Adv. 12-8-35

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA

Third Concert Of Season

By H. BREWSTER JONES

The third concert of the 1935 season was presented by the South Australian Orchestra in the Adelaide Town Hall on Saturday night. A representative programme of British, German, and French numbers made an attractive variety. Harold Parsons conducted, and Sylvia Whittington Gadie and Peggy Palmer as solo pianist.

From the impressive chordal entries in the "Finale" of the "Ruy Blas" Overture, stated with decision by the brass, the orchestra, as a whole, set out to play what it could do when it really made the effort. There was never a hesitancy of entry or attack; but mention must again be made of the excellent support given by the brass, and its inspiring effect upon the "reserves" of the wood-wind and strings. Both in the Mendelssohn and the Cesar Franck "Variations Symphoniques" in which the orchestra was entrusted with the task of accompanying Peggy Palmer solo pianist, a refined phrasing was obtained on times. Harold Parsons, in his position as conductor, is to be congratulated upon having this result — the most important one for any symphony orchestra.

The Symphony in C (Franz Schubert), which is a work of extensive proportions, was not given in its entirety; but the first movement, "Andante," gave the orchestra an opportunity of whetting the appetite of the audience for a greater treat at some future date. The important opening theme is entrusted to the French horns, which did not confine themselves quite faithfully to the notes written; but, after a better statement on the part of the wood-wind, and some genial playing of Violas and 'cellos, the trombones made their presence felt, and, with their frequent interpositions—virile in character—they infused life and added backbone to the performance.

New Type Of French Horn

Sir Hamilton Harty, when passing through Adelaide, described to the writer a new type of French horn which appeared to be one of the problems of embouchure overcome with the standard instrument. Would some genius benefactor come to the assistance of the South Australian Orchestra by making a bouquet to cover the pipe chase of these instruments? The rather florid ornamental passages in the "Prelude" of "Suite L' Arlesienne" (Bizet) proved somewhat difficult to handle (Gadie the rich soring of this movement was faithfully rendered. The more attractive "Minuetto" showed a gentle sigh of satisfaction from the audience—quite a spontaneous and sincere sign of appreciation, which the "Finale" which followed, calls for delicacy of style, and was in no way disappointing. Bizet was a lyric composer as well as composer, and he demands a "percusive" quality usually associated with the piano in "Carillon." In the opening movement of the suite: a clangorous bell-like quality of tone is expected from the French horns. The condition was patchy, the ensemble being rather shaky. The future success of Sir Hamilton Harty's Orchestra if there is no question as to its ultimate success—may depend upon a definite improvement in this sphere as no loophole for failure. Both conductor and orchestra have proved their ability to come to grips with tyeds of composition most successfully, and if a lesson may be learned from these successes a sort of concerted formation might be reported to as a point of orchestral strategy. Surprising results may be obtained.

Peggy Palmer began her group of Chopin solos with that masterpiece in miniature, Etude in E major, Op. 10, which, in her own words, this great Polish patriot described as expressive of the woes of his country. Perhaps too much feminine caprice entered into the tempo of this work; but the Prelude in C sharp minor, Op. 28, and Nocturne in C minor, Op. 48, were extremely well played. As an encore Etude in F minor (Chopin) was added and further demonstrated this pianist's charm of touch.

Sixteenth Century Dances

Peter Warlock has chosen a selection of sixteenth century dances, of Spanish and French origin, for his "Capriol" Suite for Orchestra—performed for the first time in Adelaide on Saturday. Miss Gladys Lloyd Thomas having presented the score and parts of this suite to the orchestra. Throughout its varied movements is a fragrant old-world charm. The easy three-four swing of the "Passamezzo" leads to the stately measure of the "Pavana," the Suite is instent accompaniment played upon the Spanish dance "Matachins," of Merry Andrew character. Performances of this suite will be welcomed. In the stately "The Pirates of Penzance" (Sullivan), motor nerves began to react to infectious rhythms, and the concert audience gave a sign of levity, which owed a debt to one orchestral passage from W. Homan (first bassoonist) and to the Sullivan, who generally of the whole orchestra, indeed of the whole conductor. Sullivan may not always be musically impressive, but he is at least an excellent tonic, and as such may long continue to find a place in the hearts of the British public.

