AN EMPIRE CONGRESS.

Fifty-two Universities of the Empire will be represented at the Educational Congress to be held in London in July. Four days will be devoted to discussion, and the programme is arranged so as to give visitors an opportunity of visiting the various universities in Great Britain and Ireland. Adelaide and the other Australian Universities will be directly represented. The General London Committee, of which H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught is President, consists of distinguished representatives of three interests—the Universities, the Empire, and London. It includes the Chancellor of the University of the United Kingdom, the High Commissioners of the Dominions, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition, and other members of the present and late Governments, and the Lord Mayor, and the Chairman of the London County Council. One of the main purposes of the gathering is to take stock of the vast developments in the education system of every country in the British Empire, to ascertain how far standards of training adapted to local conditions may be harmonized, cooperation in various departments of activity established, and interests drawn to Universities promoted. If the Universities are to attain the highest degree of Imperial usefulness it is essential that they shall fall into line in certain phases of their work, while they specialise in other branches. For instance, it is admitted that the standards of preliminary training need harmonising so far as this may be done without disturbing University traditions or the general policy and working conditions of the individuals of learning.

The Congress is expected to draw the Universities much closer together. It will be the first attempt at federating the Empire's great assets of learning, and the meeting could not have been convened at a more opportune time. As the Times points out, every one agrees that the self-governing Dominions are entitled to a more and more intimate connection with the mother country in the public services, the control of defence and diplomacy, and the administration of the great dependencies of the Crown. No organization of the kind is possible to-day, because there is no standard of training common to the Empire as a whole, and if the Universities can do something to supply that standard, universities will not only justify their own position, but render invaluable service to the cause of Imperial union. Some of the subjects to be considered are specialization among Universities, inter-University arrangements for postgraduate and research work, the prosecution of entrance tests, the action of Universities relative to the after careers of their students, the extension movement and tutorial classes, the establishment of a Central Bureau and the position of women in Universities. Every question should afford a field for fruitful discussion. In particular those in the overseas Dominions, have assumed new responsibilities in their widening spheres of activity. The Universities receive there is no profession, trade, or occupation which should not demand its attention so far as training for a career is concerned, and how far the influence of the course of learning should be exerted in this direction will probably be one of the most interesting themes at the Congress. In the mother country the demand for University extension is growing. Artisans are asking for tutorial classes for systematic education in the evenings, and the extent to which this worthy ambition ought to be met will occasion an exchange of views based on actual experience.

The expansion movement in favour of an easier interchange of teachers and students is supported on the ground that it conduces to higher educational vitiity. It is represented that a professor of history could find himself advantageously to himself and his students alternately for two years in a University in the motherland, and then for two years in a colony; or a year in one colony and a year in another. In this way the students of the two or three Universities would be enabled to attend his lectures in three years' course. A number of colonial Universities have pressed for the establishment of a Central University Bureau, which would perform various important functions and help to solve many existing problems affecting Universities in different parts of the Empire. The Bureau would be a sort of Intelligence department in connection with Empire University work, and particularly in relation to the interchange of teachers and students. It is hoped that the discussions regarding University government, the degree of control which a University should exercise over affiliated colleges, and the conditions of service of professors and teachers will lead to useful recommendations of deep interest to the cause of higher education in every quarter of the globe.

UNIVERSITY ECONOMIC SOCIETY.

The second annual meeting of the University Economic Society was held on Monday evening. The society is formed of groups and societies of University students interested in economic and social science. The President (Professor W.G. Richardson) said that that the society was opened for the deliberations of the previous meeting. The meeting was opened by the President and the minutes of the previous meeting were read. The President then discussed the state of the nation and the world economic situation. The meeting adjourned.