

Register, July 12/12

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AMBASSADOR ON TOUR.

Mr. Bryce in Victoria.

MELBOURNE, July 11.

Mr. James Bryce (British Ambassador in the United States), who is at present on a tour of Australia, arrived in Melbourne to-day by the express train from Sydney. He was accompanied by Mrs. Bryce. Among those assembled on the platform at the Spencer Street Station to meet the distinguished visitors were the Prime Minister (Mr. Fisher), the State Premier (Mr. Watt), and the Federal Attorney-General (Mr. Hughes). Capt. Curwen, A.D.C. to Sir John Fuller, was at the station to receive the visitors, in behalf of the State Governor, and conduct them to the State Government House.

The sitting of the House of Representatives was suspended for nearly two hours this afternoon to enable the members and their wives to meet Mr. and Mrs. Bryce. The distinguished Ambassador was met at the entrance of the Federal Parliament House by the Prime Minister and other members of the Cabinet. The State Governor and Lady Fuller and about 150 ladies and gentlemen had assembled in the Senate clubroom. There Mr. and Mrs. Bryce were introduced to those present. About an hour was spent in conversation. Refreshments were served by the Parliamentary caterer. To-morrow, at 1 p.m., Mr. Bryce will be the guest of the Federal Government at luncheon at Federal Parliament House.

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MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

It was 58 years on Wednesday since the Melbourne University actually began work, though the royal assent was given to the Act incorporating it on January 22, 1853. At the outset there was only an Arts School, and the first matriculation examination, at which 16 candidates presented themselves, was held in the Exhibition Buildings, on April 13, 1855. It was not till 1858 that the first of the students who had completed the course were admitted to the degree of B.A. A year later—March, 1859—the degrees of the Melbourne University were recognised as of equal rank with those of any university in the United Kingdom. Schools of Law and of Civil Engineering were established in 1860, and of Medicine in 1862. For a time the professors struggled on in hired rooms, and as late as 1860 there were only 36 students. In 1910 there were 287 matriculated persons enrolled as undergraduates, and 1,237 persons attending lectures.

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THE AURORA.

Off Dunedin Heads.

WELLINGTON, July 11.

Yesterday the antarctic ship Aurora, from Macquarie Island, arrived off Dunedin Heads. The voyage was rather rough, and occupied 23 days. The cinematographer, Mr. Primmer, landed with despatches, but no news of the expedition was forthcoming. It was stated, however, that all the members of the Mawson expedition were well when the Aurora left Macquarie Island.

SPEECH OF THE EVENING.

A Good Imperialist.

Mr. Bryce on Commerce.

MELBOURNE, July 11.

This evening the delegates attending the Congress of the Chamber of Commerce were entertained at dinner by the Melbourne Chamber in the supper room of the town hall. Mr. E. Norton Grimwade presided. On his right was the Governor of Victoria (Sir John Fuller) and on his left the Chief Justice (Sir John Madden). The Right Hon. James Bryce was one of the guests, and there were also present several members of the Federal and State Parliaments.

Sir John Madden proposed the most interesting toast of the evening—"The British Ambassador in the United States of America."

Mr. Bryce, on rising to respond, was accorded a tremendous ovation. He did not claim to be an authority on commercial subjects. There was one man more dangerous than the man who did not know anything about a subject, and he was the man who had once known and had still thought he knew. About 17 years ago he was President of the Board of Trade, and in that capacity had to undertake many a debate in the House of Commons, sometimes with a knowledge so scanty that it would have been discovered if it had not been that his critics possessed a knowledge even more scanty. (Laughter.) He had had to address many Chambers of Commerce, but he had had the invaluable assistance of the officers of the department, who carefully mapped out the course he had to follow, and indicated its rocks and shoals. Feeling, as he did, something like the old racehorse that was led past the place where he had formerly ran, he would like to say a few words on commercial subjects. As a good Imperialist he had tried to keep his eyes open to see what there was that could be of value to the commerce of the United Kingdom. They were all standing together, but they were not going to fall together. (Cheers and laughter.) In the course of his peregrinations he had always tried to make out what were the prospects of increasing trade between the dominions and foreign countries. They might look forward to an increase of trade with Canada. While the trade of that country was considerable it was not so large as it should be. He was glad they were contemplating further developments. Australia produced a great deal of wool which Canada wanted, and the same with fruit. The United States had been an immense producer of wheat, but was now so greatly increasing her manufacturing city population that she required her own wheat for home consumption. All the land which was of first rate quality had been taken up. Irrigation would have to come to an end, and therefore the time was in sight when she would cease to be an exporting country for wheat. That was also important to Australia. It was true that Canada would step into the breach, but Australia would have a part of the trade. Another point was the fact that the United States tariff was likely to be revised. That country had a high tariff upon wool, which had been got up in deference to the woolgrower, who thought that, if the raw material should be protected as well as the manufactured article, wherever a demand was made by any particular person for a reduction on one article there was always somebody ready to ask for a similar reduction on some other article. Therefore the tariff was an extraordinary, complicated business. There was a greater prospect now than there had been for a long time that there would be a substantial reduction in many articles, and one of the first was likely to be a decrease of the duty on wool. He ventured to believe that Australia might look forward to a reduction in that article, which would very considerably increase the supply of wool to America. There was such an enormous consuming public there that even a comparatively small reduction of the duty might mean a great deal to this country. However, he would not be surprised if there were quite a substantial reduction. He had also visited South America, and was delighted

