

COST TOO HIGH

Public Library Administration

REORGANISATION URGED

In the opinion of Mr. W. P. Bishop, an officer in the department of the Auditor-General, the cost of administration of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery, is too high when compared with the expenditure on the Library, Archives, Museum, and Art Gallery. The estimated expenditure for 1925-26 is £3,697, or more than one-fifth of the total, which is £17,583.

Mr. Bishop submits that by a re-organisation of methods and duties a large reduction in the work of the office could be made. The volume of work did not call for an assistant secretary. If the methods suggested were adopted it was considered that there would be a saving of two clerks and one typist.

"The policy of the board," the report continues, "has been to place the general secretary in control of the working of the whole institution. As a result there is a clerical staff of nine officers, whose salaries in most cases compare more than favorably with those paid in the Public Service for similar duties.

"If the institution is to be worked economically and efficiently, the rules governing the routine working should be revised with a view to fewer restrictions being placed on the heads of departments. These rules, and especially the interpretation of those governing correspondence, have caused much friction between the departments and the administration office. If this strained relationship be continued, the interests of the institution will be prejudiced by preventing that co-operative spirit essential for its successful working.

"In this direction it is interesting to note that the University of Adelaide, a much larger institution from the point of view of administration, is conducted without any such rules."

enough truth in it to give it currency. As the ideal standards of the law and as political decisions are amenable to the pressure of mob passion and of wealth, so education is not immune from the influence of the economic society in which we live. Technical and Agricultural Schools and the study of chemistry are related to the industrial and geographical nature of the country. Even pure physics, mathematics, and science so called are related to the physical universe in which we dwell; not a hypothetical land of Gulliver.

With the passing years that serene and isolated classical institution, the University, finds its curriculum gradually changing, veering with the fresh demands of the new civilisation and dropping off the deciduous subjects. There is hardly anything non-utilitarian in the world. Living is before learning, and it is not learning which does not help living.

With modern years the intrinsic character of education has been increasingly stressed. Madame Montessori envisaged her group of kindergarten children not as a class but as a little self-governing republic, training the child supremely in initiative and self-expression. It is useless to criticise by saying that self-expression is anti-social, because the best self which the child develops in such a republic is the social self.

Montessori Plan

One cannot live well in a community without becoming moral and self-disciplined. In the intermediate and senior schools, in the Dalton and other methods, the infection of the Montessori plan has been caught, and with varying success the tide has ebbed and flowed, rising all the time. The ablest teacher is now no longer the dominant personality. Like the best gardener, he is the fosterer and director. Like the best doctor, he improves the conditions and stands back to let Nature do her own marvellous work, producing the miracle of the straight, sturdy personality instead of the warped, moulded life. Neither is there any necessary antagonism between self-expression and citizenship, whether political, ethical, or technical, except insofar as the state of adult politics, morals, or economic conditions is evil, and the new, clear-sighted generation may be trusted to react in improving that.

Generalisations in respect of the amount of success achieved in reaching the ideal are notoriously open to argument. For example, Mr. Duncan Hughes, M.H.R., claimed that with regard to sport it would be agreed that it monopolised too much attention. On the other hand, Inspector Adey insisted that the play side of school life was an important factor in developing the community spirit; there was no stronger agency for cultivating the subordination of self for the good of all than that provided by organised team games. One speaker is often heard decrying the manners of young people today as the worst in history, while another vows that they have reached an impeccably high level.

Examination System

Perhaps the most remarkable contribution to the series was the statement of Inspector Adey involving criticism of home work and condemning the absence of manual self-expression in our present system. He referred to the paralysing influence of the examination system, the stamping out of the social spirit, and the universal demand for mechanical passiveness on the part of the pupil. These criticisms are not the opinions of an amateur or the mere theorist, but of a sagacious, practical, expert educationist who perceives the ideal toward which education ought to be moving and the comparatively slow pace at which we are going.

Good health is a part of the contribution of youth to a real and adequate citizenship. The democratic group spirit is another ideal constituent of adequate education. There is a growing feeling among impartial observers of present education tendencies that there is a real danger in our public examination system, not only of the competitive system and of false standards, but of the break-up of the physical strength and nervous re-

sources of the child. Yet the teacher is as much the victim of the mechanical examination system as is the child.

Another danger is the growing tendency of people throughout Australia to patronise the secondary educational private institutions, efficient, and democratic though their traditions be, from social motives which are the reverse of democratic, and against the inroads of which the leaders themselves of secondary schools have to struggle.

Secretary and Accountant

Mr. Leonard George Cant, A.C.U.A., accountant and company secretary, was born at North Adelaide in 1896. He received his early education at Walkerville public school, and later entered Adelaide High School, where he won a scholarship which entitled him to three years' education at college. He decided to remain at Adelaide High School. In 1911 he entered the office of the late Mr. R. Barr Smith, continuing in that position for 14 years.



Mr. L. G. Cant

Last year Mr. Cant decided to enter business on his own account. At the suggestion of Mr. T. E. Barr Smith he was invited to become secretary of the Federated Protestant Children's Homes, and at a later date accepted a similar position at the Queen's Home. He is also secretary to a number of public companies.

In 1917 Mr. Cant completed the course or the diploma of Associate in Commerce at Adelaide University.

He is a member of St. Andrew's Literary Society, and was formerly secretary of the South Australian Literary Societies Union, and clerk of the Union Parliament.

