

"What are the comparative figures at the present time?"

"Last year 10 classes were conducted and 645 students were enrolled, drawn from a wide range of occupation and reflecting every conceivable political and religious shade of thought."

Thanks to a silly generalisation Adelaide has the jocular description of "the city of churches." The capital would be more truthfully summed up as "the city of homes." Nowhere else in Australia is home acquisition and beautifying so dominantly a ruling objective. The fact may be held accountable for the statement next made by Dr. Heaton, its content attributed by him to the greater domestic felicity and interest in public questions characteristic of the women of Adelaide.

WOMEN AND THE WIDER EDUCATION.

"Of the total number of W.E.A. students at least 140 are engaged in domestic duties, and a large proportion of them are married women, who accompany their husbands to the classes. No other State shows the same phenomenon. For the rest, 120 of our members are in clerical occupations of one kind and

another, 120 are artisans, and those remaining are miscellaneous employed. All sorts are included in class membership, factory managers, butchers, hairdressers, artists, and wharf lumpers among them."

The "Mail" man asked Dr. Heaton to what extent Official Labour supported a movement having as its aim the higher education of the mass of the people.

"The W.E.A. is managed," he replied, "by a council to which 40 organisations are affiliated; of the 40, 20 are trade unions; the other half are composed of religious, political, and educational bodies. This council appoints half the membership of the University joint committee entrusted with the management of the tutorial classes. Labour is thus closely associated with the government of the movement."

"And sees to it," the "Mail" man interpolated, "that the movement is used for the advancement of Labour ends?"

The director caught the jesting spirit of the assertion-question and laughingly rejoined:—

A TOOL OF LABOUR.

"Although the aim is to provide specially for the wage and salary earner, the association purposely maintains a strictly non-party and non-sectarian attitude. Tutors who deal with controversial subjects such as economics and political science are under the obligation of treating their subject in an impartial and scientific manner and avoid propaganda in favour of this or that school of thought. To people whose inclination is to be propagandists rather than educators such an attitude is obnoxious, and the result is that we get kicked from both sides. To the Socialist the association is a tool of the capitalist class; to a species of employer we are dangerous people spreading the gospels of Marx and Lenin."

"Not easy to substitute the round table for the soapbox and the boardroom chair?"

"Exactly. The idea that controversial topics like protection or socialism or single tax can be discussed quietly and scientifically has not dawned on the mind of the propagandist of either side. The capitalist takes the present order for granted, and while admitting its capability of improvement regards it as the final state of social organisation. The Socialist on the other hand refuses to believe that any improvement inside the present system can be of any use."

A MANY-SIDED TARGET.

The experience of Dr. Heaton reflects the abuse to which the University type of education is always liable at the hands of biased and unchanging dogmatists of all fixed schools and parties. By those disappointed, each in turn, that he has not declared their personal scheme of thought to be the final and unalterable expression of truth he has been rated a capitalist-Bolshevik, a Roman Catholic-Freemason, a Sinn Fein-Quaker, a Mohammedan-Confucian, and most other imaginable forms of mutual contradiction. That man and movement can be at one and the same time spokesman and instrument of such diversity, in dangerous and deliberate propaganda, is beyond the grasp and punitive zeal of the man in Sensible Street.

The Workers' Educational Association is too well known as a healthy means towards independent examination and free discussion for misrepresentation to be allowed to prejudice it in the minds of

straight democrats. Happily, sound education has its fruits in the ability of a cheerily-constituted director to suffer fools gladly and get on with the job.

STRAIGHT DEMOCRACY.

For straight democracy is the ideal of the W.E.A., an educated fraternity of fully-developed citizens, joining their qualities of mind and soul to establish the city beautiful and bring in the united kingdom of an educated earth.

Education worthy of the name busies itself not with imprinting other people's views upon the sensitivity of the enquiring mind, but in enabling it to arrive for itself at informed judgment and truthful opinion.

For this reason special significance attached to the director's next observation.

"Even of more importance than individual lectures is the discussion which follows them. Questions and free discussion occupy an hour after each tutorial talk, and in those periods of examination and criticism the most valuable work of education is done."

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THE SUBJECTS TAUGHT.

