

UNITY WITHOUT COMPULSION

VOLUNTARY UNIVERSAL SERVICE

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON'S VIEWS.

Although busily engaged in arranging the South Polar exhibit—a collection of historic mementoes and photographs of a memorable and heroic achievement—which is being displayed by him in aid of the Red Cross Funds, Sir Douglas Mawson ceased his self-imposed labor with courtesy when asked as president of the newly formed branch of the Universal Service League in South Australia to give his views on the situation.

"I think the Premier has stated the case extremely well," he told the interviewer, "and at the present moment I do not think there is much more to be said. Personally I believe that when war is declared for the defence of one's country everyone should share alike in the burden. Those with money should do everything possible in their way, and everyone should place themselves at the disposal of the Government. Thus one man might be sent to the front, another retained for the manufacture of munitions, and others, again, deputed to carry out civil duties to meet the necessities of the community. In this allocation, capacity and fitness for the various branches of service would be the determining factor. We ought to feel that the Government will do its very best with the resources at its disposal."

"I do not believe in a war of aggression, and there are very few of us here who do. However, I am confident that the vast majority are in favor of defending their own land. If the allies are defeated, our fate will be decided on the Continent. In a war against militarism there is necessity for unity, and I think if things do not go better there will be a general cry for universal service here."

"Criticism" has been levelled at some members of the league in Sydney. Some antagonism has been aroused where it ought not to exist, and I think it could have been avoided had the matter been put before the public in a different light. As I said before, our fate can be settled on the Continent, and if Germany can crush the allies then our fate is certain. It will be a sorry day alike for England (and for us) if she cannot crush Germany, and it will also be a bad day for Germany if she is successful, for it will encourage her to persist in the hateful and decadent policy of military domination."

"In Australia we have been on the right track with universal training for home protection. In clause 60 of the Defence Act we have a progressive defensive provision which states that in case of invasion every available man up to 60 years of age can be called out for home service. British rule has not catered for this kind of thing. We have never had it before, and it is a very awkward thing to bring up at the present moment. A great deal has been correctly said against compulsion. At the present moment I think the best thing that could happen for our success in this calamitous war would be for everybody now to declare to the Government that they are ready to do whatever the Government thinks best under the circumstances, either to fight at the front or to offer themselves for service in the production of munitions, or for the carrying on of the regular civil business of the country. If, however, it is a case of compulsion, except perhaps in the case of a few irreconcilables, then I think we are approaching the matter in a wrong attitude. There should be no compulsion necessary, as it should be the desire and pride of everybody to take up this task of crushing cruel militarism, and the more quickly safeguarding freedom and independence. You might say that what I believe in is 'willing compulsion.'"

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MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Interest is added to the announcement of the results of the Adelaide University fifth year medical examinations to-day, by the fact that at the present time doctors are urgently needed for service at the war. Students who pass the fifth year test are qualified to practice, but most of them go on to the Adelaide Hospital. They generally remain there for 12 months before engaging in private practice. Fourteen candidates sat for the examination, and it is possible that those successful may relieve local men of experience for military service.

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EDUCATION BILL.

Adjourned debate on the second reading. Mr. Angus said it would be well if they could emulate Scotland. It had long been the endeavor of Scotsmen to give every boy and girl who showed signs of possessing brains, industry, and energy the best education the State could provide, be the child rich or poor. Scotland had realised that ignorance was the most expensive thing in the world. What they in South Australia should aim at in the education system was the production of individuals fit in body and in mind, and any system that failed to come up to that standard did not meet the legitimate demands of the age. He would help the Government to put the Bill on the Statute-book. It was meant to meet present educational requirements. Any perfect scheme must necessarily be a process of gradual evolution. The whole story of educational reform in the most progressive countries was a record of slow advance. Unmistakably there had grown up in the State during the last 10 years a great body of public opinion in favor of educational reform. He was pleased that in South Australia they had a press most sympathetic to all educational reform, and they had had in the State a number of real reformers in education, such as the late Mr. Hartley and the late Director of Education (Mr. Williams). He questioned whether it was the business of the State to undertake the introduction of the Montessori system into the routine of the Education Department while they had in the outback country schools desks fit only for the scrapheap, and while they had country schools badly equipped and other schools closed because of the inability to get teachers for them. When the State was not in a position to give to every boy and girl of school age the essentials of education, they should stay their hands in regard to the introduction of the Montessori system.

The Hon. A. H. Peake—We can afford the frills after we have got the essentials.

