

Study Manual 22.9.16

# WORKERS' EDUCATION

## IDEAL TO BE ATTAINED

### CHAT WITH DEAN OF NEWCASTLE.

One of the visitors to Adelaide in connection with the Anglican General Mission is the Dean of Newcastle (Very Rev. H. K. Archdall). He is keenly interested in the Workers' Educational Association. As a practical student of social problems the dean has attained fame outside his immediate parish of Newcastle, and the local branch of the association, recognising the value of an expression of his opinion, has been successful in securing his consent to lecture on "The Laws of Social Progress" at the Trades Hall to-morrow evening under its auspices. The dean holds strong and decided opinions on that important subject, and the lecture will be worth hearing.

#### The Oxford Movement.

During a chat with the dean yesterday he imparted interesting information regarding the progress of the work in England, whence he has just returned after a six years' stay. He regards the movement as one of the most important of the day. It originated, as is known, at Oxford, being the outcome of the enthusiastic desire of a small group of men to afford the workers an opportunity of getting on the real highway of education, and to have advantage of the best of human knowledge on all subjects—social, political, literary, philosophical, historical, &c.—allowing them to follow their natural bent.

#### A Wonderful Success.

"The movement," said the dean, "has been a wonderful success, owing principally to the tireless enthusiasm of its ex-secretary (Mr. Albert Mansbridge), who will be remembered in Australia. In England the movement is entirely apart from any political or religious body, and is simply and solely an educational one, for the benefit of everybody who believes that democracy needs thought and education. The movement in Australia is under the guidance of Mr. Meredith Atkinson, who is on the staff of the Sydney University, and with the support of the Governments of the various States is actually establishing universities in the homes of working people of this country."

#### Search After Truth

The dean was informed by Mr. Atkinson recently that he (Mr. Atkinson) was practically directing the studies of 50 or 100 students, the normal method being in the direction of tutorial classes. A tutor is chosen on some subject, according to the desires of the people who wish to study. Students joining a class promise to attend regularly for a certain period, say one, two, or three sessions. The tutor delivers lectures which last an hour for a week or a fortnight, and then an hour is devoted to questions. The dean stressed the importance of this question time, during which the students really educate themselves under the direction of the tutor. "The atmosphere of a tutorial class," continued the dean, "is one of common search after truth, and it is most interesting to find now the outlook of the students is widened and made more human by the battle of brains in the class. The tutor, of course, knows his subject, and the business of a good instructor is not to cram the minds of his students with his or her own outlook, but to lay all the relevant facts and arguments before the class. Then the members of the latter, in a wonderful way, soon gain their own general direction, i.e., if they really want the truth and not just what pleases them. From time to time lectures of a public character are also delivered, so that the movement may be kept before the public, but the tutorial class is the foundation of the work of the association."

#### Usefulness Unlimited.

The dean emphasised the value of such a movement in a country where the workers' desire was to get eight hours' work, eight hours' sleep, and eight hours' recreation. In such circumstances they often felt the need of something useful being provided for them to devote their attention to. "The work of the association is a positive means of making the eight hours movement rational," declared the dean. "Moreover, there are no limitations to its usefulness, for its organisations are such that it can spread wherever it is wanted, and in any direction. It is an opportunity for the workers to realise that without a 'thought-out' understanding of the processes of the society of which they form part, it is not likely that there will be any real permanent social progress."

Political Philosophy's Importance.  
"In Australia," proceeded the dean, "economics bids fair to become the most popular subject of study." Political philosophy is not studied to any extent at present in the Commonwealth, but the dean expressed the hope that the people would see that it is the underlying principles and ideas which, after all, really matter. The association's ideas and principles are revolutionary, and not merely programmes. "The study of economics is very important," added the dean, "but the study of history—to ascertain how the present has grown out of the past—is also most important. Back of it all are the big questions of principle, the relations between nation and nation, and between the various societies or groups of people inside the nations, and also the relation of the individual to the various groups which make up his life and to the State as a whole. All these are problems of political philosophy, and they need far more attention than is at present given them. My lecture of Saturday night will be on this subject, when I propose to consider some of the problems of political philosophy from the general point of view.

#### Positive Conception of Justice.

"The Workers' Educational Society stands for the fact that mere rule of thumb and well-meant instinct will never raise society. The ideal of justice," said the dean, referring to the ideal highway of education, which is the highest ideal the secular State holds before itself, is too often thought of as giving to each person what is his or her due in the social order. The practical question of how to confine it in order to secure to everybody his just due is really beyond human wit, but what we can do is to try to make it possible for every person in society to make his or her utmost contribution to the welfare of the social whole. This is a positive conception of justice, to which a movement like the Workers' Educational Association is directly allied. The work of education is one of the methods whereby the individual can be helped."

