

EDUCATION FOR ADULT WORKER

Beginning another year, the Workers' Educational Association has prospects which must be heartening to those interested in its advancement. From 338 students in 1921, the number attending the classes has increased to 660 last year, with probably a still further growth during the ensuing 12 months.

This expansion of the desire for educational improvement is one of the most gratifying and encouraging aspects of adult life in Australia. Mr. McRitchie (Secretary of the Association) put it very forcibly when he said recently, "Whatever a man's job may be, he is all the better for possessing a trained appreciation of literature, music, art, and the like, and he is going to be a vastly better citizen, if he has a scientific way of looking at economic, psychological, historical, and political problems." "It has been well said," he added, "any branch of study tends to develop intellectual faculties in a manner which is of highest service, even in business life."

Progress in any branch of education—and there are few subjects with which the Workers' Educational Association does not deal—must make for an orderly and accurate method of thinking and reasoning which cannot fail to be useful, even in the smallest things of life.

Those who make use of the opportunities which the association affords are not confined to any particular section of the community, 60 or 70 callings being represented in the various classes. Considering how wonderfully cheap the courses are the wonder is that they are not more liberally patronised. The Association is only in its infancy, but with proper publicity there should be a large increase in numbers.

When the people realise that they may receive education on any subject which they may select at a fee that is hardly worth consideration, the question must soon be how to accommodate the classes and finance them. No other phase of education is so pregnant with possibilities as the voluntary embarkation of the adult into the realms of knowledge, and whatever the cost may be the State cannot afford to fail or refuse to make provision for it.

As soon as the great body of the people begin to realise the immense possibilities and advantages to be derived from this means of education, a new era will have dawned for the workers of Australia, not only in happiness and contentment, but in efficiency and intellectuality. The example of the parents in educating and improving themselves will not be lost upon the younger generation, who will be inspired to do better things at school, realising that education is not an infliction on the young from which the passing years will release them, but the beginning of a course which must extend into their adult life.

STUDENTS' SURVEY CAMP. Engineering students of the University of Adelaide and the School of Mines went into camp on Monday at the forestry reserve, Kuitpo, where for a fortnight they will engage in practical training in surveying under the direction of Mr. H. W. Gartrell. To-day the camp will be visited by Mr. W. H. Connell, F.R.A.S., F.R.G.S., A.I.M.E., of London, who will be accompanied by Professor Chapman and the Principal of the School of Mines (Mr. F. W. Reed). Mr. Connell is visiting Australia in behalf of the British firm of Messrs. Cook, Troughton, and Simms. He will take the opportunity of demonstrating to the students, by means of working models and large diagrams, the most recent improvements in the design and construction of surveying instruments. On Friday evening Mr. Connell will deliver a lecture at the University under the auspices of the Institution of Engineers, the Institute of Surveyors, and the Institute of Architects.

Mr. T. J. M. Napier, who was recently appointed to the Supreme Court Bench, was sworn in as the new Judge at the meeting of the Executive Council on Wednesday.

Dr. Herbert Champion Hosking was on Wednesday appointed junior medical officer at the Parkside Mental Hospital by the Executive Council.

subsequent discoveries made, the country capable of holding many times that number. The population of Great Britain, at the time of Elizabeth, was about five million; to-day it was 45 million, the increase representing largely the added opportunities created by discovery, both by exploration and in science. Australia's title to continued possession of this continent would depend largely upon the ability of the people to populate it, and the population of Australia would depend upon the ingenuity with which we adapted ourselves to the conditions of climate and soil so different from those in Europe to which we were hereditarily adapted. There were plenty of competitors who would be willing to see whether they or we were entitled to occupy Australia. Brains would ultimately decide the issue. In modern days universities should assume more and more the vast functions which corresponded to those of the brain. Although those engaged in university work and research might appear to have their heads in the clouds, they, in modern universities, had their feet on solid ground, and realized that continued intellectual progress was impossible unless it went hand in hand with continued material prosperity and leisure for individual achievement.

Material Progress. Consequently the universities had a lively interest in the material progress of the community. They realized their need was the attainment of an understanding of their place and purpose in the universe. In order to achieve that there must be a substratum on which to build—that was material prosperity. Between the theoretical discoveries in laboratories and the practical application of them to the advancement of material welfare in hygiene, industry, or other practical applications of science, there was a great gap which was very imperfectly filled. It frequently happened that a discovery of immense practical import was made in a laboratory, and a great time elapsed before it could be devoted to any practical use. The original theoretical discovery might have required the greatest intellectual endeavour, and the first application of it might be a problem merely of how to adjust details. Yet the time taken in arriving at that might be as long as in making the original discovery. The reason of that was that the time taken for adaptation was so ill provided for, and especially so in Australia.

