

REPORT
OF THE
FIRST AUSTRALIAN
ESPERANTO CONGRESS.



HELD AT THE
University of Adelaide, S.A.,
ON THE
26th, 27th, 28th October, 1911.

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1912.

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Hon. Treasurer—J. Bowman

Members—Mrs. William Hogg, Mrs. J. Lumsdon, Dr. A. E. Shepherd, C. A. Uhrlaub, W.D. Smith

Delegates—Miss Hillman, F.E. Place, B.Sc., F. Gale

VICTORIAN EXECUTIVE.

Dr. Kendall (President). Mrs. May D. Harrison, Messrs. Ballard, Hyde, A.H. Johnson, and W.J. Drummond (Hon. Sec.)



FIRST AUSTRALIAN ESPERANTO CONGRESS.

FIRST AUSTRALIAN ESPERANTO CONGRESS. REPORT.

THE origin of this Congress so far as Adelaide is concerned is to be traced back to the visit to Australia of Dr. John Pollen, President of the B.E.A., in 1910. His lecture at the University in April of that year, under the auspices of the Adelaide Group, drew a number of recruits into the Esperanto movement. On August 8th there began a series of articles on Esperanto in the "Advertiser," which, intermittent for the first two months, have since had an uninterrupted sequence up to the present time. The first suggestion with regard to an Australian Congress appeared in these weekly notes on October 29th, 1910. Preliminary steps were taken by the Adelaide Group early in rout, but nothing definite resulted until the month of June. By that time Major Leschen had thrown in his lot with the movement, and that fact, in conjunction with the semi-official visit to Melbourne. of a number of the Congress Committee, brought the matter to a head. The Melbourne Esperanto Clubs were on the eve of organising a Congress, to be held in Melbourne in November, but finding themselves forestalled, gracefully waived their claims in favor of Adelaide, and from the outset backed up the efforts of the Congress Committee in the most praiseworthy manner.

Thursday, October 26th.

ARRIVAL OF THE VISITING DELEGATES.

"Vivu Esperanto!" This and other phrases in Esperanto appeared in the windows of the special carriage on the Melbourne express in which the delegates to the first Australian Esperanto Congress arrived in Adelaide on Thursday morning. The placards caused much interest, and it was not long before everybody on the platform at the Adelaide railway station knew who the visitors were and what was the object of their mission. The notices, "Vivu Esperanto" "Chu vi parolas Esperanton?" and "Chi tie oni parolas Esperanton" attracted attention on the train, and the enthusiastic delegates did a good deal of propaganda work on the train. The reception accorded the visitors was a most cordial one. They were met by Major Leschen (President of the Adelaide Group), Dr. A. E. Shepherd, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hogg, Mrs. Lumsdon, Miss Hillman, and Messrs. C. A. Uhrlaub, J. Bowman (Treasurer), and J. Lyall (Secretary). One of the ladies carried the Esperanto flag with its green star. The following were the visiting delegates: Victoria, Drs. Kendall and Lowe, Mr. and Mrs, A. H. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Prout, Mesdames Davies, and Harrison, Misses T. Aston Travis, Hume, Ely (2), Edmanson, and Holden, and Messrs. W. L. Edman. 501, W.J: Drummond, J. G. Pyke, M. Hyde, K. S. Potts, L. Bowles, C. W. Ballard, J: H. White, and A. L. Sullivan. New South Wales, Mr. George Collingridge. Western Australia-Mr. J. Skurrie.

WELCOMED BY THE MAYOR.

Soon after arrival the visitors were given a hearty welcome in the Adelaide Town Hall by the Mayor (Mr. L. Cohen), on behalf of the citizens. In introducing the delegates, Mr.

Leschot said he felt that they were laying the foundation-stone in Australia of what was going to be a very high building, and they all intended to do their best to spread a knowledge of the new universal language of Esperanto throughout the Commonwealth. (Applause.)

The Mayor said he regarded it as a special privilege to welcome to Adelaide the delegates to the inaugural Esperanto Congress in Australia. It was not long since comparatively few people knew what the word Esperanto meant and what its objects were, but the movement was spreading rapidly throughout the States and promised to become of profound importance to the world. (Applause.) During his, recent travels in England and on the Continent he had, from personal experience, learnt the need of a universal language. As Australians had not the opportunities which presented themselves to people in the old world to become linguists, he thought they should be specially interested in the new language, even more than the people of the motherland. In fact, because of their comparative isolation they should be more interested in Esperanto than any other nation in the world. (Applause.) "The intention of Esperantists was not to think any less of their mother tongue, but to cultivate a general knowledge of a universal tongue, which would be of great assistance to all mankind. (Applause.) : Dr. Kendall responded to the welcome on behalf of the Victorian delegates. He thought the Congress to be held in this city would make history, and would always be looked back to with feelings of pride to the commencement of a knowledge of the language that was expected to produce "peace and "fraternity among all nations. (Applause.)

Mr. G. Collingridge (N.S.W.) said there were several clubs in Sydney, and the movement was steadily growing in his State, although they had not made such splendid progress as in Victoria. He was proud to respond to the welcome on behalf of New South Wales.

Mr. W. L. Edmandson spoke on behalf of Queensland. Esperantists were able to get into touch with the world's literature, and their mail brought them messages from all lands, brimful of delightful expressions of goodwill and brotherhood. Over the fire on winter evenings he had been able to pick up a good workable knowledge of the new language in three months, and what he could do anybody could do. (Applause.) Mr. J. Skurrie (Western Australia) said it was a remarkable thing that people of different nationalities could learn Esperanto from a book without a teacher and then converse fluently as soon as they met. When he recently went home to the Old Country the first man he spoke to in Esperanto was a German, who did not know a word of English, and they could understand one another in Esperanto completely. At an International Esperanto Congress at Glasgow he conversed with people of 25 distinct languages. Travelling from Western Australia on the Karoola he had delivered a lecture on Esperanto, and been listened to with deep interest. (Applause.) Going to England on the R.M.S. Orsova, he conducted an Esperanto Group all the way, and had for his pupils doctors, lawyers, nurses, &c. He himself was the only ignoramus among them.

