

Regatta 12 MAY 1924 Exhibition Hall Crowded.

OPENING OF THE SEASON.

Dr. Davies told a large audience in the Exhibition Building on Saturday night that if twenty-five wealthy men gave £1,000 each he could provide daily concerts for the people, and in two years he would have an orchestra equal to the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Over two thousand people were present at the Exhibition Building on Saturday night to hear the South Australian Orchestra in its opening concert. Lady Bridges, attended by Miss Margaret Judge, was present. A large percentage of the audience was made up of young students, some evidently still at school, and others with more time to devote to the serious contemplation of musical matters.

In an address during the interval, Dr. Davies, on behalf of the executive and the band, offered sincere thanks to the assemblage. The orchestra, he said, was now in its fifth year, and he hoped for a continuance of strong support from the people of Adelaide. He wished to correct a misapprehension concerning the title "State" Orchestra. It should not be applied in this case, as the combination had been founded by the generous contributions of citizens, and the only recognition the State had given them was a demand for several hundreds of pounds for amusement tax.

Mr. W. H. Foote, the conductor, had arranged the list of works with judgment. Each vital point in all four sections was the personal concern of the allotted player. This trait has marked Mr. Foote's conductorship, and the result was in every way admirable. From Wagner's works the overture "Die Meistersinger" and the "Lohengrin" prelude were presented.

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The opening concert of the 1924 season of the South Australian Symphony Orchestra at the Exhibition Hall in Adelaide on Saturday evening was in every way strikingly successful. The hall was crowded, and the audience was most enthusiastic and appreciative. The same spirit of enthusiasm animated the members of the orchestra in a particularly fine performance of an unusually extensive and attractive programme. Lady Bridges was present, accompanied by Dr. Gunson and Capt. Legh Winsler.

Musical Enthusiasts.

Adelaide music lovers have learned to expect a great deal from the musicians under the able baton of Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M., and on Saturday they were certainly not disappointed. There have been a few slight changes in the personnel of the orchestra, but Mr. Foote's claim that it is as good as ever—if not better—was amply sustained by the interpretation given to the fine compositions included in the particularly generous programme. It was wise at the opening concert to produce works with which the public was in some degree familiar. As in reading a great book, so in regard to a musical writing, previous acquaintance with the outlines of the work render possible a deeper insight and fuller enjoyment. Mr. Foote conducted with his usual artistic appreciation of the music rendered and complete control over his great "instrument," for such a collection of musicians is like a great organ with a human soul. Miss Sylvia Whittington, as leader of the orchestra, was at her best, which is saying a great deal. The sure attack with which the strings swept in was markedly good, and the tone fine. The cello work of Mr. Harold Parsons told effectively. The work of the second violins and violas was also noticeable, while in some movements the big basses joined in like a deep organ note. The part of the wind instruments was marked by splendid timbre, the wood-wind having marked character. The volume of sound in the loud passages was grand, and the percussion was most tellingly employed.

A Notable Performance.

The programme opened with the overture, "Die Meistersinger" (Wagner), which gave full scope to conductor and performers from the tempestuous opening movement onwards. In the ballet music "Hiawatha" (Coleridge-Taylor), the imaginative and descriptive qualities were brought out with delightful delicacy, while the brass, especially the trumpets, told forcefully upon a full volume of tone was needed. Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2" followed, with its markedly national character. The trumpet solo at the opening of the slow introductory movement was specially good, though it is impossible to stress one or two instruments, when the whole composition was so finely presented. Dramatic in feeling and fittingly handled was the magnificent prelude to "Lohengrin" (Wagner); and immediately afterwards, in order, it would seem, to prove the versatility of the musicians, came a selection from Sullivan's ever-delightful "Gondoliers," which was energetically encored. "Shepherd's Hey" (Grainger), a wonderful revival of the old morris and folk dances, was handled with infectious spirit, each instrument in turn taking up the quaint old airs. The really fine concert closed with a beautiful and dignified rendering of "Finlandia" (Sibelius).

"Our" Orchestra.

