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A "UNIVERSITIES" DINNER.

Our London correspondent wrote on May 1:—"A communication has reached me regarding an idea originated by Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P. In accordance with this there will be held in London in the first week of July an Allied Colonial Universities' dinner; and on the previous day a conference, when subjects of interest and importance to university life in all parts of the King's dominions will be discussed. The proposition has been received by the heads of universities in the colonies with unanimous approval; and the Governors-General and Governors, the Premiers and Ministers of Education, the High Commissioner for Canada, and the Agents-General have signified their interest in and approval of the scheme. It is believed that the occasion will be made the nucleus of something more permanent. The Chancellors of the English universities of the United Kingdom, and the heads of the colleges, have expressed approval and interest. Representatives from the governing bodies of colonial universities and the undergraduates and graduates of colonial universities resident in the United Kingdom are expected to attend. Only undergraduates and graduates of degree-conferring universities are expected. The honorary secretary of the movement is Mr. C. Kinloch Cooke, editor of *The Empire Review*. Sir Gilbert Parker is Chairman of the executive committee, and Sir John Cockburn is Deputy Chairman. The general committee includes a large number of distinguished officials in the colonies. The committee are now only waiting to welcome the names of representatives of colonial universities who will care to attend and speak at the conference, and to fix the date. It is confidently expected that the Prince of Wales, as Chancellor of the Cape University, will be present, and will take the chair. The chief subject to be discussed at the conference will probably be the place of scientific education in the university life of the empire, and its influence on national thought and national commerce and industry."

without the use of the globes. He supported everything that Mr. Cooke had said, and would go further and have lectures on physical geography to teach the children various aspects of nature. If they made education interesting to the little ones they advanced their intellects. (Cheers.) Inspector Whitham said Mr. Cooke had struck the right note in saying that all the subjects mentioned should be connected. Mr. F. Chapple also spoke, and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer.

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UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.

WON BY SYDNEY.

SYDNEY, June 7.

The eight-oared race between the crews representative of the Australian Universities was rowed yesterday on the Parramatta River, over the two and three-quarter miles course. The day was in every way favourable for rowing, the water was smooth, and there was very little wind and a good tide. When a few strokes had been rowed something went wrong with the slide in the Adelaide boat, and the crews were called back and the race was restarted. Sydney shot away, followed closely by Melbourne, but Adelaide was slow and ragged. At Gladesville Wharf Sydney was leading by half a length from Melbourne, Adelaide being a length behind the second boat. The Melbourne crew's boat was badly steered, the rudder being used far too much, and the boat not kept straight. Adelaide was slowly losing ground. Near the gasworks the Sydney boat appeared to labour badly, but Melbourne could not draw level, although about a quarter of a length was gained. There was a great struggle between the Sydney and Melbourne crews. The former had the better length, but the latter kept better time. At Putney, which was reached in 55s., Sydney had a short half-length to the good, while Adelaide was several lengths behind. After leaving Putney Sydney spurred, but Melbourne could not respond, and at Blaxland's Point, nearly a mile from the finish, the race was practically over. After this the Sydney boat got into a bad position, and had the Melbourne crew not been so much distressed it might have retrieved its position. As it was Sydney crew was able to take matters easy, while the Melbourne crew was scarcely able to paddle over the last half-mile, and the Adelaide eight was entirely out of the running. Sydney won by five lengths, Adelaide being a similar distance behind Melbourne. Time, 15m. 36s. This is the ninth win for Sydney out of 16 contests. The crews were entertained at supper at Aaron's Hotel last night.

Commerce of the United Kingdom was formed. This body meets once or sometimes twice a year, and embraces over 100 of the local chambers. Much useful work has been done in preparing, centralizing, and uniting commercial opinion throughout the country. The association has been often termed the Parliament of Commerce. More recently, as the need of drawing the distant parts of the empire together became apparent, the London Chamber took the initiative in creating a Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire. Four meetings have been held during the past 13 years, and the fifth is now being organized for next August, to be held at Montreal. South Australia has participated in former meetings of the congress, but up to the present it has not been found possible to secure representation for the Montreal meeting. It may be mentioned that it is the intention of the Montreal Board of Trade to arrange for the free transportation of delegates to various parts of the Dominion in order that opportunity may be given for knowledge to be gained of the agricultural and mineral resources of the country, its industrial developments, and its requirements for the products of the mother country and the empire generally.