(Laughter and applause.) He was now going to travel through the Commonwealth, and he hoped to propagate a knowledge of the new language among the working classes. He was sure the time was coming when the brotherhood of man would be fully realised. (Applause.)

Mr. A. H. Johnson, speaking for Tasmania, said he believed the Congress in Adelaide would assist the movement in every part of the Commonwealth. Esperanto was going to break down the barrier of language which existed between the nations of the world and create between men relations which he believed God intended to exist between them. (Applause.)

Mr. W. J. Drummond said the movement had made a good start in New Zealand. Esperanto had been described as a beautiful language by one of the greatest English professors, who said it was the work and inspiration of a genius.

Major Leschen, on behalf of the South Australian Esperantists, thanked the Mayor for the reception extended to the visitors.

Mr. Edmanson presented to the Mayor the emblem of the movement.

Having pinned it to his coat, Mr. Cohen said he would be proud to wear the badge. He gave the toast, "Success to the Esperanto movement," and reply was made by Dr. Shepherd (S.A.).

After the reception the visitors proceeded to the Adelaide University. They were received by Professors Darnley Naylor and Henderson, who, on behalf of the University, warmly welcomed them to Adelaide, and were then shown over the University premises.

The Congress Executive met in the University Council room in the afternoon when the following were present:— Major Leschen (President), Dr. Kendall, Messrs. Ballard, Collingridge, Johnson, Skurrie, Hyde, Mesdames Harrison, Hogg, Lumsden, Miss Hillman, Dr. Shepherd, Messrs. Smith, Uhrlaub, and Lyall (Hon. Sec.)

Dr. Shepherd moved, and Dr. Kendall seconded that an Association be formed, to be called the Australian Esperanto Association. Carried unanimously.

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of the A.E.A. were then considered, and, with a few amendments, were passed, subject to ratification by the Council. The subscription for membership was fixed at 5/ per annum.

It was decided to defer consideration of the governing body and its functions for the present. The question of an Esperanto journal was next discussed, and Mr. W. D. Smith submitted the following motion:— "That the Council shall appoint a Committee to undertake all matters connected with the compiling, editing, publishing, and issue of the official organ of the Association."

Dr. Kendall reported that the Esperanto Clubs in Melbourne hoped to get a subsidy from the Immigration Department for an Esperanto journal, and that the matter was to come before the Victorian Cabinet shortly. Mr. Smith's motion was withdrawn, and the

matter deferred on the understanding that each section of the Executive obtain all possible information on the subject.

A cordial vote of thanks to the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, the University Council, and the Professor was unanimously passed, and the meeting adjourned.

During the remainder of the afternoon the party were shown over the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery by the President: (Mr. W. J. Sowden) and members of the Public Library Board. A number of rare specimens and works of different kinds, which are brought out only on special occasions, were exhibited, as a compliment to the delegates. In the evening there was a carnival on the Torres Lake. The motor launches and other boats were illuminated with Chinese lanterns, and music was discoursed by the members of the Adelaide Orpheus Society and the Locomotive Band. The Orpheus Society provided the following programme: "Awake, Æolian lyre," "Two roses," "Calm is the sea," "O lovely night," "Comrades in arms," "Spanish serenade," and "The soldier's farewell." The conductor was Mr. A.E. Daltry. The Locomotive Band, under Mr. W.J. Thorne, provided the following programme of music from the Elder Park rotunda:— Marches, "The Challenge" (Calbert), "Gladiator's farewell" (Blanckenburg; overture, "The golden star" (Greenwood); waltz, "Militaire" (Meissler); "The Druid's Prayer" (Davson); selections, "La Reine da Saba" (Gounod), "Our Miss Gibbs," and "The Arcadians." (Monckton), and the Esperanto hymn, "L'Espero."

Friday, October 27.

The formal opening of the first Australian Esperanto Congress took place at the Prince of Wales Theatre, University of Adelaide, on Friday morning. There was a large gathering of delegates from various parts of the Commonwealth. As His Excellency the Governor arrived the National Anthem was heartily sung. His Excellency was escorted to the chair by the Chancellor of the University (Right Hon. Sir S. J. Way). The Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow), the Minister of Education (Hon. F W. Coneybeer), the University professors, and other leading educationists were among those present. The proceedings were commenced in a somewhat novel way by a blackboard demonstration of Esperanto by Mr. C.A. Uhrlaub, who gave a lucid and pleasing exposition of the principal rules of the language, and showed its wonderful elasticity of expression. He explained how the vocabulary was much easier to learn than that of other languages, because of the large number of words obtainable from the same root. At the conclusion of his address he remarked that in 15 minutes he had been able to tell them as much about Esperanto as would require 15 hours in dealing with another language, such as French or German.

Sir Samuel Way, on behalf of the University of Adelaide, welcomed the members of the Congress, and then requested the Governor to declare the Congress open.

ADDRESS BY THE GOVERNOR.

