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Mr. Frederick Bevan, of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, Adelaide, returned from a six months' trip to Europe by the mail steamer India on Sunday. Mr. Bevan undertook the trip for business and pleasure, and a portion of the time was devoted to musical matters. He acted as judge of the higher examinations and vocal scholarships for Trinity College, and conducted the Royal Academy's and Royal College's musical examinations. He was accompanied by Mrs. Bevan.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY TO THE FORE.

The Registrar of the Adelaide University (Mr. C. R. Hodge) recently returned from an official visit to Broken Hill. Judged by a leading article in The Barrier Miner his mission promises to prove highly successful. In its issue of August 23 that paper states:—"Mr. Hodge need, we are sure, have no fear of any antagonism on the part of the Sydney University. That University, being itself unable to give us participation in the advantages which it places at the disposal of the majority of the people of the State—advantages towards the cost of the provision of which we contribute—is not at all likely to adopt the dog-in-the-manger policy of objecting to the University of a sister State shedding some of its light upon this very much benighted place. Surely there is in these federated States to be a free exchange of the information and the civilizing influences which the Universities of the Commonwealth have at their disposition. The very best way, indeed, would be for the University of New South Wales to sink all parochial differences, for such are the limitations of the operations of the Universities of this and that State, and to conclude with the University of Adelaide arrangements by which the higher education needs of this city should all be served from the conveniently situated South Australian centre.

—An Affiliation with South Australia.—

"What the University of Adelaide is doing for Western Australia, to promotion of higher education in which it enthusiastically addresses itself, it should be asked and commissioned to do for Broken Hill, which, as a matter of fact, is as much cut off from University life as Perth or Fremantle or Kalgoorlie is. The gap that there is between the Barrier and the higher education that centres in Sydney could be, and should be, bridged over by Adelaide, and there is no reason why a thing of the future should not be a college in Broken Hill affiliated to the Adelaide University. A junior examination in general education cannot be held here under the auspices of the Adelaide University until August of next year. There is no reason, at least no good reason, why the Adelaide University should not hold here senior and junior as well as primary examinations. It is unthinkable that the Sydney University authorities should raise any objection to an arrangement which would so make for cheapness and convenience as that under which the examinations of a University only some three hundred odd miles distant would be substituted for those of a University nearly fourteen hundred miles away.

—Extension Lectures.—

"Of the extension lectures which it is sought to persuade the University authorities to make provision for it is impossible to speak in terms of too high praise. If we cannot get lecturers from Sydney we can, and should, get them from Adelaide, the University of which has on its staff and at its command some of the most brilliant intellects of Australia. Nothing, probably, can be done this year; but certainly a determined effort should be made to arrange with the University of Adelaide for the delivery of a course, or of courses, of extension lectures in Broken Hill next winter."

RETURN OF MR. BEVAN.

IMPRESSIONS OF MUSICAL LONDON.

Mr. F. Bevan, Professor of Singing at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, who, in December last, left for a visit to England, returned to Adelaide on Sunday by the India. When seen on Monday morning by a representative of The Advertiser, Mr. Bevan said he had been combining business with pleasure, and had spent an enjoyable holiday. The last few weeks he was in London, however, he found the heat of the phenomenal summer more oppressive than that of South Australia, even on the hottest days. Although a good deal of his time had been occupied in business arrangements, he had abundant opportunity of acquainting himself with the musical world of London. His impressions, especially of the opera and the orchestral work, were decidedly pleasant. Many of the London orchestras were magnificent, and the recitals by the Queen's Hall and the Philharmonic orchestras were wonderfully fine. There was a great boom in the music of Sir Edward Elgar, and Mr. Bevan several times heard works by this distinguished writer performed, while he had the additional advantage of being present at many of the rehearsals. The "Dream of Gerontius" and "The Apostles" were in great favor, and Mr. Bevan says they decidedly deserved their enormous popularity. The composition in these works he regarded as magnificent, and the production of them was a rich musical treat.

When asked if he was publishing any new works himself, Mr. Bevan replied:—"I wrote seven songs while in England, and I made arrangements for their publication." He then opened a parcel just delivered by post and drew out proof-sheets in two keys of a sacred song, "Our Father." He expects that there will be a supply of each of the numbers in Adelaide in the course of a few weeks. Reference to the publication of new works naturally brought the conversation to the piracy question, which at present is occupying a large share of attention in England. Asked if he had suffered with the rest of the composers, Mr. Bevan said:—

"Yes; I have been hit pretty hard. You see the pirates turn their attention almost exclusively to us poor song writers. Other compositions would not pay them nearly so well."

As an indication of the extent to which this wholesale robbery is carried out, Mr. Bevan mentioned that during the time he was in London about 300,000 illicit copies of songs were seized and destroyed per month. Indeed that was practically the only form of redress open to those who were wronged. The system of piracy began about two or three years ago—at first on a comparatively small scale, and but little notice was taken of it. Those engaged in it, however, soon became more daring, and when they found that the only penalty imposed was the seizure of the music and the plates from which the copies were printed they began to make a big business of it. The introduction of a Bill into the House of Commons, intended to provide against the evil, had the effect of spurring on the "robbers." The measure had been talked out and could not be brought on again until next session, and those engaged in the work of defying the copyrights were determined to make the most of the time left to them.

How is it that the law cannot step in and punish the pirates?

