

TO PREVENT WAR

League of Nations Problem

ADDRESS BY PROF. HANCOCK

"What guidance can history give the League of Nations in its attempt to organise peace?" asked Prof. W. K. Hancock, B.A., today at the weekly luncheon of the League of Nations Union.

"Encouragement for one thing," he replied. "The idea of organised peace has appealed to the best minds for the last three centuries," he added. "Erasmus advocated arbitration. Someone objected that it would destroy safety. What safety is there now, when everyone is pursuing everyone to the death, when we see wars arising from wars, and no limit or end to the confusion?"

"It is inspiration for supporters of the League of Nations to think that they are in partnership with the best minds of past ages. It may be, however, a melancholy inspiration, for the best minds have not so far made history in this respect. That has been proved to each generation by blood and ruin.

"Turn to history again. We find that a little more than a century ago the long war with France, under Napoleon, was similar in many respects to the last war. Europe was defending itself against a military despotism. Britain entered the war to safeguard Belgium. Naval power triumphed, and Britain had to bear the brunt of the conflict. She paid allies, who either could not or would not pay themselves.

RULED BY ARISTOCRATS.

"After the war arose problems almost identical with those of today. There was an attempt to organise peace after the war. Conditions then differed materially from those of today, I admit.

"Britain then was ruled by cynical aristocrats, and the world by wicked despots. Yet we have to admit that the aristocrats and despots did better in many respects than we have done. They made a generous peace.

"There was no cutting up of France, as we have cut up Germany and Austria, and no staggering indemnities. The passions of war were forgotten more quickly than by our modern democracies. All the occupying troops were out of France in three years, while the Allies till have soldiers on the Rhine.

"France was admitted to the Confederation of Europe, which was the League of Nations of that day, within three years. Germany is still outside the League of Nations, although it is now nearly eight years since the war ended.

"I am not going to say that those people did better than we have done. We began worse, but we are going to finish better. We should not be too proud to learn from them, for, after all, they managed to keep a pretty general peace for more than 30 years.

"They failed because they had no permanent organisation, no public support, and their efforts to keep peace were tied up with their efforts to keep the boundaries and Governments of Europe just as they were fixed by the peace. The last was the most serious flaw.

TYRANNICAL TREATMENT

"Moreover, the peace was not wholly just, and the League of Nations of that day sought to perpetuate its own injustices. That is why Britain left it. This fault is, in my opinion, the most serious problem before the League today. It is still predominantly a league of conquerors, each wishing to keep what it has got.

"Is it going to set itself against all the forces which aim to modify the existing state of things?"

"For instance, there is the problem of Italy and the conquered Tyrol. 'We are at Brenner Pass, and we will remain,' says Mussolini. The conquered population of the Tyrol has been treated in the most tyrannical manner.

"The natural reaction in German-speaking countries will arouse revengeful feelings. We have made the mistake of creating in Europe more than one new Alsace-Lorraine.

"Principal problems before the League are to tighten its organisation to prevent war, and at the same time to make possible the modification of the existing position.

"These objects can be materially aided by the enthusiasm of the Unions of the League, by the patience which is the fruit of knowledge, and by the knowledge which is the fruit of hard work."

THE FEEBLE-MINDED

ADDRESS BY DR. CONSTANCE DAVEY.

Mrs. W. T. Cooke, president of the Women's Non-Party Association, presided at a meeting at the club-room of that body, North-terrace, on Wednesday evening, when Dr. Constance Davey spoke on legislation which affected the feeble-minded.

