

AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES.

Lecture by Professor Jauncey.

Professor G. E. M. Jauncey, of the Washington University, St. Louis, U.S.A., lectured before the Graduates' Association of the University of Adelaide at the council room of the University on Friday evening. The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mitchell) presided.

Professor Jauncey said that what was termed a university in Australia was usually called a college in America. A man attending a university was not called a university man; he was called a college boy. A male attending college was never called a man until he had graduated; then he was called a college man. At American universities a course corresponding with the Australian arts and science courses was called the College of Liberal Arts, or, for short, the college. In America, what was known in Australia as the B.A. degree, was called the A.B. degree. There were about 600 universities or colleges in the United States, and the student population at the universities could be three or four times greater per thousand of the population than in Australia; or, allowing for special courses, such as home economics and manual arts, the latter of which were really technical school subjects, the ratio would be about two to one. Few students won their way to universities on scholarships, as could be done in Australia. The student population of Washington University was between 4,500 and 5,000, and about half of them worked their way through, either partially or wholly. Students worked at all sorts of tasks, many comparatively menial, to earn the money to pay their fees, boarding, and other expenses. Work did not hurt their social prestige in the University, and it was possible for a student, the President of his class, to serve his fellow students in the university cafeteria. The practice had become so general that even children of parents who could afford to pay for them, partially worked their way through. Their argument was that they came in contact with the real outside world while going through the university.

At least 50 per cent. of students who obtained the A.B. degree took positions in the commercial world for which their degree seemed of little use; but the American business man was convinced that it was good policy to employ college graduates. The A.B. degree was a mixture of the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees. Before entering the professional schools a student was required to study in the College of Liberal Arts for two or three years. In the four years of the course, the students were known as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors. The university year usually consisted of semesters, terms of 16 weeks, apart from examination weeks. Final examinations were held at the end of each. At Washington University freshmen were required to take five subjects—English, American history and government, a science subject, a modern language, mathematics, or a classical language.

The lecturer explained the method of "grading" or awarding marks, and the "flunking" or failing of students. A student, to secure the A.B. degree, had to pass in the required subjects in five years. The Americans believed that a college education should be absorbed at a certain speed, and that if a man could not make that speed he was not worth a university education, and should be told about it early. About 900 students entered Washington in September, and 150 of them were lost in January at the end of the first term. If a man were "flunked" at Washington—an A grade university—he could not enter another university of equal standing. The grading was unofficial, but standards varied, and if a student were "flunked" at Washington he could take the street car and enter St. Louis University, which was of lower standing. The Americans held that colleges should be provided for both the brilliant and mediocre. American college students had far more activities, such as "campus" politics, apart from the studies, than Australian students, and if they were not securing a required "grading," they were told to drop some of their activities. The lecturer also described the fraternities and sororities, which were dormitories owned by a number of students, as chapters of national organizations, and not under the supervision of the university. They were regarded with suspicion by the universities, and Princeton (one of the big three) had abolished them.

A WEEK'S WORK FOR MUSSOLINI.

AN EXTRAORDINARY MAN.

By PROFESSOR W. K. HANCOCK.

During the last week, through my books, I have been living in Geneva under the government of John Calvin, that remorseless thinker and organiser of Protestantism who gathered and ordered the fighting forces of the Reformation, marshalled them in disciplined array, prepared, almost unwittingly, the transition from Reformation to Revolution. Impressive, stupendous, is the spectacle of his struggle and triumph: with Calvin an attitude of mind takes form in a creed; a spirit becomes determinate in a great organisation. . . I had the "Institutes" before me when the postman brought to my door a sheaf of papers from Italy. Reading them, I felt again the same amazement; Mussolini (though I had followed his work closely ever since the famous march on Rome) appeared to me in a new light: I saw in his character and work something stupendous, appalling, as in the character and work of Calvin.

