

names of the images we substitute for the real objects which Nature will hide for ever from our eyes." John Stuart Mill, again, almost reaches the idealist position when he declares that "all matter, apart from the feelings of sentient beings, has but an hypothetical and unsubstantial existence; it is a mere assumption to account for our sensations; itself we do not perceive; we are not conscious of it, but only of the sensations which we are said to receive from it." The familiar charge laid against philosophy by the Positivist school is that what it finds lacking in science it cannot supply itself; it is engaged in an interminable search for an ultimate reality that always eludes it; it can no more than science pass the limits of the knowable. Yet it is service rendered to the seeker after truth if he derives no more from philosophic study than a theory of knowledge that saves him from a stupid materialism which forgets that our ideas of the world lying beyond consciousness are necessarily shaped by the conditions of our own being. Something, too, is gained by the affirmation, as by Spencer, of the existence of the Unknowable Power behind phenomena. Strange, however, it is that Spencer did not perceive the irrationality of describing as the Unknowable that of which, by his hypothesis, we know enough to be able to say that it or He cannot be revealed to man, and that its or His outstanding quality is Power. If we can postulate Power, why not Will, or why not at once admit the Unknowable as the source of all our intellectual, ethical, spiritual, and aesthetic values?

The subject-matter of metaphysics is the consciousness and its content. It recognises in consciousness the primary unquestionable reality within our experience, and from this starting-point enquires into the objective world manifested through the senses to the mind—whether it is real or apparent, and, if real, transfigured. Science reverses this process. It begins by practically assuming the reality of things external to consciousness as they seem, and then (if it is materialistic) it travels back to consciousness, and explains this intuitively felt reality as an effect of the outward reality it has merely assumed. Even pursuing this method—from the non-ego to the ego—a method extremely profitable for all the practical purposes of life, science is confronted at last with the same problems as engage the attention of philosophy. Long suspected of being a form of energy possessing an extraordinarily high degree of resistance at short distances, matter has been tracked down to its elements until it seems finally to evaporate from matter to energy in the electric system of the atom. If Einstein's theory of relativity should be established the ether will go too. Then science would be left with a physical universe emptied of everything but space-time and an all-pervading energy. But why this mechanical energy, or any part of it, should rise into consciousness of itself would remain for science an unsolved enigma. In the subjective no less than in the objective world it comes finally to a borderland of mystery. That a molecular change in the brain is, as materialists have supposed, the cause of consciousness is not only unproved but incredible, because the two things belong to manifestly different orders of being. When the stomach secretes gastric juice the material produces the material. But the assumption that the brain secretes consciousness and thought supposes that the material produces the immaterial—an astonishing and unproved proposition. The brain, as William James shows, may reasonably be regarded as a transmissive rather than a productive organ—the vehicle of thought; the instrument on which the spirit plays. Mind and matter may both be only aspects of a transcendent unity of being, but, if we must have dualism and causation, it is far easier to believe that matter is the effect than that it is the cause of mind.

NEWS 30.5.25
WORKING CLASS EDUCATION

What Does It Mean?

(By J. Cameron Porter)

Speaking in the vicinity of Adelaide not long ago a certain Labor Parliamentarian on being asked what Labor wanted from education said that the worker's child ought to have a free and equal chance with the child of the wealthy person in moving from the common school to the University. In making this statement he undoubtedly showed a kindly spirit. At the same time it revealed a lack of understanding not only of working-class education, but of the Labor movement itself. He seemed to think that the movement existed chiefly to provide the sons of a section of the working class with a chance equal with the wealthy of making a career, and thus be able to lift themselves bag and baggage out of the working class.

Controversies about working class education centre round the sort of education which is meant. Some take it for granted that all education is good. A fetish is made of the word education, as some do in regard to the word religion, forgetting that education is a generalisation embracing all kinds and forms of knowledge. To obtain knowledge we have to specialise and classify according to the subject we desire information about. We thus find that specialised social, political, or industrial aims necessitate specialised education.

