

Register 5/11/13

Daily Herald 6/11/13

THE PARLIAMENT. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29.

The President (Hon. Sir Lancelot Stirling) took the Chair at 2 p.m.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

The PRESIDENT—The Hon. Mr. Wallis has given me notice that he intends to move that the Council at its rising adjourn until 1.30 p.m. to-morrow with a view to make an explanation regarding the appointment to the University Council made yesterday. Will three hon. members rise in their places to signify that the motion has their approval?

The Hons. A. W. STYLES, E. L. W. KLAUER, and J. H. VAUGHAN having risen,

The Hon. F. S. WALLIS moved—"That the Council at its rising adjourn until 1.30 p.m. to-morrow." He desired to say a few words in regard to the selection on the previous day of a member to fill the position on the University Council rendered vacant by the death of the Hon. Sir John Duncan. Last week Mr. Styles had mentioned that it had been the wish of the late Sir John Duncan that he (Mr. Wallis) should occupy a seat on the University Council. He was not clear in his own mind that that was the position. He had understood from the late Sir John Duncan that it was the wish of his party that he (Mr. Wallis) should be one of the members selected by the Council. He had pointed out to the hon. member at the time that he was not a candidate for the position at all, and that the nominee on his side of the Council was Mr. Styles, also that while the members of his side were perfectly willing to accept the nomination of the other side of the Chamber they also expected that whomever they chose would be accepted by the other party. He believed that the late Sir John Duncan had thought that the same course would be followed in the Council as had been adopted in the other Chamber. That was that each side should loyally support the candidate selected by the other. The position now was that of the five Parliamentary members of the University Council only one of them was a nominee of the Labour Party. Seeing that in the other Chamber an understanding had been arrived at that each party should be represented, it was only right that in the Legislative Council the same thing should have been done. When members in the other House did what was right they in the Council could not do wrong in following them. He trusted that on any future occasion the course adopted in the present action would not be repeated. He wished to point out that in the changes which took place in the personnel of the House it might come about that a different party would be in the majority, and the occasion might arise that it would retaliate and deprive the other side of that to which it was justly entitled. He made these remarks because he wished something to be on record to make it clear that the matter was not one concerning himself individually, but one concerning the nominee of his party for the position. He hoped that on any future occasion there would never arise any need for a member of either side of the House to complain of an action as unfair as his side considered the present one.

The Hon. E. LUCAS said he trusted that hon. members generally would recognise that the appointment made on the previous day was absolutely non-partisan and non-political. He knew that was the view held by members on his side of the Council. He wished to assure Mr. Wallis that no member of his party was personally held in higher esteem than he. So far as his memory served him, when the matter originally came before the Council, it was discussed among members of his party. It was unanimously decided that Mr. Wallis, who was then Chief Secretary, should be offered the appointment. That offer was made and declined definitely by Mr. Wallis, although it had been made voluntarily and freely by the Liberal Party. When Mr. Styles's name was mentioned two members on the opposite side of the Council had already been chosen. There never had been any party feeling, and there was none now.

The Hon. A. W. STYLES said it was regretted that there had been any necessity for the discussion. Until a few minutes previously, just before Mr. Wallis had risen in his place, he had not known that there was to be any debate. He believed that if some hon. members opposite had another opportunity they would be ready to offer the appointment to a member of his side of the Chamber. Unfortunately the time for that had gone by. The Leader of the Liberal Party had said it was not desired to make it a party question, and he hoped that on a future occasion when the opportunity occurred to select another representative, the actions of the members opposite would speak louder than words, and that they would support a nomination from his side of the Chamber for a position on the Council of the University.

The Hon. F. S. WALLIS said he wished to assure Mr. Lucas that he distinctly conveyed to Sir John Duncan at the time the name of Mr. Styles as the person selected by his side of the Chamber before any final decision had been arrived at concerning who should take the position. They had discussed the matter before any vote was taken, and the understanding was that each side would support the nomination of the other. So far as he was concerned it did not matter, and he had not spoken from the personal standpoint. All he wanted was that the other side should recognise the right of his side to be represented on the Council.
Motion negatived.

Advertiser 5/11/13

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION'S REPORT.

To the Editor.

Sir—The speech delivered by Mr. Coneybeer in the House of Assembly when moving the adoption of the report of the Education Commission, contained remarks and statements that call for more than passing notice. It will be a matter for sincere regret on the part of many teachers that Mr. Coneybeer should have committed himself to the extent he did in supporting recommendations (some of them at least) so entirely opposed to the welfare of the service and based upon such utterly erroneous conclusions. It may be understood, of course, that a unanimous report was very desirable, and that a certain amount of compromise had to take place in order to gain that end, but it is questionable whether in the long run such give-and-take is really for the best. Mr. Coneybeer made it plain that the influence of Victoria (which means Mr. Tate) upon the recommendations of the Commission was of a very marked character. It is not too much to say that the teachers of this State have for a long time past recognised that influence, and very strongly deprecated it. Its effect upon our system has not commended itself to them, and they as a body must be credited with as deep and sincere a desire for the advancement of education in its truest sense as the teachers of any part of the world. One of the recommendations, by which junior men of limited experience are, for no really apparent reason, rapidly advanced over the heads of men of tried and proved ability having all the experience, is so "un-English" in its spirit and so unreasonable as to be peculiarly obnoxious to the men of this State as its practice is to the teachers of Victoria. In consequence of the recommendation, an appointment of that nature has recently been made, and a gentleman, against whom no one would desire to say a single word, has been promoted over the heads of his seniors in rank. It is quite certain that neither he himself, nor his friends for him, would for one moment claim that he is superior in capacity or ability to many of those over whom he has been lifted. It has been said that the desire is to raise young men of ability rapidly in the profession. There does not seem to be any real reason for such a course—certainly not at the expense of efficiency, to say nothing of justice and fair play, while, as a matter of fact, the gentleman appointed in the present instance is actually about the same age as, or older than, some of those in the classes above him. The whole thing appears to be a mistake arising from a want of evidence on the subject or an insufficient consideration of the evidence that was obtained by the Commission, and it is to be hoped that the report will not be adopted without full and proper discussion. There is a real danger of inflicting grave injustice and indignity on a body of deserving men without there being any increase of efficiency, but very decidedly the reverse.—I am, &c., K.

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

In consequence of the University examinations the Elder Conservatorium orchestral concert will be given on Wednesday, November 13, instead of November 12.

Daily Herald 8/11/13

EDUCATION OF THE WORKERS.

Mr. T. B. Merry reported to the Trades and Labor Council last night that the committee appointed in connection with the formation of a Workers' Educational Association had met and had drawn up a constitution. That would be printed and copies would be sent to all associations throughout the State. They would be asked to appoint delegates to consider the constitution, and if necessary to revise it. When the meeting had disposed of that business steps would be taken to form a class in connection with the association.