

Advertiser
October 23rd 1913

The Daily Herald,

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GENERAL NEWS.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

In the Legislative Council on Wednesday the Hon. J. H. Vaughan asked the Chief Secretary if the Government would support the nomination of the Labor Party to fill the vacancy on the Council of the Adelaide University caused by the death of the late Sir John Duncan. The Chief Secretary replied that, seeing that the matter had not been before the Cabinet, the members of the Government would exercise their discretion. When the Chief Secretary moved that the Council proceed to ballot, the Hon. A. W. Styles said there was no immediate hurry to fill the vacancy, and he asked that the matter be deferred until a later sitting. In the interim it would be possible for his own side of the House to confer with those opposite with a view to coming to an agreement. On a previous occasion, when the question of electing someone to this position had arisen the then Liberal leader (the late Sir John Duncan) had agreed to the nomination of Mr. Wallis with a view to getting a unanimous vote. Personally he would like to see the wish of the late leader of the Liberal Party carried out. The Hon. J. H. Vaughan moved that the debate be adjourned and the motion was carried, the matter being set down for further consideration on next day of sitting.

ADELAIDE'S WATER SUPPLY.

The Register.

October 23rd 1913.

—Conservatorium Concert.—

A large audience in the Elder Hall on Wednesday night was treated to a programme of marked variety. It was a students' concert, in which the Ladies' Part-singing Class and orchestra, under the able baton of Mr. Winsloe Hall, assisted. So far as the instrumentalists (led by Miss Sylvia Whittington) were concerned, their task was unfortunately light, since the orchestral score of two of the chief choral productions of the evening failed to arrive, and a pianoforte accompaniment had to be substituted. The offerings comprised:—"Impromptu" (Sibelius), by the Part-singing class; song,

"A summer night" (Goring Thomas), Miss Florence Rowe, with 'cello obbligato by Mr. Fritz Homburg; songs, "Far and high the cranes give cry," and "Shepherd, see thy horse's foaming mane" (Korby), by Mr. Jack Fischer (Elder Scholar); song, "Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets" (Mendellsohn), by Miss Vera Thrush; air, "O love, from thy power" ("Samson and Delilah"), by Miss Gladys Prosser; cantata, "Sea fairies" (Dunhill), by Part-singing Class, with solos by Misses Gladys Polglase and Florence Rowe; songs, "Folk song" (Macdowell) and "Do you remember?" (Godard), by Miss Muriel Day (Elder Scholar); duet, "The flower duet" ("Madame Butterfly"), by Misses Gladys Polglase and Gladys Prosser; concert scene, "Frithjof auf Seine" (Max Bruch), by Part-singing Class, with baritone solo by Mr. Fischer.

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Mr. Albert Mansbridge, M.A., the general secretary of the Workers' Educational Association of England, and Mrs. Mansbridge left for Melbourne by the express on Thursday. They boarded the train at Mount Lofty, having motored through the hills with the President of the School of Mines (Sir Langdon Bonython) and the Registrar (Mr. Laybourne Smith), and called at Carminow.

ONLY THE HIGHEST

FORM OF EDUCATION

IS CONSISTENT WITH LEGISLATION

FOR THE HAPPINESS OF THE PEOPLE.

"Australia has a better opportunity to legislate for the happiness of her people than any other part of the world. While Great Britain remains undefeated the Commonwealth is secure against invasion, and, being a new land, can experiment in the treatment of problems which European nations have found beyond solution. The legislators of Australia appear to have realised that, and the courage they have shown in grappling with social questions and the wisdom of their efforts have excited admiration all over the world." So spoke Mr. A. E. Mansbridge, secretary of the Workers' Educational Association of England, yesterday. He emphasised the need for the liberal education of our legislators, and was glad that the workers in South Australia were forming an association to promote greater knowledge among themselves. With the infancy of the new organisation, Mr. Mansbridge was associated closely, and his enthusiastic assistance has done much to make the efforts of the Trades and Labor Council in this direction successful.

In reply to a question as to the lines along which the Workers' Educational Association would develop, Mr. Mansbridge said it would aim to unite the experiences of life and of books, and to make them a strong, new stream which would carry the people of the State to a great life. No State could afford to do with anything below the highest possible standard of education for its people. The Australian democracy was showing the way in social legislation, and it was of the greatest importance that its lawmakers should possess the best and finest knowledge the world had to offer. That knowledge should not be in the hands of one or two people only, but in the hands of a reasonable proportion. Just as in England, those who set out to govern devised a system which would provide a supply of persons for the service of the State and trained them for that service, Australia must. It was encouraging to note that she realised that, and was turning some of her energy in that direction.

Mr. Mansbridge placed the need for a high standard of education among legislators in an important position. With that, he said, must go an equally high standard among the people. If the latter essential were lacking the most noble form of legislation could not be attained, and, indeed, must remain below that. The wisdom of legislation depended upon the trained and disinterested mind from which it came, and wise laws could not be expected unless the people were properly educated. The worst calamity which could befall a country was government by an ignorant democracy. It was unthinkable that such a catastrophe could happen here, as experience showed that a fine standard of learning had been attained. Australian legislation compelled one's admiration, but before the people thought too much of what they had done they must remember the unique position of the continent. This was the first self-governing community which had had an opportunity to manage its own affairs free from the dread of interference from outside.

The aim of the Workers' Educational Association, Mr. Mansbridge explained, was to enable the worker to continue his education by the exercise of his own powers of mind and spirit, and by placing him in communication with the finest scholarship in the world. There were a large number of Australians in isolated places who were struggling to develop their education. The association would get into touch with these men and women, of whom the country should be proud, and where there were several in close proximity would bring them together. Where the students were too widely scattered for that they would be placed in contact with a scholar by other means. In many cases that had been done by the association already, and Mr. Mansbridge was surprised at the number of unattached students of whom he had heard during the few weeks he had been in the country. The association would preach the gospel of education in the remotest corners of the State, find out the demand for education automatically, and bring it into contact with the best supply. The principal educational bodies would be asked to take part in the work, and their help would be availed of by the local committees, which would grow off the State branch of the association. The system to be followed would have to be developed by experience, but tentatively, primary schools, the School of Mines, and the University and its tutorial classes would be availed of according to the type of education needed by the individual. The association would not be the educator; it would act as an intermediary between teacher and pupil. Its success depended upon the co-operation of the workers. With that it would succeed; but only with that. A few enthusiasts could not keep it alive, although they could found it. The number of people studying by themselves showed the need for the organisation, and as it would exist to help them they should avail themselves of its aid.