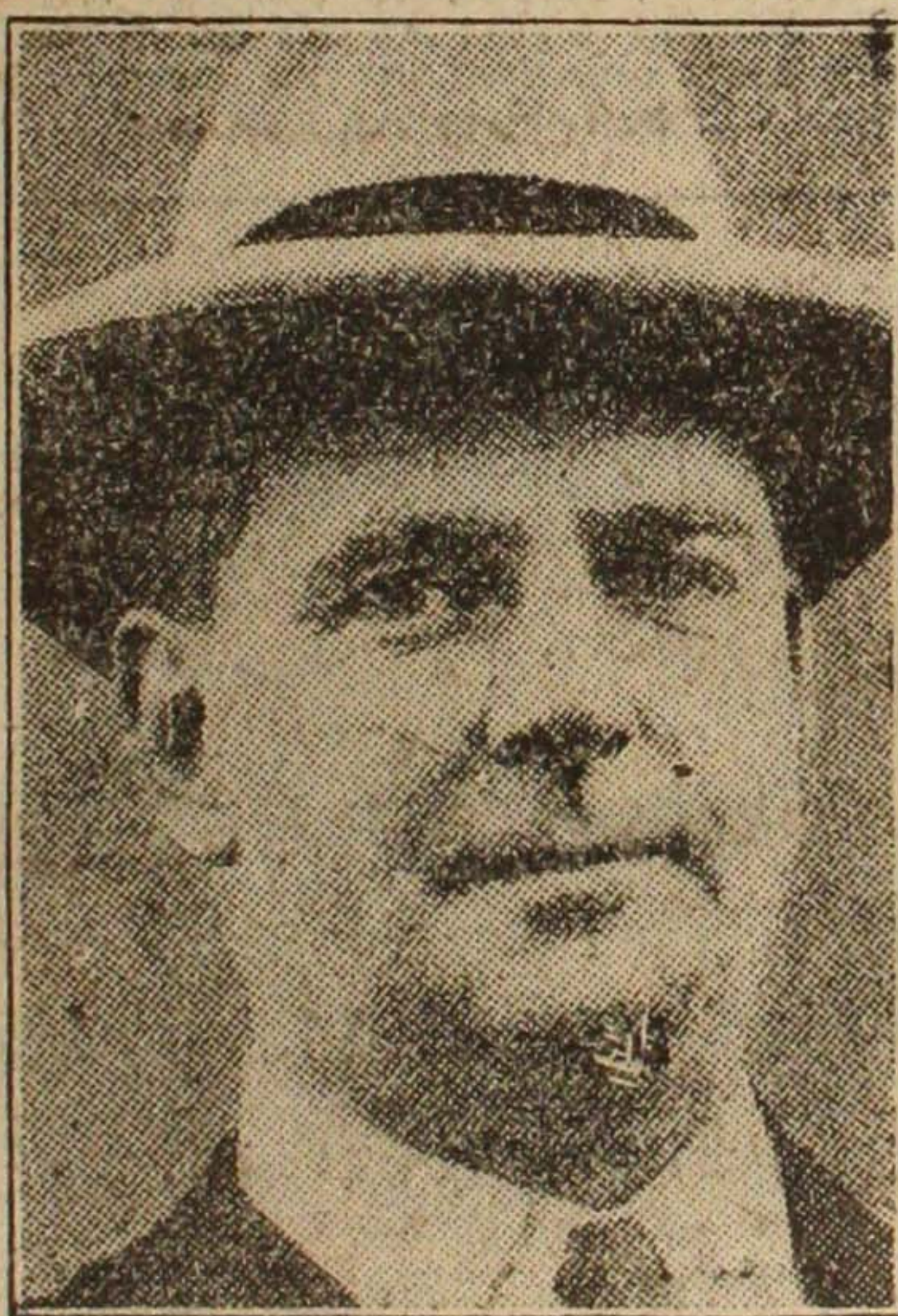
"Consequent upon the war and heavy cuttings following the signing of the armistice," said Mr. Robinson, "forests in Britain were devastated to the extent of about 500,000 acres. Roughly a third of the best timber was taken, and now the commission is grappling with the task of rehabilitation. We are planting 24,000 acres a year, and the nine years' programme has given a return of 143,000 acres. The policy is to plant 25,000 acres a year or more, and to repair as effectively as possible the damage done in a time of emergency."

