

Practical Schemes.

Educationalists had drawn up schemes for the commercial education of those three classes, which had been approved by practical business men, and Chambers of Commerce had proposed plans, which had been scouted by the schoolmaster as unworkable. It should be borne in mind that the opinion of a business man did not necessarily constitute the last word on the question of commercial education. If he was a successful and a thoughtful business man his opinion was entitled to respect, and it might be very valuable, but it was often based on his personal experience only, and was sometimes limited to the actual exigencies and needs of his own particular business.

On the other hand, the educationist had not the requisite business experience to enable him to draw up adequate schemes of study without ample assistance and sympathetic advice from the business man. The course of training needed to make a successful banker would not necessarily suit a person who wished to become a railway official, nor would the education required to make an efficient insurance man meet the particular needs of one who aimed at becoming a merchant. There were, however, certain general principles underlying the education of all those different people which could be embodied in a syllabus and taught in the schools. Such a scheme presupposed a sound primary education up to the age of 12 or 13 years, and should be based on three fundamentals:—(1) The development of character; (2) the continuance of the general education for a period of from two to four years beyond the primary stage; (3) specialisation; that was the teaching of special business subjects, such as shorthand, business principles, bookkeeping, office practice, and perhaps typewriting, commercial geography, and so on.

Intelligent and Efficient Service.

It was generally agreed that no matter how numerous or how commendable its examination results might be, the school that neglected to train its boys and girls to active, intelligent, and efficient service, the school that did not give them right conceptions of their civic duties and their social obligations, was failing in its duty to the children, to the parents, and to the State. (Applause.) It seemed to him that above all other things the ranks of the commercial workers should be recruited from boys and girls whose characters had been so moulded that they would enter upon their life's work with a code of honor and an appreciation of service that would at all events not prejudice them in their future careers.

Enjoyment in Business.

Boys should be taught that the man who failed to get enjoyment out of his business would never succeed at it. They should be taught the value of organisation, of good methods, of decision, of thoroughness, and, above all, of time. Schools with a curriculum based on those fundamentals should be established in places where there were likely to be sufficient children desirous of commencing a commercial career. Industrial, domestic, and secondary schools should be placed in suitable centres. There should certainly be a ring of such schools around Adelaide, and others should be placed in suitable and convenient country centres. (Applause.) Higher commercial education, that would provide scientific training in the structure and organisation of modern industry and commerce, was a recognised necessity of modern business, and it was one of the functions of the University. If their commercial supremacy was threatened, it was because international conditions had changed since the Victorian era. The industrial revolution of the late 18th and 19th centuries had found England in the enjoyment of comparative freedom from domestic broils, and this state of affairs had permitted of a steady and continuous growth of its industries and commerce. The great Napoleonic wars had left England in a better position than other countries, and she had retained control of the markets of the world. France had ceased for a time to be a dangerous competitor; Germany had consisted of a number of small states warring tariff wars upon each other; American industries had been in their infancy; Japan had not been born. In those days competition had not been keen, and commercial supremacy required keen business instinct and energy rather than trained intelligence.

Changed Methods Needed.

But all those conditions had changed, and school methods should be changed to meet the changed conditions. The struggle for supremacy in the future must be between nations which were more or less well equipped. Success would be achieved by those that adopted the most highly developed machinery and the best methods suggested by scientific research. The young man who commenced his business career with a sound knowledge of the leading features of the industries and the commerce of his own and foreign countries, with some of the technical knowledge re-

quired in his own business, and with some knowledge of commercial law, accountancy and economics would surely be better equipped for the struggle than the man who had to acquire that knowledge through many years of experience. The captain of industry or the merchant or the banker need not be a lawyer. He had his own lawyers. But he should know enough commercial law to enable him to organise, and to use the services of his legal adviser. He need not be a skilled accountant, but he should be sufficiently versed in the principles of accountancy to enable him to use the services of his accountant wisely. The country had a duty to the rising generation. If they were to have an intelligent democracy, with a right standard of life, civic duties and social obligations—a democracy which could spend its leisure time profitably and in which the individual would think for himself, and not become the victim of mass thinking, or the blind follower of the soap-box orator—(applause)—they must wake up and do things. England, France, Italy, and other enlightened countries were recognising their obligations, and all of the Austral States were waking up to their duty. They could hope that their own State, which had done so much for the education of its children during the past few years, would not be found wanting. (Applause.)

Mr. McCoy was cordially thanked for and complimented upon his address.