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LECTURE ON SOIL PROBLEMS

On Tuesday night Prof. J. A. Prescott, Waite professor of agricultural chemistry at the University of Adelaide, began the 1935 series of public lectures with his second lecture on "Soil Deficiencies."

Professor Prescott dealt with animal health, and showed the influence of soil deficiencies in the problem of health. He pointed out that South Africa and Australia have provided a wealth of investigations in relation to deficiencies in phosphorus, and that there is evidence that a group of diseases which includes bush sickness in New Zealand and coastiness in parts of Australia, are related to soil conditions.

ESSAY COMPETITION FOR MURRAY PRIZE

Two Groups of Subjects

The Chief Justice and Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Sir George Murray) who is also a patron of the Institute of Public Administration, has given £10/10/ for the Sir George Murray essay prize.

The essay is to be on the subject of public administration, or some science, and two prizes will be given provided at least two essays worthy of consideration as regards quality are received. It is open to members, associate members, and associates of the regional group of the institute.

In the previous essay competition no prizes were awarded because the entries were not large and the judge considered that they were not of sufficient quality to warrant the awards by matching the essays the judges consider originality, research, style, composition and argument.

RESEARCH IN WHEAT RAISING

Necessary Says Dr. Richardson

GROWER DIFFERS

"I think everyone will concede the necessity for further work on the scientific problems associated with the wheat industry," the director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute (Dr. Richardson) said today.

He was commenting on a statement made yesterday by the chairman of the Wheat Commission (Sir Herbert Gepp). Sir Herbert said it the industry thinks the cost of one twenty-fifth of a penny a bushel, provided £30,000 a year for research work, the whole of the industry would be changed within 10 years.

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"It must be recognised that an immense amount of research work has already been done and is being undertaken by Departments of Agriculture and research institutes," added Dr. Richardson.

This work has enabled wheat production to be established on a thoroughly sound basis.

Improved varieties of wheat, adapted to the soil and climatic zones of the Commonwealth, have been produced and cultural and fertilising requirements worked out for the different types of soil.

DISEASES INVESTIGATED

Diseases affecting wheat had been investigated and the factors for economic wheat production established, said the director. Much work had been maintained and even increased despite the introduction of much poorer and drier land for cultivation.

There was, of course, room for intensifying scientific work in progress, particularly in controlling such serious diseases as the root-rot complex. These diseases heavily reduced yields, particularly in the newer mallee areas.

Varieties of wheat with combined high yield and milling qualities had been developed and work on soil problems intensified.

"This work can be accelerated by providing all facilities to workers on the problems," said Dr. Richardson. continued Dr. Richardson. "If money can be secured by levy or any other means, it will be all to the good of the industry."

IDEA OPPOSED

The idea is not favored by the secretary of the South Australian Wheatgrowers' Association (Mr. Maycock).

"I am strongly opposed to Sir Herbert's proposal," Mr. Maycock said. "Because the position of the farmers in this State is so desperate we have a hardships grant from the Commonwealth operating, and Sir Herbert suggests that the farmers should be paying receiving the grant should foot the bill for work which is surely the responsibility of the Commonwealth."

Mr. Maycock was sure that the farmer would be forced to pay the levy out of his very meagre profits.

"It is all very well for Sir Herbert to make the fraction seem very small," Mr. Maycock said, "but the plight of the grower is so desperate that he cannot even afford to lose one twenty-fifth of a penny a bushel from his profit.

It was further stressed by Mr. Maycock that there was apparently no necessity for research into wheat growing. The ultimate aim of such research, he says, would be to increase the production of wheat.

"We are told now," he says, "that the industry is suffering from over-production, so they should the farmer be keen to pay for research that would increase production and lower still further the price for wheat?

"The operations of the Farmers' Assistance Board in cleaning farmers out of areas where the growing of wheat does not pay at present prices have aimed at curtailing production. The area sown with wheat in the Commonwealth this season is the lowest for many years. In this State especially the area has been curtailed considerably," Mr. Maycock concluded.

University Community Centre

BASED on lines similar to those operating in Sydney, undergraduates at the Adelaide University are to form a University settlement in Port Pirie. The chairing secretary (Mr. W. G. McD. Partridge) says that the association will establish a community centre in one of the poorer suburbs around Adelaide.