Research and Education

Regarding research, Mr. Robinson said that much valuable work was being done in the solving of problems regarding the growing of trees and the use of timber. The educational side was not being overlooked.

The commission was under the able directorship of Lord Clinton, as chairman. He had succeeded Lord Lovat, who had held the position for seven years.

"Our work here and in New Zealand," he continued, "will be in three parts.



MR. R. L. ROBINSON

Technical Commissioner of the British Forestry Commission, who is in Adelaide.

Forests will be inspected and discussed in each capital city. After investigations, and when knowledge is gained advice will be given. The tour will also give accurate data regarding Empire forests, and dominions will be urged to establish forests and to improve afforestation policies.

"During the sojourn of the commission in Australia the formation of an Imperial Forestry Bureau will be discussed. This bureau will chiefly deal with production, the dissemination of information, and the economic use of timbers.

"Supplies of softwoods is a world problem. America has burned and otherwise destroyed its forests at an alarming rate, and today is dependent upon Canada for practically half its newsprint pulp."

State Forests

Although only 1.56 per cent. of the land in South Australia is timbered, compared with 5.26 per cent. in Australia, and from nearly 19 per cent. in France to 52.20 per cent. in Sweden, progress here compares more than favorably with activities in the eastern States.

South Australia is planting a greater acreage than is being cut, but only because of the lack of timber ready for the mills.

Today the State has about 22,000 acres under mostly Pinus Insignis. Pinis Marima has also found favor, and other varieties are being tested.

On the area now given over to State afforestation there are nearly 15,000,000

trees in various stages of growth. Experimentation in forestry, however, is not the work of a year or yet a decade. Pinus Insignis reaches its greatest commercial value in about 30 years, but other trees take longer.

California is world famed for its redwoods. South Australia may have its giant redwoods in years to come, for trees have been set to determine whether the soil and climatic conditions favor them.

NEWS 4-8-28

Mr. Edward Percival, B.Sc., of the Department of Zoology, at Leeds University, has accepted the Chair of Biology at Canterbury College, Christchurch (says a London cable message).