—The Adelaide Chamber.—

The earliest records of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce refer to the annual meeting which was held on November 19, 1840, when there were present Messrs. J. B. Hack (in the chair), D. McLaren, J. Morphett, Watson, Morphett, W. Blyth, C. Beck, Baker, Garrett, W. Giles, A. H. Davies, and J. Frew. At this meeting the committee resigned into the hands of the members the trust committed to them evidently about 12 months previously. The report states that for nearly 12 months after the formation of the chamber no particular object of interest called for attention. The Auctioneers' Act then led to their assembling, and the result of communicating with the Government was that the proposed duty on goods sold by auction was withdrawn. The board expressed the hope "that the regular meetings which it is proposed should henceforth be held should have a tendency to promote a good understanding among the merchants of the province, and advance the general interests of the commercial community." It will be of interest here to recall that the objects of the chamber are stated in the rules and bylaws as "the promotion and protection of the general interests of the trade, commerce, and industries of the province of South Australia; collecting and recording mercantile information; the establishment of a Court of Arbitration for the adjustment of commercial differences referred to it; to use every means in its power for the removal or redress of grievances in connection with the trade of the colony, and to communicate with the public authorities, any body, society, association, or organization, and individual parties thereon, and to take such steps in reference thereto as may appear necessary."

—The General Council.—

The memorandum of constitution of the general council of chambers of the Commonwealth sets out that the objects shall be "to promote and take combined action for the protection and advancement of the commercial interests of and to advise on matters relating to the trade and commerce of the Commonwealth of Australia; to endeavour to secure by conference or otherwise uniformity in the laws and customs respecting trade and commerce, shipping, banking, and insurance in force in the various states; to approach from time to time the Federal Parliament with a view to the amendment or the promotion of legislation (as the case may require) affecting trade and commerce; to engender by association a fraternal feeling among merchants and traders; to generally watch over the concerns of trade and commerce within the Commonwealth." Each chamber is entitled to two delegates and one additional delegate for every 50 members on the roll in excess of 100, providing that the representation of any one chamber shall not exceed five.

—A Word of Admonition.—

The reference in the constitution of the general council to the engendering of a fraternal feeling among merchants gives interest to some sentences which occur in an article upon "The Functions of Chambers of Commerce" from the pen of Mr. K. B. Murray, secretary of the London Chamber, which appeared in a recent number of *The Magazine of Commerce*. After pointing out that the London Chamber is by far the largest organization of its kind, with nearly 4,000 subscribers and an income of £10,000, and that even 20,000 members and an income of £50,000 would be but a partial representation of the city and Greater London combined, Mr. Murray asks what the cause of the existing situation is. He replies as follows:—"It is, I think, the result of the constitutional mistrust of one another of the Englishman in business. He relies mainly upon himself, and has not yet learned to join, to learn, to join efforts with others, to exchange views and to co-operate. In this he differs materially from the mental attitude of the American. The American appears as open and frank in business as the Englishman is secretive and suspicious. The American will freely answer any questions about his business, and promptly supply figures in regard to cost prices or expenses of production which would make the average Englishman stare. In the same way Americans work together for common purposes more naturally and easily than we do in the old country. There seems to exist no fear that in meeting together there will be a risk of informing the other how his business is carried on. It is clear that we shall have to improve matters in this respect on this side, and that without loss of time. The experience on the whole of work accomplished in the London Chamber goes to prove that the American practice is right and the British wrong." An interesting enquiry is suggested here. To which standard does the Australian commercial man more nearly approach—the American or the British?

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THE PARLIAMENT OF COMMERCE.

TRADERS IN CONFERENCE.

AN IMPORTANT GATHERING.