Reg. 1.11.19.

A PEOPLE'S INHERITANCE.

Again the ratepayers of Adelaide are required to decide whether or not portions of the city's park lands shall be leased, and in a measure alienated. The South Australian Tennis Association, consisting of 17 clubs with 400 members, wants for a period of 21 years rather more than three acres abutting on the Adelaide Oval, and the University authorities have applied for a lease until September, 1929, of two acres in order to enlarge the existing playing grounds of that institution. There is a wide difference between letting an area to a money-making venture like the "White City," and granting the use of land to local institutions for recreative games. Unquestionably the general public wish prosperity to the Tennis Association, and are willing that University students should indulge in tennis or hockey to their hearts' content. Refusal to accede to the requests could not reasonably be construed as a sign of lack of appreciation of manly and womanly sports. The ratepayers, however, have a much bigger question to consider than affording special encouragement to certain games as played by particular sections of young people. At the foundation of the city the park lands were established as a rich inheritance for countless thousands of people through all generations. They belong in principle to all classes, and individual citizens—men, women, and children—have an equal interest in this grand civic possession. But for the zealous vigilance with which during the history of Adelaide the people's sovereign right has been urged and vindicated, the parks would be practically non-existent to-day. Their spaciousness, contour, and convenient situation made them a series of Naboth's vineyards, extremely desirable of acquisition for all sorts of business and pleasurable purposes. Even as things are, the Park Lands Preservation League and its sympathizers have too much reason for strong complaint regarding the treatment accorded Adelaide's most valuable and useful heritage. Instead of supinely assenting to the restriction in any way of the open areas of the parks, the residents of Greater Adelaide and their civic authorities should—before building operations have rendered more of such enterprises impracticable—earnestly endeavour to increase the number of open spaces utilizable as public pleasure grounds. Park lands cannot be leased without creating vested interests, which no community would afterwards like to destroy. A distinguishing beauty of the parks should be, what the leasing and the fencing in of lands tend to destroy—the uninterrupted landscape views, which would become increasingly delightful with the continued extension and development of the gardens of flowers and shrubs at and near the intersections of roadways.

LEASING THE PARKS.

PROPOSED TENNIS GROUND.

A POLL TO BE TAKEN.

Considerable warmth was shown by some of the speakers on both sides at a public meeting of ratepayers, held in the Adelaide Town Hall on Friday afternoon, to consider the Lawn Tennis Association's application for the lease of a portion of the park lands at the rear of the Adelaide Oval for 21 years at an annual rental of £52. The intention is to enclose several acres with the object of laying down turf courts, and providing other facilities for first-class tennis. On 12 days of the year the association would have the right to charge admission. The Lord Mayor (Mr. Glover) presided over an attendance of between 100 and 150.

Councillor Lundie moved—"That the application be not entertained by this meeting of citizens," and said he was one of many who were totally opposed to another inch of the park lands being taken away from the people. Some years ago there was a proposal to rent a much smaller area than the proposed lease at £1,500 a year to amusement promoters, for the erection of a "White City." That scheme was signally defeated, and he hoped the ratepayers would rally for the purpose of forbidding the occupation of any other land that was the heritage of the people generally. (Cheers.)

Mr. J. H. Gosse, in seconding the motion, deplored the manner in which the area of open park round Adelaide had been dwindling in recent years. Clubs requiring enclosed areas ought to be prepared to purchase land for the purpose.

The Hon. H. Homburg advised the citizens to preserve their heritage free from any restrictions. Mr. W. D. Ponder, M.P., said at the rate the park lands had been given away in recent years there would ultimately be none left. They were intended for the recreation of the public generally.

Mr. C. T. Hargrave, Sen. (president of the Park Lands Preservation League) said the object behind the proposed lease was to make a profit, and the organisation be represented was totally opposed to it.

Mr. F. W. Birrell failed to see why the Lawn Tennis Association could not play its games on the park lands without fencing round the area. He was surprised at its audacity in coming before the citizens again with such a monstrous proposition. In the interests of the sons and daughters of the wealthy it was proposed to fitch this area away from the children of the workers.

Some of the arguments used by those supporting the motion gave rise to much dissent, and phrases such as "Rubbish" and "That is an absolute misstatement" were frequently interjected.