Much has been written about Mussolini, "retired and solitary, audacious yet cautious, a pessimist and disillusioned when he judges men and the present, an optimist and ardent when he thinks of the nation and the future," as his latest biographer, Marpharita Sarfatti, sketches him. Much has been written of Fascism, which four years ago was little more than a spirit, the chaotic spirit of passionate reactions of the Roman matron." Is this action. Yet, the great majority of men also have little idea of what Mussolini, what Fascism, stand for. The gallons of ink spilled have left but a smeary impression. Perhaps an account of one week's work, chronicled in my latest bundle of papers (June 29 to July 4) will leave readers with a clearer idea of the meaning of that strange experiment which is taking place in Italy.

Every day, Mussolini does the normal work of the heads of four departments. He is Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of the Army, Minister of the Navy, Minister of the Air Force. As Prime Minister, he exercises a severe control over the labors undertaken in every other department: each day the papers announce that he has held important discussions with Count Volpe, the Finance Minister, with Federzoni, Minister of the Interior, or with Rocco, Minister of Justice. At the same time, as Duce, leader of the Fascist forces, he keeps in close touch with the party secretary, who, if he becomes too independent (as the last secretary, Farinacci, showed signs of becoming) is very definitely and very firmly "dropped." When the "Grand Council" of Fascism is in session (as it was during the days whose events I am about to chronicle) Mussolini presides at all important meetings; and, even when he is not present, he never for a moment lifts his controlling hand, for the "Grand Council" is a more important institution than Parliament. From time to time he spares half an hour of his day to indulge in the luxury of a little personal propaganda: an interview with a foreign correspondent, a visit to a barracks, or a speech to the Society of Authors. He told a journalist recently that he worked from fourteen to eighteen hours a day. The time seems too short to account for the man's gigantic output: does he sketch out laws and dictate them to his secretaries in his sleep? But let us look at some of his special activities from June 29 till July 4.

The Diary of a Week's Work.

June 29—The papers announced on that day that the Cabinet had approved the "regolamento sindacale," that is, the decree for the enforcement of the new industrial legislation. The new organisation de-triumphed on the field of finance; now I mandate a whole book to describe it, and dedicate my most attentive cares to the thousands of books will be written about it within the next few years: I proposeance." This, too, is a battle; the leader to sketch its main features in my next article. Suffice it to say here that it is the most tremendous experiment made in the industrial discipline of a nation since the Bolsheviks first sought to impose Communism on Russia. Mussolini would never let it be said that he had shirked a problem attacked by Lenin: he hopes to win triumphant success, where Lenin won only a compromise.

After this first announcement, it seemed almost a petty matter that the banking system of Southern Italy should be drastically reorganised. Yet in the next column, Italians could read that the Banks of Naples and of Sicily had been deprived of their autonomy, and were in the future directly joined to the Bank of Italy. An immediate act of the new banking authority was to issue a credit of eighty million lire for works of development in the south.

In the evening of the same day Mussolini held an interview with the Duke of the Abruzzi, who had just returned from Somaliland. That interview was, perhaps, some compensation to him for forfeiting his daily visits to a barracks.

June 30.—Citizens of the new Italy opened their eyes to see the official announcement of measures even more startling than the new Industrial Organisation. This, after all, had been discussed for months, but it must have been surprising (and perhaps terrifying) to read that

the Government, on the proposal of its head, had decided overnight on the following measures:—

1. That for a year, starting from the next day, builders were to build nothing save small houses for workers, farmers, tradesmen, and the like; no pleasant villas, no "handsome residences."
2. That, till further notice, no new bars, pastry shops, or cafes were to be opened.
3. That from the next day till further notice, all newspapers should be reduced to six pages.
4. That, from November 1, all benzine used by automobiles should be mixed with 15 per cent. alcohol, to be produced, so far as would be possible, from the Italian vines.
5. That, from the next day, employers were authorised to make use of a nine-hour day. (Just a simple announcement. How easy it seems! And yet, the British miners were then in the third month of their strike!)

