Some Thoughts on Australian Literature

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At a social gathering in Perth, recently, Mr. Leslie Haylen, M.H.R., appealed for support for Australian literature. In a stirring speech he pointed out how the generally accepted attitude towards art now reflects the market forces which operate in the American Stock Exchange. He said:

"A week or so before this gay gathering at the Forum of Western Australia to mark the 25th anniversary of "The Australian Image," in which I took part, I was addressed by Mr. Leslie Haylen, M.H.R., on the future of Australian literature. He pointed out that our writers had a duty to write about more than just their own time but to write about a better society, a better world. He said that our writers must be aware of the problems of the world and the world must be aware of the problems of the writers."

Mr. Haylen appealed for support for Australian literature, saying:

"We Australian writers have a duty to write about the problems of the world and the world must be aware of the problems of the writers. Our literature must be a mirror of society and a guide to the future."

Mr. Haylen ended by saying:

"I urge you all to support Australian literature. It is a vital part of our national culture and we must all work together to ensure its continued growth. Thank you."