His Excellency said he acknowledged gratefully the honor done him by the invitation

to preside at that important gathering. As he was present as a learner, he would confine himself as much as possible to hearing the explanations and suggestions of those who had made a complete and prolonged study of the movement. The words of the Emperor of Germany, quoted by Chief Engineer Prehn, appeared to convey the most forceful reason for the favorable consideration of Esperanto, from the point of view of social progress and human welfare. His Imperial Majesty said:— “Plurality of language is a hindrance to the important movement whose development is daily becoming more clearly visible to all thinking men.” That was a weighty saying. One great obstacle that had hitherto barred the satisfactory progress of universal brotherhood had been this language problem, the solution of which was vital to the cause of peace among the Great Powers of Europe. Those people who were favorably inclined to the advancement of international friendship and the abolition of international jealousies and disputes should welcome the advent of an international medium of communication. (Applause.) This medium, if generally adopted, would clear the air of false statements and lying rumors, so dangerous to international peace when international relations were strained. For commerce, art, and literature, and for the medical profession, the advantage of the use of a general language like Esperanto was self evident, and no doubt a popular work on any branch of science, if published in a universal language, would avoid an acknowledged hindrance to scientific progress. (Applause.) Those who did not know foreign languages were handicapped in comparison with others, and some were compelled laboriously to spend time in keeping abreast, which would be better employed in research. How great an advantage if each author could make a resume of his own paper in Esperanto, which could be published in every country at the same time as the original paper. (Applause.) If therefore Esperanto could provide a universal language in which philosophers, scientists, and artists could in their own technical phraseology express their exact meaning a great stride would be accomplished in the direction of the millennium and the regeneration of mankind. (Applause.) He had the pleasure of declaring the Congress open, and he wished the movement every success. (Applause.)

WORLD-WIDE GREETINGS.

A pleasing budget of messages were read by Mr. J. Lyall (Secretary of the Congress). The first was from the author of Esperanto (Dr. L.L. Zamenhof), who, writing from Warsaw, wished “full success to the Australian Congress in your distant and progressive part of the world.” Other messages were received from Dr. J. Pollen (President of the Seventh World’s Congress, of Esperantists, Antwerp, and President of the British Esperanto Association), Mr. E. Boirac (President of the Linguists Committee of the Esperanto Academy, Geneva), Messrs. H. Bolingbroke Mudie (President of the Universal Esperanto Association), W. W. Mann (editor of the “British Esperantist”), Cadell (Brisbane), Matthews (Western Australia), F. Clindening (the first St. Peter’s College Boy to learn Esperanto), C. A. Wittber (the “father” of Esperanto in South

Australia, whose school duties prevented his attendance at the Congress), F.E. Place and E.W. van Senden (Adelaide), G. Rippen (Jamestown), G. Almgren (an ex-South Australian, who has returned to his home in Norway), and Dr. W. Lamb, (Hummocks Hill). Messages were also read from the Treasurer (Hon. C. Vaughan), the Acting Director of Education (Mr. W.L. Neale); the Fremantle Esperanto Group, the Southern Cross Esperanto Society, Sydney, and the Zamenhof Club, Sydney.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS.

The President of the Congress (Major Leschen) delivered an address in Esperanto. A translation in English had been printed for the benefit of those not thoroughly conversant with the new language. He said they were that day demonstrating to the world that Australia had joined the other countries in the progress of this movement. They sent forth to their Esperanto friends and fellow workers everywhere on earth the following greeting in Esperanto—

From Austral's shore, this distant land,
Take greetings from a faithful band,
Though few as yet, the number grows,
And brightly now our green star glows.

However, in the making of Esperanto history their fellow fighters had often felt tired well nigh unto death by reason of the opponents to Esperanto, who had endeavored to stop their progress.

But many of those erstwhile opponents were to-day among their most ardent fellow-workers. Many of their opponents were against them only because they erroneously thought that Esperantists aimed at the substitution of Esperanto for the national languages of the world. But how incorrect was such an opinion. Australian Esperantists should most strenuously oppose so unworthy an attempt. He did not suppose there was a single Congress member among them who would be likely to consent to the entire substitution of Esperanto for his beloved mother tongue, the language of his parents and forefathers. Never! Nor would other countries be at all likely to sacrifice their mother tongue for the exclusive substitution of Esperanto. There were some scholars who took objection to Esperanto on the ground that it might threaten to trespass upon their classics. If he saw the slightest danger in this direction he would immediately share their objections and join in their opposition to the advance of Esperanto. But Esperanto did not aim at being anything more or less than an international auxiliary key language for the purpose of deliberations in international affairs; for commercial correspondence; and for the general exchange of friendly thought among the peoples of the world, who, without the aid of Esperanto, would be debarred from communicating with each other. (Applause.) The translations into Esperanto from the classics of modern languages had been intended merely for the purpose of illustrating its wonderful elasticity and thoroughness. For many centuries the need for some auxiliary language medium, easily

learnable, had been felt among all the nations throughout the world. But to-day the world knew that the instrument had been found; that the creation of their highly-esteemed master, Dr. Zamenhof, was the great auxiliary language medium for which the human race had been looking, at any rate, for the last four centuries. The Esperanto standard had been unfurled everywhere on earth, and to-day also in their own country. (Applause.) The language was easily learned by every student of ordinary intelligence. It was most euphonious. It contained all that was worthy to contain. It lent itself to the expression of all thoughts and ideas which the human heart might feel. It was the elected language medium for drawing the human races into closer bonds. It was absolutely necessary in the future administration of international affairs. It was the only language medium which had proved itself in every respect useful for international intercourse, and its utility in this direction had already been demonstrated by seven international Congresses. It was in itself the most simple solution of the international controversies; the great peace instrument, by means of which international misunderstandings would be amicably cleared up; the golden key which had unlocked the gate through which the people of the world should pass into the new Shinar, fraternally understanding one another. It was destined for the service of the nations. Humanity asked for it. (Applause.) In the name of the South Australian Esperantists he heartily welcomed the delegates from the other States. After this first Congress they would have an Australian Congress every year in one or other capital city, and sooner or later would send delegates to international Congresses, and hold an International Congress in Australia. They might then possibly welcome their esteemed master, Dr. Zamenhof, in their beloved land. (Applause.)