In the same communique the public was informed that the Government was taking measures for a campaign to exploit the sub-soil of the peninsula, so that Italy might be largely freed from the need to import coal and base metals. It was also declared that the Government was considering a plan for forcing the country to return to a modified variety of "war bread"—a plan which, as all the world knows, has already passed into law. The secretary of the Fascist Party (Turati) declared in an interview that this question was "purely technical and physiological." Is that really so? A recent cable (August 10) reports that Mussolini has signed a decree giving Italian dressmakers a little less than three months' grace to free Italian women from the "tyranny" of Paris fashions. In the future, Italian women must wear models "inspired by the dignity and the traditions of the Roman matron." Is this also a purely technical and physiological problem?

Mussolini spent the evening of this momentous day (June 30) happily and peacefully. He paid a visit to the barracks of the Pretorian Camp, and made a very short, very Roman speech.

July 1.—This was a very quiet, uneventful day. At 9.20 a.m. the Prime Minister arrived at the Barracks Umberto I, and reviewed a number of regiments. He concluded his short discourse (again very Roman) by expressing the conviction that Italy would prefer one day as a lion to a hundred years as a flock of sheep. He then returned to his civil duties as the head of four departments. As foreign Minister he received that day the gratifying news that Jugo Slavia had ratified a commercial treaty with Italy.

July 2.—This day was not so dull. It opened with the publication of the complete text of the laws of economic reform—the nine hours law, the law restricting building, the benzine law, and the rest. It is interesting to note that these various laws form nine articles of a single decree, which occupies barely a half column in the newspaper. The tenth and last article of the decree declares that it will be put before Parliament for final ratification. This, as those who have followed the history of Italy in the last year are aware, is a mere form; the decree is binding from the date mentioned in its promulgation, and recent Fascist legislation has made it impossible for Parliament to reject a decree drawn up by the head of the Government. The powers of the Italian Parliament are, in fact (not, of course, in form and detail) very similar to those of the English House of Lords. Mussolini expressed his satisfaction with this new order in an interview with Mr. Ward Price, which was published the same day (July 2), in the English "Daily Mail." Mussolini's decree, remarked Mr. Ward Price approvingly, had done more for Italian prosperity in its ten short articles than the House of Commons had done for Great Britain in twelve months of discussion.

"We have conquered the battle against the factious Parliamentary opposition," declared the dictator, ". . . we have triumphed on the field of finance; now I dedicate my most attentive cares to the establishment of our commercial balance." This, too, is a battle; the leader and his followers speak of "the battle of the coal," "the battle of the benzine." It is the whole series of engagements, whose aim is to free Italy from her dependence on other lands for products of prime importance. Italy must work harder, spend less (the dictator has a yearly tax of 300 lire on every machine for making cafe espresso; if I were now in Italy I should feel this very keenly) and produce much more, till she has attained the idea of self-sufficiency. And if Mussolini conquers this battle, will he sit down like Alexander, and be satisfied that there are no more fields in which to triumph? No; he will always find a new battle before him. Where will the last? Those who read his speeches attentively may make a good guess.

On this same day, July 2, the Prime Minister made three speeches. In the most interesting of the three, he urged the leaders of the Society of Authors to undertake for Italy the spiritual conquest of the world. He reminded them that he had transferred their society to Rome, for the future, would be in every sense the capital of the nation. The people of Italy were enthusiastically convinced that this must be, and even the forces which suffered at the expense of Rome manifested their joy and pride. (It is interesting to note that, a day or two

Party, declared that the transfer of the Society of Authors to Rome was but the beginning of a campaign to make the Eternal City what it has never been in the past—the artistic capital of the Peninsula. Shall the Uffizi be emptied in favor of the Borghese, and shall the artists of La Scala be taken from Milan to the capital? "All the Italian writers," declared Mussolini in this same speech, "must be bearers, within the nation and without, of the new type of Italian civilisation." Writers who are not inspired by this new civilisation—perhaps Pirandello, certainly Croce—do not belong to the true Italian family. Thus Mussolini tells us what to expect. We shall await anxiously the deluge of Fascist novels, Fascist plays, Fascist essays, and, of course, Fascist history. The head of the Government, doubtless, will direct the writers as he directs the soldiers, the sailors, and the airmen. Before finishing this speech he mentioned his qualifications. "When I said that I had only visited two art galleries, it was not true. I have visited several." Mussolini spent the afternoon of the same day, very pleasantly, at another barracks. He assured the officers of his conviction that they understood "their task and their mission."