#### Interest in England.

The dean told stories of the interest evinced in the movement in England, and related that factory hands in Yorkshire trudged three or four miles after work to attend classes on literature, and afterwards walked home again. The result of the great interest evinced was seen in the essay work turned out by students, which, the dean declared, was equal in every way to that of the first-class University students. "What the English workman can do the Australian workman can also accomplish," concluded the dean.

*Advertiser*

22.9.16

## MR. PRESIDENT BROWN.

### CRITICISM IN PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Assembly on Thursday the Hon. A. H. Peake continued the debate on the second reading of the Industrial Arbitration Amendment Bill No. 2—the measure which seeks to make the president of the Industrial Court (his Honor Mr. Jethro Brown) a judge of the Supreme Court—in the House of Assembly on Thursday. He said he could see no urgency in the matter. The work of the Industrial Court had not been heavy before the Labor Government took office. Since then it had increased. It would be interesting to trace the connection between this increase and the Government. The speech of the Minister of Industry in introducing the Bill was one of the weakest they had on record. If the Supreme Court bench was strong enough, what need was there for the president of the Industrial Court to sit on the bench in cases referred to it from the Industrial Court? This was no strong reason for increasing the number of judges. In case of necessity the president of the Industrial court could be made an acting judge. The House should know how far the suggestion of the president went. Had he suggested that the Act should be altered to permit one of the Supreme Court judges to assist in the Industrial Court when business was congested? Assuming the suggestions embodied in the Bill came from Mr. President Brown, he had very quickly learned to complain. The Treasurer should write an essay for him on the virtue of suffering and being patient. The president had had a great deal to learn, and he had not yet fallen into his stride. When the Government appointed him they knew he had not had the advantages of practice at the bar. The Government took him with

his disadvantage, and if it was found that want of familiarity with the courts was a bar to him the Government were responsible for the shortcomings. He would not put it that the president, with his great powers of mind and knowledge of law, would not overcome the disadvantages. He thought he would do so, and as time went on his judgments and conduct in court would become less academic and more practical, and the work would progress at a greater speed. Mr. Brown had been receiving about £800 a year at the University, and the Minister had been inaccurate, therefore, when he stated that he would have been receiving more had he not accepted the post. He had obtained a 50 per cent. increase by his appointment as president.

Mr. Robinson—What will be the increase if he is appointed a judge?

Mr. Peake—Oh, a mere £500 a year. The Government should look at the matter from the standpoint of the taxpayers, and not follow like a drifting straw the suggestion of every man who wanted a bigger salary and less work to do.

The Commissioner of Public Works took exception to Mr. Peake having read into the speech of the Minister of Industry an interpretation that Mr. President Brown was not a fit and proper person to be a judge of the Supreme Court. The idea in the mind of the Minister in introducing the Bill was that the president should be made a member of the Supreme Court judiciary. There were cases awaiting the consideration of the Industrial Court, and if they were to have a successful Arbitration Court they must have one that could deal expeditiously with the disputes. Otherwise there would be strife and chaos. He was sure members would agree that the work of the present president had been infinitely harder than that of his predecessor. He thanked members for their generosity in allowing the Government to get a prompt vote on the Bill, as it was thought to be a matter of urgency and necessity.

The second reading was carried on a party division by 16 votes to 15.

The measure was considered in Committee. The Commissioner of Public Works amended, after another division, clause 3, to provide that a Supreme Court judge should not be appointed to assist in the Industrial Court, but that the Governor should have power to appoint a person, eligible to be a judge, to assist in that court.

The standing orders were suspended, and the third reading of the Bill was carried on a division by 16 votes to 10.

The measure will come before the Legislative Council on Tuesday.

Asked to Sit Early and Late.

At the conclusion of the hearing for the day of the steamtug case in the Industrial Court on Thursday Mr. J. E. Stephens, who appeared with Mr. C. Hayter for the employes, asked the President (Mr. Jethro Brown) if anything could be done to shorten the proceedings. He said that was the eighth or ninth day the case had been before the court, and if it went on much longer the employes would not be able to be represented. They were a small society, and had no funds to pay for representation. He had to attend to his own work, and Mr. Hayter would have to return to his duties. After having occupied several days the case had not reached the conclusion of one side. If he and Mr. Hayter had to go away the employes would be left without representation.

