

no right to vote or speech unless one of them is acting, with the leave of the chair, as a substitute of the delegate in his absence. These advisers are of great value when technical matters are discussed.

An Advisory Body.

The Conference has been referred to as the "International Social Parliament," but it cannot make laws. No international organisation could pass legislation unless the countries were willing to give up their sovereign right to make their own laws, but the Labor Conference votes:—

1. Draft conventions by which States undertake strictly to observe certain regulations.

2. Recommendations which may be taken as guides in passing national legislation or in issuing administrative orders.

Four Conferences have been held—the first at Washington, in November, 1919; the second in Genoa, in June, 1920; the third in Geneva, in October, 1921; and the last at Geneva in October, 1922. The workers have been represented at only two of these Conferences. They declined to nominate a representative to the Washington Conference. At that time Labor was suspicious of the League. It was looked upon as a "capitalistic frame-up." At the second Conference, at Genoa, in 1920, Mr. C. Burke, secretary of the Seamen's Union in Queensland, was the workers' representative. Mr. Burke will be remembered for his stand for arbitration as against direct action in the seamen's trouble in 1919. If I remember rightly, the Labor Councils had no say in his selection, but the fact that the Conference was to deal entirely with maritime questions probably actuated the Federal Government in the appointment. In 1921, when the third Conference was held at Geneva, Mr. T. B. Merry, ex-secretary of the Adelaide Trades and Labor Council, was selected. He was the nomination of the Adelaide Trades and Labor Council, and was chosen by the Federal Government from others nominated by Labor Councils in other States. To the fourth Conference, in 1922, no delegates were sent, the Federal Government contending that, as the agenda did not contain anything affecting Australia, it was not necessary to be represented. It is this parochial attitude which I wish to call attention to. In answer to a question put to him during the recent session of the Federal Parliament the Prime Minister stated that the matter of the Commonwealth participation in the International Labor Conference this year would be considered when the agenda of the Conference comes to hand.

Selfish and Parochial Attitude.

This is a most unsatisfactory state of affairs. I had expected a different reply from Mr. Bruce after hearing his address

in Adelaide on the work of the League of Nations. It is the same attitude taken up by the previous Federal Government. It places the Commonwealth in a wrong light before the other nations represented at the Conference—that we are a selfish people. Is it to be understood that Australia is to be represented only when she is interested in some particular question? This is a parochial and selfish attitude to adopt. Supposing other nations were to take the same stand. Where would it lead? The spirit which inspired the creation of the International Labor Organisation seems to have been lost sight of by the Federal Government. The Government lays down in Article 23 that members of the League will endeavor to secure and maintain fair and humane conditions of labor for men, women, and children, both in their own countries and in all countries to which their commercial and industrial relations extend. This is further developed in the Labor section (Part XIII) of the Peace Treaty, which proclaims that "peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice," and "that the failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labor is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries." If Australia is not represented each year at the Conference it will be taking up a most selfish attitude. It will readily be admitted that industrial and social conditions are better in our glorious Commonwealth than in any other part of the civilised world. That is no reason why we should hold aloof from the great gathering attending only when we consider that we are directly interested. On the contrary, it is a reason why we should be represented, so that we may be in a position to place before the other nations our accomplishments, how they have been achieved, and our noble ideals. Messrs. Burke and Merry did splendid work at the Conference they attended, the former in connection with the regulation of the conditions of

work of seafarers, and the latter in connection with the regulation of the use of white lead. While there was some early opposition to Mr. Merry's attitude, the report he submitted, when permitted by the Federal Government, threw new light on it. The delay in publishing that report, however, did not reflect any credit on the authorities. At the next Conference the question of anthrax will probably be discussed. Australia is interested in this question, at any rate, and should be represented by competent delegates.

Early Selection of Representatives Desirable.