Labor's Objective

The kind of knowledge therefore that the Labor movement requires is determined by the object aimed at. So in speaking about working class education the question suggests itself, "What kind of knowledge do the workers need and for what purpose is it required?" To answer queries of this kind we must possess a clear understanding regarding what is meant by the "working class," to distinguish those persons from others.

Who, then, are they who constitute the working class? This brings us into the heart of the great social problem of our age; and every economist will not give the same answer. My reply to the query raised is that the working class is a term or phrase which embraces all those who have to obtain their livelihood by the sale of their labor-power for wages.

The term working class implies the existence of another class—those who may be described in a general sense as obtaining their livelihood from the sale of the products of labor and other indescribable methods. The members of the working class, it is contended, in order to live have to sell themselves piecemeal to the class which owns the means whereby they live—the capital class—or starve.

Antagonised Armies

Working class educationists, contrary to the school of university economists, maintain that there is no such thing under the present order of society as "community," but a mass of humanity split up for all practical purposes into two classes with antagonistic interests. These two industrial, political, and educational armies are seen everywhere organising their respective forces for offence and defence, in most cases with more deadly antagonism than that of opposing nations.

Just as the Church in all ages has been modelled in the interest of the ruling class, so it is contended that the universities throughout the world today are being used in the interest of the capitalist class, being well endowed by wealthy men and capitalist Governments.

It is increasingly obvious that if the working class is not to become more and more the wage slaves of selfish capitalism they must organise their Labor colleges on the same lines as they have organised themselves into unions and in the field of politics.

Only an economically educated working class can save the world from drifting into anarchy more horrible than that from which the world has just emerged.

ADVERTISER 2.6.25

CONSERVATORIUM STRING QUARTET.

At the Liberal Union Hall to-night the String Quartet from the Elder Conservatorium will give their first recital in a public hall apart from the Elder Hall. On the Continent the practice of giving string ensemble music in a small hall with the audience seated on three sides of the dais, is in vogue and proving entirely satisfactory. To-night's programme promises to be one of exceptional interest, including as it does, the beautiful Mozart quartet in D major, and also two most fascinating movements from the popular Tchaikowsky quartet. The G minor quartet by Gabriel Faure, a French composer, who died recently, and who without doubt, was one of the most gifted creative artists of modern times, will also be played. Mr. Harold Wyldie will be the pianist. Single tickets and student concession tickets may be obtained at Correll's box-office.

NEWS 1.6.25
FATE OF AMUNDSEN

"NO CAUSE FOR ANXIETY"

Sir Douglas Mawson Hopeful

There should be no cause for anxiety regarding the fate of Capt. Amundsen and his party. This opinion was expressed by



SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON, D.Sc., F.R.S.
 Professor of Geology, University of Adelaide, who considers there should be no cause for anxiety regarding Capt. Amundsen.

Sir Douglas Mawson, D.Sc., F.R.S. (Professor of Geology, University of Adelaide) this morning.

"Amundsen is a man who would spend as much time as possible at the Pole if things were going all right," remarked Sir Douglas today. "Until several weeks have passed, I do not think people should become anxious regarding his fate. By taking a second aeroplane the party ensured its return to some extent. There are two aeroplanes to bread down, and the breaking down of one would certainly cause a delay."

"No one knows better than I the difficulties of running an aeroplane in the polar regions. We took a machine with the Australasian Antarctic Expedition in 1911. We soon realised, however, that under the abnormal conditions in Adelie Land, flying was almost out of the question. We therefore used the aeroplane without wings as an air tractor for towing sledges."

"It did good work for a while, but the extreme cold caused trouble with the lubrication. Eventually the piston seized, and the cylinders broke. The use of the machine then had to be abandoned."

