

bers was held, and if it failed to bring about a settlement the parties were urged at the preliminary sitting of the court to hold a conference with a view to arriving at a settlement, or to minimizing the issues in conflict. He had found that most of the troubles arose from mutual misunderstanding as much as from any other single cause. If, however, no settlement was arranged the matter came before the court for hearing. One had there in a nutshell compulsory conciliation. Disputes in the civil courts might be left to the judge in the Conciliation Court. They might be adjusted in several ways. The dispute might be settled in chambers, in a conciliation court or in the ordinary civil courts. The witness wished it clearly understood that he was only making suggestions and not giving final conclusions.

#### What is Done in Other Countries.

He said he hoped during his forthcoming holiday to find out exactly what was done in other countries. He would visit London shortly, and he would learn there the manner in which conciliation courts were working in Europe. He would then communicate with the Commission.

The Chairman asked the witness what he thought was the best way to inform the public of the work of the Commission. Dr. Brown thought the press was doing valuable work in educating the public.

Replying to Mr. Butterfield, the witness said that the Danish and American Acts dealing with conciliation should be obtained.

The Chairman—Do you think that in the event of conciliation courts being established they could reduce the business of lawyers in any way?—I could not say what the effect would be, but I do not think the profession as a whole would suffer. Such members of the profession as foment quarrels would suffer.

Mr. Butterfield—Do you think a Court of Conciliation would mean more litigants coming before the courts?—I think they very probably would do so at first.

Mr. Tassie—It has been suggested that any family matters and similar cases should be dealt with by either a Chamber Magistrate, or the Police Court work should be divided, and domestic questions decided in a court which would not give publicity to such matters.

The Witness—I have not given this matter proper consideration.

#### The Jury System.

Mr. Tassie—Would you make any suggestion with regard to the jury question?—I think the jury system should be ended or amended. I do not think that as it is at present in Australia it tends to promote either public esteem or confidence in the administration of justice. I agree with the amendments proposed by Professor Phillipson, the general purport of which, as I understand them, would be to make it less possible to have an incompetent jury or a biased one. I have been told by a prominent lawyer that in no business case had he been able to get an accountant on a jury. A majority verdict would be better than the present requirement of unanimity. If there were provision made for degrees of murder that would prevent a miscarriage of justice.

#### Law Expenses.

In reply to a question from the chairman regarding legal costs, Dr. Brown said—A conciliation court would exercise a distinct influence in the matter. At present the Supreme Court scale of charges is much higher than those of the Local Court. This is a matter for reform. With reference to the high fees charged by some lawyers, the power of money is one of the greatest evils of the modern world.

Replying to Mr. Tassie, the witness said—I can see no objection to every litigant having the right to have his costs taxed, whether or not there was any order of the court to that end.

The Commission adjourned until to-day, when Senator Benny and Mr. T. S. O'Halloran will give evidence.

"The first performance of 1920 was 'St. George and the Dragon,' by Elen Phillpotts, given on May 5 at the King's Theatre. The play was popular, the artistic success undoubted, but a heavy financial loss resulted. In order to continue, and keep faith with subscribers, a new arrangement was imperative. Mr. J. H. Walsh, business manager for that year, negotiated with the Prince of Wales Theatre management, and it was decided to produce the second play in that theatre on a percentage basis. The terms were considered favourable, and 'The Silver Box' (Galsworthy) saw the footlights for a four-nights' season in July. The venture, however, although successful from some points of view, so far as finances were concerned, left a further deficit. 'Quinny' (H. A. Vachell), produced in December for two nights conjointly with the Prince of Wales management, though under slightly different terms from 'The Silver Box,' again left no sign of a credit balance. Only three plays having been produced, there was at the close of 1920 a debt of £31. Meeting again in May, 1921, it was decided that a circular letter stating the exact position, and soliciting help, should be sent by the secretary to each subscriber. The result of such appeal brought in £19 towards the liquidation of the debt.

#### The Crisis Over.

In November, 1921, all subscribers, and such of the public as were interested, were called together to decide the matter of continuance, and, if determined upon, the future course of action. The Lecture Hall, Institute Buildings was engaged for December 8, and 30 enthusiasts attended. The board was strengthened by the formation of a committee with which to work conjointly, and it was resolved to return to the policy prevailing during the theatre's infancy, and produce good plays for the few who really cared, and not trouble about the public. The subscription was raised to £1 1/2. A few weeks later the following ladies and gentlemen were invited to board membership—Mrs. Coleman Phillipson, Miss M. Stirling, Professor A. T. Strong, Dr. H. Heaton, Mr. J. G. McDonnell, and Mr. G. McLeay. The use of a room for rehearsal was granted by the University Council, the patronage of a number of Adelaide's leading thinkers and educationists was obtained, and 'Pygmalion,' by Bernard Shaw, was produced at the Unley City Hall on May 17, 1922. This was an overwhelming success, due largely to the capable energy of our new business manager, Mr. G. McLeay, and the artistic stagecraft of Mr. Ray Walsh, producer. It was the theatre's dawn, and all anxiety for its welfare was of the past.

