

The Register  
July 8th 15.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIAN TEACHERS' UNION.

A meeting of the executive of this body was held on Friday evening last. The President (Mr. S. H. Warren) occupied the chair, and officially delivered the message to the teachers, sent by the Hon. H. Angus Parsons (Minister of Education). It was received with great interest, and, in the somewhat informal discussion which followed, many expressions of gratification and pleasure were heard in relation to it. Mention was made of the fact that Mr. Parsons's father was at one time Minister of Education, and that therefore an interest in education may be said "to run in the blood." The conviction was freely expressed that, under Mr. Parsons, with his ability and legal training, his tried and proved sympathetic attitude towards teachers in their work, coupled with the skill, sea-rience, knowledge of education, and 55 al. personality of the Director (Mr. Morgan), there will be every chance of the working conditions of the service being made pleasant, attractive, and even more effective than the past. With regard to the question of remuneration, it was clearly recognised that until this time of severe depression passes, as it surely will, all must be content, not only to expect, except in a few special cases, nothing in the way of increases, but also to continue, in common with all servants of the Government, voluntarily and cheerfully to help in the relief of distress. "All that can be hoped for is that in whatever may be enacted by legislation or regulation, the way may be opened and paved for better things when prosperity again visits the State." A subcommittee, consisting of the President (Mr. E. H. Warren), with Messrs. Darke (Secretary), Donnell, and Burnard, was appointed to prepare a brief statement, embodying the views, hopes, and ideals of the union to be placed before the Minister through the Director.

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PINE COTTAGE TO AGENT-  
GENERALSHIP.

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MR. YOUNG EXPLAINS WHY HE  
ACCEPTED THE POSITION.

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NOT NECESSARILY A POLITICAL  
GRAVEYARD.

"Has it occurred to you," remarked a "Mail" representative this week to Mr. Fred W. Young, who left on Thursday to take up his position as Agent-General for this State, "that the Agent-Generalship has in the past appealed to the public as a political graveyard? A man enters it, generally late in life, and is never politically heard of again. Taking a line from the experience of previous occupants, don't you think it is a bit early for you to run this risk of political interment?"

Mr. Young pondered the question for a minute or two, while the pressman drew a few word pictures of some familiar figures all of us know. Scattered about Australia there are many men who were once Agents-General for one or other of the States, but few have ever returned at the

end of their three years' engagement and re-entered politics just as if they had never been away at all. Sir George Reid admittedly occupies a different post to the others, but that his political life is over is generally assumed. The trouble in the past has perhaps been that the position was once more of social than commercial significance, and, carrying a handsome emolument, it was a fitting reward to mark the close of loyal political service. Hence the custom that once prevailed of sending away older men. The social side has not diminished, but the business side has developed. Naturally age has not always been studied in this matter, but the few instances where men not actually greybeards have occupied the post do not make any difference to the principle that the political R.I.P. is generally attached to men on their acceptance of the position of Agent-General. That Mr. Young, at the age of 39, should take on what most men leave until their fiftieth and sixtieth year, was capable of explanation.

### Why Mr. Young Accepted the Position.

"Was it that you had any ambition to be Agent-General?" he was asked, following up the leading question. In his boyhood days, by the way, Mr. Young confesses that at one period he had a strong desire to be an engine driver, and afterwards had ideas of becoming a parson.

"No," he replied. "Prior to the announcement that I was to be appointed I cannot say that I ever contemplated securing the position."

"Why, then, did you run the risk mentioned?"

"Viewing the matter at the time, and realising that my colleagues offered the appointment as a sincere compliment, I came to the conclusion that my age in life was the right one at which to fill the office."

So therein lay the secret. Nor will anybody dispute the commonsense of Mr. Young's contention. It is surely time that a change was made from the old custom of sending the oldest men, a system that would, if pursued, conceivably produce a state of affairs where political parties could use the Agent-General's office as a dumping ground for men who had served the term of their political usefulness.

"I may add," said Mr. Young, "that instead of the office of Agent-General being the closing period of a man's political life, it should rather be a stepping-stone in the direction of broadening one's mind and gaining wider experience through coming into contact with great men and great events, so that he can become better fitted for his duties at home."

"This means, then, that after your three years as Agent-General you are going to come back and re-enter politics? In other words, you will demonstrate that the Agent-General's office need not necessarily be a political cemetery?"

Mr. Young was exceedingly diplomatic. He always has been, therefore his cautious reply:—"I never care to speak of things three years hence, but my tie to South Australia and its people has been immeasurably strengthened by the very kindly farewells I have received at the hands of all classes. - As to the Agent-

Generalship, I hope that the office will remain at its true proportions as regards its importance."

## The Government Loses a Strong Man.

There are thousands in this State who would be sorry to see Mr. Young out of politics. He has all the qualities to make a successful trade ambassador for South Australia, but in the political world here his vigorous personality will be greatly missed. On the other hand, hundreds of people know very little about Mr. Young. They only know that political friends and opponents alike always call him Fred, and have great regard for his powers of debate and a certain leech-like capacity for