to see a number of Australian ships calling at their ports. If a better political order could be established in some of those countries there would be a tremendous demand for Australian coal. They, no doubt, were watching with interest the progress of the Panama Canal. It would be practically finished within 12 months, and, although vessels would not begin to pass through for some time later, arrangements should be made with a view to its opening. There had been much speculation upon the rates and dues which we were likely to be charged.

His own impression was that they would not be high. He thought it was desirable to make it a great ocean highway, and, in order that it should compete with the routes round the Cape, and through the Suez, it would be to the interest of America to have the dues as low as possible. He thought the dues would be lower than the Suez. That would make a great difference to Australia. They wanted good European ports, but they also desired the American trade. He had made a calculation, from which it appeared that Australia was 2,000 miles nearer to London via Suez than via Panama. Australia, however, would be much nearer to the great Atlantic ports of America. They would be nearer to Boston, Charleston, New York, and the Canadian Atlantic ports by about 3,000 miles, and it would be for them to determine whether that advantage would more than counterbalance the dues which would be paid on the Panama Canal. It was possible that a great trade might be opened up between those ports. There was a likelihood of a reciprocal agreement on the tariff questions, which they would not find with the United States. It was one of the blessings of commerce in that it made for the good of mankind. Three-quarters of the international complications had arisen from an imperfect knowledge, and a better knowledge would have dispelled them. Commerce not only gave interest in one another's welfare, but it taught nations to know one another, and when nations got to know one another they found that their suspicions were often unfounded. The British people were heartily and sincerely desirous of peace, and that desire was shared by the dominions. Cordial relations between the British Empire was a great guarantee for the safety of the world. He believed that in these sentiments of loyalty they were all at one. When he returned to England he would tell his friends how much they have to learn by visiting Australia, and how kindly they would be received there. (Loud applause.)

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Advertiser, July 12/12

Our Melbourne correspondent telegraphed last night:—The Right Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador at Washington, arrived from Sydney by the express to-day. Mr. Bryce was accompanied by Mrs. Bryce, and they were met at the Spencer-street station by Mr. Fisher (Prime Minister), Mr. Hughes (Federal Attorney-General), Mr. Watt (Premier), Professor Orme Masson (representing the Melbourne University and president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science), Mrs. Orme Masson, Mr. G. H. Knibbs (Commonwealth Statistician and vice-president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science), and Captain Curwen, A.D.C. to Sir John Fuller (the Governor) and others. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Watt undertook the duty of introducing the distinguished visitors to the gathering, after which they were driven in the viceregal carriage to "Stonington," where they are the guests of Sir John and Lady Fuller. Mr. Bryce intends to remain in Melbourne until July 16. The Federal Ministers held a reception at Parliament House this afternoon in honor of Mr. Bryce and Mrs. Bryce. Sir John Fuller and Lady Fuller were present, also the Prime Minister and Mrs. Fisher, Sir John and Lady Forrest, and many other representative legislators. The gathering was quite informal. Many introductions were effected between the visitors and the other guests, Mr. Bryce displaying much pleasure in discussing with local authorities matters of mutual interest. The guests were entertained at afternoon tea at tables profusely decorated with wattle blossom. To-night the visitors were present at the dinner given by the Chambers of Commerce at the Town Hall. To-morrow Mr. Bryce will be the guest of the Federal Government at luncheon at Federal Parliament House, and on Tuesday the distinguished visitor will be entertained at luncheon by the State Government at Parliament House.