I agree with Professor Darnley Naylor that the selection of representatives should be made earlier in the year. In justice to those who are selected that should be done. While the other nations send advisers with their delegates, the Federal Government has not done so, nor has it given time for the delegates selected to discuss the big questions to be considered with those in a position to advise them. The suggestion that when a delegate has shown fitness for his position the appointment should be renewed for another two years at least is worthy of consideration. To have a knowledge of a subject does not always mean that the individual has the ability to put the case in the best possible manner, but he might prove an invaluable adviser. To me it appears that the Federal Government has not been in earnest over Australia's representation on the League of Nations. When a question was asked of the State Premier last session as to whether any communication had been received from the Federal authorities in regard to the work of the League of Nations, the answer was in the negative. I consider that the Labor Party has been equally apathetic; but the position Australia was placed in over the Near Eastern question towards the end of last year has caused all parties. I feel sure, to take a greater interest in the League. Even that much-discussed body, the Sydney Trades Hall Council, recognises the position, and now desires to have a say in the election of the workers' delegates to what it had previously called a "capitalistic organisation." I am glad to say that the Adelaide Trades and Labor Council is affiliated with the local branch of the League. The Charter of Labor, which, first of all, declares that "labor should not be regarded as merely a commodity or article of commerce," should cause employers and employees to take an active interest in the high ambitions which actuate the International Labor Organisation.

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VALUABLE BURSARY.

In Memory Late Hon. A. H. Peake.

Government's Practical Tribute.

The Government have decided to establish a scholarship to perpetuate the memory of the late Premier of the State (Hon. A. H. Peake). Boys and girls in all public schools throughout South Australia will be eligible to compete, and the successful candidate will be entitled to a free course in any subject he or she desires, at the Adelaide University. The bursary will be worth about £400.

In addition, the winning student, who will be known as "The Archibald Henry Peake Bursar," will receive a yearly allowance of £20 if residing in the city, and £40 if living in the country.

The action by the Government is the result of the work of a powerful committee, which was formed in September last year, to devise the most suitable way in which to perpetuate the memory of the late Mr. Peake. The committee was com-



MR. HUDD, M.P.
Hon. Secretary of the committee which were responsible for the scheme.

posed of Sir Lancelot Stirling as Chairman, Sir Richard Butler as Vice-Chairman, Mr. Crosby M.P., as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. Hudd M.P., as Hon. Secretary, as well as the Premier (Sir Henry Barwell), the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. G. Bice) the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. G. R. Laffer), the Hon. D. J. Gordon, M.L.C., and Messrs. Chapman, Edwards, Young, Hamilton, Petherick, Moseley and Reidy, M.P.'s.

As the late Mr. Peake was keenly interested in educational matters, it was thought that a scholarship in his name would be most appropriate. When the Government were approached on the subject, they readily promised to finance the project. The necessary regulations governing the bursary will be considered by the Governor (Sir Tom Bridges) in Executive Council this morning.

A Painting in Oils.

The committee is at present negotiating with leading artists with a view to having executed a painting in oils of the late Mr. Peake, to be prominently hung in the Parliamentary Buildings. It will be about four months before the portrait is completed, but it is hoped that it will be unveiled this year.

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PEAKE BURSARY REGULATIONS.

In Executive Council on Wednesday morning, the Deputy Governor (Sir George Murray) assented to regulations governing the bursary in memory of the late Hon. A. H. Peake, general particulars of which were published in The Register on Wednesday morning. The regulations provide that the bursary shall be open for competition by candidates who have been bona fide residents in South Australia, and whose parents have also resided in this State for the whole of the year in which the candidates compete. The award of the bursary shall be decided upon the result of the Leaving Honours Examination of the University of Adelaide. A candidate to be entitled to the bursary must have passed in at least four subjects of the examination. Candidates must be under 19 years of age on December 31 of the year in which they compete, and must not previously have attended any part of the undergraduate course of the Adelaide University in those subjects in which they are competing for the bursary. Competitors must lodge their application at the Education Office on or before October 31 in the year in which they compete. It is understood that the scholarship will form one of 12 existing bursaries that will be worth about £400 inclusive of the living allowance.