The President said since his appointment he had been working very hard, but he could not work indefinitely. He had worked 10 or 12 hours every day, including Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays. He had a great deal of chamber business to attend to in addition to his court work. He wished to point out that the examination of Captain Bradley had been kept within the ambit of the facts that the court ought to be fully seized of. Only facts which should be brought before the court had been tendered. He could not help thinking that when people went to the court they did not sufficiently realise in all cases what it meant. Only a few days ago a man had approached him, and had said a certain case was only a matter of £150. The men, he said, were claiming 1/6 an hour extra for certain work, including work on Sundays. After ascertaining from the man the number of employes that would be involved, he asked the man if he realised what the capitalised amount represented. They worked the calculation out, and found that £350,000 was involved. Neither side had realised the enormous responsibility that rested on it. He would be glad to receive any suggestion Mr. Stephens or anyone else connected with the case might be able to make. It would be a matter of regret to him if Mr. Stephens and Mr. Hayter were unable to attend the court till the end of the case. As a fact, he did not know anything he could do to shorten the proceedings. It would not be easy to replace the men who had been there throughout the whole hearing.

Mr. Stephens asked if it was possible for the president to sit at night or to start earlier in the morning.

The President reminded him that he had already said he was working 12 hours a day, and added, "I am president of this court not by my own desire. I took the responsibility because I felt it was imposed upon me as a matter of public utility. But as I have said there are limits." If, he continued, they could think of any means by which the hearing could be facilitated, he would be glad to receive suggestions. The real way, however, to shorten the proceedings, was for the parties to meet in conference and arrive at some agreement on as many points as possible.

Mr. Stephens remarked that he had suggested that they should do something of the sort in the first place, but he was told that the other side was going straight ahead, and that the court would be left to decide. The men had been forced into court, and it was because Mr. Hayter was on holiday that he had been able to attend.

The President suggested that the representatives of both sides should have a talk that evening and see if they could not arrange some of the matters, and thus reduce the number of issues on which otherwise evidence would have to be given.

Mr. Stephens pointed out that the employees had endeavored to simplify their log. Their first claim embraced 30 clauses. These had been reduced to 13.

Mr. Skipper said he would be glad to confer with the other side. He wanted to remind Mr. Stephens that seven days ago he had promised to supply him with some amended clauses. These had not yet reached him. When he received them he would give them careful consideration.

Mr. Hayter said he wished to endorse Mr. Stephens' remarks. He knew, however, a union secretary, who had been brought into contact with the president on a good many occasions during the last four months, that Mr. Brown's time was fully occupied. There were five more witnesses for the employees. He thought it would be possible to dispense with two of them, but they had been subpoenaed, and would expect to be paid. He would like to know if the court would pay them if they were not called to give evidence.

The President said they had better consult the registrar on the matter.

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## THE INDUSTRIAL COURT.

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENT.

When the Industrial Court met on Friday to continue the hearing of the tug dispute, his Honor Mr. President Brown said he wished again to refer to the remarks made on the previous day by Mr. Stephens, concerning the facilitation of justice in that court. He (the President) should have pointed out the difference between that court and an ordinary court of business. In the Industrial Court they had to get at the primary facts. In ordinary trials a great deal depended upon the mental attitude of the parties. In the proceedings of an ordinary court of justice the parties heard a great deal of law in the arguments, and at the end they might well be in doubt what was the justice or the law of the case if they were not in doubt as to the facts. In the Industrial Court, where they had to deal primarily with facts, there was usually no doubt in the minds of the parties concerning what the facts were or what was the justice of the claims put forward on their part. It must seem to both when they came into the court that the President had only to look at the case to see that they were right. The employees thought so, and so did the employers. They both knew the facts, and it must therefore seem to them that long examinations were unnecessary, because they thought the facts were obvious. If the views as to the facts and the justice of the claims on one side were not the same as on the other, they imposed on the President a very onerous responsibility of deciding what the facts were, and he could not discharge his responsibility without more or less prolonged investigations. It had been so in the present case. The President could only hope to discharge his duties if the proceedings were thorough, and that meant that they might have to be prolonged. No case in that court had taken as long as cases sometimes took in the ordinary courts of justice. He had remarked on the previous day that in one case which had recently been before him the difference between the parties was only 1/6 an hour. He inadvertently said an hour, although he meant 1/6 a day, and in that the issue involved represented £30,000. That there should be any objection to the length of the proceedings in cases of such magnitude was an illustration of the failure of the parties and of most people, to realize how difficult as well as how responsible was the position occupied by the President of that court. He was resolved that so long as he remained President of that court he would insist on getting at the facts of the cases which came before him however prolonged the proceedings might be. He would leave out all irrelevant matter.