At 2 o'clock this afternoon the second annual meeting of the General Council of the Chambers of Commerce of the Commonwealth of Australia will be opened at the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce, Waymouth street, and for three days representatives from all the states will assemble for the consideration of subjects of common interest to traders from one end of Australia to the other. The chair will be occupied this afternoon by the retiring President (Mr. J. Russell French), who will deliver the presidential address. Mr. S. J. Jacobs (ex-President of the Adelaide Chamber), who was elected a year ago Vice-President of the general council, will then take the chair, and will preside over the deliberations of the delegates. The headquarters of the Adelaide Chamber has for several days been in the hands of the furnishers, and now presents a much improved appearance. Accommodation has been provided for the delegates at the long table which runs down the centre of the room, while chairs are ranged around the walls for those who have the right to attend and listen to the proceedings. On Thursday evening there will be a dinner in the Town Hall, at which about 120 representatives of commerce and other public men are expected to be present. A reception will be held from 7 o'clock, and the more formal proceedings will start at 7.30. Care is being taken not to overburden the toast list. Most of the work in connection with the gatherings has fallen upon Mr. John Creswell (secretary of the Adelaide Chamber), and this is a guarantee that not even the smallest details will be omitted. For some days past the secretary of the general council (Mr. H. C. Mitchell) has been in Adelaide for the purpose of assisting in arranging for the meeting.

—Growth of the Movement.—

This week's proceedings will bring prominently before the public mind the rise and growth of the Chamber of Commerce movement. France can claim the credit of initiating it, a chamber having been established by the Marseilles Municipality in 1509. This body was no inconsequential affair, as it owned fleets, made treaties, and even frightened Louis XIV. The oldest British chamber is to be found in Jersey, dating back to 1768, and one of the youngest is the London Chamber, which was formed in 1881. There are now some 120 local chambers scattered over the United Kingdom. It has been found necessary, however, that in certain matters there should be united action, consequently 43 years ago the Association of Chambers of

ARRIVAL OF THE SIR THOMAS ELDER STATUE.

After many months of waiting, the statue of Sir Thomas Elder, which was purchased by the citizens of Adelaide to perpetuate the memory of that munificent benefactor, arrived by the Lund liner Wilcannia on Tuesday. The work, which has been executed in bronze by one of the leading English masters, Mr. Alfred Drury, A.R.A., stands about 9 ft. high. The statue, which has been tastefully finished, is said to bear a striking likeness to Sir Thomas Elder, who is depicted, standing erect, in morning dress, with one hand on his hip and the other holding the flap of his coat near the shoulder. The statue cost about £1,000, and is to be erected in the centre of the lawn in front of the Conservatorium of Music. It will probably be unveiled at the end of the month.

TEACHING OF GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY.

VALUABLE SUGGESTIONS.

A general meeting of members of the Astronomical Society was held at the Prince of Wales's Building, Adelaide University, on Tuesday evening, under the presidency of the Government Astronomer (Sir Charles Todd). The principal feature of the gathering was a lecture by Mr. W. E. Cooke, F.R.A.S., Government Astronomer of Western Australia, on "Methods of Teaching Geography and History, including Physiography." Among the audience were many teachers of public and private schools. The lecturer suggested that the time had arrived when they should alter their methods of imparting elementary education in the primary schools. He took it that the objects of education were (1) to cultivate powers of observation; (2) to develop the intellect; and (3) to impart useful information. Much was being done in the revolution of teaching in mathematics in England, and he asked his hearers to help the authorities in Adelaide to inaugurate the reform here. He wished to deal particularly with history, geography, and object lessons. To teach children to grasp the fact that the earth was a globe and not a flat surface a course of elementary astronomy should be gone through. The present system of teaching geography gave the pupils no proper idea of the relative positions of the countries of the world. His proposal was that teaching should be run on five converging lines:—First, local geography; second, elementary astronomy; third, a short course on climatology; fourth, object lessons tending to indicate the products of the various countries dealt with; and fifth, historical geography, in the form of attractive stories dealing with the universe, and not merely the history of England. He explained the working of his method, and hoped that something would come of his proposals. In the discussion which followed Sir Charles Todd said he had always thought that history and geography were taught in the wrong way. They could not teach either subject properly

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