Position in America. In America things were different. For there many of the large industrial firms employed considerable staffs of research workers, and equipped large laboratories. The General Electric Company spent yearly in this way a sum which exceeded the total income of the Adelaide University. A number of the smaller firms had another and most effective practice. A system had been adopted by which men were attached to the universities as "fellows," their duties being to make scientific investigations into the matters affecting the business of the manufacturers, whose employes they were. Those fellows had the great advantage of conducting their research work under the best conditions, with the most effective apparatus, and having at their disposal the services of the scientific men belonging to the staffs of the universities. By this work the manufacturers were benefiting greatly, as was proved by the fact that the number of fellows was increasing very largely each year, and the American business man was not one to spend a lot of money without getting a return for it. The manufacturers thus benefited, and so did the staff of the university who were thus brought into touch with many practical matters of intense interest to the community. The results were the property of the employers of the fellows for a certain number of years, and then had to be made public.

Problems Affecting the Community. The problems affecting the community were of two sorts—universal ones affecting all alike, and those particularly affecting this community. Both types should be subjected to research in the universities. All problems should automatically be brought before the university for attempted solution. One such was the utilization of our brown coal deposits. That work should not be sent abroad, but should be done here. If it were true that the present equipment were not sufficient to enable the work to be done, then proper equipment should be obtained. If the problems were sent abroad the experts, who had to solve them, would stay abroad, and we should never have any here. One of the chief troubles at present was that so many of our experts were attracted to other parts of the world, and remained there, their knowledge and attainments thus being lost to Australia.

There was another direction in which the university could serve the community, and that was by seeing that the right man got to the right place in industry. There were turned out from the university each year a certain number of technical men, who were qualified to undertake all

VALUE OF RESEARCH.

The University and the Community.

Each Man In Right Place.

The functions of the University and its association with the community in the direction of research, as well as that of tuition, were made the subject of an after-luncheon lecture delivered by Professor T. Brailsford Robertson on Thursday at the weekly gathering of the Rotarians.

In addition to Rotarians there were present several visitors, and the assemblage, which was a large one, was presided over at the outset by Rotarian G. McEwin, who, however, handed over the control of the gathering to Rotarian Professor E. Harold Davies after the conclusion of the meal. In addition to the address in chief, a few words were said by Mr. Homer Rodeheaver, who is a Rotarian from America, and who referred to the enormous value of the work being done throughout the world by the society.

To Discover and To Teach. Professor Brailsford Robertson, who was warmly greeted, said the function of the university was not merely to teach; it was also to discover. The distinguishing characteristic of the European and North American type of man was his restless desire to explore. The days of geographical exploration were now nearly over, and the spirit formerly expended in that direction was to-day spent in scientific discovery. In the vast majority of cases fundamental scientific discoveries were being made in the universities. It was upon the ability to make discoveries that the future of the race, and the well-being of our descendants depended. When Tasmania, for instance, was discovered, the inhabitants did not exceed 2,000, which represented the utmost population the country could support under the then conditions and the knowledge possessed by the people. Added knowledge due to

THE NEW JUDGE.

To a very great extent the honour and reputation of the State are entrusted to the Supreme Court Bench, and the community are justly proud to recognise that the Judiciary of South Australia has never been suspected of any departure from those lofty ideals which give lustre to the administrative work of the Courts in the Mother Country. The deep respect for law which is a distinguishing trait of British peoples, necessarily connotes both capacity and incorruptibility in the Judges who interpret and enforce the statutes. While a Judge must, in a degree, observe an attitude of "cold neutrality" in regard to many public questions, and may therefore at times be seemingly isolated from his fellow-men, the public esteem and value his character for impartiality and his zeal for strict justice the more highly for his solicitude on that account. They realize that wide knowledge and a genius for concentration, along with the power to rightly sift and weigh evidence, and an unusually liberal endowment of common sense, are essential qualifications to real success in a Judgeship. These considerations have been applied to the choice by the Government of Mr. Napier for the vacancy on the Supreme Court

Bench, caused by the lamented death of Sir John Gordon, and members of the Bar and the lay public generally are evidently well satisfied that the selection was a wise one. The new Judge may enter upon his duties to-day with the happy consciousness that confidence is everywhere felt in his competency to serve the State with entire satisfaction. His Honor has risen comparatively quickly to honourable eminence in his profession by brilliant natural talents and strenuous labour. He won the LL.B. degree when only 20 years of age, and has since had extensive experience in Court and chambers practice. His refined and graceful manners, and pronounced personality, added to the pleasure with which his appointment was welcomed. In accepting the Judgeship His Honor doubtless weighed carefully both the advantages and disadvantages of a position which gives the occupant "nothing to hope for," but he may always be encouraged by the reflection that in the high-minded performance of his duties, he will help notably to upbuild and strengthen the State edifice, and secure a place among the array of great lawyers who have dispensed untainted British justice in Australia.

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