

Advertiser 17.5.18

ANOTHER SPENDING DEPARTMENT.

At the Premier's Conference in Sydney on Tuesday Mr. Holman objected to the establishment of a Federal Science Bureau, on the ground that it was "a most unwarrantable and impudent assumption of State powers by the Commonwealth doing a job it was not entitled to do by the Constitution." Mr. Holman objects to the starting of a new Federal department about which "The Advertiser" in August last uttered a warning. It has been said that a Government official, given a table and a chair, would create a department, and it is wonderful how quietly these new departments spring up and become rooted so

can shift them. A Commonwealth Department of Railways is growing on to the Port Augusta-Kalgoorlie line, and the Commonwealth Advisory Council of Science and Industry bids fair to blossom into a vigorous, though possibly not very fruitful, science department. The indignation of Mr. Holman is the first indication that the States may object to the new department double-banking work already being done by the science branches of the State service. Mr. Watt, the Acting Prime Minister, strongly resented what Mr. Holman said about the intrusion of the Commonwealth on the State sphere. The taxpayers, however, are likely to back up Mr. Holman when it is realised that in a very short time the new department may be costing between £60,000 and £100,000 a year for carrying out investigations which could be made by the existing six State Science Departments at an additional cost of about £2,000 a year each. It is admitted that such things as the blowfly pest, the tick pest, or the prickly pear could be more adequately dealt with by a centralised investigation, but an expert or experts could be appointed to settle the question of the eradication of those pests. Upon the receipt of the report on the investigation the expenditure would cease, however. It is not very clear what the new Federal department is to do; there is little it can do that is not already being done by the States. Quite apart from the additional cost, of which South Australia would have to pay a share, there would be a distinct disadvantage for this State in having a central Science Bureau, because manufacturers here would be so far removed from the headquarters in Melbourne or Canberra that they would be handicapped as compared with those of Melbourne or Sydney in getting their problems solved. It is stated that scientific men all over Australia are amused at the appointment of a lawyer as director of the Bureau of Science and Industry. Dr F. M. Gellatly, of Sydney, who has been chosen for the position, is a doctor of laws, and it is asserted that he is unknown in the scientific world and practically unknown in the world of industry. It is suggested that the Federal Government will have a difficulty in inducing scientists to work under or in collaboration with him, not because of any personal objection to him, but because he knows nothing of science. The secretary of the bureau is also a lawyer. There will probably have to be laboratories for each branch of the work undertaken, and there will be five or six, and possibly more, branches. The salary bill in time will be enormous.

Advertiser 23.5.18

AUSTRALIAN SOLDIERS. DIED FOR THEIR COUNTRY.

Lieutenant A. S. FERGUSON, B.A., LL.B., who has been killed in action in France, served his articles with Messrs. Bakewell, Stow, & Piper, with which firm he remained as managing clerk until his enlistment two years ago. He had a brilliant scholastic career at the Adelaide University, which he entered in 1907 on a valuable scholarship from Western Australia. While at the University he took his degree as Bachelor of Arts with first-class honors in classics, and in 1913 was admitted to the LL.B. degree, and subsequently to the Bar. He was a prominent athlete at the University. He was coxswain in the Adelaide crew in the inter-University eights in 1908, 1909, and 1911, was emergency to the crew in 1912, and in 1913 refused his seat in the eight because of commencing the practice of his profession. He rowed bow in the winning crew in the junior eights on the Port River and junior fours on the Torrens in 1910, and rowed in other races for his school and University. He was a noted lacrosse player, and played cover-point in the premier University team of 1913. He was extremely popular with a wide circle of friends. His ability was manifest in all that he attempted, and for several years he filled the positions of delegate to the Rowing Association, treasurer of the University Sports Association and of the Law Debating Society, and committeeman of the Boat Club and Lacrosse Club.

Advertiser, 23.5.18.

Word has been received by Archdeacon Hornabrook of the death of his son, Second-Lieutenant Leonard Charles Hornabrook, which occurred in France on Tuesday. Lieutenant Hornabrook was only 22 years of age. He enlisted at the age of 18 in September, 1914, and left Australia as a corporal with the A.S.C. in December, 1914. After a long period of service in France he went to England, where in March, 1917, he obtained his commission in the R.F.C. He had lately been attached to the Leicester Regiment. Lieutenant Hornabrook was educated at St. Peter's College, and took much interest in the college mission in Moore-street. When he enlisted he was a postulant for holy orders, and was in his first year at the University.