During the interval Dr. E. Harold Davies (Principal of the Adelaide Conservatorium of Music, founder of the orchestra, and Chair of the Executive), who was received with hearty and prolonged applause, took the opportunity of explaining something of the aims and hopes of the promoters. In behalf of the orchestra he expressed warm appreciation of the interest in the movement implied in the magnificent audience, whose presence and enthusiasm formed a good augury for the fifth year of its existence, upon which they were then entering. One point he would like to make clear. They were sometimes spoken of as the "State" Orchestra. In so far as that term implied State support, it was not accurate. The only notice from a financial point of view which had been received from the State had taken the unwelcome form of hundreds of pounds levied in taxes. As the organization had been built upon the generous donations of a number of citizens, possibly "The Citizens' Orchestra" would be a better name. Although there was some money in hand they were dependant upon the citizens of Adelaide for the continuation of the work. By the kindness of the Lord Mayor, the Town Hall had been made available for the evenings of the first Saturdays of the ensuing five months. What they were really aiming at was to make the orchestra a family affair, counting the citizens of Adelaide as the family. They possessed the only permanent symphony orchestra in the Commonwealth of Australia. (Applause.) Madame Melba had been present at a rehearsal, and when he introduced it as "one of his children," she said that it was "a wonderful baby, and of the greatest promise." She had suggested as an ideal they should try to emulate the Boston Sym-

phony Orchestra, but that possessed in potential financial backing. Mr. Higginson had helped largely, and Mr. George Eastman, of Kodak fame, had given to Boston three-quarters of a million to found an orchestra and conservatorium as his testimony to the value of music. Dr. Davies added that a little dream of his own was that some merchant (or merchants) of Adelaide might give, say, £25,000. That would make it possible to have a noon-day concert every day for two years. The effect of fine music upon the workers of the city would be incalculably inspiring and energising. He hoped, at any rate, that the public interest would be sustained and even increased.

Musicians.

The members of the orchestra for 1924 are as follows:—Conductor, Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M.; first violins, Miss Sylvia Whittington, A.M.U.A., Miss K. Meegan, A.M.U.A., Mesdames S. Palmer, A.M.U.A., and H. Spred, Mr. J. Meegan, Miss Gwen Moss, A.M.U.A., Mr. A. Garrett, and Misses R. Magarey, D. Stoneinan, and I. Williams; second violins, Misses C. Gmelner, C. Chinner, A. Burns, and G. Sanson, Mrs. Jan Buttrose, Miss M. Coghill, Messrs. Ernest Keal, and L. Colquhoun, and Misses L. Colquhoun, and V. Simpson; violas, Miss E. Grigg, Mrs. F. Pilgrim, B.A., Messrs. M. Williams, O. Stauden, and E. McLaughlin, and Miss M. Lamphee; celli, Messrs. H. S. Parsons, Mus. Bac., and C. Jones, Miss A. Cummins, Messrs. E. Bennett, L. Parsons, and M. Williams; basses, Messrs. H. Pank, E. Smith, T. Horton, and E. Payne; flutes, Messrs. J. Gilbert, J. Shinkfield, and H. Hamlyn; oboes, Mr. C. Betteridge, Miss M. Weston, and Mr. A. McIntyre; cor anglais, Mr. C. Betteridge; clarinets, Messrs. R. Kitson and W. Reynolds; bass clarinet, Mr. H. Stitters; bassoon, Messrs. H. Gräbla, W. Bottrall, and H. Darley; horns, Messrs. P. Gray, H. Gray, W. Cotton, and C. F. Branson; trumpets, Messrs. W. H. Woolcock, L. R. Philips, and W. Temple; trombones, Messrs. A. Nettelbeck, and M. Williams; bass trombone, Mr. E. Fleming; tuba, Mr. C. J. Job; tympani and xylophone, Mr. H. Sperber; and percussion, Messrs. N. A. Kirby and Evans; founder and Chairman of executive, Dr. E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc.; financial secretary, Mr. J. G. Duncan-Hughes; and concert manager, Mr. S. W. Savery.

THE NEWS

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1924.

DEMOCRACY

(By Professor Coleman Phillipson.)

It is a strange thing that, though men have subjugated the most formidable wild beasts and have succeeded in mastering the seemingly invincible forces of Nature, they have never succeeded in governing themselves. The task that lies nearest to hand has proved the most baffling. The fundamental duty whose proper accomplishment is essential for the attainment of all social and national as well as international ideals and for the realisation of all worthy aspirations has ever proved a stumbling block. In the past various forms of government have been tried—tyranny, autocracy, oligarchy, aristocracy, democracy—but they were all found wanting. Now, so far as we are concerned, we are wedded to democracy, based on wide suffrage, representation, and party organisation.

What Is Democracy?

