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RUSSIAN PROBLEMS.

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR WILTON.

At the luncheon of the League of Nations Union, at the Regal Cafe, Grenfell-street, yesterday, at which Mr. J. Howard Vaughan presided, Professor J. R. Wilton delivered his second address on "The problems of Russia." Most people, he said, were profoundly ignorant of the objects and effects of Bolshevik rule. He proposed therefore to comment briefly upon the system and methods of the Soviets. There were only three classes in the State who were eligible to vote, the workers, the peasants, and the soldiers and sailors. The Bolshevik definition of a worker was "one who belonged to a trade union." These workers numbered but 5 1/2 millions out of a total population of 138 millions. Employers of private labor were not included. Every 500 "workers" were entitled to select one deputy to a Soviet, and these Soviets in their turn elected delegates to the "All Russian Congress of Soviets," which met once a year.

Professor Wilton said his sole claim to speak with authority on the subject of Russia rested on a valuable report to which he had had access, namely, the report of the Society of Friends, who from 1916 onwards had been working to improve the social conditions in Moscow and in the district of Bazuluk. There could be no question that this report was thoroughly reliable. Between 1917 and 1922, which included the famine period, the conditions of life in Russia had been indescribably low, but since then it had shown a steady improvement. The standard of life for manual workers was still below, but was now approaching, the pre-war standard. Although wages were low and food was dear, there were certain counterbalancing advantages; for instance, there was cheap rent, cheap fuel and light, and a free medical service. The manual worker enjoyed an eight-hours' day. Thoroughly hygienic creches were provided by the State, where women could place their children during working hours, and conditions were made very easy for women before and after child-birth. It was significant that an extraordinary change was coming over the spirit of the manual working class. As an illustration of this, workers in the railway yards during their spare time and holidays had equipped a railway train of which the State had stood in need, and had presented it to the Government. In Moscow trams had also been constructed and presented to the municipality. Mental workers were allowed a six-hours' working day, with complete freedom of speech. Their living conditions approximated to those of the manual workers, which meant, of course, that they were far below the pre-war standard. The class worst paid and worst cared for were undoubtedly the teachers, a fact which was causing some concern to the Government. Although the universities were crowded with students, it was the technical side, such as applied mathematics and chemistry, which was flourishing. The study of law and belles lettres, of history, of classics, and of the church, had fallen into desuetude.

The Peasant Problem.

The most tremendous problem confronting the Government was undoubtedly the peasant problem, and it was remarkable that the full effects of the national policy were not expected to be felt for a generation. Bolshevism apparently believed that it had come to stay. The agricultural methods of the peasants were extraordinarily primitive. Bullocks, cows, and even camels were yoked to a plough of heavy frame with a single blade. There were no tractors, and such things as binders and harvesters were not only rare, but regarded with disfavor. The peasants resented any departure from the methods of their fathers. Reaping was carried out largely by the sickle, and was very wasteful. Few of the peasants could read or write, and brick or two-storeyed houses were practically unknown among them. Their dwellings were mostly mud huts with mud walls, which in the valley of the Volga, at any rate, were swept away by the floods at every spring. The standard of living was indescribably low, the staple diet being black bread, while meat was an unheard-of luxury. Medical services were practically non-existent, and the methods of midwives were so crude that it was remarkable that any babies survived. Children were brought into the world by means absolutely barbaric, and over 50 per cent. of them died. The question of arousing a political consciousness among such a people was a matter of exceptional difficulty, but the Government were really making an attempt to educate them, and were planning a generation ahead. There was some evidence of the growth of a political consciousness, largely as the result of the return of Communist soldiers to the country villages. The peasant was becoming more suspicious and beginning to realise that he was a not unimportant factor in the political situation.

EXAMINATION TIME.

Schools and University.

Increased Entries Received.

November in South Australia is the month of examinations, and for the past six weeks students of diverse ages and aims have been burning the midnight oil in the attempt to "cram" a mass of knowledge into their heads. They will continue to do so for a few more days. The degree and commercial examinations at the Adelaide University are drawing to a close; but the public tests will begin on November 24, and will last for a fortnight. The qualifying examinations will be held on Friday.

