

EDUCATE.

It is not denied that there are many difficulties to be overcome. In England it is said that these are largely the result of the low state of general education. Professor Marshall has pointed out that higher mental qualities are needed for carrying on a large manufacturing concern than in conducting a successful shop. "At present," says one economist, "the workers have not realised that good management must be paid for, and is worth paying for. Their attitude in regard to this subject is well shown by the remark of a workman county councillor, that he had never seen a man who was worth more than £500 a year." Several experiments in co-operative manufacturing have failed because the workers have not understood the importance of having first-class directors at the head of affairs. The recent failure of the co-operative bakery and wood yard in Broken Hill was due almost entirely to mismanagement. Experience and education will go a long way towards overcoming these initial blunders. Generally speaking, the workers, when they have had the opportunity, have made a wise choice of directors. Mention has already been made of this in connection with the English co-partnership firms.

With regard to the question of prices it might eventually become necessary for them to be arranged by mutual agreement between co-operators and customers. A similar plan was adopted in 1892 by the Bradford Dyers' Association, which established a standing committee consisting of representatives of the association and of each of the leading sections of customers. The representatives of the customers were appointed by the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, and the latter body acted as arbitrator in case of a deadlock. Should a dispute arise under a system of industrial co-operation either between producer and consumer or between the producers in one industry and those in another the State as representing the whole community would be the ultimate arbiter. This principle is becoming more and more recognised in democratic countries. In conclusion I need hardly say that in my opinion industrial co-operation or industrial Socialism is a feasible ideal.

THE DISCUSSION

Mr. S. S. Mills said that he was in general sympathy with the scheme for industrial Socialism, but he thought that the reform must come from the middle of the social scale and work both upwards and downwards. He doubted very much whether the average worker would sufficiently appreciate the necessity for having brainy directors at the head of co-operative industries. It seemed that in the past productive co-operation had succeeded most in those industries—such as farming—that did not need quite as much brains in their management as some others that were more complicated. On the other hand he did not think that capitalists—whose chief interest was in dividends—were the men to institute the reforms that had been outlined. It was essential that the movement should receive the support of the middle classes. There were, he thought, two serious obstacles in the way of the scheme. The workers would find difficulty in getting sufficient capital to start the co-operative industries, and after they had started some of the workers would be wanting to sell their shares to others, and in the end the shares might be monopolised by a few, who would have much the same power that capitalists had at present. If these difficulties could be overcome he thought that the proposal was a good one. (Applause.)

REFORM ESSENTIAL.

Mr. Harold Giles, B.A., considered that the present system had proved unsatisfactory. It had had its time and no doubt in the past it was quite necessary. But now they needed again a fresh re-adjustment of the relation of Capital to Labor. There was no greater subject that the university should take up than this one. His chief fear concerning the proposal that was before them was that the working men directors, unless they were educated up to it, would not have the necessary ability to run the industries successfully. It required a good deal of intelligence on the part of the rank and file to be able to make a wise choice in the selection of directors. Any

lack of efficiency would doom the scheme. Reorganisation of industry must go hand in hand with the advance of education. But with the necessary education of the workers the ideal of industrial Socialism would be feasible. (Applause.)

Professor Mitchell said that no one supposed that the present scheme could remain. The system of today had not long been in existence. It was the result of the transformation that had been brought about by the joint stock company, and for workmen to become shareholders would simply be a development of the present joint stock system. Why did not unions use their funds to buy up shares, or to enable them to engage in the work of production on their own account? It would have been far better for the coal miners in England if, instead of wasting their funds by striking, they had accumulated their funds and used the money as capital with which to start mines of their own. (Hear, hear.)

Bound to Come.

The advantages of the capital belonging to the workers were too many to mention. Some system that would bring this about was bound to come. There was no question as to whether or not this would be. The only question was whether the State should manage the industries, or those who knew all about them, that was to say, the workers.

MANY ADVANTAGES.

Further, strikes would be cured not by political Socialism, but by industrial Socialism. The suggested scheme would not be carried out by revolutionaries on the one hand nor by university men on the other, that was to say, not by ideas, but by good business management. There was no doubt that unions could get the capital. The workers would make a mistake if they thought that they were going to get large profits from the co-operative undertaking. The large employer might seem to make big profits, but if the amount was spread over the whole of his employees it would generally be seen that the profit that was made out of each individual workman was not very large. But apart from the matter of profits there were many advantages in the workers owning the capital.

