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be kept well than to be made well. Certainly it would be less expensive in the long run. After all, there might be a basis of commonsense in the Chinese system of paying the doctor to keep a family healthy and "docking" his pay immediately any one became ill. Although he was convinced of the value of periodical medical inspection, his company had not yet adopted the system, as outside the metropolitan area the vast spaces and sparse population of Australia made the plan exceedingly difficult to adopt here. In Great Britain one leading life insurance company provided for an examination by a medical expert of every policy holder once a year. The examination was free, and optional. Another company had extended the privilege to all holders of policies of £1,000 or over. A person undergoing examination was assured that the result would in no way prejudice his insurance interests. America led the way in such matters, and in addition to a thorough overhaul of each policy-holder once or twice yearly, a free nursing service was provided, and one big company employed a number of sanitary engineers, who were able to give a great deal of advice to the proprietors of large factories and workshops, as well as to municipal authorities. He would like to see the production of a clean bill of health on either side a necessary legal preliminary to marriage. (Applause.)

Mr. A. J. Korff said one New York insurance company had 18 million policy holders on its books. Since introducing welfare work, the company's mortality rate was half that of the general community. This was attributed to the educational campaign among subscribers, and the system of voluntary medical examinations at stated periods.

Dr. Gertrude Halley said it would provide a wealth of information, besides saving much ill-health if every school child had to be examined at least twice in the ways in which it attended the primary schools, and again in the high schools. After that medical examination of the adult should follow.

Dr. Hone considered that in many cases public safety demanded that persons employed in certain work should be periodically examined. In some circumstances eyesight and hearing were tested, but there were other possibilities which should not be ignored.

Officers elected:—Committee, Dr. F. S. Hone, Dr. Gertrude Halley, Miss B. M. Davis, Dr. R. A. Haste, and Mr. A. J. Korff; hon. secretary, Mr. J. P. Marcus; Dr. Hone, who wishes to retire from the office of president, consented to act in that capacity for another month.

**"Colossal Undertaking."**

Dame Nellie said she had come here with the hope that they would all be able to hear her company, and the famous artists who were in it. It was a colossal undertaking, although, fortunately, it had been a great success. At present in Melbourne they were turning away hundreds of people at every performance. That success had enabled her to hope that it would be possible to bring the company to Adelaide. She was bidding her fellow-Australians farewell in opera, although, when one had had such a career as she had had, it was very hard to take a back seat; but she was willing to do it. Included in the company were some of the greatest, and best artists in the world, and the expense was terrific. The journeys alone had entailed an expenditure of more than £10,000. Already they had risked a great deal of money which she hoped they would get back. If they did not, it did not matter. She hoped that the citizens would be able to give her a guarantee so that she could return to Melbourne and say, "I've got it. We go to Adelaide." Dame Melba concluded by saying, "I know you will all enjoy the operas very much. Please will you help me in my scheme? Is there any one here who will say I will give so much towards the guarantee?"

Immediately a number of offers were made, foremost among which were by Mr. W. H. Foote, who guaranteed 20 gs. He said he was so much impressed with the prospect of hearing Melba's wonderful company, that he was glad to do what little he could to help. Dr. E. Harold Davies followed with a guarantee of a like amount.

**Much Work Entailed.**

Mr. Herbert Myers (Adelaide manager for Messrs. J. C. Williamson) said that as Australians, they were all grateful to Dame Nellie for having brought her company to Australia; but as South Australians, they were doubly grateful to her for having paid them the compliment and honour of her present visit. It was his heart's desire that Adelaide should hear the performances, after the Melbourne and Sydney seasons. There had been an outcry from Brisbane for the company, but he wanted to see Adelaide honoured by being the third city visited. Much work had already been entailed in the attempt to arrange for an Adelaide season. He had been to Melbourne several times, and the directors of the firm had at least suggested a repertoire, the approximate date, and some idea of the prices. The average expenses of the company ranged from £6,500 to £7,000 a week, and if Adelaide was to be visited that amount would be increased by travelling expenses. He suggested the opening of tentative box plans, and the announcing of a repertoire of operas, and he felt sure that the response would be such as to ensure the company's Adelaide season early in August. He thought it possible to perform a repertoire of seven or eight operas. Six nights had been suggested, but he hoped that they might be required to stay a little longer.

