

Register 23/3/14

Advertiser 24/3/14

The last words I spoke in public in Australia comprised a tribute to Dr. J. B. Paton, of Nottingham, who through long years worked as a happy warrior with the spirit of a little child in the cause of the education of the people.

We are now some 800 miles off Vancouver. The waves are running mountains high, and the ship is doing the same as she was at the outset of this letter, only more so.

In Canada winter will greet us perhaps harshly, but even though she smiles at us we shall not stop long within her borders—just long enough to meet our old W.E.A. friends and to see the Universities of Montreal and Toronto. It is hardly likely that we shall go into the States, other than to New York and Columbia University. But this journey has convinced us that the W.E.A. has a message for men under all conditions, anywhere, and so sooner or later we must send someone to preach a similar mission on the North American continent; and after a visit to Australia America seems next door.

—Albert Mansbridge.

Register 21/3/14

REFORMING THE UNIVERSITY.

From "Correspondent":—"A specially interesting part of Mr. T. Ryan's educational speech at Hindmarsh on Sunday last was that referring to University government, in which he pleaded for a more representative University Council. He said:—"For this vein of our educational body a frequent financial tonic is essential. Although it has already had over £300,000 from the State, the commission found that their cupboard skeleton was "poverty." They asked for a building loan of £6,000, and the commission secured for them £12,000. Adelaide's University was easily the most sweated institution of its kind in the Commonwealth. Its professors, although the equal of their colleagues in any of the sister Universities, were getting from £200 to £400 a year less in salary. Their council should have had inscribed over their doors, "Your wisdom will keep you humble, and your council will keep you poor." If the spending of national money in any other channel can give the return which has been received as the result of University expenditure, then it would be well for those in control of State and national finances constantly to ask themselves, not "how much is the least you can do with?" but "how much is the most you can use?" Realizing the cost to the community, it was natural that we insisted that the people should be more

fully represented on its government than was hitherto the case, so we instantly demanded that three members of the Assembly and two from the Legislative Council should certainly have a place on its council. That was the best we could do them. Later investigation has shown that a further change will be necessary, and so the commission recommended "that it would be in the interests of the University if the council were more representative of the general community, and we accordingly recommend a further alteration of the University Act to provide for the appointment of one member each by the Chamber of Manufactures, the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades and Labour Council, the Adelaide Hospital Board, and the Minister of Education." But I regret that they could not have gone a little further, for the ideal council in my mind would consist of three members to be elected of and by the professorial staff, seven by the graduates, one of whom should be a woman, three by the Assembly, two by the Legislative Council, two to be elected by the combined membership of the Architects' Association, Chamber of Manufactures, Chamber of Commerce, Royal Agricultural Society, one by the undergraduates, and one by the Trades and Labour Council. Director of Education, one from the Adelaide Hospital Board, one from the Public Library (on both of which institutions the University has direct representatives to-day), three to be elected by the people of the State on the Assembly roll at the time of the Senate elections, those to elect the Chancellor and the University Principal. We would then have a council as versatile as the University should be and as the demands of this community will more and more insist that it shall be."

The Brookman Scholarship, tenable for three years at the Elder Conservatorium, has been awarded to Hilda Beatrice Gill.

Daily Herald 23/3/14

All Chemists

HIGHER EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY AND WORKERS

ARRIVAL OF PROFESSOR ATKINSON.

After three years' connection with the Workers' Education Association in England Professor Meredith Atkinson, M.A., has come to Australia to take up the post of director of tutorial classes at Sydney University, in addition to acting as honorary secretary of the Workers' Education Association in the Commonwealth. A son of a North of England working man, Professor Atkinson dedicated his gifts and high scholarship not to the attainment of academic honors, but to the spreading of knowledge among the people. He will be a pioneer of the W.E.A. in Australia, and in due time he hopes to produce a tremendous harvest of followers and workers. It was in 1903, when this great organisation was begun, and to-day it includes over 2000 trade unions and educational societies. Last year the founder and general secretary (Mr. Albert Mansbridge) visited Australia at the invitation of several State universities, and as the result of that visit branches of the association have been formed in each State.

Professor Atkinson was a passenger to Sydney by the mail steamer Orsova, which reached the Semaphore from London early on Saturday afternoon. Owing to an outbreak of smallpox on the liner, in consequence of which she was quarantined, the director of tutorial classes was unable to come ashore, and arrangements which had been made for him to meet local Laborites were unfortunately upset. However, it is hoped that Mr. Atkinson will carry the gospel of the W.E.A. to this State in the near future. The movement is slowly vitalising the mass of the workers, and the professor is of the opinion that it will very soon vitalise the universities, which will eventually become the living home of knowledge that shall spread over the whole world and revitalise and regenerate the whole of humanity. Labor and learning is the alliance aimed at by the W.E.A.