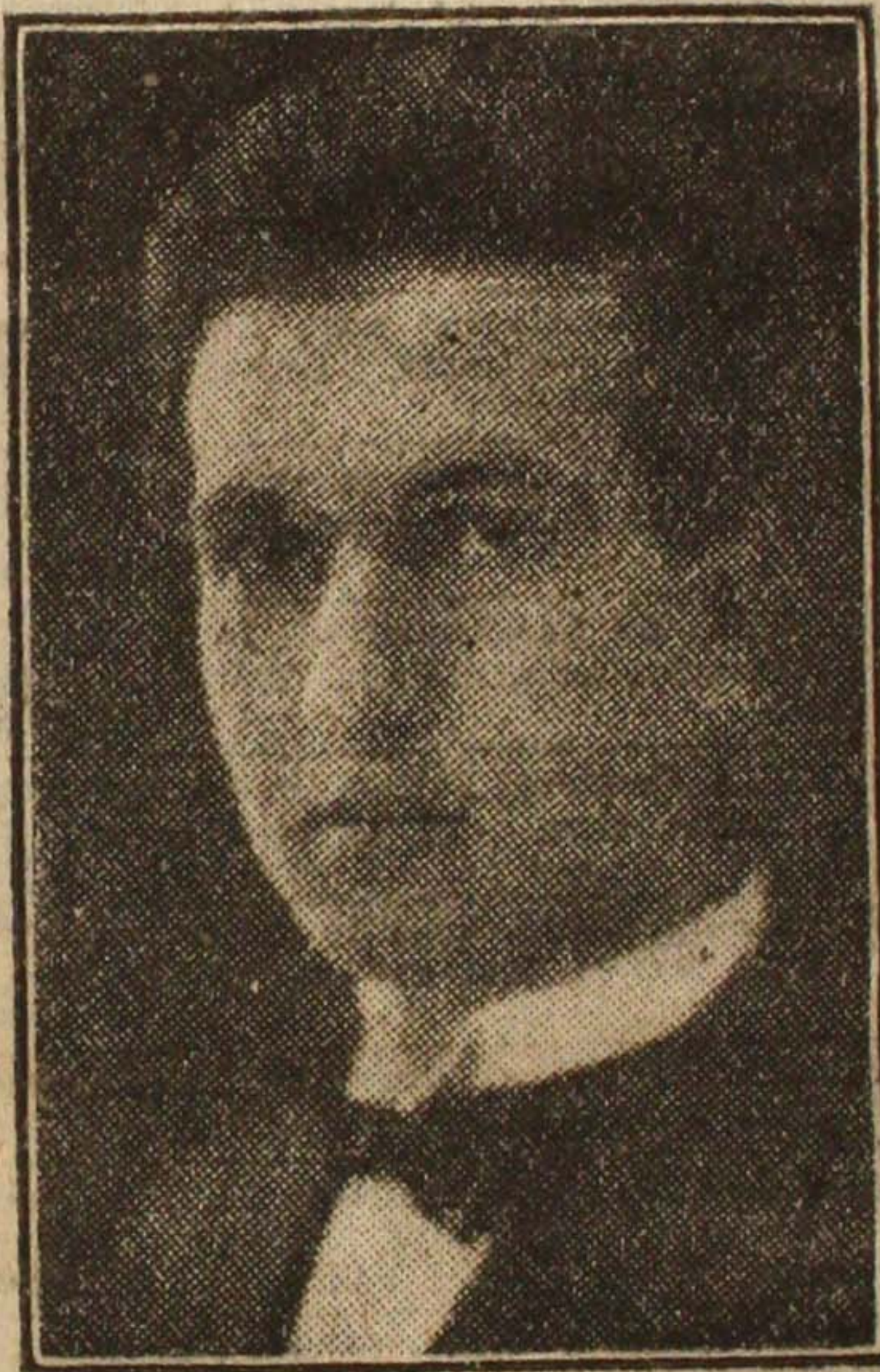
REG. 4-8-28

AN ELDER SCHOLAR.

In English Opera Roles.

Appearance Before Royalty.

An interesting letter concerning the progress of Mr. Richard C. Watson (Elder Scholar) in England has just been received by a South Australian friend. The well-known basso is a son of Mrs. Margaret J. Watson, of Goodwood, and the late Mr. Richard Watson. The letter reads:—"Richard Watson has progressed more than any other overseas Elder Scholar considering that he has been at the college only since September, 1926. His last achievement was in modern English opera at the Court Theatre. He had a triple role. In the 'Shepherds of the Delectable Mountain, he took the part of the old man, and the London papers were warm in praise of this piece of work.



MR. R. C. WATSON.

In the next production he understudied the part of Don Quixote, which was to be taken by a prominent London basso, who was suffering from laryngitis, which gave Richard his big chance. The role is considered very heavy and exacting, requiring physical strength as well as voice, and historic ability, for the mail armour worn weighs very heavily; and in the last scene the Don sings for 15 minutes straight off. Richard's greatest triumph was when Goosons (Chalpin's famous conductor at Covent Garden) warmly congratulated him on a splendid performance, which augurs well for his future. Mr. Clive Carey is also in the same cast at the Court Theatre.

"Besides singing in oratorio and concert work in the provinces, at the Belfast choral festival in Scotland and Wales, Richard was engaged for a Wagnerian concert season in the Crystal Palace last May. Also last Christmas Day he sang before some members of the Royal Family at Princess Victoria's London residence, and he says the Royal Family are most charming and unassuming to entertain. His next performance is to be in Canyu-Williams's new opera, of which Richard is to create the name part, 'Falstaff.' The composer heard him at the Crystal Palace and offered him the part, which is a heavy one. Dick's modesty is still a part of his personality. He admitted that he had had splendid luck, but added, characteristically, 'Don't think I am made yet; I have a long uphill path before me. There are many quite wonderful voices that have no luck at all.'"