The replies of the visitors took the form of short propaganda speeches for the benefit of the invited guests, who were principally professional and commercial representatives, foreign Consuls, and other leading citizens.

ESPERANTO AND SCIENCE.

W. T. Kendall, D.V., Sc., M.R.C.V.S., University Veterinary School, Melbourne.

Among the many benefits of Esperanto not the least is that which it has given to the scientific world. Many of the most important scientific works have to be translated into perhaps a score of different languages. This adds to the cost, and causes delay which is a consideration in these days of rapid advancement, and there is too frequently mutilation in the translations.

If Esperanto were generally adopted in the publication of such works no such delay would occur, the cost would be greatly reduced, the writer and the reader would be brought into direct communication, and the results of scientific research made at once available in every country where Esperanto is spoken. The scientist would feel that he had the whole world for an audience instead of perhaps only those who speak his mother tongue. Surely this would be a special inducement to any man to do his utmost

to advance that particular branch of science of which he had made a special study.

That there is already a considerable Esperanto literature may be gathered from the fact that two years ago over 1,300 books had been published in Esperanto, and as the language has spread with amazing rapidity during the last two years there cannot now be less than 2,000. Besides translations of many important scientific and technical works there is now a quantity of original matter being printed, and as scientists are taking up the language seriously more will doubtless soon appear.

Esperanto periodical literature embraces about 100 journals and gazettes, published in every quarter of the globe, including several scientific publications, amongst which may be mentioned the International Science Review, two medical journals, and others on pharmacy, engineering, &c.

There are also several international scientific and technical societies each doing good in spreading knowledge in their special departments to their Esperanto confreres in all parts of the world. One important function of the International Esperanto Science Association is to see that all new scientific terms and translations are made on a uniform basis.

During the last few years several international scientific Congresses have been held in Europe, at which Esperanto was used as the official language. Previous to that, when representatives of different countries who had not a common language, met together in conference, much time was lost in interpreting speeches and discussions, translating documents, &c.

Esperanto is equally useful for correspondence between scientists in different countries. Nearly all Esperantists, when they have had a few weeks' tuition, commence to correspond with people in foreign lands, either by letter or postcard. This is one of their greatest pleasures, and encourages them to go on with their studies. Some time ago I wrote to a professional colleague in Russia, who knew no more of the English language than I did of the Russian, and yet, by means of Esperanto, we were enabled to exchange ideas on most important subjects in connection with our profession.

ESPERANTO AND ART.

Geo. Collingridge, Gordon, N.S.W.

I feel ashamed, as the only delegate from the mother State of the Australias—I have been called “la unu por la unua”—to have to report on the comparatively smaller progress made by the movement in sunny New South Wales.

We have, however, many clubs in existence, the Gosford Verda Stelo Club being the first affiliated Club in our State. Then we have the Hornsby Club, the Sydney Club, the Zamenhofan, Tumut, &c. Quite recently, on Saturday, the 14th of October, a well attended and enthusiastic meeting was held at “The Studio,” Gordon, and an Esperanto Art Society was founded. It includes in the scope of its work all the arts and crafts which, of late years, have been such a pleasant addition to the many useful and enjoyable

pastimes of all intelligent Australians. It was necessary, at the outset, to say something about Esperanto, and the reason for adopting the now universal language as an element in the formation of an Art Society. For there are, in Sydney, four or five Art Societies, all of them doing splendid work—The Royal Art Society of New South Wales, which I have the honor of having founded over a quarter of a century ago; The Society of Artists, The Society of Women Painters, and the Arts and Crafts Society. The three last-named are, all of them, offshoots from the parent Royal Art Society of New South Wales.

All these societies are admirable societies in their way, and help to fill a much-desired want in these days of expansion of culture and taste. But why, Esperantists say, should we not expand our culture beyond its present limits, and increase our task by entering in touch with other similar institutions, and cultivate the acquaintance of our fellow creatures in other centres of activity? I am a firm believer in decentralisation, and feel inclined to endorse the views of an American artist of reputation, who said that “the world was big enough for him.” We have adopted the motto:

“La mondon estas sufichi grandan por ni.” [sic]

The subscription to the Esperanto Art Society is 5/ per annum.

ESPERANTO AND EDUCATION.

A. H. Johnson.

Until comparatively recent years the means of obtaining knowledge from outside were extremely limited, and, with the exception of a few translations from the pens of the stars of other nations; each country was practically confined to those founts of knowledge which existed in its own boundaries. The inability of the masses to get information from outside countries has been a tremendous obstacle to educational development, and it has caused the birth of that prejudice and distrust with which the different nations regard each other. But now that we have, standing out prominently amongst the many innovations-glorious in the possibility of its ultimate benefits to mankind—the invention of a complete universal language (Esperanto) we can stretch our minds from the narrow confines of our own tongue and borrow largely from the store of literary, artistic, and scientific wealth of the nations.

The extreme ease with which Esperanto is learned, and the absence of irregularities and exceptions in the language, and the purity of its diction permit the writer to convey any conceivable thought to Esperantists of all nations, irrespective of language or barrier of any kind. The opening to the whole people of all the educational treasures and the exchanging of ideas will create a sympathy between nations, which must lift mankind educationally as well as in other directions.

Education being more easily obtained its cost will be considerably reduced, thus bringing within reach of a great number of people the possibility of education which has been denied them in the past. Last week the Hon. the Premier of Victoria, speaking to

his friends concerning his visit to Europe, said, "One thing must strike every one, and that is how terrible it is that nations with one civilisation, one religion, and one aim should spend so much money on keeping up the armaments, the cost of which must press heavily on the people.