Register 23.5.18.

ENLISTMENT OF MEDICAL STUDENTS.

MELBOURNE, May 22.

The Minister for Defence announced today that in future no restriction would be placed on the enlistment in the Australian Imperial Forces of first, second, or third year medical students. Fourth or fifth year medical students desirous of enlisting might do so as privates, and be granted leave of absence without pay to finish their medical courses. The department would undertake to grant them commissions in the Army Medical Corps if the war was still proceeding.

Advertiser, 23.5.18.

"ANCIENT GREECE."

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR DARNLEY NAYLOR.

"Ancient Greece" was the subject of an instructive lecture delivered by Professor Darnley Naylor in the Prince of Wales Theatre, University, on Wednesday evening, under the auspices of the Workers' Educational Association. Professor Naylor said the early Greeks were known as the Jews of the Levant. They had always been clever and slim, and they were both of those things to this day. About 1,000 years before Christ all the output of literature and thinking came from the coast of Asia Minor. Referring to Pindar, Professor Naylor said he wrote odes proportionate to the fee paid. He ought to have been a lawyer. (Laughter.) The defeat of the Persians was the beginning of Athenian history. When the battle of Salamis was safely over Athens became the mistress of the neighboring seas, which before that time had been overrun by pirates. The islanders at first contributed ships, but afterwards gave money. That enabled Athens to build the lovely temples and theatres, which were her glory and the delight of visitors to this day. The private houses were unattractive, but the public buildings were magnificent. Modern nations might well follow that example. It had put immense sums into her public monuments. Every play in the early Greek theatre had only three actors. There was one benefit in that, that the actors were good. There were no actresses. If a person wished to go to the theatre he had to be there at 6 o'clock in the morning and stay there until 5 o'clock in the afternoon. (Laughter.) Between 6 o'clock and lunch time the spectators sat through three tragedies. After lunch there was a comedy or two, and the people went home. After Athens had become rich and powerful she very soon ceased to be great. She became swollen-headed and acted with a brutality towards some of her subjects which had not been equalled until 1914. Athens undertook mad expeditions, and in two years ceased to be a strong power, and she had never regained her position. He hoped history would repeat itself. (Applause.) In the best period there were about 40,000 full free citizens in Attica, about 24,000 aliens, and 55,000 slaves. The Athenian "Kultur" was not on a slave basis as people spoke of slaves in America. The free citizen, if he were poor, worked side by side in the factories with the slave. These wonderful people did much in science. The Alexandria University, 300 years before Christ, had a medical faculty that did excellent work. Experiments were made on criminals. There was no law in those days against vivisection. (Laughter.) Professor Naylor concluded by speaking of the debt owed by the world to Athens in the realms of science, literature, and art. His remarks were illustrated by lantern views.

Register 24.5.18.

LABOUR AND EDUCATION.

From V. E. GROMER (General Secretary W.E.A.):—The interesting correspondence—the outcome of the recent conference of the W.E.A. on "What Labour Wants from Education"—has induced the executive to ask Mr. H. Heston, M.A., director of the tutorial classes, to give an address at the Trades Hall on June 7, on "Working class education: true and false." The subject will be open for discussion after the lecture, and those who oppose or criticise the W.E.A. are invited to attend and express their objections. Several prominent opponents of the W.E.A. have been asked whether they would give their considered opinions at the meeting in reply to Mr. Heston. Those who oppose the W.E.A. should certainly come out into the arena and state just how and why the W.E.A. system of University tutorial classes is, in their opinion, detrimental to the working class.

Register, 28. 5. 18.

NATIONAL RESEARCH.