His suggestion regarding the boxplan was adopted.

Dame Nellie intimated that the following repertoire had been suggested:—"La Boheme," "Lucia" (with Signora Toti dal Monte), "La Tosca" (with Signor Scavizza), "Faust" (with Melba), "Madame Butterfly," "Rigoletto," "Barbieri," and "Otello." They would bring the whole company, and stage the pieces exactly as in Melbourne, with the orchestra, chorus, and children complete.

**"Superlatively Worth While."**

Dr. Davies said he would like to advance certain considerations which might have weight. There were three well-known classifications of liars—the common liar, the adjectival liar, and the mining expert. (Laughter.) There were likewise three classifications of truth with regard to the bringing of the Melba grand opera to Adelaide. They could say it was worth their while to do so, or they could say that, after deep reflection, they had a conviction that it would be worth while, or they could say with deep conviction that it was superlatively worth while to every person of education, and to every person seeking to become educated, that the proposal to guarantee the Melba opera company's appearance in Adelaide should be achieved. He would like to insist on that classification, and, if necessary, submit a resolution in terms of it. He based his conviction not upon hearsay—for he had been in Melbourne recently, and had heard the performance of "Carmen" on a Saturday afternoon—that his experience, extending over between 35 and 40 years, convinced him that they had in Melba's company the greatest and most complete presentation he had ever known in the continent of Australia. The question of means was very pertinent, but it recalled another three-fold classification with respect to the three great cities of the Commonwealth. It was said that Sydney people lived well beyond their means, Melbourne people lived up to their means, and Adelaide people lived well within their means. That latter application might convey a profound compliment, but he believed in Adelaide people, and in their earnestness and enthusiasm for good things, and they should not be hypercritical in taking up the suggestion that Melba would be taking away a huge sum of money from Adelaide. If she took away £10,000 they would still be the richer in the undying memory of a historic event. Why should music be the Cinderella of the arts, when the Governments were spending thousands of pounds on the support of culture in other directions, and nothing on music, the greatest of all the arts.

Adelaide people could always find the money for what they wanted. Last Saturday the sum of £32,000 had passed through the totalizer at Port Adelaide, and they thought nothing of spending thousands of pounds upon football or pictures. He hoped that they would as a community rise to that great opportunity, and realize the privilege which was now being placed at their disposal. The motion was carried.

The following amounts were guaranteed by those present:—The Lord Mayor, 20 guineas; Mr. G. Cowan, 100 guineas; Mr. G. E. Sunter, £50; Mr. Teesdale Smith, £50; Mr. G. H. McFarlane, £50; Dr. E. Harold Davies, 20 guineas; Mr. W. H. Foote, 20 guineas; Miss Reynell, 20 guineas; Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Bruce, 20 guineas; Mr. W. H. Bagot, £20; Mr. A. E. Barritt, £10; Madame Callow, £10; Mr. G. A. Moyses, £10.

Advertiser

**MELBA GRAND OPERA.**

**COST £1,000 A PERFORMANCE.**

**BOOKING LISTS TO BE OPENED.**

At a meeting held yesterday a good start was made with the provision of a guarantee in connection with the proposed visit of the Melba Grand Opera Company to Adelaide.

In the reception-room of the Lady Mayoress, at the Adelaide Town Hall, on Thursday a meeting was held to arrange, if possible, for a sufficient guarantee to ensure that the Melba Grand Opera Company shall give a series of performances in Adelaide.

