

Wellbourne chgs,
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tralia was a thing the people of England often envied. Australians were able to enjoy the pleasures of outdoor life more than their fellow-countrymen in England, and more than the people in most of the cities of North America. (Cheers.)

Australian Experiments.

In England they were deeply interested in the experiments which Australians were conducting to secure the reconciliation of the claims of capital and labor and the adjusting of the difficulties that arose between employer and employed so as to secure industrial peace. Many experiments had been made in the different States, and these were now being tried in the Commonwealth as a whole. All these were being watched closely by the people of England. The mother country had difficulties of her own. Indeed, these troubles were common to the whole world, and they earnestly hoped that Australia would find the solution by which the mother land and other countries could profit. Personally, he was most hopeful about these things. (Hear, hear.) He was hopeful because he believed in the long run justice and fairness would prevail, and that the time was coming when each side would appreciate what the other side had to say. He was hopeful also because he had great faith in the commonsense of the British race, which would make possible the adjustment of divergent views. (Cheers.) He believed, therefore, that these difficulties would be settled. In all parts of the Empire they were approaching the same problem from different sides. He had no doubt the people of this country were watching what Canada was doing. Australia was also trying an experiment as to how far Government could go in undertaking various enterprises that were in the nature of public utilities, and in which the public as a whole were concerned. These were being watched in England with constant interest. He was hopeful because he believed no people were better fitted by past experiments for dealing fairly with these problems. But it was only by patience, good temper, and the exercise of the conciliatory spirit that good and permanent results would be obtained. He believed, however, that the history of Australia would repeat the history of England. (Cheers.) He would like to go back to England and tell them there that Australians were also Britons—(cheers)—that the people of this Commonwealth were part of the Great British race which had settled in the south, as another part had settled in the west, while others had remained in the little island in the north. They were all Britons still: all united by the same national character and traditions of the past, and by the same sense of what their forefathers had achieved. And it was for Australians in the conditions in which Providence had placed them to add their full share to the achievements of their forefathers. (Cheers.)

UNITY OF EMPIRE. NATIONAL IDEALS.

SPEECH BY MR. BRYCE.

Prior to his departure for Adelaide yesterday, Mr. James Bryce was entertained at luncheon at State Parliament-house by Mr. Watt and his colleagues. Again there was a large gathering, representative of the political parties and commercial interests of Victoria, and when Mr. Bryce rose to respond to the toast of his health, there was further enthusiastic manifestation of the honour and respect in which he is held. The guests included the State Governor (Sir John Fuller), who was, however, compelled to leave before the proceedings terminated, in order to catch the steamer for Queensland.

The Premier (Mr. Watt), in submitting the health of "Our Guest," said that it was both a privilege and a pleasure to entertain such a distinguished statesman during his trip round the world. He was voicing the feelings of all present in saying how glad they were to meet Mr. Bryce in Australia, and how surprised and gratified they were to find that a man at his ripe period of life should undertake such a heavy responsibility. That at his age he had the courage and physical strength to make an arduous trip across to Australia made them all hope that the younger generations of the Commonwealth, as the years fell thick upon them, would enjoy the courage and vigour of the men from the centre of the empire. (Cheers.) They all hoped that Mr. Bryce would long be privileged to enjoy the great physical and intellectual strength, that had made his name famous in the outlying parts of the empire. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. M. Davies (President of the Legislative Council), in supporting the toast, praised Mr. Bryce for the high scholastic attainments and his practical work as a statesman.

Sir Frank Madden (Speaker of the Legislative Assembly), in supplementing Mr. Davies's remarks, said that Mr. Bryce's father was a Scotchman, his mother an Irishwoman, and he himself had turned out to be one of the very best Englishmen. (Laughter and cheers.) The fact that he rowed with the Oxford Varsity eight would endear him all the stronger to Australians. (Applause.)

PLEASURES OF PARLIAMENT.