The qualifying certificate examination, conducted by the Education Department to test the fitness of candidates for entrance to the high, higher primary, and central schools, will be held at 25 metropolitan and 195 country centres on Friday. The total number of entries for the examinations this year is 7,002, as against 7,506 last year. Of these, 6,882 candidates have entered from the public schools, and 720 from private schools in different parts of the State. All candidates who entered for the examination, and who will be under the age of 14 years on December 31, will be considered as applicants for qualifying exhibitions. They number 5,810. The examinations at inspectorial headquarters will be supervised by the inspectors of schools, and at other country centres by local committees. It is hoped that the results of the examination, together with the certificates, will be forwarded to teachers before the schools close for the Christmas vacation.

University Public Examinations.

Although the written public examinations will terminate on December 7, oral subjects will occupy the attention of candidates and examiners for some time after that date. There has been a great increase in the number of entrants, as the following table shows:

	1925	1924
Intermediate	2,187	1,914
Leaving	680	607
Leaving Honours	120	97

The examinations each year call for a great deal of preliminary organization, not only in the metropolitan area, but also in the country, where 55 local centres are established for examinations. The nearest one is at Gawler, and the area covered is bounded by Mount Gambier in the east; Fowler's Bay in the west; and Quorn in the north. The arrangements for supervision have been made without a hitch, and a great deal of work is done by committees willing to spare some time in the service of the State. A huge quantity of stationery has to be prepared each year, and it is expected that the Exhibition Building will be taxed to its utmost to provide accommodation for the candidates at the forthcoming examinations. It is expected that the augmented entries will not render necessary an increase in the examining staff. The only new subject this year will be intermediate geology.

Prizes for Success.

Twelve Government bursaries are awarded on the results of the leaving honours examination. They entitle the holders to attend the University of Adelaide in any course for which they are qualified. Previous notice must have been given. Four of the bursaries are awarded for medicine, and they carry the winner through a six-years' course without payment of fees. Each of the bursaries has associated with it a subsistence allowance, which is increased in the case of those whose homes are in the country. Another prize for leaving honours candidates is the Hartley Studentship, which is awarded to the most successful candidate, who intends to take a degree course. It is valued at £25. For the leaving examination the Angus Engineering Exhibition is awarded. Each exhibition is of the annual value of £15 and is tenable for four years. Four scholarships, known as the John Cresswell Scholarships, are awarded each year. One is given by the South Australian Cricket Association, the second by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, and the remaining two by the Council of the University. The Annie Montgomery Martin prize and medal are awarded to the best student in French and modern history. In addition there are the Tenyson medals for the best candidate in English literature for the three candidates. The Government will this year award 24 exhibitions for intermediate examinations. They entitle the holder to three years' study. Eight are given for country students, and the remainder may be competed for by all students. Other prizes are the two exhibitions given by the Licensed Victuallers' Association. They cover a three-years' course, and are valued at £25 per annum.

Expert in Figures

On the resignation of Mr. S. Russell Booth Mr. E. Whitfield Mills was chosen from a number of applicants for the position of lecturer in accountancy in the course for the Commercial Diploma at the University of Adelaide. Born at Norwood in 1884, Mr. Mills was educated at the Pulteney Grammar School. He received his early training in office routine and accountancy with the late Mr. W. S. Douglas. Entering the firm of James Hill & Sons, Mr. Mills spent three years there before leaving for Western Australia, where he had 12 months on the land. Indoor occupation called him again, and he returned to South Australia for a further three years with James Hill and Sons. Again the roving spirit was insistent, and he went to New Zealand for a year, six months of which was spent in travelling up and down the Dominion and six months in outdoor work. In 1916 he came back to Adelaide, and for 10 years was associated with the firm of Charles Wilcox & Co. In 1929 he began practising on his own as an



MR. E. W. MILLS

accountant. For the past six years he has been instructor in bookkeeping and accountancy at the Adelaide School of Mines and Industries.

Included in his new duties will be lecturing in accountancy and auditing, conducting examinations and marking the papers of students. He is also employed by the Public Examinations Board as examiner for the intermediate and leaving commercial students. This year the number of examination papers that Mr. Mills will be called upon to correct and mark will be 950.

He is secretary of the Pulteney Grammar School Old Scholars' Association. In his leisure moments he confesses to doing a great deal of motoring and a little gardening.

NEWS. 12-11-25

Dental Hospital

W. F. O. Grote, surgeon dentist, Adelaide:—I cannot agree with Mr. McGrath that the School Dental Clinic is detrimentally affecting the private practitioner. I find hardly a day goes by without a parent arriving at the surgeries with the blue paper order, and accompanied by one or two children seeking dental treatment. In many instances where there are large families of five or six children with a number of teeth each for treatment it is beyond the average working man to pay for the services, none of the children being self-supporting.