What are the subjects the Australian proletariat is assisted to make itself master of? Well, this year classes in literature are to study Shakespearean dramatic technique, the writers of the nineteenth century, Australian and English modern verse; the historical course accomplishes a survey of the sources of Western civilisation; that in political science invites a searching examination of contending political theories; the ethics lecture course is to achieve a historical and analytical comparison of famous systems of thought; courses in public speaking and music invite to finishing schooling in expression and culture. Most important in many ways of all is the lecture series in which Dr. Heaton himself completes the four years' W.E.A. economics course by a comprehensive discussion of present-day Australian social and economic problems.

The Australian worker nourished to capacity on such educational fare should be a big man, a big voter, a big factor in deciding the democratic programme of international advance.

Dr. Heaton had an interesting observation to make on the Adelaide work of the association:—

"Here," he said, "there is a bigger demand for psychology and for English literature than for the more controversial social sciences. The reason is probably that the class struggle in South Australia is not so severe or so vociferous as in the other States, a fact itself attributable in part to the facilities the State has enjoyed for many years through its institutes."

COUNTRY NEEDS.

Mention of the institutes leads naturally to consideration of W.E.A. activities in the country areas. Gawler and Freeling, the one a rural-industrial centre, the other a district which adds a strong railway element to its hay accumulation, enjoy full three-year tutorial courses under the W.E.A. scheme. Renmark, Riverton, Bordertown, Murray Bridge, Mount Barker, and the West Coast are places where lecture courses are periodically delivered under association auspices, either by visiting lecturers or qualified local residents.

Development of the movement in the country is one of the immediate ambitions of the association, and one which the Government itself, acknowledging the necessity of making country life more varied and resourceful, might well facilitate.

"While the movement is growing rapidly," Dr. Heaton remarked, "its income is standing still, and this year requests from country centres will probably have to be refused owing to funds being exhausted. The plan we are anxious to develop is one under which on the West Coast, in the South-East, at Port Pirie, and on the Murray we shall be able to station full-time resident tutors giving weekly or fortnightly lecture courses at a number of convenient centres. Until the grant is increased these districts will have to be neglected."

CULTURE AND THE COMMON-WEALTH.

Personal culture, according to the outlook of the W.E.A., is an essential accompaniment to efficient citizenship. It is for that reason that literature, psychology, and philosophy figure so largely in its scheme of tuition. Appreciation of the drama as a means towards social and cultural advance is a strong feature of its activity. Last year W.E.A. students trooping to the Repertory Theatre formed at least one-quarter of each audience; the support given to Allan Wilkie in his recent Adelaide Shakespearean season, as

evidenced by heavy W.E.A. special bookings, was equally considerable. The association has further built up its own book service so widely availed of that books to the value of £300 were acquired through this source last year by its active students.

THE CONTINENT OF GOOD HOPE.

It is by its usefulness in enabling individual citizens to take up an intelligent attitude towards the questions of the day, however, that the Workers' Educational Association is chiefly known. In comparison with Western European conflict and decay an Australian chaos Australia stands in the world as the continent of Good Hope, in which straight democracy is being wrought out healthily and constructively by a new nation of free men.

"Australia is still in its formative stage," Dr. Heaton commented as a stimulating talk came to its close. "Our social institutions have not yet become solidified, and therefore the more the rank and file of the electors are enabled to think along sound lines of political economy and science the more successful our democratic experiment is going to be. Democracy for Australians implies a capacity to think clearly about economic relationships and at the same time to acquire a knowledge of world history and the forces controlling international affairs. Hence especially our classes in the development of European civilisation and modern world history, aiming at providing a background into which the educated democrat can fit his daily work."

Such is the spirit and objective of an association which, counting every toiler with muscle, brain, and spirit a worker for the advancement of an educated Commonwealth, stands as a University of the People fitting itself to the people's working need.

Advertiser 6-4-23.

THE UNIVERSITY BALL.

The University ball will be held in the Elder Conservatorium Hall on Friday, May 4, instead of Thursday, May 3, as originally arranged. This is to meet the convenience of his Excellency the Governor and Lady Bridges. Debutantes are requested to send in their names to the secretaries at the University.