The Lord Mayor (Mr. C. R. J. Glover), who presided, said it was a privilege and pleasure to introduce to those present—though an introduction was perhaps superfluous—Dame Nellie Melba, who had come to Adelaide for the express purpose of putting a proposition to the citizens that they should avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing grand opera. No words of his were needed to commend this desirable proposition to those present. (Applause.) This would be the last opportunity of hearing Dame Nellie Melba in grand opera. Adelaide was known as a city of culture and a musical city, and the citizens had now a chance to uphold their high reputation. He felt sure Adelaide would have the pleasure of hearing the opera in a few months. (Applause.)

Dame Nellie Melba said she had come over in the hope that Adelaide would be able to hear the artists she had brought to Australia. (Applause.) It was a colossal undertaking, but fortunately it was a great success and hundreds were being turned away in Melbourne every night. (Applause.) That encouraged her to hope that the same response would enable the opera to come to Adelaide. If that were possible she could not find words to say how glad she would be. Naturally it was a trying time for her because she was bidding her beloved Australians farewell in opera. Perhaps it really did not matter very much, but when one had had a career like hers it was hard to take a back seat. (Applause.) However, she was willing to do it. She had brought out some of the finest and greatest artists in the world. The expense was enormous, the journeys alone cost over £10,000. A lot of money was at stake and she hoped they would get it back. (Applause.) If they did not it did not matter, but they could not come to Adelaide without a guarantee and she hoped to be able to go back to Melbourne and say, "I have got it." (Applause.) She appealed to the citizens to take the offer. She knew they would enjoy the operas. "Will you help me?" Dame Nellie concluded. "Is there any one who will give a lead? The guarantee is only a matter of form, because only an earthquake or a railway disaster can prevent us from succeeding." (Applause.)

Mr. W. H. Foote, of the Elder Conservatorium, said he was not a man of means but he offered 20 guineas. Dr. E. Harold Davies (Director of the Conservatorium) offered a similar amount.

Mr. Herbert Myers (Adelaide representative of J. C. Williamson) said Adelaide was deeply grateful to Dame Nellie for having brought this glorious opera company to Australia, and was doubly grateful to her for her personal visit in this connection. (Applause.) He hoped the result of the appeal would be sufficient to lead Dame Nellie Melba and the J. C. Williamson firm to send the company here. (Applause.) Brisbane had raised an outcry for the opera, but he wanted Adelaide to be the third city to have it. (Applause.) The average expense in Melbourne was £6,500 to £7,000 a week, and

the cost in Adelaide would be increased by extra travelling expenses, and by the short season. He suggested that tentative box-plans be opened, and that those present should form a committee to work with the one aim. If the box-plans were thrown open he was certain the response would be such that grand opera would be heard in Adelaide in August. (Applause.) The objective was £1,000 per performance. It was impossible to bring the company here under that. If there was one week of seven or eight performances the cost would be about £7,000 or £8,000. Even if the tentative bookings did not reach that figure he was sure the directors would risk the rest. (Applause.)

Dame Nellie Melba said they proposed doing in Adelaide "Boheme," "Lucia," with Dal Monte, whom she would love Adelaide to hear, "La Tosca" with Scavizza, also a very great dramatic artist, "Faust" with herself, "Butterfly," "Rigoletto," "Barbieri," and "Otello" with herself. The orchestra chorus and children all would come. (Applause.)