It is scarcely necessary to say here that while nations are either preparing for hostilities of fighting each other, they are neglecting the proper education of their people and the higher duties of life. Esperanto is going to alter all this; it is going to help us to lift one another, and to live as God intended that we should live.

ESPERANTO IN COMMERCE.

W, L, Edmanson, Melbourne.

To the man in the street of an Australian City, the acquisition of an international language may reasonably be deemed, superfluous and unnecessary on the score of want of utility, but to the trader or manufacturer who, perforce, is obliged to extend his dealings beyond the English-speaking race, aye, verily, "from China to Peru," it is an absolute necessity, and it is, indeed, hard to imagine how the many ramifications of the large manufacturing and trading classes have, in the past, been at all possible. The British manufacturer certainly has to go to all lands for his raw material, and to him the matter is, therefore, of the highest importance.

What has been done in the past internationally has been through the tedious and oftentimes troublesome employment of specialist interpreters, whose work was entirely without check by those responsible for the results. This fact has prevented, or limited, a natural expansion of trade, and hindered the development of many worthy and profitable enterprises

We all know that the great markets of the East, China, Japan, &c., are open before us, and only await the ability of the Western world to assimilate ideas and facilitate the means of commercial intercourse. What a magnificent chance for the British, could they but grasp the possibilities of the situation,

Now, what would be the result of the introduction of a simple and neutral, yet effective, international language? Why, it would mean the removal of all these disabilities by the free correspondence between principals, through the complete comprehension of all letters passing to and fro, assisted, when occasion required, by a common neutral language for personal conversation, and the consequent general improvement of the tone and goodwill between the nations.

The existing practice in financial interchanges would be completely revolutionised, to the entire advantage of all concerned, by the adoption of our currency, the basis of which is the spesmilo equalling in value our florin, which you see would be specially easy of application by the Britisher. Ten spesmiloj equalling £1, 250—£25, 2,345—£234 10/, far easier than even the American system. The Britisher, with his pound sterling, the Frenchman with his franc, the German with his mark, &c., &c., would find that in a

common currency, commercial relations would certainly become more simple, and the lines of demarcation set up to-day through the dissimilarity of language and currency would melt away, and the time now spent in figuring out equivalents in values, prices, coins, weights, and measures, percentages, &c., would be employed in either furthering the development of trade and commerce, or enjoying freedom from the endless worries, jealousies, and distrust, which do and must, exist under the present chauvinistic system of each nation trying to live unto itself, and imagining that all other people are foreigners, and therefore to be mistrusted.

Imagine for a moment what a tremendous impetus would be given to the great carrying concerns, both on sea and land. How the world's great waterways would become populated, and the great railway concerns multiplied. How the telegraphs would vibrate with increasing pressure; how the commercial life of all nations would be rejuvenated, and how the general prosperity of the world would advance. A famine in India, a revolution in China, an earthquake in the Mediterranean, and a thousand other such calamities would be so encompassed that the world could act in a common brotherhood to help and relieve the victims in their distress.

Do I exaggerate the position? No. I think you will all admit. that such a consummation is not only feasible, but practicable, and devoutly to be wished. Shall we be behind in the onward march? Shall we wait until some other more progressive hand shall take the reins ere Australia shall fall into line with the other great nations of the world to-day. Answer with me, No!

ESPERANTO AND ITS IDEAL.

W. J. Drummond, Dipl., B.E.A.

The mission of Esperanto is the advancement of the human race. What the realisation of its ideal would mean to the world at large is so grand that it cannot at once be grasped.

Dr. Zamenhof, the creator of Esperanto, whom all Esperantists name "La Kara Majstro," first stated the nature of its ideal a few years ago. When referring to the idea that Esperanto was only a language he said most fervently: "Perish such a thought; if that were true I would tear off my green star, and never speak a word of it again. For many long years I have fought and struggled, but not for a language; it is for an ideal. I am battling for the spirit of reciprocal helpfulness which shall ensure a better future for all mankind."

The ideal of Esperanto is "To establish a neutral lingual foundation on which the various races of mankind may hold peaceful, brotherly intercourse without intruding on each other their racial differences." That this ideal was a practical one cannot be doubted by those who have had the pleasure of attending an International Esperanto Congress, or who have applied the auxiliary language in travel. When an Esperantist sees the green star being worn he looks upon the wearer—no matter what his

nationality—as a member of the “world-wide human family.” As Bernard Shaw, in his “Candida,” so aptly says, “We are related; we have the same Father in heaven.” Happily the opportunity of expressing this ideal of attaining international good-fellowship is not confined to the traveller. The Esperanto correspondent participates in the noble endeavour to bring about the realisation of this ideal which promises so much for the welfare of the world. Innumerable letters in this fascinating language are sent and received daily in every country demonstrating by the goodwill expressed in them that this ideal which has been preached by the great teachers, and sung by the poets, from time immemorial, is slowly, but surely, emerging from a dream to a grand reality. A short time ago an Australian Esperantist received a letter from a young Russian University student in which he wrote: “I think more and more of la kara lingvo every day. In our case it is as if it were a bridge over a great gulf of misunderstanding and mistrust on which we can meet and commune one with the other. Here am I in patient suffering Russia receiving sympathy and inspiration from a ‘samideano’ in that sunny land of freedom, Australia.”

We Esperantists do not say that when everyone learns our language the Golden Age will dawn, but we say that by our efforts to establish a “neutral lingual foundation” we are endeavouring in a practical manner to bring about a better feeling between the nations and to dispel that mistrust and bitter race hatred which, unhappily, in this advanced age, still exists. And is not this a noble work? Esperantists think it is.

ESPERANTO FOR PLEASURE.