To my mind this is where the Dental Hospital falls in its duty, as the authorities should step in and do the necessary work, as the children of today will be the men of the future. When they go to the hospital, however, they are told that it is impossible to see them for at least three or four weeks owing to the number awaiting treatment.

I am informed that the majority of Government employes and private people who own motor cars have the appointments that should be for the deserving poor and persons with large families. Is it fair that the taxpayer should have to contribute to the upkeep of this institution to treat patients who can well afford to pay, and to the detriment of the dentist in private practice?

I think it is time that an investigation was made. As a Labor Government is in power it should see that the object of the institution is not abused, and that the dentist with the small practice who has rent, mechanics, and nurses to pay, be not forced to close his doors on account of the loss of patients receiving for practically nothing treatment, and artificial teeth at the Dental Hospital.

THE MENTALITY OF EUROPE.

A UNIVERSITY LECTURE.

"The mentality of Europe" was the subject of an inspiring lecture, delivered by Mr. E. G. Baggini, B.A., tutor of the Workers' Educational Association at Renmark, at the Prince of Wales Hall, Adelaide University, on Tuesday evening. Mr. C. H. Dicker, a vice-president of the association, occupied the chair, and the remarks of the lecturer were followed with close attention by a large gathering.

The theory that had been advanced in some quarters that man had already reached the culminating point of his evolution, he said, was a fallacy, and the idea was in no way borne out by facts. It might be that our physical frames had reached a pinnacle, but it was the human mind, rather than the body, which was, as it were, the "growing point" of evolution. It was necessary to realise that before beginning a study of the "Mentality of Europe," for the idea that life was static rather than dynamic, was the source of a great number of political and other errors.

Europe still remained in a state which made some despair for the future of her civilisation. An exaggerated national sentiment was a chief cause of the trouble. In essence the sentiment was healthy enough, but when attached to an obsolete political philosophy it became a menace, not a blessing to the world. Secondly, European society remained segregated into classes, and there was an increasing measure of social disunity. During the war there were signs of change in this direction, and the artificial barriers of society were to some extent removed, but with peace they seemed as firmly fixed as ever, and differences in rank, in education, and in economic opportunity remained a very noticeable feature of society, and were tacitly accepted as permanent. Thirdly, the European peoples had not succeeded in electing to power those of the right type. Scientifically they had to judge by results, and the rulers and governments who had reduced Europe to the present pass could not claim to be efficient. Lastly all observers were agreed that there was an increasing mental instability on all sides—the result apparently of the imperfect adjustment of their environment to their spiritual needs.

All that could in no way be regarded as satisfactory, as could be seen from a biological study of the nature of man. Some of the lower orders with similar instincts had attained a marked degree of social harmony, but with man's remarkable brain capacity the problem which confronted him almost defied description. Man's sympathy and knowledge, however imperfect in degree, were world-wide in extent, and it was his task to reduce that mass of almost infinite content into terms to which he could respond. The Western world was committed to a policy of individualism, but that term needed defining. Properly understood, individualism was a recognition of the principle that they were free to vary so that they might specialise for the common good. A distorted Darwinism was very popular among the uninformed, but to talk of modern societies as Darwin did of the world of "tooth and claw," besides being morally reprehensible, was opposed to the biological facts. It was commonly taken for granted that their civilisation could not suffer the fate which had overcome those which preceded them. It was not easy to see why, and the onus of proof would certainly lie with those who held the view. In truth, the position of European civilisation was by no means secure, and if they did not bring their institutions and their ways of thought into line with biological truth, the Europe they knew would pass away. There lay before them, however, a magnificent opportunity, for the age above all things was a scientific one, and if they would but apply their knowledge they could climb to the supremest heights.



MR. R. H. CHAPMAN.

Chief Engineer for Railways, who designed and supervised the erection of the new railway structure at Murray Bridge.

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NEWS. 13-11-25

Miss Margaret Darnley Naylor, daughter of Professor Darnley Naylor, on September 26, while staying in Athens, en route from Constantinople to Salonica, visited the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and other classical places.

Dr. R. F. Matters has been appointed a surgeon in the night clinic department at the Adelaide Hospital in place of Dr. Rischbieth.