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highest traditions of the Imperial Parliament. It must have afforded their great pleasure to have observed the strong desire of Australia to utilize those great powers of self-government to which they were so indebted to the Home Government. (Applause.) When Mr. Bryce returned to the old country they would be delighted to hear him report on the loyalty, veneration, and affection which existed towards the old country. (Applause.) He was certain that among the people of Australia there was the feeling that whereas formerly the Empire was regarded as belonging to England, the view now was that England belonged to the Empire. (Applause.)

—An Ambassador for Australia.—

Mr. Bryce, who was received with prolonged applause, made an important and eloquent speech. He said he was heartily grateful to the Premier and his colleagues for their great kindness in inviting him to meet them. As His Excellency the Governor had said, he and his wife had been deeply touched by the spontaneous welcome they had received since their arrival in Australia. Although at times the demands upon them had been numerous, it had always been a pleasure to meet them. He had not been having much rest, it was true, but he thought that those who had been accustomed to that class of work in a pretty long life could do without much rest, and usually found their relaxation in a change of occupation. (Cheers.) They received a stimulus from new ideas, from a contact of new minds and associations, and one's interest in the world and its progress was being constantly quickened, enlightened, and enlarged by new conditions, which pointed to the future, and prevented one from dwelling too much upon the losses of the past, because they had the future to repair them. (Applause.)

—The Same Boat.—

He thanked the Premier for his generous reference to the work he had been trying to do in the United States with a view of promoting the most cordial relations between that great branch of the race and those branches which still lived under the Union Jack in all parts of the Empire. In the course of his work he had come to realize that he was as much an Ambassador from Canada as from Great Britain, because of the questions which concerned the Imperial and United States Governments in three-fourths at least of those questions Canada was directly and primarily interested. In like manner he felt he could also regard himself as an Ambassador from Australia charged to maintain Australian interests as well as those of Canada and the other portions of the Imperial dominions. (Cheers.) Up to the present Australia and the United States had comparatively few points of contact, but one had been mentioned in the newspapers this week in which Australia had a direct interest. They could rely upon it that it was the great wish of the Home Government and the wish of every one who represented the Government at Washington to be as zealous and earnest in defending the interests of the dominion as of the mother country. (Cheers.) They considered themselves to be all in the same boat, all equally interested in furthering every part of the Empire. (Applause.) That was their strength.

—Great Common Interests.—

Apart from local interests there were great interests common to them all. In order to preserve those great interests they must maintain the interests at every point of the Empire. That had always been and ever would be their object. (Applause.) He was particularly glad to meet the Ministers because he had been for a good part of his life concerned with administration, having fulfilled several offices in the Government. It was, therefore, always interesting for him to see the administration adopted in those countries which had continued their institutions and their traditions. He did not think it was possible to get a better system of administration than that under which Ministers of the Crown were also representative of and responsible to the people with whom they could keep in close touch in the conduct of public affairs. (Applause.) Ministers, by having seats in Parliament, and being obliged to defend their measures and constantly exposed to a continual fire of questions from members of Parliament on all acts of the administration, were able to feel the pulse of public opinion in a way which was not possible under any other system. (Hear, hear.) They were able to keep Parliament and the administration in close touch. When the representatives of the people wished to convey the views of their constituents to the Ministers they had many private and unofficial means of communication.

—British Administration.—

Half the administration which he did was influenced by constant talks which he used to have in the lobbies of the House of Commons with the members who came to represent their views and their constituents about some particular Bill. Over and over again it would have been impossible to administer the department if it had not been for the help of the members in the manner he had described. (Hear, hear.) By hearing their views, objections were removed and the way made clearer. Those interviews were not confined to one side, although such intercourse was more frequent with members on one's own side of the House. Still, a member of the Oppo-

sition always felt perfectly free to go to the Minister and say what was in his mind. (Applause.) The Minister not only welcomed that, but he would be foolish if he did not do so. It helped him because it enabled him to understand what the objections were, and thus remove them. Surely if there was to be serious opposition to any proposals it was far better for the Ministers to know it in that way. (Applause.) He thought the private life in the House of Commons, in the lobbies, in the dining and smoking rooms, and on the terraces, was of the greatest possible value and help in the conduct of public business as contrasted with the system in which Ministers had no direct connection with the Legislature at all. (Applause.) He felt sure that in Australia they found similar benefits to those they enjoyed in England.

—Civil Service Politics.—

They had in the Commonwealth preserved one feature of their Government which they looked upon as being of the greatest value. That was a permanent Civil Service, which was removed from politics. Speaking as an ex-Minister, he did not think their system would be possible if they did not have a large body of trained men permanently in the service who understood all the details, and who, when they came into office, guided their steps which at first were a little wandering and uncertain, until they knew the facts with which they had to deal. (Premier—"Hear, hear.") Still, it was a very good thing that the head of the department should change, because sometimes he saw things which a permanent official did not see. Often the Ministerial head of the department would be struck by an anomaly or the need for some reform which might be introduced. Then, the Minister was able to bring the fresh light of political discussion into what might be the stagnant atmosphere of office. The permanent service, to be efficient, should be removed from all parties. (Applause.) Admission to it should not be by personal or party favour or in obedience to party motives. Promotion should be by merit. (Applause.) He was delighted to hear that in all the States of the Commonwealth that was practised, and he hoped it would ever be so.