J. G. Pyke, Victoria.

The greatest pleasure in the world is to have friends, and those of us who are Esperantists find that pleasure not lessened in possessing Esperantist friends whose mother tongue is different from our own. Many beautiful things have been written and sung about friendship. Elbert Hubbard says. “The thought of having friends and of being a friend comes to us like a benison and a benediction. Friendship is almost a religion—the recognition in your life of the fact that to have friends you must be one, is religion.” When you receive a letter with the warm words of friendship expressed in the “kara lingvo” it has a most inspiring effect; you feel that you have got to the bedrock on which all religion stands. This language is the language of the best part of us. It is the golden thread that ties the hearts of all the world.

“Friendship! mysterious cement of the soul,
Sweet’ner of life, and solder of society!”

Yes, and of a society that is as wide as the world.

There is nothing so hygienic as friendship. Our friends see only the good in us, and by that very fact bring out our best. We can be sincere in our letters; we can think aloud. We can dare more in the brother-tongue than the mother-tongue, paradoxical as that statement may seem. Perhaps the reader will remember the lines of Oliver Wendell Holmes:—

“There are two veils of language hid beneath,
Whose sheltering folds we dare to be ourselves,
And not that other self which nods and smiles
And babbles in our name; the one is prayer,
Lending its licensed freedom to the tongue
That tells our sorrows and our sins to heaven;
The other, verse, that throws its spangled web
Around our naked speech and makes it bold.”

If the genial American had only lived in our day he might have added that we can be bold in another tongue. It is a glory and a delight to be able to pour out the love that is in us and know that we shall have a willing listener, thanks to someone who has learned the: 16 simple rules of the Zamenhof language. It may be suggested that all this savors of want of love for our mother-tongue and want of patriotism, But neither is missing; for I am sure that my distant correspondents could tell you that they gather from me that the best thing on earth is to come from a sturdy British stock and to live in Australia.

My German correspondent writes me that he has written an article on Australia from the information and photographs I have sent him. A Bohemian young lady has been searching in the book shops of Prague for translations of George Eliot's novels, because I sent her a little Esperanto article on our famous English authoress, A little Russian boy is now interested in the birds and beasts of Australia because of a picture of a laughing jackass on a Christmas card which came from me. In like manner we can learn from the patriotism of our correspondents of the glories of their literature, the beauty of their forests, and the grandeur of their historic cities, perhaps not a bad thing for an Australian who cannot get' away from the parish pump! And it certainly makes us know our own land. These friends ask so many questions about this to them) ; unknown land that one is forced to acquire a lot of information about one's own country in order to answer them.

WHAT ESPERANTO MEANS TO THE BLIND.

Miss Tilly Aston, Victoria.

Miss Tilly Aston, of Victoria, in dealing with the subject “What Esperanto Means to the Blind,” said:—

I have come to this Congress of the Esperantists of Australia in order to represent the blind of this new land, We are not numerous compared with the sighted people who have undertaken the study of the Esperanto language, but possibly there is no class of persons to which the great discovery of our great master has brought more of pleasure and more of good. I rejoice to bear witness concerning its indisputable value to all of us who are using it. We already have our monthly magazine, “Esperanta Ligilo,” which comes to our blind people from France, we have our address book, where one may only select a name in order to find a good “Letter-friend.” The blind Esperantists of Australia

are just awakening to the possibilities of correspondence, and one by one are being forged the links of a chain, strong and indestructible. We have touched hands with our fellow-sufferers across the mighty sea; and we are richer; and we believe that they also have gained something. All of us, members of this Congress, expect to return home, warmed with a new enthusiasm for the noble idea of an international language, and the blind of Australia will have their part in this re-birth, and I know that our ranks will grow, and continue to grow, because to us Esperanto is more, infinitely more, than to sighted people. And my last word shall be this:— The blind of the whole world are ever the grateful admirers of the splendid man who gave to us this means of communication with our brothers and sisters in other countries this simple, beautiful joy-bestower; and we desire on such an important occasion to pay our humble honours to our friend, Dr. Zamenhof.

ESPERANTO AND TRAVEL.

Dr. Lowe, Victoria.

Dr. Lowe (Victoria) was entrusted with the subject of “Esperanto and Travel.” ‘He detailed amusing experiences during a visit to the Continent as the result of the confusion caused by the language difficulty. Esperanto was useful to the traveller and in correspondence with people in foreign lands. Among the professed ideals of the Commonwealth was that of “A White Australia.” “He did not think they could long maintain a white Australia, for in process of time, in the North at any rate, the colour would gradually approximate to black.” (Laughter.) No declaration of policy had given such offence to their Asiatic neighbours as had the White Australia policy. It had caused more bitter feeling than anything else; and there would be still further trouble in the future if they did not take some steps to allay the antipathy that had been generated. He recommended intercommunication with the far Eastern countries by means of Esperanto as one means of promoting friendly feeling.

Mr. J. Skurrie, representing Western Australia, gave a short account of his experiences, “Tra la mondo kun verdstelo,” and proved to the satisfaction of his audience that it was not only possible, but easier, to travel round the world with Esperanto as a secondary language. He had met and conversed with Dr. Zamenhof at Washington last year, and at that great gathering had met the representatives of 40 different nations, whose sole bond of union was “Li Kara Lingvo.” [sic]

ESPERANTO AND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES.

K. C. S. Potts, Victoria.

Mr. K. C. S. Potts’ (Victoria) dealt with the topic, “Esperanto and International Congresses.”. He said the want of a common medium of conversation was most felt at such Congresses. There was to-day only one language capable of adequately standing every test in international gatherings--their own Kara lingvo, Esperanto. Its utility had been already demonstrated at the International Esperanto Congresses held in different

parts of the world where delegates from various countries had met on a common ground and demonstrated with a result that could satisfy even the most severe critic.