Mr. Angus said he approved of the proposal of the Bill in regard to attendance upon every school day. He did not think the Education Department or the Minister would carry the principle to its extreme application. He was disappointed with the proposals in the Bill relating to the Adelaide School of Mines. He did not wish to criticise the School of Mines. No one was more cognisant than he of the most excellent work it had done, but its good results were due more to the devotion of the staff than to anybody else. He would like to see the Adelaide School of Mines treated in one of two ways—either taken over holus-bolus by the Education Department or handed over to the University. The proposal in the Bill to hand it to the Education Department in name was only playing with the question. There were strong reasons why the University should have it.

Mr. Miller—Why take it from the present council?

Mr. Angus said it was a nullity at present. It stood alone, an isolated factor in the education scheme. One of its greatest defects was that it had no expert in charge of its work. There was no principal or headmaster.

Mr. Miller—Is it behind any other school of mines?

Mr. Angus said he was not criticising the Adelaide School of Mines.

Mr. Miller—I think you are.

Mr. Ryan—The system proposed in the Bill would impair its efficiency.

Mr. Angus said it could be much improved if a man like Professor Forsyth, of Leeds, were placed in charge. Mr. Miller had asked if it was behind any other school of mines in the State. There was no other with which it could be compared. It was the one ewe lamb, but he was satisfied it would do much better work were it in charge of an experienced headmaster.

Mr. MacGillivray—I would do more work if it had more money.

Mr. Angus said an expert schoolmaster would save money. He offered no criticism of the council. According to their lights they had done excellent work. At the same time they could not expect a body of inexperienced men—men who were not educational experts—to do as well as if there were a trained headmaster.

Mr. James—Have they not teachers under the council?

Mr. Angus said there were departmental masters. The School of Mines issued its own diploma and, along with the University, a degree. If the School of Mines were placed under the Education Department the value of the diploma and degree would be lowered. If, on the other hand, it was handed over to the University the value of the diploma and the degree would be enhanced.

Mr. Ryan—You would not hand it over with the present curriculum?

Mr. Angus said the trade section would have to be established elsewhere. The continual cry of the late Mr. Williams had been that the State educational system was defective in the training of its teachers. He (Mr. Angus) would rather have seen the money spent on the education building in Flinders-street—much needed as that building was—devoted to the establishment of a residential college for teachers on North-terrace. At present there was no coherent effort in the department in the direction of providing training for teachers. No more pressing need existed to-day than that of the establishment of an efficient training college. If there was any doubt about what was going on in the German schools, and about the sentiment taught and engendered in them, they had a right to say, "We must satisfy ourselves. It is our responsibility to see that you are teaching a healthy Australian sentiment." In the so-called German schools they did not want a half-British, half-German product. The sooner they satisfied themselves about every school in the State the better it would be for the people as a whole.

On the motion of Mr. Coombe the debate was adjourned until October 5.

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SEATS ON THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

The House of Assembly on Thursday balloted for three members to take seats on the council of the Adelaide University, and Messrs. Angus, Denny, and Smeaton were chosen. The previous representatives of the Assembly on the University Council were Messrs. Coneybeer, Denny, and Rudall.

Advertiser, 25/9/15

His Honor Mr. Justice Murray will celebrate his fifty-second birthday on Monday. The distinguished South Australian lawyer was born at Magill, and received his primary education at the school of the late Mr. J. L. Young. During a residence of two years in Scotland Mr. Murray's education was continued at the High School, Edinburgh. Upon his return to South Australia he entered St. Peter's College. He subsequently secured the Prankerd, Wyatt, Christchurch, and Farrell Scholarships, and in 1881 he gained an entrance scholarship to the University. He continued his scholastic career with distinction. In 1882 the John Howard Clark Scholarship fell to him. In 1883 he obtained the B.A. degree and the South Australian Scholarship—the highest then in existence. This gave Mr. Murray £200 a year for four years, and he proceeded to Cambridge and entered Trinity College. He took the B.A. and LL.B. degrees, and, concurrently taking the law course, he passed the Law Tripos in 1887, being bracketed a senior. Mr. Murray read in chambers in London, and was called to the bar at the Inner Temple on April 25, 1888. He returned to Adelaide the same year, and became the associate of his Honor the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way). In 1891 Mr. Murray began practicing with Mr. W. A. Magarey, and he quickly established a reputation as a lawyer. In 1906 Mr. Murray was made a K.C., and six years later was elevated to the bench. He became a member of the University council in 1901, and is now Vice-Chancellor, having been appointed to that position on the death of Dr. Barlow. He is a member of the board of examiners of the Supreme Court, of the Observatory Advisory Board, and of the Rhodes Scholarship selection committee in this State.