Mr. R. C. Watson is a brother of Miss Joyce Watson, a winner of the Alexander Clark Scholarship at the Adelaide Conservatorium. Their musical capabilities appear to have been largely inherited, for their late father was a well-known soloist in oratorio in Adelaide, and their mother is an accomplished teacher of singing.

FORESTRY COMMISSION.

Mr. R. L. Robinson, a technical member of the British Forestry Commission, and Mr. A. Rule, the Australian secretary to the Empire Forestry Conference, which will be held at Canberra in September, are in Adelaide. They are on their way to Perth to meet the overseas delegates to the conference, who will reach Fremantle next week. Mr. Robinson is well known in South Australia. He was the second Rhodes scholar sent from this State. Speaking on the advance of forestry in England, he said about 24,000 acres were being planted yearly. During the past eight years about 118,000 acres had been put in. In addition to the work of replanting, they were looking after such subjects as forestry education and research work in timber and forests controlled by the commission, of which Lord Clinton was chairman. The British delegation is headed by Lord Clinton. India will be represented by a strong delegation headed by Sir Peter Clutterbuck. The following itinerary has been arranged for the members during their visit to South Australia:—Tuesday, August 28—Arrive Port Augusta and be met by Government representatives. Inspect Wirrabara plantation and mill; lunch at Gladstone, and reach Adelaide in the evening. Wednesday—Visit Kuitpo. Dinner and reception by Government in Adelaide. Thursday—Discussion regarding formation of Imperial Forestry Bureau, and motions to be tabled at the forthcoming Canberra conference. Leave by Melbourne express for Wolsley. Friday—Inspect Lowan grazing forest. Mount Gambier in afternoon. Saturday—Leave Mount Gambier, inspect Blanche Forest and Mount Burr; travel by train from Penola to Wolsley, and join Melbourne express.

REG. 4-8-28

Professor W. F. Osborne of Manitoba University, Canada, has consented to deliver a lecture on "Common Characteristics of British and American People" at the Adelaide University next Tuesday evening, under the auspices of the Adelaide branch of the English Speaking Union. The professor, who will arrive from Melbourne this morning, represents the National General Council of Education for Canada and the Overseas Educational League. He has occupied the Chair of French in the University of Manitoba for 35 years, and is president of the Alliance Francaise of Manitoba. His chief interests are the encouragement of French and English co-operation in Canada, and the maintenance of English solidarity. Professor Osborne will be met at the station by the Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Professor Kerr Grant) and Miss Doris Johnson (hon. secretary of the English Speaking Union).

REG. 4-8-28

Musical Caps and Gowns.

Sir—My letter of July 17 was written under a sense of duty. It has received much support, but no opposition; while the "colleges," with their caps and gowns, have found none to say a word in their favour. The explicit statement of Mr. E. E. Mitchell should be carefully read by the musical public, and in their name I thank him for it.

In the future those who patronise these examinations will do so with their eyes wide open. They will know that the musical profession look upon the caps and gowns and so-called diplomas as derogatory signs, not as marks of knowledge and skill.—I am, sir, &c.,

EDWARD HOWARD.

Angas street.

Sir—The demand seems so great, the profit so large, and the labour so small—why let the money go out of Australia? I suggest that a company be formed to print our own diplomas and certificates and manufacture our own caps and gowns. By employing artists we could produce a highly becoming article, and it would not be hard to find examiners who would give every satisfaction. The alphabet gives us 26 letters to choose from, and we could supply at least five letters for a reasonable fee.—I am, Sir, &c.,

C. BARTON.

Port Pirie.

REG. 4-8-28

UNIVERSITIES' CONFERENCE.

In Melbourne This Month.

MELBOURNE, Monday.

Many matters of importance will be discussed by representatives of the Universities in all States at the bi-annual conference of the Australian Universities, which will be opened in Melbourne on August 20. The conference will last two days. It is expected that the Chancellor of Melbourne University (Sir John MacFarland) will preside. Among the representatives will be the Vice-Chancellor of Sydney University (Dr.