AUSTRALIAN EXAMINATION BOARD.

Dr. Shepherd also delivered an address, dealing with the question of an Australian Examination Board. He said at present the method of gaining a diploma was far too cumbersome and took up too much time. A candidate had to send to England for the necessary examination papers. When these had been answered he must return them to England for correction, and if he had succeeded in satisfying the British examiners the coveted diploma would reach him in course of time. All this would take at least six months. In order, therefore, to avoid, this unnecessary delay they trust have a Federal Examination Board with duly qualified representatives in each State. A Federal Board, established on these lines, empowered to issue diplomas for the highest possible standard of efficiency would be a most powerful incentive for serious students of Esperanto to pursue their studies to that high standard required for the diploma which they were ambitious to secure. He regarded it as absolutely imperative that they immediately establish a Federal Examining Board, with branches in every State, working separately, yet conjointly, with the central Federal body. He felt certain that the British Esperanto Association would hail with delight the creation of such a board as one of the strongest instruments for the advance of Esperanto in Australia. (Applause.)

The President having announced the formation on the previous day of "The Australian Esperanto Association," explained that as the executive work would be conducted in South Australia during the ensuing year, it would necessary to appoint the officers from among those members residing in this State. Next year it was expected that the Congress would be held in Victoria, and then the new officers would be chosen from Victorian Esperantists.

The following officers were elected:— President, Major H. Leschen; Vice-President, Dr. A. E. Shepherd; Treasurer, Mr. J. Bowman; secretary, Mr. J. Lyall; Committee, Mesdames Hogg (President of the Adelaide Group), and Lumsdon, and Miss Hillman, and Messrs. W. D. Smith, F. E. Place, and J. Skurrie.

AT VICTORIA PARK.

In the afternoon delegates accepted the invitation of the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. L. Cohen), and attended the Mayoral Garden Party at Victoria Park.

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION.

In the evening about 100 people attended the reception given by the President at the Arcadia Cafe, King William Street.

Mr. Leschen, in welcoming the guests, said it was only four months since he had first made up his mind to look into Esperanto. He had no sooner done so than he saw what a charming and wonderful language it was. With hearty co-operation from friends on the

other side of the border the first Australian Esperanto Congress had been launched. He took it as an honour to Adelaide that it should have been held in the South Australian capital, and thanked those from over the border who had assisted in the movement. No Congress could have been conducted in happier circumstances, and he believed a great deal would come out of it. The purpose of that evening's programme was to give their friends an idea of the sound of Esperanto in speech, song, and in music. Anybody with half an hour's study daily could soon master Esperanto. The interest in it was shown by the fact that at the last International Congress 40 countries were represented. In any land it was only necessary to find where the green star was and they would make themselves understood in Esperanto. If leading firms would adopt Esperanto in their foreign correspondence its general use would speedily follow. (Applause.)

Miss Tilly Aston, a blind lady from Victoria, gave an address on 'What Esperanto can do for the Blind,' and sang "The Race of Asra" and "Beautiful Roses" (in Esperanto: "Belaj Rozetoj"). Miss Vera Thrush, who had never seen Esperanto until a fortnight previously, sang "What are the Wild Waves Saying?" at the first reading in company with Mr. H. C. Thrush, and "Juanita" as a solo. Mr. W. L. Edmanson (Victoria) recited "How Ruby Played" and "Hamlet's Soliloquy"; Mr. C. A. Uhrlaub, "The Fairy of the Light," and Mr. W. J. Drummond (Victoria), "Brutus's Oration"—all in Esperanto; and the Esperantists present joined in two choruses.

CONGRESS DELEGATES ENTERTAINED. PICNIC AT THE NATIONAL PARK.

A happier termination to the first Australian Esperanto Congress could not have been wished for than the motor-drag picnic, to which the visiting delegates were treated on Saturday. The party proceeded to Long Gully; National Park, in the forenoon, and returned to the large oval for luncheon. The atmospheric conditions were perfect for a drive into the hills, and the visitors did not hesitate to express their admiration of the beautiful scenery both between Mitcham and Belair and in the park itself. After a daintily-served repast an interesting toast-list was dealt with. Among the guests were the Minister of Education (Hon. F. W. Coneybeer), and Mr. T. Ryan, M.P. (chairman of the Education Commission). The President of the Congress (Major Leschen) was in the chair, and he proposed the loyal toast. Major Leschen, after welcoming the non-Esperantists, said they were specially pleased to see Mr. Coneybeer present, as nobody could do more to promote the progress of the new language than he. Australia was in the van in many phases of national life, and there was no reason why they should not do something of a substantial nature in connection with the Esperanto movement. They did not need to wait for other nations, but do it themselves. (Applause.) The Minister of Education proposed "The Esperanto movement in Australia." He said his official position and duties gave an interest in the Esperanto movement, but he was sorry to say those duties did not allow him the time to qualify himself to address them in Esperanto. He was therefore, obliged to content himself with