#### To the Victoria Hall.

However, in spite of the success of 'Pygmalion' in a hall outside the city boundaries, the question of a central staging of our plays was raised. After detailed investigation the Y.M.C.A. Board was approached, and the improvement of the Victoria Hall stage mooted. The authorities were prepared to make, under certain terms, the alterations, and Mr. Alex. McRose entered upon an agreement with them which made Repertory production possible. Crowded houses greeted the performances of 'The Title,' by Arnold Bennett, produced by Wilfred Neill on July 26 and 29, and the success of the move was undoubted. 'Dou' (Rudolph Besier) in the hands of Mr. T. H. Nave was our third performance on September 9 and 16. Three short plays comprised our fourth programme on November 11—'The Dark Lady of the Sonnets' (Shaw), 'A Florentine Tragedy' (Wilde), were produced by Mr. W. Neill, and 'Rosalind,' Barrie's charming little comedy by Mrs. Neill. To make good the inability of the Board to produce a fourth play during 1920, subscribers' tickets were available at a fifth performance on November 18, two plays by an Adelaide playwright, Mr. Alex. Somerville, staged by Mr. Nave, and Mr. Cyril Mackay, the first farcical comedy of local interest, 'The Prince Peter's Half-Mile,' and the second a three-act comedy, 'The Usual Three.' Very sincere is the appreciation of the Board of all the efforts of the acting members, so exacting in its detail, and great credit is theirs for their year's work.

#### A Time of Progress.

The extension of the programme this year to include lectures was a new venture, and proved wise, although the gatherings were not well attended. Dr. Strong's talk on June 7, on the repertory movement in Australia, proved interesting. Because of his association with the founding and conduct of the Melbourne Repertory Theatre, and the Mermaid Club, he was able to outline for us experience useful to Adelaide. We share with him the dream of a national theatre of Australia, and perhaps may be building greater than we know. The formation of the Adelaide Repertory Theatre Club on similar lines to those of 1910, with Mr. B. Harford as Secretary, is due somewhat to his influence. Prof. Phillipson's lecture on 'Plays in Relation to Life,' delivered on August 1, and Dr. Heaton's talk of October 31 on 'The Social Background of the Modern Play,' revealed new approach, and the fairy scene from M. N. Dream produced by Mrs. C. Phillipson and Miss A. Chapman made a charming change. In addition to our membership list of 204 members, W.E.A. students, induced by Dr. Heaton to take advantage of concession rates, have attended regularly. The Theatre Board and Club Committee are co-operating as regards rental and furnishings of a club room, and it is hoped that common ground will thereby be provided for folks of similar literary inclination, opportunity for meeting new acting members will be provided, also for training new producers, and a library in time be established. We rejoice that our work, beloved for so long, is still continuing, and has its place in the life of our city. Nevertheless, we desire no praise, for the artist is ever humble before his ideal."

## WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

### THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The sixth annual conference of the Workers' Educational Association was held in the Public Library Lecture-room, North-terrace, on Thursday night. There was a large attendance of delegates present. The president (Mr. F. McCabe) was in the chair.

The annual report and statement of receipts and expenditure were adopted. The report stated:—

From almost every point of view the work of the past year has been so successful as to break all records. Whether one takes the number of students enrolled, the circulation of the "Highway," the sale of books, the club membership, or any other test, all the figures have grown considerably when compared with those of any previous year. Extensive advertising, especially in the early part of the session, has proved the truth of the proverb, "Cast your money into the public notice column, and it will return to you the same day." Tutors, class secretaries, the members of the executive, the officers, and the rank and file of our students have all played their part loyally and enthusiastically in singing the praises of the association, and in consequence the existence of the W.E.A. and the character of the work it is doing is known to the general public as it never was before. But this gratifying expansion has created new problems and rendered old ones more than ever acute. The outstanding anxiety to-day is caused by the fact that the funds available for tutorial classes are hopelessly inadequate. During the past year many classes were far too large, but it was impossible to turn away students and financially impossible to appoint additional tutors in order to allow the classes to be subdivided. If as is confidently expected the class enrolments next year grow in the same proportion as they did in 1922 many classes will be unmanageably large, while any further extension, especially into country districts, will be quite impossible. The need for an increased grant for tutorial class work is to-day vital and urgent.

The tutorial classes began their studies in April, but during February and March active propaganda work was being carried on. During the year £80 was spent in advertising, of which a large part represents the almost continuous publicity work of February, March, and April. In addition detailed syllabuses of the various classes were distributed broadcast, and four public lectures were given during March. Outside the city propaganda work has been done at Mount Barker, Murray Bridge, Goodwood, in the River Murray settlements, and on the West Coast.