A very important place in the national life of the Commonwealth has been destined to Professor Atkinson. "The chief aim of the association," said he in an interview, "is to convey to the working classes higher education in all its forms, to open up the highway of education along which any man might travel with a passport of ability. Though we cater by study circles, courses of lectures, rambles for workers generally, the supreme activity of the Workers' Education Association is the university tutorial class, which consists of about 30 students taught by tutors sent down by one of the universities. These classes meet one night a week for 24 weeks in the winter. The tutor usually gives a lecture extending over an hour, the second hour being devoted to question and general discussion among the students, about 4000 of whom are undergoing this course of study. We believe that the ultimate influence of this new workers' university on the nation will be incalculable. The association, I understand, is firmly established in every State in the Commonwealth, and it is our intention to start branches in New Zealand, which country I intend visiting officially in the near future. My work on the staff of the Sydney University will not be limited to any one State. I hope it will soon be so great as to be impossible for one man to cover it all, and there will be at least one guide of the movement in each State."

THE GOSPEL OF PEACE.

PROFESSOR JORDAN INTERVIEWED.

NO JAPANESE INVASION LIKELY.

"Every man who thinks for himself is opposed to war, unless he is directly interested in it." That was the theme of the remarks of Professor D. Starr Jordan, Chancellor of the Leland Stanford University, California, and a director of the World Peace Foundation, when approached by a representative of "The Advertiser" on Monday afternoon at the Grand Central Hotel. The professor arrived in Adelaide by the Frederick der Grosse yesterday morning. He is on leave of absence from the University, and after having spent some months in Europe, and elsewhere, studying the questions of peace and war, he came on to Australia primarily in connection with the business of the Stanford University, as Mr. Thomas W. Stanford, of Melbourne, had made substantial gifts to that seat of learning. Professor Jordan is an ardent advocate of universal peace of nations, and during Monday he met a number of members of the South Australian branch of the Peace Society. In the afternoon he was tendered an "at home" at the residence of the Rev. Dr. Bevan (president of the branch), and was met by a large number of advocates of a world-wide peace.

Why Armaments are Kept Up.

"It is mostly a matter of vanity on the part of a nation to have big ships and of greed on the part of the men who wish to furnish the ships, and to equip soldiers in the field," was the way Professor Jordan summed up his opinion of war. After obtaining his leave of absence, the Chancellor made a trip through Europe for the purpose of studying the relations of peace and war and economics. His enquiries followed upon information that he had gained on the same subjects on a visit some years previously. The professor is now giving his spare time to this work, and to lecturing, and he expects to return to the University in August next. On his way back he will go through Bulgaria, and if the trouble over Home Rule develops to any serious extent he will visit the scene of operations.

Professor Jordan did not desire to discuss the question of Home Rule, but he said—"I don't like to see people playing with firearms, no matter what my personal opinion about Home Rule is. Soldiers and politics ought not to get near each other. They are quite separate, or should be, because whatever damage one Parliament might do, it can be rectified by another, but a mistake made by soldiers on either side cannot be rectified. My sympathies are nowhere, but I believe in peace at all costs."

How is the peace movement progressing? the professor was asked.

"During my tour through Europe," he replied, "I found a great many strong men busy in opposition to the peace movement, but I am satisfied that the great body of the people in every civilised country are strongly opposed to war. Even armament and military interests in Europe are not for war in their own country. It is desired by people having such interests at heart that the fighting be done by 'the other fellow,' while they look on, and supply the necessary equipment for the slaughter. The amount of money spent in Europe every year in the way of bribes, advertisements, and subsidies by the armament firms is enormous and startling. The war traders form the most powerful financial organisation in the world, and those of Europe and America work together. Nothing delights these people so much as seeing one country piling up expenses in preparation for war. That means that other countries must do likewise under present conditions. In France, for instance, everything possible is done to induce Germany to increase her army and navy costs, while, on the other hand, German war traders work in the direction of inducing France to do likewise. That applies to other countries as well. The aristocratic and war trading elements are practically one. In France, for instance, it is provided that one-half of all money borrowed from capitalists must be spent in armaments. The London banks take no part in that movement."