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Mr. S. B. Denton, a son of Mr. J. Denton, of Farrell's Flat, has been awarded the Creswell Scholarship, provided by the Royal Agricultural Society.

REPERTORY THEATRE CLUB.

A PLEA FOR A NATIONAL THEATRE

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR A. T. STRONG.

There was a large attendance of those interested in the revival of the project for a repertory theatre club at Devon House, Pirie-street, on Wednesday evening, when Professor Coleman Phillipson presided.

In the absence of Mr. Basil Harford, hon. secretary of the club, Mr. G. McLeay presented an encouraging report. It was the aim of the club to stimulate the social side of the repertory theatre. The enthusiastic attendance at that, their first social meeting, augured well for their future success. They intended to hold such social gatherings fortnightly. Many gifts towards the furnishing of the club room had been offered, and they hoped to make it a real repertory centre for the members.

Professor Coleman Phillipson said they were all deeply indebted to those connected with the Repertory Theatre, which strove to cater for all who were heartily sick of the commercialised theatre, with its never-ending musical comedies. It had accomplished a great work in the promotion of aesthetic taste. There was ample justification for the Repertory Club, which might be called an association of aesthetic enthusiasts. They had heard much lately of intellect and charm. The club might well become a literary treasure house, and there might be found the intellect and charm which should grace and distinguish social life.

Professor Strong said he felt a special pleasure in that gathering, because he knew how much a similar club had helped the Melbourne Repertory Theatre. It was his intention to touch briefly on the decline and fall of English poetic drama. To understand this they must remember that it was impossible really to understand any such movement without studying the events leading up to it. No great artistic movement ever came to sudden life, and the period of preparation for English poetic drama covered 1,000 years from the time of the first church play to the rise of Shakespeare. The first English tragedy dealt with the resurrection of Christ, and it had both tradition and dignity, for it dealt with the greatest tragedy of all. Then came the miracle play, which was primarily tragic, but there were interludes of fun as this play passed from the church to the churchyard, and then to the streets, when the trade guilds took charge of it. Some of the morality plays, which sought mostly to portray abstract qualities, had the qualities of a modern problem play. "Everyman," the greatest of the morality plays, had been produced in Australia. It was, however, a romantic and not a realistic play. The interludes were difficult to define, but they were the essence of fun and artistic freedom. Centuries before Elizabeth ascended the throne the English Royal Court had encouraged the plays, full of freedom, fun, and poetry. Henry VIII. asserted the rights of all Englishmen to proper entertainment when he walked out from the performance of a wearisome morality play. The classical influence on their plays had been mostly Roman, Seneca being their chief influence in tragedy. Dutch, Spanish, and Italian plays had also affected English drama. The instinct for romantic and poetic drama went back to their earliest days, and was in the very blood of the race. It was as strong today as ever, but there was unfortunately no outlet. Before Shakespeare's day they had Kidd, Littley, Greene, and Christopher Marlowe, who first introduced blank verse to the public stage. Then came Shakespeare, a writer of poetic and romantic drama as against realistic prose. He did not attempt to transcribe life, but rather gave it a romantic remoteness which added to its dramatic value. Universality was the primary condition of all great art. Shakespeare, it should be remembered, was the greatest of a great school. In the great galaxy of Elizabethan dramatists any single one would have been an outstanding figure in foreign literature. The romantic drama was the fairest growth of literature, and English literature was the greatest the modern world had ever seen. It was a tragedy that the works of these great playwrights were dead to the modern stage, where they had been replaced by drama merely brilliant at its best and futile at its worst.

In 1642 the Puritans closed all English theatres for 18 years, and this had a marked effect upon the English stage. After the Restoration came a brilliant period of comedy, but the old-time greatness of the stage was lacking. The literary play was gradually crushed by the influence of the pantomime and dumb