Prior to leaving the district Mr. Cant was closely associated with Medindie Congregational Church. Later he was associated with Manthorpe Memorial Church.

Mr. Cant is also honorary secretary of St. John Ambulance Association.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY.

Serious Financial Position.

MELBOURNE, Monday. The finances of the University of Melbourne are in such a precarious position that unless Parliament sees fit to grant an additional subsidy it will be necessary to increase the students' fees by proportions ranging from 26 to 40 per cent. The question was debated at a meeting of the university council to-day, and it was decided to ask the Ministry for additional assistance, failing which, a new schedule of fees would be put into operation. The finance committee, after consultation with the professors of the council, acting as a committee of the professional board regarding finances, reported that the year 1925 closed with a net deficit of £6,951; further that 1926 was expected to close with a deficit of £9,440. There was thus need for no less than £10,000 a year to square the current budget and, in addition, something more towards the liquidation of the expected accumulated deficit of £16,000.

ESPERANTO IN SCHOOLS

Education Board Considering

At the last meeting of the Advisory Board of Education the question of the desirability of teaching Esperanto in schools was discussed.

It was proposed by Mr. K. Bardolph and seconded by Mr. T. P. Howard—"That this Advisory Council of Education is of opinion that the teaching of Esperanto as an auxiliary language, should be included in the curriculum of all State schools."

After discussion it was resolved that further consideration of the question be postponed until toward the last meeting of the council for this year, so that Mr. Bardolph might have time to communicate with the International Labor Bureau in Switzerland with a view to ascertaining whether teaching of Esperanto had been introduced into the curriculum of the primary schools of any European or other countries.

Prof. McKellar Stewart undertook to open the discussion upon registration of schools and teachers at the next meeting of the council on August 10.

Mr. Howard agreed to introduce the question of arranging increased facilities for teaching swimming and the advisability of issuing a certificate of proficiency.

University at Sea

By Dr. Frank Crane

The writer with 16,000,000 readers daily

It is proposed to equip a ship, a regular passenger liner, with classrooms, gymnasiums, library, and so forth suitable for carrying 450 students, together with 50 professors and instructors, and give them an eight months' voyage round the world.

While they are travelling they can, if they wish, complete one year of college work and receive grades and credit toward their degrees.

They will visit 35 countries and 50 important cities on their tour and meet the educational leaders and student groups in the various countries.

The trip will enable the students to think in world terms about foreign affairs, and it will strengthen international understanding and goodwill.

One thing to be avoided in a college education is provincialism, getting too much of the local point of view.

This enterprise will enable them to travel and study at the same time. The staff will include a physician, a dentist, and a dietician, beside three experienced nurses. They will have instruction in swimming, boxing, wrestling, and other sports.

Their religious needs will be taken care of by non-sectarian services held on board.

For those who can afford it this will be an admirable year of culture and cannot fail to be of benefit to all undertaking it.

Australian Geologist

Mention of the forthcoming Science Association meeting in the West is reminding of the issue of volume 17, containing the report of the Adelaide meeting of the association in 1924. This invaluable report has recently reached the members. It was edited by Mr. L. Keith Ward, B.A., B.E., honorary secretary for the Adelaide meeting.

Mr. Ward is Director of the Department of Mines, and has been Government Geologist for nearly fifteen years. Still on the sunny side of fifty he has accomplished a great deal as an Australian geologist. For four years he was connected with the School of Mines at Kalgoorlie and for a similar period was Assistant Government Geologist and Inspector of Mines in Tasmania. The estimation in which he is held as a geologist is shown by the number of commissions he has received from the Commonwealth Government to visit the Northern Territory and regarding artesian supplies and other matters.

Indeed his reputation is world-wide. Mr. Ward is a great reader, especially of scientific works, notably on geology, anthropology, and ethnology. He is a member of the Council of the Royal Society of South Australia, and of the Council of the School of Mines. He is a son of Dr. Fred W. Ward, who was for many years editor of the Sydney "Daily Telegraph," a notable journalist in his day. He entered Sydney University at the age of 18 as Queensland Government exhibitioner and graduated in arts and engineering.

THE NEWS

SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1926

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

(By Rev. A. C. Stevens, M.A.)

The recent Education Conference was remarkable for a number of contributions from able leaders of thought, clustering round the subject of education and the future citizenship of the child. It is taken for granted, of course, that one wants the child to grow up to be a good citizen. The inference might almost be gathered from criticism of some radical institutions of learning that the supreme desire and endeavor of some ultra-modern teachers is to train the child to develop into a social rebel.

Their economics are accused of having a "Bolshie" taint, and their emphasis on self-expression and individual experiment savors of the logic which leads to free love and bizarre ethics of the long-haired and cubist order.

The Marxians, indeed, think that the curse of education is that it does train for citizenship in a wrong economic state of society. With them all religion, education, politics, and morals boil down at bottom to a mere gloss upon the fundamental order of society, which is based upon material economic relationships. The boy who is sent to a Technical School is a little slave being trained for his future function as a wage-slave, or a cog in the wheel of the Frankenstein's monster of commerce.

Industrial Maw

The maw of the industrial Minotaur demands so many clerks, bricklayers, and printers a year, and the annual shipload is prepared for the beast. It is a cheerful sort of theory; there is