The W.E.A. Club passes from strength to strength, and the South Australian delegates to the Federal conference in Sydney found the other States eager to discover the secret of the club's success. When comparing the social activities in our own State with those of our fellow organisations across the border, it seems evident that the two new rules which we have observed of meeting not too frequently and of avoiding serious subjects have been in part responsible for the satisfactory character of our meetings. During the past year the plan was adopted of making a class responsible for the evening's entertainment, and the healthy rivalry thus produced has been very valuable.

Early in the year the publication of a second edition of Dr. Heaton's "Modern Economic History," with Special Reference to Australia, became necessary, and an addition of 500 copies was therefore printed. From the financial point of view the publication has been justified. The existence of the book service in the secretary's office is becoming steadily known among our students, and the facilities offered for obtaining the most up-to-date books are being availed of by a constantly widening circle of readers.

In May the general secretary visited Murray Bridge and Mount Barker, and in each place a committee was formed to organise courses of lectures. The joint committee provided courses of four lectures at each place, and it is hoped the work will be continued next year. At Murray Bridge the president of the committee is Mr. John Bomburg, and the secretary (Rev. A. B. Erskine). The officers at Mount Barker are:—President, Rev. A. H. Reynolds; secretary, Mr. Charles Adey.

The following were elected officers for 1923-4:—President, Mr. S. R. Whitford, M.P.; vice-presidents, Messrs. W. C. Melbourne and E. Cheary; treasurer, Mr. F. McCabe; auditors, Messrs. C. H. Stacey and Wieland; representatives on the University tutorial classes joint committee, Messrs. F. McCabe, G. McRitchie, W. C. Melbourne, and S. R. Whitford, M.P.

## AROUND THE CITY

### GOSSIP ABOUT PEOPLE AND EVENTS

By Qui Vive.

The departure on Wednesday of the Government Geologist (Mr. Keith Ward), for a trip into the interior on an important mission, relating to the possibilities of establishing water supplies on the overland stock routes between Alice Springs and Charlotte Waters, means new ground for him. This will be Mr. Ward's first experience of Central Australia, and he is looking forward to his investigations with keen interest.

"I am delighted at the opportunity," Mr. Ward remarked to me in the course of a chat. "I realize what the success of my work will mean." The problem of making the stock routes safe in the Northern Territory has been engaging the consideration of the Commonwealth authorities, although the Hon. T. McCallum, M.L.C., who financed the motor expedition across Australia, may be reminded in this connection of the evidence of wasted, or idle expenditure he claims to have found during that journey—the unemployed giant windmills, and the costly tools lying about in their vicinity.

The expedition which Professor Sir Baldwin Spencer is now leading into the big spaces is concerned with blacks—or more tragically, half castes—and stock. Each member is singularly well equipped for his work. South Australia has always played a big part in research among the native tribes. It was in the company and under the trained guidance of the late Mr. F. J. Gillen, S.M., that Professor Spencer conducted an ethnological mission across Australia to the Gulf of Carpentaria in 1902. That was one South Australian link. Eight years before that Sir Baldwin was with the Horn expedition—South Australia again—and it was he who prepared the reports, which ran into four volumes. He also wrote the narrative of that memorable journey. Professor Spencer's contributions to scientific literature, as affecting the blacks, make a small library in themselves.

Capt. S. A. White and Dr. Herbert Basedow have undertaken special trips into Central Australia and made studies on the spot, of that increasingly complex problem—the future of those vanishing primitive races. Both Sir Baldwin and Dr. Basedow have occupied the post of Chief Protector of Aborigines in the Northern Territory. As the result of observations, and enquiries, during his term, Professor Spencer presented a report to the Federal Government embodying suggestions for the treatment of the aborigines. There is a lengthy document, somewhere in the pigeonholes of the State Government, from the pen of Dr. Basedow, based on the journey he made in recent years. It was in the nature of a medical reconnaissance, and was financed jointly by the Government and a number of generous pastoralists. That report has never been published. There appears to be therefore a fair amount of accumulated literature on the subject.

#### Mr. Keith Ward.

From the point of view of the profitable occupation of the interior, much value will attach to what our Government Geologist will have to say about water to the stock routes. The lack of provision in this connection has been much criticised by cattle owners and pastoralists. Although Mr. Ward has not been in Central Australia—and he will traverse Federal territory only—his assistant (Mr. Jack) went out to the Musgrave Range in 1914. Mr. Ward has been Government Geologist and Director of Mines in the State since 1911. He is a son of Dr. F. W. Ward, of Sydney Daily Telegraph fame, which is still with him in his retirement. The Government Geologist was in Sydney recently, and found Dr. Ward in excellent health.

Mr. Ward, who is in his forty-fourth year, is a B.A. and B.E. He entered the Sydney University in 1897 as a Queensland Government exhibitioner, and graduated three years later. He got his B.E. degree in 1903, and, after a service with the Br-

## ADELAIDE REPERTORY THEATRE.

### AN ENCOURAGING REPORT.

The personnel of the Adelaide Repertory Theatre have at last succeeded in establishing that educational factor upon a sound basis. The following details are embraced in the latest official report (for 1920-22) compiled by the hon. secretary (Miss Muriel Craigie):—