Register 9-4-23.

A soiree in connection with the Alliance Francaise will be held in the reception room of The Grosvenor, North terrace, on Tuesday evening. The programme will include a lecturette by Miss Margaret Daruley Naylor, entitled "Conference sur la Societe des Nations," illustrated by lantern slides.

Advertiser 7-4-23.

CHAMBER MUSIC RECITAL.

The first Chamber Music recital of the 1923 season will be given in the Elder Hall on Monday evening, April 16. These recitals are under the directorship of Professor Harold Davies, Mus. Doc. The programme includes a "Quartet in G minor" (Haydn), and the songs, "Liebestreu" and "Wiegenlied" (Brahms), "Voksbekeden" (Schumann), "Zuleika" (Mendelssohn). The following are the artists:—First violin, Miss Sylvia Whittington, A.M.U.A.; second violin, Miss Kathleen Meezan, A.M.U.A.; viola, Miss Clarice Gmeiner; violoncello, Mr. Harold Parsons, Mus. Bac.; pianoforte, Mr. I. G. Reimann; vocalist, Miss Hilda Gill, A.M.U.A.; accompanist, Mr. Harold Wyde, F.R.C.O. Plans at Savery's Pianos, Limited, Rundle-street.

Advertiser 9-4-23.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA.

The executive of the South Australian Orchestra announces that for the first orchestral concert of the season, to be given in the Town Hall on Saturday evening, 200 seats have been set aside at 2/ (plus tax), and 200 seats at 1/ (plus tax). This action of the executive will be appreciated, for although the orchestra does not receive State or municipal aid it is desirable that all classes in the community should have the opportunity of hearing the inspiring and educational works of the master composers. Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M., who will conduct the orchestra, has trained his band of sixty instrumentalists to a high degree of efficiency. The programme to be rendered is in every way

a popular one, and includes (by request) a selection from Sullivan's delightful opera, "The Mikado." Plans are at Savery's.

Mail 7-4-23.

The date of the University ball has been changed from Thursday, May 3, to Friday, May 4, owing to his Excellency the Governor being unable to attend on the former date. Names of the intending debutantes should be sent in to the secretaries.

Advertiser 10-4-23.

Dr. Jethro Brown, President of the Industrial Court, will leave for London shortly.

Advertiser 10-4-23.

LAW REFORM.

EVIDENCE OF DR. JETHRO BROWN.

VALUE OF CONCILIATION.

"THE PRIVILEGE OF FIGHTING."

Dr. Jethro Brown, President of the State Industrial Court, gave further evidence on Monday before the Law Reform Commission. He endorsed Professor Phillipson's views on the reform of the jury system, and gave additional information regarding the working of Conciliation Courts.

The members of the Commission present were Messrs. H. D. Young (chairman), J. Carr, H. Tassie, T. Butterfield and P. Reidy.

In his previous evidence Dr. Brown had suggested certain law reforms, more especially those relating to the administration of justice, the Court of Conciliation, and that statutes should be more clearly expressed as a means of affording relief to litigants.

Dr. Brown said, with reference to the Conciliation Court, the points he wished to clear up were how far it had been adopted by other countries, how it worked, and how it could be introduced locally. He had been told by a friend that litigation had become so much a habit that any reforms along the lines he had suggested would be impracticable.

The Chairman—We meet a lot of these people.

Dr. Brown said he did not think the Commission was likely to be deterred by this statement. Every reform would be impracticable until it was introduced. If the Commission provided for the settlement of disputes by conciliation the people would soon learn its value and avail themselves of it. It was true that litigation was a reflection of the combative instinct which prevailed in men. People, however, would get tired of paying too much for the privilege of fighting. Litigation would not be eliminated, and the present courts would still have their work.

Family Matters.

The Conciliation Court could deal with family matters, trade disputes, questions between landlords and tenants, and similar matters. Many family questions now come before the courts could be settled without publicity. Conciliation courts might or might not be made separate from the present courts.

Turning to the work of the Industrial Court in this State, the witness said that out of every four disputes were settled in chambers, without the matter going to court. Should a matter come before court for settlement a conference in chambers