Mr. Bryce, in replying, was given an ovation. The kindly reception accorded him, he said, was one of the highest honours that could have been conferred upon anyone. A powerful imagination was known to be a strong characteristic of the Celtic race, and the Speaker, with his friendship aided by his imagination, had attributed to him an honour which he must regretfully and respectfully disclaim. (Laughter.) He had never rowed for Oxford, in the Varsity race. (Laughter.) He had rowed in minor boat races, but that represented the summit of his prowess in that direction. To him, Parliamentary life had been very interesting. It was with the greatest regret that one bade farewell to it, even if one's duty called one to some other work. There was something entrancing in the surroundings. From the friendships and the various private considerations, which those outside sometimes called intrigues, and which those inside termed negotiations—(laughter)—there was much to attract interest. It afforded unrivalled opportunities for the study of human nature. Nowhere did one see so much of human nature in the way one character played upon and reacted upon another. He did not think it was a very good place for the discovery of abstract truth—(laughter)—although in some respects those who took part in Parliamentary life did not get all the credit they deserved. Parliament was one of the most difficult places in the world in which to know exactly what to do. He was for some time at the bar, and he knew that the layman thought there were great moral difficulties in a lawyer's life; but there was really no difficulty for the man who followed the rules of the profession. A lawyer should never state an untrue fact, or cite a case that had not been decided. In Parliament it was entirely different—(loud laughter)—he had not completed his sentence yet—(laughter)—and he intended to say that it was often extremely difficult to

decide which was the proper course to pursue. (Cheers and loud laughter.) Sometimes there was the question of party to be decided, and at others there were the claims of public interest to be considered. He did not know any better way of governing a country than by the party system, but it was none the less a fact, that a member was sometimes placed in difficulty in deciding whether to vote with his party or against it. He thought, on the whole, taking human nature to be what it was, Parliamentarians came pretty well out of the ordeal. His impression of the House of Commons was a high one, and he had no reason to think that the standard was any less high in the dominions.

STATE FUNCTIONS.

In Australia the position for the past 11 years had been full of interest. Legislators had been confronted with the task of endeavouring to draw lines between Commonwealth and State functions. He was pleased to learn that the difficulties that had arisen had been comparatively few, and that the establishment of a new Parliament had in no way lowered the status of, or the calibre of, the men who entered the State Parliament. It would have been a great misfortune had the Federal Parliament so far affected the State Parliament as to destroy the ambitions of the best men to serve in it, or to diminish the public interest in it. He understood there had been no change, and that State members were filled with the same high sense of public duty as before. The Federal Constitution of 1900 provided that the States' Parliaments should retain much of their legislative independence, and that, supported by the confidence and interests of the people, they should work for the good of the State as a whole. It must be a matter of great satisfaction to all that the creation of a new Parliament had not had the result of depressing the vitality and lessening the importance of the State legislatures. (Cheers.) He did not think there would be much difficulty in drawing a distinction between the functions of the two bodies. At first there would be a certain amount of debatable ground. All constitutions were obliged to speak in general terms, and points must arise about which it was at first doubtful whether it was a State or Federal matter. Such matters had arisen in America, but it was found possible to fix the limits, and the limits so fixed had been acquiesced in, and they had not affected the general strength and utility of the Federation. He saw no reason to doubt that the State Parliaments here would be able to retain their usefulness as before. They had been adorned by the presence of many eminent men, and he hoped they would continue to be so, and that the full powers with which Providence had endowed the British race would be amply displayed in the conduct of Parliament upon wise lines and in the public interest. (Cheers.)

IRRIGATION ADVOCATED.

There were still many opportunities left to them of developing the States. The population in the rural districts was not so large as it should be. The increase of production should be one of the first matters. Water was of supreme importance to Australia. Some parts had benefited by the discovery of artesian water, in Victoria irrigation had been undertaken, and there was no more important work ahead of the legislature than the development of the resources of the State by that means. (Cheers.) If the winter rains were stored, large tracts of country could be fertilised. It was pleasing to find that dry-farming had also received attention. Australia could learn something with regard to dry-farming and irrigation from the experience of North America. Large tracts of country had been brought under cultivation, which repaid intensive cultivation, and they had been let to settlers in comparatively small areas. He would only be too pleased—if he were asked at any time—to supply the Government with an account of what had been accomplished there. (Cheers.) He was pleased to be able to say how cordial were the feelings that existed in America towards Australia. There was a growing feeling in America and Canada that all people of British stock should stand together. The British people were able to understand one another in a way that other nations could not understand each other. Apart altogether from political considerations, there was a community of sentiment which should make us all feel that we were fellow-guardians of the same institutions and traditions, which we had received from our ancestors many years ago. There was only one feeling in England regarding Australia—a feeling of pride in what had been accomplished, and a feeling of hope and pride as to what would be done in the future. (Loud cheers.) Mr. Bryce left by the afternoon train for Adelaide.