"I think if the law is administered the whole business can be stopped. I have written to the London press, stating that in my opinion it is not a new Act of Parliament that is wanted, but a vigorous administration of the existing law, and that the police should take the matter up. There are great difficulties in the way, I know. It is easy enough to find the poor hawker who has in his possession a few copies of songs which he is trying to sell at 2d. each, but the man behind the pedlar cannot be found. The method employed is to hire a room, generally a cellar or a garret, and to make plates by a system of photography, from which a million copies of the songs can be printed. The names of the publishers are cut out of the plates, and generally the whole thing is done in a week and the parties are off. The system has proved almost ruinous to several of the large publishers of songs, and some houses have decided that they will not bring out any new compositions for two years, by which time it is hoped that an effective Act of Parliament will be in force. An organisation called the Musical Defence League has been formed to fight the piracy, and it is generally believed that the end of the wholesale robbery of songs is near."

What were your impressions of musical education in England?

"I was greatly pleased with what I saw in the institutions I visited. I have spent a good deal of time at the Royal Academy and the Royal College, and I watched the methods of work with the utmost interest. I have assisted in the examinations for scholarships at the Royal Academy, and also for the higher examinations and scholarships for Trinity College. I considered it a great compliment to have been asked to undertake these responsibilities, especially in connection with the Trinity College, as the operations of this institution in Adelaide and the work of the University and Conservatorium might in some measure be supposed to engender rivalry."

Speaking of Australian singers in England Mr. Bevan said he had met all the leading stars, but had not seen many of the young singers. He thought a great mistake was being made by many young Australians who went home in the hope of making a London reputation. Of course persons with phenomenal voices could make an impression anywhere, but unless there was some very marked promise of great excellency an Australian singer stood but little chance in London. He was pleased to say that Miss Ethel Hantke was making satisfactory progress with her studies at the Royal Academy.

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MUSIC AND SINGING.

Among the passengers by the India, which arrived at Largs Bay on Sunday, was Mr. F. Bevan, of the Elder Conservatorium in this State, who went to England about nine months ago. Mr. Bevan was delighted with his trip, in which he combined pleasure with an extremely pleasant holiday. He saw much of the music world, and was impressed especially with the operatic and orchestral work. "The music of Sir Edward Elgar," he remarked, "is in the midst of a great boom, and some of his compositions, including 'The dream of Gerontius' and 'The Apostles,' are in high favour." While in England, Mr. Bevan's pen was not idle, for he wrote seven songs. Some of these have already been published, and only on Monday he received copies of "Our Father," a sacred song. "Peg wye" is the name of another of the compositions. Like many other composers, Mr. Bevan has suffered considerably from the depredations of pirates, who, however, he thinks could be prevented from carrying on their nefarious practices if the English law were vigorously administered, and the police took the matter up. Mr. Bevan was particularly pleased with the progress made by South Australian students, especially in singing. In his capacity as examiner he examined the best pupils in each of the leading musical institutions. "At none of them," he said, "did I hear any better than our own, whose standard is particularly good, and I am, of course, very proud of the fact." Miss Ethel Hantke's voice pleased him greatly, and he has every confidence that she will do well. A feature of the musical world which struck Mr. Bevan was the remarkable development of the phonograph that had taken place in England. In compliance with a request from the Edison Bell Phonograph Company he sang half a dozen of his songs, including "The flight of ages," "The admiral's broom," and "The old soldier," so that records of them might be made.

Ad. 30th Aug 1904

EXTENSION LECTURES.

This evening the Rev. John Reid will give the fifth lecture of the course on the comedies of Shakespeare, the subject being "As You Like It."

The West Australian states that the primary public examinations in connection with the Adelaide University commenced in Perth on August 23. The subjects were algebra, history, geography, arithmetic, and English. There were 272 Western Australian entries this year, 219 of whom are being examined at the Queen's Hall, Perth. The examination was also held at Albany, Collye, Coolgardie, Gerulldon, Kalgoorlie, Norseman, Northam, and Rottneest.

As the result of a recent visit paid to Broken Hill by Mr. C. R. Hodge, Registrar of the Adelaide University, examinations for the Adelaide University's primary and music examinations will be held in the Silver City in future. Broken Hill is already a centre for the Sydney University's senior and junior examinations, but Sydney has not at present initiated a primary examination. The council of the Adelaide University has resolved in no way to overlap the ground covered by the Sydney authorities.

Req 31st Aug 1904

"AS YOU LIKE IT."

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The Rev. John Reid, M.A., gave the fifth of his lectures on "The Comedies of Shakespeare," in connection with the extension series at the Adelaide University, on Tuesday evening. The comedy chosen on this occasion was "As You Like It," which the lecturer said good judges had pronounced the masterpiece of the group of plays in which it was found. It was the most profoundly reflective of those plays. They could imagine Shakespeare's longing to exchange the battery and falsehood of court and city life for that of the fuller freedom and quiet company of the country. In that state of mind, and helped by Lodge's old romance, Shakespeare wrote that idyllic comedy "As You Like It," which was the most profound, the most philosophic, and the most delightful of all his ideal representations of life. The Woflingtons, the Siddonses, the Kembles, the Helen Faucets, and the Eden Terrys had found no better character in which to exhibit the mastery and magic of their art than Rosalind. He dealt with the life and love in the forest, the charm of the dialogue, and the skilful weaving of plots and subplots into a compact organic play. Orlando was the most satisfactory of all Shakespeare's lover heroes, more so than Romeo, because he had more sense. The lecturer's contrast of the characters—the banished Duke and Jacques, Touchstone and Corin, and Rosalind and Audrey, was followed with great interest, as, indeed, was the whole lecture, which was in every way equal to its forerunners. The quotations from the comedy were read with a keen sense of appreciation of the beautiful lines.