



NATIONAL SENTIMENT. AUSTRALIA'S GREAT NEED.

Melbourne. Nov. 16, 1913

Mr J. S. Battye, B.A., LL.B., the librarian of the Perth Public Library, was the speaker at the Wesley Church pleasant Sunday afternoon service to-day. His subject was the cultivation of an Australian national sentiment. He said that while he did not wish in any way to discourage the growth of Imperial sentiment, he thought that the great need of Australia was to cultivate in the hearts of its people a broad national Australian sentiment.

By national sentiment he meant love of one's country, belief in its greatest possibility. and confidence in one's fellow citizens. We were in danger of becoming parochial in our ideas concerning the Commonwealth. One heard a good deal nowadays about State rights versus the Commonwealth. The only boundaries we should know were those of the seas which washed our shores.

Sir Henry Parkes used to speak about Australia as one people, one flag, and one destiny. We certainly had one flag, but there were many signs which indicated that while we had Federation we were certainly not one people in the truest and best sense. Children should be taught in the State schools the great outstanding facts of Australian history. They should be acquainted with the heroism of Australian explorers and the magnificent work which had been accomplished by the early pioneers. We had every reason to be proud of our national history, and in educating our young people we ought to teach those things which would make them proud that they belonged to these southern lands.

We should cultivate to-day the broadest, noblest national spirit. The cry "Australia for the Australians" was to be commended, but only when used in the right spirit and for the highest ends. When lucrative positions fell vacant in the Commonwealth Australians

should have the opportunity of obtaining these posts of honour.

He was glad to say that in selecting the staff of the Perth University eight of the 12 positions were given to those who had been trained in Australia or to those who were native-born. Australia was a land of immense potentialities, and our national symbol should ever be truth, equity, and justice.



James Sykes Battye, 1871-1954, who came from Ballarat Victoria, in 1894, to be the chief librarian of the Victoria Public Library (the State Library of Western Australia was first known as the Victoria Public Library as it was originally founded to honour the 50th anniversary of Queen Victoria's ascension to the British throne). It was renamed the Public Library of Western Australia in 1904 to avoid confusion with the Public Library of Victoria. Dr Battye died in 1954, having served in office for nearly 60 years.

Dr Battye was an historian who wrote and compiled several books on the history of Western Australia. He was an avid collector of Western Australian historical material, including early Western Australian newspapers, Colonial Secretary's Office correspondence and various manuscripts.

He ensured that both archival and printed materials were acquired and preserved, and was responsible for the formation of an Archives Branch of the Public Library in 1945.