Sir Douglas pointed out that since then great improvements had been made in aeroplane engines, consequently many of the troubles of those days had been relieved. The trip to the North Pole was a pioneering business. Capt. Amundsen was a man who worked things out carefully. He left nothing to chance.

"Should the machines fail the party would still have a good prospect of getting back safely. But it might be a year before anything was heard of them. Stefansson's Arctic experience had shown that life could be sustained on the open polar ice pack by hunting and living on the local products."

"There is no need," added Sir Douglas, "for people to become panicky."

REGISTER 2.6.25

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM STRING QUARTET.

To-night will be the first occasion for the string quartet from the Elder Conservatorium to give a recital in a public hall apart from the Elder Hall itself. There will thus be an opportunity to hear chamber music under ideal conditions. On the Continent this method of giving string ensemble music in a small hall with the audience seated on three sides of the dais is proving entirely satisfactory. The programme to be presented at the Liberal Union Hall to-night promises to be one of exceptional interest. It includes the beautiful Mozart quartet in D major; also two most fascinating movements from the popular Tchaikowsky quartet. The G minor quartet by Gabriel Faure, a French composer who died recently, and who without doubt, was one of the most gifted creative artists of modern times, will also be played. Mr. Harold Wyldie will be the pianist on this occasion. Single tickets and student concession tickets may now be obtained for the first recital at Correll's box office.

ADVERTISER 2.6.25
SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS.

(Continued from page 13.)

Melbourne, June 1.

That an investigation of the major and minor forest products of Australia could best be undertaken by a central organisation under the Institute of Science and Industry is recommended by the sub-committee, with Senator J. D. Millen as chairman, which reported to the conference of scientists and business men from all the States. The conference discussed the proposals for the future co-ordination of Federal and State institutions by the application of science to industry, and all the recommendations of the sub-committee were adopted.

Other recommendations were:—That an investigation of liquid fuel possibilities be undertaken with a general aim for the development of motor fuels and heavy oils, with the consideration of coal, lignite, oil shales, and vegetable products from which power alcohol could be produced in quantities; that in connection with the cold storage of food, canning, and the effects of preservatives be investigated. An investigation of stock diseases and pests is counselled conjointly with a survey of plant diseases and weed pests. The establishment of a Federal horticultural quarantine station is advised, and the continuation of the weekly pear investigation; also that regarding bunchy top in bananas and other diseases of vegetables, cereals, and fruit, with an enquiry into insect and animal pests and diseases, and a general agricultural investigation. Concerning secondary industries, it is advocated that the investigations should embrace new processes to absorb Australian raw material, and the improvement of existing processes of manufacturing and transport problems.

The cost of putting these recommendations into practice, including eight highly-trained investigators and overhead expenses was set down at £1,000,000. The conference will recommend to the Federal Government that there should be a board of three directors, giving their full time to the work of the reorganised Institute of Science and Industry, with the necessary scientific qualifications and experience, responsible directly to the Minister, to be paid, the chairman £3,000 yearly, and the other two £2,000 yearly each, and a chief executive officer at £1,250 yearly. As an alternative it will be recommended that the Institute should be placed under an advisory council with the chief executive officer and two full-time organisers on research work. Further recommendations will be:—1. A committee of seven in each State to advise the directors and organise work in their own States, three nominated by the State Government, three by the Australian National Research Council, and one by the State University; 2. A council of three directors, with a Commonwealth Government nominee and one delegate from each State, the committee to meet at least thrice yearly to discuss policy and report annually to the Minister on the financial provision necessary for the Institute; 3. That all major investigations be carried out under the direct control of special committees responsible to the directors, including in each case industrial and scientific experts.

NEWS 30.5.25



MR. W. H. FOOTE
 Conductor of the South Australian Orchestra, which will give its first concert this season at the Exhibition Building to-night.

REG. 2.6.25

At the monthly meeting this evening of the Society of Arts, Mr. H. H. Corbin will deliver a lecture on "Trees." It will be illustrated by lantern slides.