The Commonwealth Advisory Council of Science and Industry has published in pamphlet form a report by Mr. Gerald Lightfoot, M.A., on recent developments in the organization of national industrial research institutions. The importance and significance of the adequate development of scientific methods and, in particular, of their application to industry is now generally recognised throughout the world, and the last few years have seen a remarkable increase in the efforts made to stimulate the increase and application of scientific knowledge. In England the Government has recently created a new department of scientific and industrial research, with a fund of more than £1,000,000 at its disposal; a conjoint board of scientific societies has been established at the instance of the Royal Society, and an important and influential committee has taken up the question of scientific knowledge and training in the public services at Oxford and Cambridge and in the public schools. In France a new national institute of scientific research on a large scale is projected. In Canada a research council has been established; and in the United States a national research council for the purpose of developing and bringing into co-operation existing Governmental, educational, industrial, and other organisations. In Japan a national research institute is being established on a large scale, and in New Zealand and South Africa research organizations are also being formed. In England the scheme has already met with much success, and there have been established cotton manufacturers, wool and worsted manufacturers, flax spinners and weavers, shale oil industry, photographic manufacturers, papermakers, electrical engineers, and various other important industries. In Canada one of the most interesting of the national institutions is a forest products laboratory at Montreal. The scope of the work undertaken covers all products derived from wood, ranging from railway sleepers and heavy timbers, fine lumber and furniture material, to pulp and paper, distillation products, such as turpentine, wood oils, acetone, wood alcohol, and other materials into which wood may be chemically transformed, such as cattle food, ethyl alcohol, artificial silk, and nitrocellulose. The Dominion Government spends about £12,000 per annum on this laboratory. In the pamphlet a summarized description is given of the various institutions referred to.

Advertiser 28. 5. 18.

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

For some years joint music examinations have been conducted under the auspices of the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Tasmania, Queensland, and Western Australia. As the University of Sydney has no Chair of Music, it could not join the movement, but the coming into existence of the State-owned Conservatorium in the New South Wales capital made it possible for complete federation to be achieved. New South Wales has come into line with the other Universities, and in future the combination will be known as the Australian Board of Public Examinations in Music. It has been customary to hold a conference representing the associated States annually, and this year the gathering took place in Sydney on May 13, 14, and 15. South Australia was represented by Professor Ennis, and Western Australia by Mr. C. R. Hodge. The other participants were Professor Laver (Melbourne), Mr. G. Sampson (Queensland), Mr. J. D. Couitts (Tasmania), and Mr. Henri Verbruggen, Director of the State Conservatorium in New South Wales. A great deal of useful work was done, and a Board of Examiners for the Commonwealth was appointed. Professor Ennis and Mr. Hodge have returned to Adelaide, and they look forward to the scheme making great headway, now that the whole of the States are banded together.

Daily Herald 28. 5. 18.

LABOR AND EDUCATION

WORK FOR LOCAL COMMITTEES AND OTHERS.

Mr. V. E. Crowe, the general secretary of the Workers' Educational Association, writes:—An article in "The Daily Herald" on Monday suggests that the local committees of the A.L.F. would make good educational centres. The W.E.A., as is well known, is a non-party political body. It exists for the purpose of teaching economics, English literature, history, &c., as a whole, covering all the ground of a subject. It does not take a doctrinaire attitude, but endeavors to get at the truth of the matter by examining all points of view. The university tutorial classes joint committee, consisting of four representatives of the University and four of the W.E.A., recently decided that where a study circle was started in such subjects as economics and English literature, &c., it would be prepared to lend a box of books to the value of about £5 and be prepared to suggest a syllabus. The printed module in modern economic history, given by Mr. H. Stoddon, M.A., could be used by the circle.

A study circle, in order to qualify for this, would have to consist of at least 10 members and be prepared to meet weekly or fortnightly during the winter months. It would elect its own officers and the lecture reports would be read by a member of the class, after which there would be a general discussion. The list of books could be changed from time to time. Any local committee, trade union, institute, or other body taking advantage of this offer could present its own business fortnightly, and act as a study circle in the intervening week, or it could devote half an hour weekly to business and the rest of the evening to the study and discussion of the economic lectures. It could be started on its way by a public lecture arranged by the W.E.A.

Should such a class grow in size to about 10 members, it would then be justified in sending in a request to the general secretary of the Workers' Educational Association to be transformed into a University tutorial class. Should this request be agreed to, a tutor would be appointed, and a course of 12 preparatory lectures arranged. Should sufficient students of that be willing to go on for the three years, it would become a definite tutorial class. A University tutorial class consists of between 24 and 30 students pledged to attend regularly for three years, to do a certain amount of reading in connection with their chosen subject, and to do such written work as is prescribed by the tutor. For such a class a permanent tutor is appointed by the joint committee, and a library consisting of about £25 worth of books provided. The students pay 5/- per annum, and buy their own textbook.

