

THE AMBASSADOR.

A Great Statesman.

Mr. Bryce Welcomed.

The Melbourne express which brought to Adelaide the Right Hon. James Bryce (British Ambassador at Washington) and Mrs. Bryce was an hour late, and it was not until after 11 o'clock on Wednesday morning that the distinguished visitors stepped out in Adelaide's sunshine at North terrace. Some who had gone earlier to welcome the famous statesman were missing when the belated train arrived, but there was a representative, if small, gathering. Mr. and Mrs. Bryce travelled in a special carriage placed almost at the end of the express, and the result was that the reception party had some difficulty in finding the car.

—A Pen Picture.—

One of the first to welcome Mr. Bryce was Sir Samuel Way, and it was noted that the visiting diplomat was just a trifle taller than the Chief Justice, although lacking his sturdy compactness of physique. Mr. Bryce, mentally a giant, is physically a small man. He is below average height, and the spare build accentuates the comparison. But he is electricity! For an old man, his head in the snows and his busy and important life looking out now towards the sunset, Mr. Bryce is wonderfully alert. This characteristic was manifested directly he set foot on the North Terrace Station. His mind and his body appeared to have the vivacity and freshness of the sunny morning. It seemed to be the greatest difficulty for him to keep still! Whatever is unostentatious in Mr. Bryce's general appearance, his head and face are not. They appeal by their commanding prominence, for there is written the eminent intellectuality of the man who has given to the classics "The Holy Roman Empire" and "The American Commonwealth," and who has ever been a foremost actor in the great drama of the world's affairs. White beard and a conspicuously drooping moustache, big, luminous eyes, almost lost in the tangled silver of the eyebrows, an eager face, quiet in dignity and yet radiant with the personal charm of the statesman's disposition, quick-moving, restless, tremendously earnest—that is how Mr. Bryce appears to those who have the privilege to meet him. The stature may be Lilliputian, but the personality is Gulliver!

—Reception at North Terrace.—

The formal introductions to the Ambassador were made by the Chief Justice, who greeted Mr. Bryce with the remark, "Glad to see you, sir, in Adelaide." The visitor replied in a tone of quiet appreciation, "I thank your Honor." Then came the little levee. Those who shook hands with Mr. and Mrs. Bryce were Capt. Fletcher, A.D.C. (representing His Excellency the Governor, of whom they are guests), the Speaker of the House of Assembly (Hon. L. O'Loughlin), the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. Lavington Bonython), the Town Clerk (Mr. T. G. Ellery), and members of the Adelaide City Council, the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. G. Bice), the Hon. F. S. Wallis, M.L.C., and Professors Henderson, Jethro Brown, Kerr Grant, and Chapman, and the Registrar (Mr. C. R. Hodges), and Mr. W. Howchin, of the Adelaide University.

National Ideals and Aims.

Address at the Civic Welcome.

The distinguished visitor was tendered a civic welcome by the Mayor (Mr. Lavington Bonython) in the Council Chamber, Adelaide Town Hall, at 11.30 a.m. A gathering of representative citizens assembled to do honour to the famous diplomatist, including prominent members of every section of the community. On the platform, besides the Mayor, were the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way), the Premier (Hon. A. W. Peake), the Speaker of the House of Assembly (Hon. L. O'Loughlin), Mr. Justice Gordon, Mr. Acting Justice Buchanan, Sir John Downer, K.C., the Acting President of the Chamber of Commerce (Mr. John Tassie), members of the Adelaide City Council, and others.

—In the Front Rank.—

The Mayor said he was sure he echoed the feelings, not only of the citizens of Adelaide, but of the whole of the State, in telling Mr. Bryce that he was most welcome. In the past they had had many distinguished visitors, but none more distinguished than he. Mr. Bryce had a great reputation of work accomplished, and work being accomplished. In him was found

the rare combination of a man of thought who was also a man of action, and he had placed himself in the front rank as a historian, a jurist, a statesman, and an ambassador. To-day his name was known and honoured throughout the whole civilized world. There was a feeling among university men that university men should rule the world. If they were all Bryces no doubt that would be an excellent arrangement, and probably an accomplished fact. A visit from a man who was such an observant and keen critic would be to the great advantage of Australia. Although Adelaide was not the most populous capital of the Commonwealth he was sure Mr. Bryce would not judge them merely in the matter of numbers. If Adelaide were to be judged in any other respect he thought it would bear comparison with any other city in the Commonwealth. (Applause.)

—Concerning Adelaide.—

Sir Samuel Way remarked that Mr. Bryce had just heard how welcome he was to the City of Adelaide. They were indebted to the Mayor for providing an opportunity for them to pay their respects to the visitor. Since a few weeks ago when Mr. Bryce had landed in Australia he had been in more stately, richer, and more populous cities than the City of Adelaide, but there were some points in which Adelaide led the van in front of her industrious neighbours. For one thing, Adelaide had been the first city in Australia to have the privilege of municipal institutions. (Applause.) That had been 72 years ago. They knew the age of their guest from the newspapers that morning, and knew that it had been within his lifetime that Adelaide had enjoyed the inestimable privilege of being a city. He used the word "enjoyed," because the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the City of Adelaide were in the succession of a band of noble, high-spirited, and patriotic citizens to whom they were indebted for many of the great privileges they enjoyed. (Applause.) He thought that before Mr. Bryce had been in Adelaide many days—his stay was to be all too short, alas—he would recognise that in that city and in South Australia they had a goodly heritage. They were determined to build up a brighter Britain in the south. Mr. Bryce would recognise that in Australia they were loyal to the Crown, and were determined to maintain the privileges of civil and religious liberty, and the glorious nation with the mother country they loved so much. (Applause.)