July 3. On this day the newspapers (all of which had appeared for several mornings with six pages only) announced that the Prime Minister, Minister of the Army, Minister of the Navy, Minister of the Air, had also decided to take the post of Minister of the Corporations—that is, Minister in charge of the new syndicalist organisation of Italian industry, which, I have suggested, is an experiment equal in importance to that of Bolshevism, and which I propose to discuss in my next article. The newspaper also reported that Mussolini had held important discussions with the Minister of Finance, the Minister of National Economy, the President of the National Institute for Exportation, the Minister of the Sea, and with various persons interested in the Italian mercantile marine. On this day he made no speeches, and visited no barracks.

July 4. The sensation of the day was a telegram sent by the Prime Minister to the head of each department. It was a brief announcement (so why not a telegram? Mere circulars are so dull, and the postal officials might as well be given some interesting work) that he intended absolutely to forbid any addition to the personnel of the Civil Service, even in the most extraordinary circumstances. A new department was being organised, but the dictator was determined that this should be no excuse for the creation of new posts. Let the existing officers work a little harder! Undoubtedly, Mussolini is infinitely more efficient and remorseless than all our Economy Commissioners. There was a friendly, patronising note in the interview with an Austrian journalist which was published the same day in the "Wiener Allgemeine Zeitung." He assured the old enemy of Italy that she still had quite an important part to play in Europe. And, being in a contented frame of mind, he felt no need to take his usual recreation of visiting a barracks.

In six days, then, the relationship of industry to the State had been definitely reorganised; gigantic plans had been made for the exploitation of the natural resources of the country; a direct assault had been made upon the national pastime of immoderate talking and very moderate spending in the cafes; the hours of labor had been increased from eight to nine; the banking system of the south had been overhauled; the newspapers had been reduced to six pages; benzine had been diluted with 15 per cent. alcohol—all on the direct initiative of Mussolini. The Prime Minister had, during the same period, made about a dozen speeches, visited four barracks, presided over the Grand Council of Fascism, supervised his Ministers, directed the work of four departments of government, and assumed the direction of a fifth. In each field of his activity he proved himself, as always, dominated by a single idea—the idea of forcing his countrymen into the mould created by his own grandiose conception of the past glory of Italy and her future greatness. He has started with a theory, with a passion; he has proved himself strong enough to embody that theory, that passion, in iron institutions. This is one of the tests of greatness in constructive statesmanship; judged by this test Mussolini becomes a figure akin to that of Calvin. He is doing for Nationalism what Calvin did for Protestantism. And yet how utterly different are the two men!

Will the work succeed? That depends on many things—the span of Mussolini's life, the fortunes of Italian trade (even in Italy crises may occur, and the newspapers of early August record an ominously large number of banking failures), the fortunes of the much-talked-of "colonial expansion" (does this mean war?), and, more important than all, the temperament of the Italian people. Will the ladies of Rome and Florence, for example, be content to spurn Paris and adorn themselves for ever like Roman matrons? Will the University professors submit for ever to the restraints on freedom of teaching and freedom of enquiry? And if not, how many of them will plot in secret, as last century they plotted against other absolute Governments? How long will the Italian people be content to live with their blood at fever heat? Italian history, especially for the last hundred years, has been the history of continued action and reaction. Italians are not always ardent, like Garibaldians and Fascisti; there is in many of them a cynical, sceptical, cautious

ECONOMICS. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AUSTRALIANS.

LONDON, September 9.

Professor Copland has arranged with the Rockefeller Foundation in the United States to establish scholarships in economics to enable Australian students to study abroad. The scholarships will have a value of £300, plus travelling allowances. Professor Copland is going to America a week hence to complete the arrangements, and will reach Australia in March.