Dr. Davey briefly outlined the provisions of the South Australian and Tasmanian laws on the subject, and showed that legislation dealing with mental defectives had followed a change in public opinion. The British Royal Commission which took evidence from 1904 to 1908 regarding the care and control of the feeble-minded had recommended the elimination of the word "lunatic," and its replacement by the term, "mentally deficient," which included persons of unsound mind, the mentally infirm, and the feeble-minded, moral imbeciles, and others, such as epileptics and inebriates. There were two distinct types, the insane, who had lost their reason, and those of undeveloped mentality, and in England the same legislation covered both types. The New Zealand legislation on the subject passed in 1911 closely followed the English law. Two years later the South Australian Mental Defective Act came into force. It included persons of unsound mind, the mentally infirm, and idiots, and imbeciles, but left out the feeble-minded or moral imbeciles. Under the Act the Mental Defectives Board had charge of the Parkside Mental Hospital and the Enfield Receiving Home, which were the only two institutions proclaimed under the Act in this State. Tasmania in 1921 passed legislation in which provision was made for the care of moral imbeciles and the feeble-minded. The Mental Defectives Board there consisted of the Director of Public Health and the Director of the Psychological Clinic, and three others, one of whom must be a medical man. An important clause called for the notification of the feeble-minded by the Director of Education and head teachers of schools public or private, and superintendents of the State Children's Department, and of various institutions. Voluntary supervision or guardianship by a responsible person was allowed, as well as that exercised in institutions. The Mental Education Act had been amended to raise the school-going age for the feeble-minded to sixteen years. The examination by the State Psychological Clinic was most thorough on mental and physical lines, and included the family and school history of each subject. Another great feature was that every mental defective in an institution had to be examined every year. Those who were not idiots or imbeciles could be released on parole under certain stringent provisions. No intoxicating liquor could be sold to them. Under the Tasmanian Act it was evident that there was an intent to formulate a plan adequate to the problem. It aimed at the registration of all defectives within the State with a view to their education, treatment, care, and protection generally. (Applause.)

NEWS. 4-5-26

ENGLISH WEEK

Scheme to Improve Speaking

PROF. STRONG IN FAVOR

"English Week" has been inaugurated at the Avagga District Rural School. A comprehensive programme has been drawn up, which includes the correct use of vocal organs in speech and the cultivation of clearness of enunciation and pronunciation, correct written English, the creation of an interest in the right kind of literature, the art of listening, drill in phonetics, competitions, and debates and discussions.

"If the scheme induces children to have a better comprehension of English it is all to the good," said Sir Archibald Strong, M.A., Litt.D. (Professor of English Language and Literature at the Adelaide University). "If the University would co-operate in the movement I think it would be greatly reinforced.

"One feature that is particularly good is the drill in phonetics. If there is faulty English in the schools it can be cured by the right kind of teacher and the use of phonetics. So far as I can see teaching which depends upon scientific phonetic methods is the only certain way of ensuring correct pronunciation of English in cases where bad pronunciation is widely spread. Other features of which I approve are the debates and discussions, because the expression of different opinions in matters of this kind inevitably creates greater interest than would be aroused by mere lectures. It makes all concerned feel that they have a personal interest in the matter in hand.

"Both in respect of the written and spoken English the great thing is to make the pupils feel a glow of pride in the great heritage of English speech that has come down to them. It is equally important to imbue them with personal ambition to maintain that

tradition. No student can do himself justice, even in scientific subjects, if he cannot express himself in English which is correct and pure.

"All the teaching given in all subjects can be made incidentally a study in the correct speaking and writing of English. The provision for the promotion of good reading seems to me to be exceedingly important. Once a child is imbued with a love of the great things in literature he will instinctively avoid the inferior literature of the kind which unfortunately is so prevalent in Australia today.

"Children have a great power and passion for good latent in them, and the awakening of this force, which appears to be the object of this movement, is to be highly commended."

Mr. W. T. McCoy, B.A. (Director of Education) said that such weeks were common in America, and were organised much the same as "Health Week" and "Dried Fruit Week" in Adelaide. He could not say whether it would achieve any good purpose, but all that it proposed to do was already being done in South Australian schools by the teachers without any spectacular advertising."

ADV. 7-5-26

PRAISE FOR URRBRAE.

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL SCIENTIST'S VIEW.