—The Premier's Welcome.—

The Premier extended a hearty welcome on behalf of the Government and the people generally. Mr. Bryce had been most helpful to South Australia and the rest of the States when the great convention was considering the important question of drafting a Constitution for the Commonwealth. At that time his name was in everybody's mouth because of his splendid and monumental treatise upon the American Commonwealth. Had it not been for the researches of Mr. Bryce into the conditions and affairs of American government probably Australians would never have enjoyed some of the best things in their Constitution. If Mr. Bryce could find time to write a similar work upon the Commonwealth of Australia it would add immensely to their indebtedness to him. (Applause.)

—In the Realm of Commerce.—

The Acting President of the Chamber of Commerce (Mr. John Tassie) extended a welcome to the guest in behalf of that institution. He remembered with peculiar interest that in the years 1894 and 1895 Mr. Bryce had occupied the position of President of the Board of Trade in the Liberal Government of the day. That had brought him into active touch with the commerce of the Empire. He had a wide knowledge of international affairs, and when he had anything to say on the subject of commerce he was listened to with the keenest interest by men of commerce the world over. His stay was to be short in Australia, for he was a man who could ill be spared from the activities of the world. (Applause.) They had had evidence of that in the cable news of the newspapers during the past few days. They hoped Mr. Bryce would return to his high duties invigorated by his brief sojourn under the bright skies of Australia. (Applause.)

—An Honour Appreciated.—

Mr. Bryce, who is a quiet and deliberate but impressive, eloquent speaker, thanked the gathering for the kind welcome which had been extended to him. No man, he said, could desire greater honour or enjoy a keener pleasure on coming into a new country than to find himself greeted as though he were an old friend with expressions of the utmost goodwill. He was

sensible that he did not deserve a tenth part of what they had been kind enough to say about him. There was a good deal in public work which for the moment was laborious, and one sometimes found efforts far from appreciated; but, speaking personally, he had far more to be grateful for than to complain of, and on an occasion such as that felt that his fellow-countrymen—for he regarded them all as fellow-country (Applause)—gave credit for at any rate what one had tried to do, and received the stranger with that cordiality of welcome which was thought to be particularly a characteristic of the British race. Having felt the sentiment of a common tradition, a common history, and a common literature—a pride in all Britain and the British people had done—Australians received in a generous spirit those who visited them from the old country. Nothing was greater to be desired than that more people should come to and fro between the Commonwealth and other parts of the Empire. Nothing would so well cement the friendship and tighten the bonds which united them to another than more frequent intercourse.

—Importance of Municipalities.—

It was specially a pleasure to him to be received by the Municipality of Adelaide. He would always feel in more of a paternal position toward the city now that he learned he had come into the world a few years before it was founded. (Hear, hear.) Any Briton who knew anything of British history knew that the municipalities and parallel institutions in the rural areas of Great Britain were in one sense the basis and foundation of British greatness. In Great Britain they had started very early in municipal life. The kingdom had grown out of the tribal organizations of the west Saxons. There had been the kingdom of Wessex and then the kingdom of England, with which had been united Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. When the time had come to pass the narrow limits of England's foreshores, colonies had been founded and some of these had, in due time, become self-governing. Now they had the great British dominions beyond the seas and they had also systems of local government as the foundation upon which the system of national government rested. Nothing had more contributed to the success of their British institutions than the fact that they had begun with local governing bodies. That fact had had the effect of giving Britons training and of accustoming them to work which relieved the central government of the all too heavy task of endeavouring to administer local affairs itself. While England had the benefit of early local governing bodies the rest of Europe had had, in the eighteenth century, to recreate such institutions because they had been allowed to fall into abeyance. He did not think anything better could have been done in Australia than the establishment of self-governing bodies. The common law of England had been carried wherever the Briton had set his foot, and it had been the guardian of England. (Applause.) That had gone with the system of self-governing institutions as a necessary complement to it, and had done much for the English race. The British institutions overseas were such that it had been the aim of every modern nation to copy them.

—The Beauties of Nature.—

In municipal Government new tasks and duties were constantly being brought forward as the progress of science showed new undertakings which might be usefully done in that field. He would not enter into the large question of what were the proper limits of municipal or governmental activity, but he thought they all felt without distinction of party that there were many things which municipal government could usefully do for the people of a city which could not be done by private enterprise. mentioned, for instance, all that belonged to the sphere of sanitary regulation and the whole subject of public health. (Hear, hear.) He was sure that in Australia they were alive to the duties which lay at the door of municipal government in that respect. Closely connected with it was the consideration that so great a part of the population, instead of living in the presence of Nature in the country, had to spend most of its existence in the crowded areas of the cities. Therein lay the necessity to provide open spaces and parks, children's playgrounds, plant trees in the streets wherever possible, and give the elements of health and enjoyment to the urban population which their remote forefathers had in the country, and which were a necessary to the general wellbeing. It was a good thing, particularly for young people, that those who were not able through lack of means to have beauty in their houses, to have beauty outside, so that their minds could be trained to what it was, and to how much joy could be found by seeing and loving. (Applause.)