—Need for Agriculturists.—

What struck him most in touring Australia was the need for more agricultural workers. (Hear, hear.) All the States appeared to require a larger proportion of people to work on the land and develop it. Australia had limitless resources, and those resources would make wealth in the cities as well as in the towns. Much as he admired the beauties of the cities he had visited—the admirable situation of Sydney, the stateliness of Melbourne, and the peculiar and singular charm of Adelaide, with its surrounding parks, and the lovely range of hills rising beyond it, and into whose sylvan recesses he had had the advantage of exploring during the last day or two—much as he admired all those things, he felt that the city population was disproportionate to the population of the country. (Applause.) He could not say that that was a permanently wholesome condition. Man originally was intended to live in the country for economic and health reasons. It was impossible to have those conditions in the large cities. Adelaide had not yet reached that stage, but if the city grew as the State progressed, it would reach a point at which it would be hard to maintain conditions favourable for the development of a strong and healthy race. Work in the cities was becoming more and more the work of machinery. Work in the country, especially in a genial climate like that of Australia, was done in the open air under conditions eminently favourable for vigorous growth. He earnestly hoped that the policy of immigration would be continued, so that disproportion would be corrected. (Applause.)

—Responsibility of the Dominions.—

There was another subject about which he wished to say a few words before closing. That was the relation between the mother country and the dominions. The reason why their relations had been so harmonious and why the bond of common sentiment and unity had been growing stronger, was because the mother country had not only adopted the policy of giving ample self-government to the colonies, but had also persisted in that policy, and had never yielded to the temptation of trying to step in and interfere. (Applause.) There had been moments when they had thought that some of the dominions were not conducting some particular matter in the wisest possible manner, but it was always thought far better to allow self-government to be complete rather than to try to interfere. (Applause.) The Home Government was anxious to make the dominions feel that they were responsible for their own policy, and it was for them to work it out. (Applause.) They felt that if left alone the best results would be obtained in the long run. (Applause.) The freedom of the self-governing colonies had been enjoyed to the furthest point in financial matters. They had been permitted

to frame tariffs, levy taxes, and even to go so far as to enter into commercial negotiations with other countries. The Home Government had not interfered, because it had not believed in doing things by halves. If they had a financial policy they ought to have it altogether, so long as it did not interfere with Imperial interests. (Applause.)

—English and Australian Parties.—

Another vital matter in Imperial relations was that no British party should ever try to identify itself with any party in a dominion, and that no party in a dominion should seek to identify itself with any British party. (Applause.) Parties there must be in each country, but they in England did not want to know anything of Australian parties. (Applause.) They only wanted to know Australia as a whole. It would be a great misfortune if any party in a dominion should ever think that any party in England was more friendly or less friendly towards Australia than any other party. (Applause.) It would not be true. Even if it were, it would be most unfortunate. They in England did not want to be identified in any way with party differences. (Applause.) In that was to be found safety. (Applause.) He had rejoiced on many occasions since his coming to Australia to realize that the sentiment of Imperial unity was so strong. That was a great blessing to all their people. They ventured to think, with due modesty, that the British Empire was the best in the world. (Loud applause.)

—The Premier.—

The health of the Premier was honoured at the instance of His Excellency, who said that Mr. Peake was ever alert in making any distinguished visitors to the State honoured guests of the Government. He had often wondered how the Premier, with his multifarious duties, found time always to extend those courtesies.

The Premier—The reason, your Excellency, I am able to do that is because I have loyal and efficient colleagues. (Hear, hear.)

UNIVERSITY CHAPTER.

Degrees Conferred.

A special congregation of the University of Adelaide was held at the Elder Hall on Friday evening. The Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) presided over a brilliant gathering, representing every section of learning in the State. Apart from the conferring of the honour of Doctor of Laws upon the Right Hon. James Bryce (British Ambassador at Washington), degrees were bestowed upon other graduates.

The Dean of the Faculty of Arts (Professor Henderson) presented the Right Rev. Bishop Wilson, M.A. (University of Cambridge) for the degree of Master of Arts. The Chancellor remarked that Bishop Wilson was heartily welcome to the University. He was following in the succession of a number of Bishops whose careers were familiar to them. (Applause.)

The Dean of the Faculty also recommended (in absentia) the Rev. Absalom Deans, B.A. who completed his course in Western Australia, and is now in Sydney, for admission to the Degree of Bachelor of Arts. In admitting the graduate, the Chancellor said the Melbourne University had Tasmania under its influence, and in South Australia they had been fortunate enough to be of some service to Western Australia, in having that great State under their sphere of influence. That would not be the case next year, as in March, 1913, the University of Western Australia would be inaugurated.

The Vice-Chancellor, in the absence of the Dean of the Faculty of Laws, recommended Edgar Robinson (in absentia), a solicitor of Perth, for admission to the Degree of Bachelor of Laws.

The Dean of the Faculty of Science (Professor Rennie) presented for the Honours Degree of Bachelor of Science, George Eric Macdonnell Jauncey. The Chancellor, in admitting Mr. Jauncey, congratulated him heartily upon the distinction he had won. He was sure that Mr. Jauncey would be a credit to the University in the researches he would make through the bursary he had gained. (Applause.)

The Rev. Llewellyn D. Bevan, LL.B. (University of London), was to have been present to receive the Degree of Bachelor of Laws. The Chancellor announced, however, that Mr. Bevan was indisposed, and could not be here that night. He hoped that he would be able to receive the honour on a future occasion. (Hear, hear.)