On a tour of the Far East, Australia, and New Zealand, representing the International Education Board of the United States of America, Mr. H. L. Russell, Dean of Agriculture at the Agricultural College at the University of Wisconsin, is at present in Adelaide. Interviewed by a representative of "The Advertiser" on Thursday, he said his mission was to consult the agricultural and University authorities in the various Australian States and in New Zealand, in regard to scientific agricultural research work.

"The work I am interested in," said Mr. Russell, "is in connection with the study of research facilities in agricultural and



Mr. H. L. Russell.

biological science. I have been in touch with the University here, the professors in the departments concerned, and also the University officers. Yesterday I had a conference with Professor Perkins, of the State Department of Agriculture, and this morning I had the pleasure of visiting Urrbrae. It is the making of a wonderful institution. When Dr. A. E. V. Richardson returns the institution should make great progress. I was very sorry at missing Dr. Richardson. He has the reputation in America of being your leading agricultural man."

Mr. Russell is very much impressed with the exceedingly fine museum and library which Adelaide possesses. "Your museum," he remarked, "is one of the finest I have yet seen on my tour. It is better than the Raffles Museum at Singapore, which is one of the great museums of the East, and it is even larger than the Bishop Museum at Honolulu. The flora and fauna are so radically different here, and that is what makes it so interesting. It is very obvious that people here are interested in intellectual matters, by the support which is given to the library, museum, and the many book shops. This is purely a characteristic of both Australia and New Zealand. Nothing has struck me more forcibly than that."

After spending a few more days in this State Mr. Russell will go on to Melbourne. To-day he will inspect outback stations at the invitation of Messrs. Elder, Smith & Co.

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR HANCOCK.

There was a good attendance of members of the League of Nations Union at the luncheon on Tuesday. Mr. J. H. Vaughan presided. Professor Hancock (professor of modern history at the Adelaide University) was the speaker. His subject was "The League of Nations and Modern History."

The speaker said he had found the Adelaide branch of the League of Nations Union more active than any other similar body he had met. History gave them guidance and encouragement in their activity. He had read an early historical letter by an authority, in which compulsory arbitration was advocated. It should be an inspiration to the members of the League to know that in this respect they were in touch with the great minds of centuries ago. History of a century ago gave them a lesson from a war which was in some respects similar to the recent struggle. England in that case bore the brunt of the war, for naval power had defeated France and Napoleon, and on the last occasion it was naval power that had defeated Germany. The alter-war problems on both occasions were also similar. There was depression, and England pulled through them as she would do now. (Applause.) On the early occasion, as to-day, steps were taken to prevent future wars. The conditions were not quite the same. France was not cut up as Germany had been. There had been no staggering indemnity. In three years the troops of occupation were out of France. Now, eight years after the war, the armies of occupation were still in Germany. France was admitted to the comity of nations in three years, and after eight years it was only talked about admitting Germany. The century ago peace efforts had failed because they had not the support of public interest. To-day they had a tremendous public force behind them. The early efforts failed also because they aimed at maintaining the status quo, and revisions were necessary. There was no safety valve and the boiler blew up in 1914. They could now avoid those mistakes. They regretted, however, that the League to-day represented too much, a league of conquerors. Too many were in the League for what they could get out of it. There must be some modifications of conditions. The coal deposits and the position of Austria were the subject of adverse Continental press criticism when any suggestion was made to join up Austria and Germany. One had to live in some of the European parts to see Italy's attempt to denationalise people, as was boasted by Mussolini. As the result, they found the spirit of revenge rising among the friends of the Germans. There were many examples of the incubus round the neck of the League by the creation of new Alsace-Lorraine in Europe. It was the fundamental obstacle to the League. They had to outlaw war, make arbitration compulsory, and they must make possible the modification of the status quo as needs arose, otherwise there would be a clash. Enthusiasm could do a lot, but they must have patience, the fruit of knowledge and knowledge the fruit of hard work. They must do the hard work necessary to understand the problems as they arose. (Applause.)