The Great War was essentially a manifestation of the conflict between democracy and autocracy; and the powers on the side of the former again and again proclaimed that "the world must be made safe for democracy." And the war, he it noted, though appalling in its disasters, unparalleled in its material havoc, unprecedented in ferocity and butchery, was itself but a phase in the great struggle of political principles that has continued ever since the American Declaration of Independence. It was in another American contest that the famous definition of democratic government was uttered by President Lincoln: "Government of the people, by the people, for the people." This formula sums up the prevailing view of democracy; but, unfortunately, in practice the greatest difficulty has throughout been in the application and interpretation of the smallest and apparently most insignificant words of that formula, namely, the prepositions of, by, and for. This view obviously implies the doctrine of equal rights of men as a point of departure, the principle of general utility as a criterion, the principle of representation as a modus operandi, and the sovereignty of the people as a dominating factor. It is equally clear that the principle of representation, inevitable in a large complex community, makes a logical out-and-out democracy impossible; so that a greater or less element of oligarchy is indispensable. Accordingly, what Sir William Temple said in 1679 applies just as much today: "When men strive for liberty, it is indeed but for the change of those that rule."

Now there is nothing divine in democracy; the unctuous tone with which the term is uttered in many quarters makes thoughtful people smile. Democracy is merely, as James Russell Lowell aptly said, "an experiment in government." And it is an experiment into which many evils and abuses have crept. Despite the theoretical potentiality of the people, actual power is in the hands of groups, trade unions, and parties whose objects are usually the furtherance of particular interests rather than the national wellbeing. Leaders and officials tend to become permanent part-bosses, with private axes to grind, wires to pull, and logs to roll. Recent disclosures in the great American democracy show that a "carnival of jobbery and corruption" (to use Lord Bryce's phrase) has existed there. Thanks to the sinister susceptibilities of the crowd mind and to that blessed principle of equality, a majority of ignorant and thoughtless men can be obtained to override a slightly smaller number of wise and thoughtful men. Ignorance is accompanied by a self-confidence and a pretension that become tyrannical; and the result is invariably lack of vision, narrow and factitious policy, makeshift legislation, waste, extravagance, and inefficiency. Problems of government are shirked, not solved, by the fatal disposition to confer on the population free commodities and free services—the old disastrous "panem et circenses" over again—and to wring the earnings from the industrious and thrifty in favor of those who are thriftless and afraid to work. The policy of shorter hours and more wages, of less work and more amusement, is paving the way to national downfall, and to the destruction of many of the best things in civilisation that have been acquired by labor and self-denial. Moreover, the increasingly inadequate sense of law and order—witness the lax administration of the criminal law in America, the lawlessness of the Southern States and the frequent resort to the methods of Lynch—is contributing to bring about the suicide of democracy.

Essentials

Can the impending dangers be removed and the retrogressive course stopped? Yes; but only by remedying the evils I have specified. To achieve this certainly involves a gigantic task, but it is not impossible; nothing is impossible to men possessing pure motives, firm will, sufficient knowledge. We must increase the political and civic knowledge of the people, and promote true national education, which will give the power to distinguish between enduring values and artificial or spurious prices, such power of free and independent judgment as will enable electors to distinguish between competent candidates, able officials, and trustworthy leaders from those who are not fitted by nature, character, and qualifications to fill such positions. If I were asked to state in two words what is to be the salvation of democracy, I would say: Good leadership. All the electioneering campaigns, all the votes of assemblies, all the paraphernalia of public administration, are but feeble resources for attaining national welfare when they are compared to the steadfast purpose, clear vision, and ministering guidance of such men as Washington and Lincoln, Garibaldi and Mazzini—to mention only a few foreign leaders. Indeed, the most precious progress of the world, whether it be moral or scientific, political or social, is due to good and wise leaders. And if healthy democratic government is to exist, the people must exercise the greatest care in the choice of good and true leadership. Public opinion in this direction must be made more articulate; putting a cross on a piece of paper is not enough.

HOME FROM PAPUA

Newspaper clipping: HOME FROM PAPUA Anthropologist in Adelaide

Mr. F. E. Williams (Assistant Government Anthropologist at Papua), who has returned to Adelaide after an absence of two years is a Rhodes scholar, and the son of Mr. D. Williams, of Unley Park, Adelaide. "My work in Papua," he said today, "consists of closely studying the native and his conditions with a view to improving his welfare. Judge Murray (Lieutenant-Governor) has deservedly earned a reputation as a wise and impartial administrator." Mr. Williams intends to return to Papua at the end of the month to continue his work.