

THE ALLIANCE OF LABOR AND LEARNING

PROMINENT MEN EXPRESS CONCURRENCE WITH TUTORIAL METHOD

PROFESSOR JETHRO BROWN ADVOCATES WIDE APPLICATION OF CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION ENTHUSIASTIC.

The appearance of the exclusive interview with Mr. Meredith Atkinson, M.A., on the subject of "Tutorial Education of the Worker" and the aims of the Workers' Educational Association in yesterday's issue of "The Daily Herald" was a topic of much discussion in educational circles yesterday. Mr. Atkinson's exposition of the New Force—that force which makes possible the compatibility of Labor with the attainment of higher knowledge—naturally interested those who concern themselves with such matters of importance, and many were the opinions and words of concurrence expressed in the city.

PROFESSOR BROWN'S VIEWS THE POLITICAL FUTURE CONCERNED THE NEED FOR EDUCATION OF THE VOTER.

"It is very hard to say anything further on the subject. The interview is so excellent, and seems to embrace every point." The observation was made by Professor W. Jethro Brown, of the Adelaide University when approached for his views on the subject of Mr. Meredith Atkinson's remarks. "I am absolutely in favor of the tutorial methods of education. I have been trying to introduce co-operative study between teacher and student at the University here. I think the system might be even more widely applied than in the case of tutorial classes, and it should be taken up by the universities themselves. There is only one point of Mr. Atkinson's upon which I have any doubt, and that is where he indicates that under the methods approved by the Workers' Educational Association classes are not allowed to select 'bread-and-butter' subjects. I am not quite convinced of the justification for excluding 'bread-and-butter' subjects, because such subjects may be as purely educational in the best sense of developing the mind or stimulating the critical faculties as the subjects which are not 'bread-and-butter' ones. Of course, one feels that the possible reason for the exclusion is the desire to appeal to the worker to take up the study of those subjects which will make him a more competent citizen and voter. Apparently, it is assumed that there is no need to provide for teaching in 'bread-and-butter' subjects. This may be the case, but I did not know that it was. I fancy it is considered that there are in existence adequate means of studying the subjects that are applied in commercial and trade life. There are evening classes at the universities, and there are also, of course, the schools of mines.

"The subjects I should most like to see taken up are those touching upon electoral responsibilities, such as politics, economics, legislation, and history of political institutions. I have long felt very strongly that the average voter in this State, whether belonging to the working class or not, is exceedingly ill-informed as regards his duty when called upon to exercise his right of franchise. There is a great deal of warmth but very little light. One prominent Labor member once remarked to me that I would

think differently if I had attended him in his electioneering campaign and heard the questions put to him, but from what I have seen of election meetings and the questions asked at them, I am inclined to think only a very small section of the audience has any adequate knowledge for criticising the policy submitted to it. As a result the vote is more often than not given by reference to imagined self or party interests. I am not criticising the working class alone, and I do not want to create that impression. Indeed, an eminent Australian Liberal politician told me that he had heard far more intelligent discussions of political problems in workmen's clubs than elsewhere. If the workers can be persuaded to throw themselves heart and soul into the movement which Mr. Atkinson has so admirably explained and defended, I believe it would have an important effect upon the whole political future of the State and the Commonwealth.

"I do not think the movement towards the establishment of tutorial classes will clash with the efforts towards the attainment of complete democratic educational facilities. On the contrary, I think it will assist greatly. I shall welcome heartily the activity of the Workers' Educational Association, because, as I have indicated, I approve strongly of the principles of tutorial education. At present most Australians find their recreation in forms of pleasure or entertainment, which, however innocent, have virtually no pretence to be cultural. It is not too much to hope that an increasing proportion of Australians will come to find in culture the most delightful form of recreation."

ADELAIDE BRANCH FORMED MEETS ON THURSDAY NEXT TO SELECT OFFICERS.

Tutorial classes in connection with the Workers' Educational Association are to be opened in Adelaide shortly. On Thursday evening a meeting will be held in the Trades Hall for the purpose of considering the constitution of the association, electing officers and making arrangements for the formation of classes. Mr. T. B. Merry is secretary pro tem.

The constitution which has been drawn up is as follows:—
The name of this association shall be the "Workers' Educational Association of South Australia." The association shall be strictly non-sectarian and non-party political.

The object is to promote the higher education of working men and working women.

The methods are as follow:—
(a) By arousing the interests of the workers in higher education and by directing their attention to the facilities already existing.

By enquiring into the needs of the workers, and by representing them to the proper authorities.

(c) By providing, in conjunction with the department of public instruction, university, and other educational institutions, or otherwise, facilities for studies of interest to the workers which may have been hitherto overlooked.

(d) By publishing or arranging for the publication of such reports, pamphlets, books, and magazines as may be deemed necessary.

The association shall consist of working-class organisations, such as trade unions, trade councils, co-operative and friendly societies, social, educational,

and other bodies and branches of such bodies interested, and individual members of either sex over 16 years of age.

The management shall be vested in a central council and local branches. The central council shall operate throughout the State, and shall assist the local branches in all possible ways. Local branches shall operate over areas to be determined in consultation with the central council. They shall be autonomous federations of individuals and local organisations with constitutions approved by the central council. They shall pay to the central council an annual subscription of one penny on every shilling of the total income by donations and subscriptions of individual members and affiliated organisations. For the convenience of those living in districts where no branch is in existence or who for other reasons find it inconvenient to belong to a local branch, a State branch shall be established, organised by the central council. Individuals may become members of the State branch on payment of a minimum annual subscription of 2/6 per annum. A further payment of 2/ per year will entitle the member to a monthly copy of the "Highway," a pamphlet issued in England and posted to the members.

The central council shall consist of a president, two vice-presidents, secretary or secretaries, treasurer, two each from universities, public library, art galleries, and school of mines, and one representative from each affiliated organisation or branch, and 10 members to be elected by the representatives present at the annual conference of the association. The central council shall meet at least six times a year at such time and place as may be determined. Any member absenting himself from two consecutive summoned meetings without reasonable excuse shall forfeit his seat. The council may appoint such committees, and apportion the work of the association as they deem necessary. The central council shall have power to call a special conference of the association when considered necessary by two-thirds of the members present at a special summoned meeting.

National movements, institutions, societies, associations, and unions operating throughout the State or throughout the metropolitan area, may affiliate direct with the central council on payment of a minimum annual subscription of one guinea. Branches of such institutions, societies, or unions, or purely local organisations, may affiliate with their local branch on payment of an annual subscription to be fixed by the local branch. Where no local branch is in existence, such organisations may affiliate direct