The practical question was whether we should have political Socialism or industrial Socialism. Was it well that everyone should be a civil servant? He did not think it was. Moreover, he did not think that political Socialism was a practicable scheme.

The whole matter was one of degree. There was no need of a revolution, as industrial Socialism would come as a natural development of the present system. It would mean that the workers would be their own masters, and it was far better that those working in an industry should have control of the management. Mention had been made of success in Denmark. A friend of his had recently visited that country, and had told him that what impressed him most was the intelligence of the people as a whole, and the perfect harmony that existed between the farmers and the butter graders, officers, and managers that they had elected. The co-operative system worked very smoothly.

If industrial co-operation were established, there was no reason why the capital should be held exclusively by the workmen in any particular industry. In order to extend their operations the co-operators would be glad to have the use of any capital that they could get, and there could be no objection to that so long as the control of the industry were in the hands of the workers. He did not think that the combined unions would be wise to amalgamate their funds and start in business as had been suggested in Adelaide, but he would like to see the individual unions purchase the necessary plant and start their own factories or workshops, each union managing its own affairs, along the lines of industrial Socialism. (Applause.)

PROFESSOR HENDERSON'S VIEWS.

Professor Henderson said that it was clear that the time was coming when the people were going to make up their mind to have more control over the industries of the country than they had at present. They had had a religious democracy, they had had a political democracy, and now they were going to have an industrial democracy. This was in keeping with the sequence of historical events. The question was how was it coming? In the nineteenth century it was thought that the people would secure what they wanted by means of individualism. Then came the movement in the direction of State or political Socialism. While both had done a great deal of good, they had their limitations. The chief objection to State Socialism was that it might not promote efficiency. If they did not encourage efficiency they struck at the very roots of progress. On the other hand, individualism had resulted in many getting more than the services that they rendered to their fellows were worth. The worker felt that it was not right that one man who was doing practically nothing, should receive an enormous income, while the man who worked hard all day should only get 8/ or 9/ for his labor.

THE BEST POLICY.

The solution of the problem was to make the working man or the democracy the owner of the industries of the country. This scheme would bring industrial content, and it would get over the suspicion and jealousy between one class and another. It would mean that each individual would do a little more than he would under political Socialism. It would offer an antidote to the evils, both of Individualism and Political Socialism. In the past co-operative societies had failed because they would not trust and sufficiently pay their managers. The workers needed to remember that the qualities which went to make a successful manager were exceedingly rare. When this lesson was learned, industrial Socialism would be feasible. (Applause.)

Register 7.5.12.

AD EUNDEM DEGREES.

SUGGESTED ABOLITION.

MELBOURNE, May 6.

At a meeting of the Council of the University of Melbourne to-day the professorial board brought forward a series of recommendations for the amendment of the statute relating to the granting of ad eundem degrees. Professor Masson, in explaining the object of the proposed amendments, said the professorial board considered that the time had come to abolish the present system of ad eundem degrees. After discussion, in which the proposal was generally welcomed, it was decided that further consideration of the amendments should be postponed pending the collection of information regarding the general practice in relation to ad eundem degrees among colonial universities, and also information with regard to the views of other universities on the question of the abolition of the practice.

Advertiser 9.5.12

Elder Conservatorium.

The first students' concert of the session will be given on Wednesday evening next. This concert will be the first of a series of ten. Tickets may be obtained at the University office, or from Rigby's, King-William-street.

Register 9.5.12

—Elder Conservatorium.—

The first students' concert for the present session will be held on Wednesday evening, May 15. This will inaugurate a series of 10 concerts to be given during the session. Season tickets (transferable), admitting two persons to reserved seats, and tickets for the single concert, may be obtained at the office of the University, or from Rigby, Limited, King William street.

Advertiser 10.5.12

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS IN MUSIC.

Since 1906 the Adelaide and Melbourne Universities have been working in conjunction in connection with the conduct of examinations in music. This year the Universities of Queensland and Tasmania will also join in the scheme, and Sydney will probably come in at a later date. By the Melbourne express on Thursday morning the following delegates reached Adelaide for the purpose of holding the annual conference in regard to examinations:—Mr. H. A. Thompson, Queensland University; Mr. A. H. Nickson, University of Tasmania; and Dr. Price and Mr. W. A. Laver, Melbourne University. They will meet the Public Music Examinations Board of the Adelaide University, which comprises Professor Ennis, Dr. Harold Davies, Mr. Reimann, and Mr. Eugene Alderman. What is being aimed at is the establishment of an Australian Board of Examiners in Music, and that all public examinations shall be held under the auspices of the universities.