The principal champion of the Lawn Tennis Association's application was Mr. A. J. Roberts, O.B.E., who vigorously scouted the suggestion that it was out to make money. Only a person of limited intelligence, he said, would make such an assertion. The association was representing the interests of 17 clubs with 400 registered members in the metropolitan area, and had the sympathy of thousands of lawn tennis players in its efforts to advance the prestige of South Australia in this great international game. It was a clean and wholesome recreation enjoyed by the young people of both sexes. The proposal was to turn an unsightly, dusty area of the park, at present strewn with cow manure, into a beautiful playing ground. He challenged Councillor Lundie to contest a municipal election with him on the issue whether, if the Adelaide Oval lease was terminating, the fences and improvements should be torn down and that portion of the park allowed to revert to what it had been previously. The Cricket Association had taken the ground in hand and made it better suited for clean sport. The proposal of the Tennis Association was far preferable to what went on along the banks of the Torrens at the present time. It was better to encourage lawn tennis than allow the parks to be used by "two-up schools." They could not foster first-class tennis without good turf, and they could not have good turf without an enclosure of the kind asked for. Less than four acres was required. Any person desiring to join the association could do so, and crowds would go to watch the matches. It was not a money-making project, and in no way comparable to the "White City" scheme. (Cheers.)

Mr. Harold Davies said the experience of croquet players having open grounds justified the Lawn Tennis Association in asking for an enclosure as a protection against thieving and vandalism of all kinds. (Cheers.)

Other speakers in support of the application were Messrs B. V. Scrymgeour and A. L. Gellert, and it was opposed by Archdeacon Hornabrook and Messrs. E. B. Grundy, K.C., J. W. McGregor, and J. Murphy.

The motion was declared carried on a show of hands. A poll was demanded, and the Lord Mayor announced that it would be held on November 7.

Dr. B. Poulton applied on behalf of the University of Adelaide for a lease of two acres of the park adjacent to the University Oval. It had been found that the lady students had not as much room as they required for playing lawn tennis and hockey. It was not a class application, and if it was granted would do much to promote the opportunities of the students to obtain health-giving exercise. The land asked for was not enough to depasture half a cow. (Laughter.)

Mr. A. L. Langford supported the request.

Councillor Lundie moved "That the application be not granted." He said it was only another proof that the sooner the University was set in larger grounds on the site now occupied by the Parkside Mental Hospital the better it would be for all concerned.

Mr. F. W. Birrell seconded the motion, which was declared carried. A poll was demanded, and was set down to be taken on November 7.

Reg. 3.11.19.

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

A meeting of the council of the University of Adelaide was held on October 31. The Chancellor presided. The retirement of five members in accordance with the Act of Incorporation was considered. Mr. Angus Parsons, M.P., and Sir Langdon Bonython retired by effluxion of time. Of the remaining members Messrs. G. Brookman, Goodenau, Ishister, K.C., and Mangon, and Professor Rennie had been next longest in office, and on a ballot Messrs. Brookman and Ishister and Professor Rennie were chosen to retire. Mr. Ishister and Professor Henderson were re-elected representatives of the University on the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery. Reports of the Faculty of Arts and education committee regarding provision for a diploma course in economics and political science were approved, and regulations were prepared for submission to the senate at its next meeting. A new clause for addition to the statutes providing that intending students of the University should enter at least 14 days before the commencement of the first term was passed, and will be forwarded to the senate for consideration.

Ad. 4.11.19.

MEDICAL STUDENTS IN HOSPITALS.

Sir Joseph Verec, speaking at the annual meeting of the Children's Hospital yesterday, made interesting observations regarding admission of medical students to the hospital. He said the Children's Hospital and University Medical School were linked together, and he trusted the alliance between the Hospital and University might grow closer. The presence of University students was a benefit to the students as well as the hospital. They might have been considered an inconvenience, but their presence was a distinct advantage to the hospital. Students were a stimulus to the honorary staff. The work became more scientific, exact, careful, and efficient. Personally, either as patient or doctor, he would far rather be in a benevolent institution where there were students than where there were none. In such an institution the students were able to get splendid experience of the diseases of children, and the board in granting medical students the opportunity of coming were affording them a means of getting a proper knowledge of childish ailments. The board was thus conferring upon the children throughout the country a great benefit. The close association of the Hospital and the University was a benefit to the Hospital, to the University, to the doctors, and later on to the children of the community. Dr. Swift (chairman of the medical staff) said the board had always been entirely sympathetic towards the students. The hospital had been indebted to the fifth-year students for doing house surgeons' work. They had done it excellently.