Dr. Davies said he was convinced it was really worth while to support this enterprise, which aimed at bringing grand opera to Adelaide. It was his deep personal conviction the opportunity should not be missed. He moved, "That it is superlatively worth while to every soul in this community, either educated or seeking to become educated, that this project for bringing to Adelaide Dame Nellie Melba's Grand Opera Company should be achieved." (Applause.) He based his conviction not on hearsay. He was in Melbourne last week and heard the company on Saturday afternoon in "Carmen." In his experience in Australia this was the

greatest and most complete presentation of grand opera traditions in all their splendor he had ever known on this continent. (Applause.) The question of means was a very pertinent one. Somebody had said the people of Sydney lived well beyond their means, the people of Melbourne well up to their means, and the people of Adelaide well within their means. (Laughter.) He did not want to feel that there could be held against Adelaide the imputation made against the Scotsman who at a big hotel went to wash his hands and when he saw the notice "Please tip the basin" packed his bag and went away. (Laughter.) They must not be hypocritical when they talked of expense. They heard remarks about the huge sum of money being taken away. Even if the company took £10,000 the people of South Australia would be richer in undying memories of a great operatic event. (Applause.) Why should music be the Cinderella of the arts? Why should the Government spend thousands on art galleries, museums, libraries, and so on, and not on music, which was really the cheapest of the arts? (Applause.) People always found money for anything they wanted to do. Something like £32,000 was put through the totalizer at Port Adelaide last Saturday. Football would claim thousands of pounds from the pockets of the people, and picture shows also took thousands every year. He was satisfied South Australians had the means and could find the money. He hoped they would realize the privileges being offered to them.

Mr. Foote said Dame Nellie had been marvellously clever in getting together such a company in these difficult times. Madame Callow seconded the motion and offered 10 guineas.

The motion was carried unanimously. Mr. Myers said the prices to be charged for the first night would be the same as in Melbourne, £2 2/ for reserved seats, and for the same seats 30 would be charged on other nights. Unreserved prices would be probably half those figures, and the cheaper seats would be 7/6 and 5/. All would be plus tax.

Mr. G. D. Cowan, in offering to guarantee 100 guineas, said he could not feel there would be a loss.

Dame Nellie Melba—I shall be hurt if there is. I have done a good deal for Australia, and if you Australians cannot help me, then God help you all.

The following promises of guarantees or for purchase of tickets were made:—The Lord Mayor, 20 guineas; Mr. G. D. Cowan, 100 guineas; Mrs. M. S. Hawker, 50 guineas; Messrs. G. E. Sunter, 50 guineas; G. H. McFarlane, 50 guineas; Mrs. Teesdale Smith, 50 guineas; Dr. E. Harold Davies, 20 guineas; Mr. W. H. Foote, 20 guineas; Miss Reynell, 20 guineas; Mr. W. H. Bagot, 20 guineas; Mr. A. G. Barritt, 10 guineas; Madame Callow, 10 guineas; Mr. G. A. Moyses, 10 guineas; Mr. and Mrs. W. Bruce, 10 guineas.

Advertiser

Dr. Horace Lamb, F.R.S., formerly Professor of Mathematics in the University of Manchester, is to be nominated as president of the British Association for the Southampton meeting in 1925.

Regulator

11 MAY 1924

**MELBA GRAND OPERA.**

**Meeting of Citizens.**

**Adelaide Guarantee Discussed.**

With the object of obtaining the support of the public in inducing Dame Nellie Melba to bring her grand opera company to Adelaide in August, a public meeting, arranged by the Lord Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. C. R. J. Glover), was held in the Lady Mayoress's parlour on Thursday morning. Those present formed themselves into a committee to arrange for the opening of tentative boxplans, with the object of seeing what response would be made in the matter of guaranteeing the purchase of seats.

The Lord Mayor, in introducing Dame Nellie, said she had come over expressly for the purpose of putting a proposition to the citizens of Adelaide that they should avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing her famous company. It needed no words of his to commend the proposition to them for it not only provided an opportunity to hear the grand operas, but he believed that it would mark the last opportunity of hearing Dame Nellie in grand opera. Adelaide was known as the "City of Culture," and a musical city, and it now rested with the citizens to uphold that reputation. They were glad to welcome Dame Nellie to Adelaide, even in the capacity of a sojourner for a few days, and they were glad, too, to express the hope that they would see her in grand opera in the course of a few months. (Applause.)