There is no reason why a large number of institutes, societies, men's clubs, women's leagues, local committees, friendly societies, and trade unions should not take advantage of this decision of the joint committee and begin to form study circles in their midst on the lines suggested. The subjects which could be taken for the present are economics, English literature, modern history, sociology, civics, hygiene, civics, and post-war problems.

Professor Meredith Atkinson, M.A., professor of economics at the Melbourne University, has recently written a book entitled "Social Reconstruction After the War," which is to be used by the W.E.A. throughout Australia as a textbook for study circles. As soon as this book is out of the press it will be made available for such study circles. Now is the time for all organisations to set to work to put their own houses in order, to study constructive and reconstructive methods and ideas, and settle down to hard and consistent study of the problems that are confronting us. The wild, continual cry of "Wolf, wolf" by the "capitalist dope theory" advocates concerning the W.E.A. should be taken for what it is worth, and the workers should realise that all-round education on W.E.A. lines is the only rational way of studying economics or anything else.

THE W.E.A. AND CONSTRUCTIVE IDEAS.

"Marxian" writes:—I notice that Mr. C. E. Baker informs the readers of "The Daily Herald" that "Marxian" "took him to task" for saying that what the worker wants from education is more "color in his life." Mr. Baker would be wise to read "Marxian" a little more carefully before attempting to answer him. I didn't take him to task at all and expressed no opinion whatever as to the need for "color" or otherwise, not knowing exactly what particular color was intended. I simply took the remark as a bit of poetry, which is all right in its place. And to say that "Marxian" got very cross about it—that is, about the "color"—is to stumble once more into the realms of poetry. Our good friend I fear has too great a gift of the imaginative powers of the poet to understand economics. The role of the politician is more in keeping with his natural gifts and acquirements.

I note also that Mr. Baker, with true University insight, acquaints the readers of "The Daily Herald" that he is not, like "Marxian," a "belly Socialist." He seems to have been attending some of the sermonising gatherings where they trade in what they call "spirituality"—a kind of verbal sawdust which signifies nothing in particular. However, a belly Socialist, I take it, is one of those fellows who travel over the world with a red flag—the symbol of international Socialism—preaching the doctrine that the first essential to human happiness and peace is a plentiful supply of good, wholesome, nourishing food. Of course, it is a rank materialistic doctrine, and as a true believer in economic determinism I fear "Marxian" must plead guilty to Mr. Baker's soft spiritualistic impeachment. And after carefully reading his letter I can heartily subscribe to his further statement that "mental poverty is the most awful." It is also a matter for much gratification to learn that Mr. Baker, treasurer of the W.E.A., though living under a system which, in common with these belly Socialists, he "wishes to abolish," is still determined to fight against those who "sulk" or advise others to "sulk," and that he is going to continue attending lectures, go to Henley Beach, read poetry, enjoy literature, go to concerts, &c. This is very nice and pretty, but what this kind of twaddle has to do with the question of what labor needs from education I fail to understand, not being in such close contact, perhaps with the "culture" of the University.

Regarding the speech of the generalissimo of the W.E.A., as reported in "The Daily Herald" of May 22, much more can be said than space here will permit. Mr. Baker tells us that Professor Atkinson's "speech" is not the last word, but is certainly a "firm word," whatever that means. I do not understand why these University people and their hangers-on persist in writing a jargon that no fellow can understand. Why don't they go and learn to write good English? But Mr. Baker further tells us that Professor Atkinson's speech is "typical of the work that the W.E.A. is doing all over the world." No doubt of it, as you can make neither head nor tail of what the learned gentleman really wants. In Professor Atkinson's speech we have all the typical illustrations of the W.E.A. method of bamboozling the workers and teaching them how not to do anything in particular, as everything has its imperfections. What possible information or satisfaction can anyone get out of a lot of meaningless statements like this?—"The workers' natural craving for the full expression of his personality must be satisfied." This is Henry Howard over again. What does he mean? And who could object to such beautiful teaching? It is almost as