

Advertiser 18/3/14

Public Notices.

International Peace Society

LECTURE by PROFESSOR DAVID STARR JORDAN, M.Sc., M.D., LL.D., Ph.D., Chancellor of Leland Stanford University California, and a Director of the World Peace Foundation, On "WAR AND MANHOOD," at the PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE, UNIVERSITY, ADELAIDE, (By permission of the University Council), MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1914, at 8 p.m. Chairman, Rev. Principal L. D. Bevan, D.D. Tickets obtainable S. Marshall & Sons', and E. H. FREYER, Hon. Sec., Hectorville. N77,80-2

Daily Herald 19/3/14

RALD, ADELAIDE, THURSDAY, MARCH 19,

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

MR. ALBERT MANSBRIDGE'S REMINISCENCES

INTERESTING REVIEW OF HIS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA

MR. MEREDITH ATKINSON TO CONSOLIDATE AND DEVELOP THE WORK

This morning the sea is rocking the R.M.S. Marama first this way, then that, and finally roundabout; then the whole process is repeated over again. There is a fresh breeze, but the sky is leaden. It is three weeks since we sailed from Sydney. Our departure from Australia was delayed first by the general strike in New Zealand and then by our desire to assist the University of Sydney to complete the appointment of a tutor. Fortunately the Government of New South Wales agreed to grant £1000 for the first year's working of tutorial classes, and Meredith Atkinson, of the University of Durham and Newcastle, accepted the appointment. He will therefore have great opportunity to consolidate and develop work which has so important a bearing upon the future of Australia.

He is to leave by the Orsova, sailing from London on February 13. When he reaches Fremantle a month later if all is well he will be able to give a word of cheer and receive counsel from the Western Australian branches. The Foxcrofts of Blackburn have joined hands with Professor Shann, while the Federation of Labor has called upon all its branches to initiate the work, and has by resolution approved the holding of a joint conference with the university. The Westralian "Worker" and the "West Australian" are powerfully supporting the movement. At Kalgoorlie and Boulder City—the cities of the Western Australian goldfield—informal committees are at work, and it may be that one or other of their members may be at the wharf. There is at present no branch at Mount Mansbridge.

After Fremantle three days and a half's steaming will bring him to the Outer Harbor at Adelaide, and I shall be astonished if he does not receive a tumultuous greeting from Tom Merry, secretary, and T. Ryan, president, of the Adelaide Trades Council (who was chairman of the Royal Commission on Education), together with members of the University, School of Mines, and the Education Department. They will make his heart leap at the possibilities of our work. In the afternoon I hope he will have time to visit the Chancellor of the University, "the Grand Old Man of South Australia," as he has been termed. For 38 years he has been Chief Justice of South Australia, and I believe that two more years will enable him to claim the record tenure of a chief justiceship in England or the dominions. Adelaide is full of friends, and Roland Campbell may come in from Wallaroo (he came 120 miles to hear me speak about tutorial classes, having been induced thereto by articles in the "Co-operative News," but I spoke about other matters). Port Adelaide will certainly be represented and perchance Broken Hill, the place of silver, may send someone down to get a word of cheer.

At Melbourne a day and a half later a little crowd of members from England will meet him if they can get away from work, and in any case Dr. Leach and Professor Wallace will be there, just as they were when on an early morning 21 weeks ago we slipped into the port. Of course he will visit the Trades Hall

and hear about the class composed of 28 secretaries of leading trade unions, and Charlie Gray (secretary) and L. Cohen (ex-president) will show him the splendid meeting hall. They will take him to the Federal House and the State House, where he will meet wellwisher after wellwisher. Our old friend Dr. Barrett will be glad to see in him some of the fruit of his own labors. For it seems probable that if Dr. Barrett had not set to work with that enthusiasm and generosity so characteristic of him neither we nor our tutor had ever seen Australia.

As the Orsova will remain the night at Melbourne there is sure to be a meeting—but we can leave that to the stalwarts there.

After Melbourne—Sydney. There the anxious moment will be, but I have no doubt at all that the warmth of welcome will drive anxiety away for ever, and that our tutor will find himself at work on the very night of his arrival. But he will love it and will settle down to enjoy a good period of happy labor among friends of unsurpassable kindness. In Professor Irvine he will find a keen and openminded economist, who regards the pursuit of his science as a powerful and essential force in the right building up of the common life and in the banishment of injustice from the institution of men.