The place will be a centre for social welfare activities in the district, and it is hoped that in time the Varsity club will conduct some organisation in the settlement with similar aims. It is desired that there should be clubs, libraries, sports teams, and discussion groups. The Student Christian Movement will look after the religious side.

Another proposal is to establish a hostel near the settlement and to train social workers.

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German conscripts who had been called up for a year's labor service as a preliminary to military training had been put to work draining a vast tract of country in the north-west of Germany. Many of the farmers were unable to meet the expense.

Mr. Meier arrived in Germany before the advent of Hitler. He declared that the country was happier now.

He declared that reports of attacks on Jews in Germany were exaggerated.

Leipzig had a Jewish centre, and everything was peaceful while he was there. He saw nothing of the reported persecution. He was told that Germans were taught to have nothing more to do with the Jews than they could help.

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Our Knights

A RECENT lunch-table argument on the number of knighthoods in South Australia disclosed an altogether unexpected figure. There are nearly 20, and honors have been bestowed on twenty-five counted in. This alphabetical list, which is complete:—Sir Langdon and Sir Lavington Bonython, Sir Walter Bruce, the Governor, Sir William Goodman, Sir David Gordon, Sir Sidney Kidman, Sir Edward Lucas, Sir Douglas Mawson, Sir John Melrose, Sir William Mitchell, Sir George Murray, Sir Henry Simpson, Newland, Sir George Strickland, Sir William Sowden, and Sir Walter Young.

To these might fairly be added Sir Henry Barwell, Sir Herbert Gepp, Sir Keith Smith, Sir Leslie Rawls, Sir Herbert Wilkins, Sir Victor Wilson, and Sir Frederick Young. There are also about a dozen ladies still holding a title, through their deceased husbands.

Sir Thomas Elmore, an Edinburgh University professor, and Sir Maurice Hankey, secretary of the Imperial Defence Committee, were born here. Sir Roy Robinson was adopted here, and was a South Australian Rhodes Scholar.

Shortage of Doctors

IT is reported that there is another shortage of resident medical officers at the Adelaide Hospital, and an Adelaide view that there is a shortage in all public hospitals in Australia is supported by comment from the Sydney profession.

"The times are out of joint with doctors, as with other people," said one authority. "Even if the annual number of new doctors were as great, or greater than in the earlier boom years there would still be ample scope for them."

Sydney experience indicates that there is practically no unemployment among doctors in New South Wales, and this probably indicates the position for the Commonwealth. Public appointments and opportunities of private practice the doctor of reasonable competency need not be without a living.

Even if the population increased, necessary the proportion of doctors in practice must increase with the progress of science, the authority explained. The reason was that the methods of diagnosis and treatment tended always to greater complexity, and that the time given to each patient considerably increased.

The density of Australia's medical population is still much lower that of Germany, where the proportion of doctors to the general population some years ago was one to 700.

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Farming In Germany

NEW IDEAS

Agricultural problems applicable to Australia have been studied in Germany for three years by an Adelaide teacher, Mr. W. E. Meier, who returned to the Balranald district.

Mr. Meier graduated from Roseworthy Agricultural College, and before going away on leave was attached to the staff of the Renmark High School.

He said that one of his chief studies was land amelioration by drainage under Prof. H. Janert. The subject included drainage and irrigation.

The professor had lectured on the mole plough, which he used to prepare ground for the laying of porous concrete irrigation pipes.

The porous pipes were still in the experimental stage, but had every prospect of success. They should prove of immense value to Australian schemes when marketed, said Mr. Meier. He tried out 20 yards of porous piping, and the irrigation experiments proved successful in a miniature plot. Beans in the pipe zone had yielded a produced a crop equal to the best ever obtained.

Unlike Australians, Germany go in for varied crop rotation, said Mr. Meier. "We in Australia are putting too much wheat on the same ground year, tiring the land through the one-sided cereal production.

"I believe that because of this my own district—Loxton—will be useless for wheat production in 25 years time," he said.

HITLER REGIME PRAISED

Mr. Meier said that in Germany all the manures were not put in at the time of sowing, but more than one components, such as nitrates and potash were left till later in the season on account of the heavy rain.

Government assistance was given in the making of ensilage.

Mr. Meier said that the Hitler regime had been responsible for scientific investigation on a scale never attempted before. Propaganda methods to encourage the use of German materials included broadcast talks on the subject. Appeals to be made from the limited products available.