that tongue which served the Swan of Avon, although the Avon, on whose banks he was cradled, lay not in Warwick, but near the famous Clifton. He congratulated Major Leschen on the success which had attended his efforts in connection with the Congress. Perhaps he was right in saying that but for his energy and enthusiasm the gathering would have been delayed, and so he hoped they would join him in his felicitations on that occasion (Applause.) Probably Melbourne had the right to claim the proud honor of being the Australian birthplace of the Esperanto movement, and from small beginnings it had spread till the club met in its own Esperanto Hall, and had a membership of 140. There were other clubs in that city and in some other centres. In New South Wales there were several groups, and one energetic lover of the language was an agent, who used it for advertising purposes. (Laughter and applause.) Western Australia also had men who had done much, and Mr. J. Skurrie, of that State, who he was glad to see present, was one of the few Australians who was present at the Washington Congress, and had travelled the world in company with the "Green Star," The "father" of Esperanto in South Australia was in his own department—Mr. C. A. Wittber, headmaster of the Gilles Street School. (Applause.) He was undoubtedly the first to take up Esperanto in Adelaide MT: Wittber taught Esperanto to his scholars, first of all at Rose Park, and afterwards at Gilles Street, He had printed lesson books in the new language. Whatever honor, therefore, was due to the pioneer of Esperanto in Adelaide was his by right. (Applause.) Everybody who had the welfare of humanity at heart. must give words of cheer and admiration to those who were trying to bring all nations together under the wings of Peace. (Applause.) Amidst the gloom of all the war preparations that to-day were causing a fever in the blood of European nations, and which threatened their civilisation, one found hope in watching two bright stars rising. The proposed peace treaties between the Old Country and the United States, and also France, formed one of those stars of hope. (Applause.) Too long the nations of the world had been like islands separated by stormy seas, across which it had been, impossible to shout words of peace. "He firmly believed that often misunderstandings arose through the matters in dispute being expressed in different languages, and that while a language held a nation together, it tended to separate that nation from others. His experience had shown him that even the disputes between those sitting on the Ministerial side of a Legislative Assembly and those in the seats opposite often occurred because those sitting in darkness would not understand the words of wisdom they sent across to them. (Laughter and applause.) The other star, the rising of which their important Congress had assembled to witness, was discovered about a quarter of a century ago. It was then that Dr. L. L. Zamenhof, who, like Him who was called the Prince of Peace, was of Jewish blood, conceived the idea of a universal language which he called Esperanto; to be the hope of the world. (Applause.) In it he had combined the essentials of all the great languages. It was easy to acquire. Its grammar was akin to their own, though its spelling—it was pleasing to know—was much more simple. Articles

written in Esperanto were regularly published in such high-class magazines as the "North American Review," It had been admitted as a subject by the examining bodies controlling the Oxford Senior Local and the London Chamber of Commerce, and, best of all, earnest men and women had started, or were about to start, centres for its study in every country and climate on the globe. (Applause.) And when the prophecy foretold by Tennyson came to pass—and they all hoped it would come in their own time—when

The war-drums throb no longer,
And the battle flags are furled,
In the parliament of men,
The federation of the world,

he was sure that one of the greatest factors in bringing about the age of peace would be Esperanto. (Loud applause.)

Major Leschen responded to the toast, and expressed his delight that Mr. Coneybeer had become an advocate of Esperanto. The Congress had a strong committee of workers, who were going to see that the movement progressed.

The Chairman handed to Mr. J. Lyall (Secretary of the Congress), a gold signet ring, presented by the delegates, as a token of their appreciation of his untiring and invaluable services to the movement. Mr. Leschen said Mr. Lyall had been his right-hand man, and did a great deal of the work for which the chairman received the praise.

In accepting the token Mr. Lyall said he keenly appreciated the compliment: paid him, and was amply repaid by knowing that the Congress had been successful. Mr. P. Nesbit, K.C., proposed "The Visiting Esperantists," and congratulated them on the important work they were engaged in, He did not think a common language would of itself do away with war, but he believed that in so far as it would remove the causes of misunderstandings between nations it would make for peace. Just as a great many of the quarrels between individuals were due to misunderstanding one another's character and motives, so it was with nations. Human nature on the whole, he thought, was not bad but good, and it facilitating a proper understanding between nations he believed Esperanto would play an important part. (Applause.) The scientific method of the new language and its adaptability were beyond praise, and it was the invention of a genius. (Applause.) Mr. Ryan supported the toast. The Esperanto Congress could not have been held in Adelaide at a more opportune time, as the curriculum of the Education Department and the question of extending the University were now in the hands of five legislators. If the Minister of Education, as a member of the Education Commission, suggested the inclusion of Esperanto in the State School curriculum, the matter would receive serious consideration. (Applause.) Representatives of the various States briefly responded to the toast, and expressed their delight at the hospitality they had received in South Australia. Dr. Kendall (Victoria) said that now the fire of Esperanto had been kindled they must blow until the flames spread from shore to shore.

Mr. George Collingridge, who replied in Esperanto on behalf of the mother State, said he had not for a long time met such affable friends as during his present trip to Melbourne and Adelaide, and he thanked them from the bottom of his heart. Mr. J. Skurrie (W.A.), said Esperanto could no more go back than the sun could cease to shine, The board schools of Edinburgh, Scotland, were now teaching it, and it was also being taught in the public schools of Maryland, U.S.A. He hoped the time was not far distant when it would be part of the State curriculum of Australia. (Applause.)

Mr. W. L. Edmanson replied for Queensland, Mr. A. H. Johnson, for Tasmania, and Mr. W. J. Drummond for New Zealand. The last-mentioned remarked that the gathering they had just held in Adelaide was the only Esperanto Congress that had been opened by a direct representative of the King. (Applause.)

Mr. H. H. Ling, B.A., in proposing "The Press," remarked that it would not be sufficient to deal with Esperanto academically, but if it was to achieve the best success hoped for it must be taken to the rank and file of Australia. (Applause.)

"The President" was honored at the instance of Dr. Kendall. Mrs. M. D. Harrison gave a chatty account of a recent trip made by her to the Philippines at the invitation of Esperanto correspondents, and spoke enthusiastically of the hospitality that was showered upon her.

The party spent a pleasant hour or two in the park, and returned to Belair in time to enable a number of the inter-State delegates to catch the Melbourne express.

AN ESPERANTO SERVICE.

On Sunday evening a service in Esperanto was conducted in Victoria Hall. There was a good attendance, and the Rev. J. H. Goss, of Freeling, delivered an address.

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