One of the distinguishing features of Australia is the kindness and accessibility of its humblest as well as its most highly placed citizens. There is little or no locking up of privileges and intercourse in narrow circles. All is free and open to him who will walk cheerfully.

As soon as our tutor can get away—and he will need change from Sydney during the hot months—Brisbane (although we don't recommend that for a change in the summer) and Hobart will be glad to see him.

The pluck of Brisbane is a heartening thing; there never were keener, more self-sacrificing workmen, and more live, determined university men anywhere. As for the women, they are marvellous. It was at Brisbane that an old lady of 74 signed on for three years' study in a tutorial class: keen, alert, energetic, and equipped she is. Just before we left Australia we spoke on the same platform to nearly 1000 people at Melbourne. Although so far they have no special tutor, the tutorial class is meeting in the university and a Government grant is awaited eagerly.

Round about the University of Tasmania at Hobart there seems to be rising a university spirit of rare power. It is generated by the graduates, who are important in Hobart life, and it is expressed through a University Progress Association.

There is every reason to hope that the splendid spirit of this association will prove a main and effective force in securing the appointment of a tutor. He will have hard work, but sure success in a little State ready to develop its life in all directions. The president of the Trades Council, like Roland Campbell, is a keen and devoted co-operator.

New Zealand is three and a half days steaming from Sydney. The general strike prevented our doing much there; indeed, it helped to reduce our visit to a mere two days at Auckland. Even so, we found great hunger for our work. Mrs. Thompson, of Taupiri, came to Auckland to meet us. She had been struck by the high character and intellectual power of our old members, of whom she had met several. Then also we found one of J. G. Newlove's old Bournemouth students, E. J. Rudd, who on each Sunday afternoon in connection with the Adult School gives lessons on the wharf. Really our hearts expanded with joy, as not only in New Zealand, but almost everywhere, we heard of the good work our members are doing. We felt that for these things alone the W.E.A. was worth the joyous work of the years.

In any case New Zealand will be a good place for our tutor to visit, and we can assure him of warm hospitality, not only for himself, but for that for which he stands, and to which he has given his life.

So our tutor will not be going to a strange land, but to a land of friends. His present classes will know that we hated to have anything to do with his leaving them, but they will understand and help his successor. They will care for the development of the work in Australia in common with all the members of the W.E.A., and will feel that through their common study with Mr. Atkinson they are in very truth helping their Australian comrades.

We do not propose to say much of Australia until we have had time to think more concerning it, and then we will write one or two deliberate articles. It was a hard fate which compelled me to lecture in Melbourne itself on October 25 upon my impressions of Australia and its people. Needless to say there were many interjections, but I count it one of the triumphs of my life that I held the platform for a full hour. It is true that I had difficulty in dodging excitable groups on the pavement afterwards. But perhaps we ought to say something very definite, if brief, concerning our work.

Well, the W.E.A. is established in every State and in a number of cities.

A first edition of a W.E.A. handbook for Australia has been prepared.

Tutorial classes are at work in Sydney and Brisbane. They are formed at Melbourne and in course of formation in other towns.

New South Wales has voted £1000 as the first annual grant. Tasmania will, we expect, grant £500. Victoria is considering an application for an annual grant of £2000 towards general extension work, of which £1250 is to be for tutorial classes. The Premiers and officials of the remaining States are either considering definite applications or awaiting them.

We believe that correct organisation in any city of size will ensure efficient and complete classes.

During our visit we were interviewed for the press at least 25 times—and one journalist had the temerity to come to our hotel at the witching hour of midnight—long after we had retired to rest. Our share of the interview was brief if forcible; it may have been unprintable—certainly we never saw it printed.

Between us we gave about 120 addresses—to all varieties and types of Australians, and not more than two of the meetings seemed to be difficult. We enjoyed addressing training colleges and schools almost as much as addressing trades hall and university audiences; but the best of all was when, as happened in practically every university city, we addressed the university and trades hall at one and the same time. Glorious W.E.A. audiences they were, and in each place we were assured that it had never happened before and that it had been deemed impossible until it actually happened.

We attended numerous meetings of university councils and other committees. Our last W.E.A. meeting was the first annual meeting of the W.E.A. of New South Wales, and they honored the English W.E.A. by asking me to preside.