

REALIZING THE IDEAL OF MANKIND INSIGNIFICANCE AS INDIVIDUALS SUPPORTED

Remedies Which the Times Demand

...economically successful inherit their
mental faculties, the wealth they have
also inherited robs them of an incen-
tive to use them. Professor Bradford
Roberts looks upon it as an anomalous
truth that the "economic order" must
run its course, and join the "discarded
social instruments of the past." His
fear is that in the meantime science
may be so perverted to exclusively eco-
nomic ends that when the time comes
of his deliverance from the "blighting
influence of commercialism," it may
be too late for the prodigious tasks that await
him in the higher kingdom of the mind.

The Advertiser

ADELAIDE: TUESDAY,
AUGUST 13, 1929.

THE STATE LOSES A GREAT EDUCATIONIST

It is with a shock that the news will
come to South Australians to-day of
the sudden death of the Director of
Education, Mr. W. T. McCoy. Until
quite lately he was at his office, busy
as ever, and apparently good for many
more years of useful work for the State.
The shock created by his untimely
decease—he was only 62 and looked
much younger—will be accompanied by
a sense of heavy loss. Personally he
had qualities which made him exceed-
ingly popular with all classes of the
community, and not least with the
teachers in the public schools. It was
an asset of great value to him as an
administrator whose success is always
rendered easier if he commands the
confidence of his subordinates. Mr.
McCoy was at once a strong and an
most capable organizer. He proved his
talents in that respect when he re-
constructed the educational system of
Tasmania. He showed them again
in the larger sphere opened to him as
the Director of Education in this
State. His ten years of service in
South Australia have been marked by
steady progress, limited only by the
amount of financial resources on which
he was able to draw. Few men could
have done so much with so little money.
Education is a progressive science, and
that fact was always recognised in Mr.
McCoy's administration. He was not
content to arrive at a standard and
seek no further advance. He did not
love change for its own sake, but he
had ideals, and ever strove to realise
them. His knowledge of educational
plans and methods was enlarged by
two world tours, the results of which
were embodied in valuable reports to
the Government, and translated as far
as means permitted into the practice
of the South Australian schools. His
work would have been the last of men to
underrate the worth of education as
an equipment for a full intellectual
life, but he felt also the need of asso-
ciating it with the practical require-
ments of a young community which
requires trained intelligence and special-
ised efficiency for its work in the shop,
factory, and office, and on the farm.

"Man's idea of his own importance is not only colossal, it is also ludicrous," says a citizen who writes in support of the Adelaide doctor's assertion that "man's intelligence is no higher than that of a sheepdog."
"In relation to the apparently limitless cosmos, where do we as individuals come in?" he asks. "Do we not sink into utter insignificance?"
Two readers fear for Australia, and one urges Young Australia to wake up.

Mr. W. Rule is applauded for his "fearlessness" by one writer, and taken to task by another for singling out the workers for criticism. To the Editor

Sir—I had hoped that some more able pen than mine would have entered the lists in support of the Adelaide University doctor, who was courageous enough to state his views on the intellectual deficiencies of mankind. The criticisms in your Saturday's "Mail" were not illuminating, nor did they advance the arguments previously advanced.
Man's idea of his own importance is not only colossal, it is also ludicrous. Scientists tell us that this earth of ours is "one of a family of worlds" (the solar system), and that not even one of the more important members.
The estimated population of our world is 2,500,000,000. In this vast number what is a unit? In relation to the apparently limitless cosmos, where do we, as individuals, come in? Do we not sink into utter insignificance?

Comparable with our littleness in a physical sense is our undimable limitations in the mental. Our descendants—Prof. H. H. Sheldon, of New York University, has an interesting comparison of the mental capacities of our race. "We have discovered but a few toys lying near us on the floor. And with these we think we are accomplishing miracles."
Sir Oliver Lodge says—"We cannot claim knowledge. We grope in a kind of helplessness, without our few plain senses. . . . We are alive among realities of which we have no comprehension. . . . our descendants will reveal some blindness and stupidity."

Consideration of the doctor's opinion relative to the average standard of intelligence leads one to think that although it seems unduly harsh, it is not altogether unjust. Knowledge, in its broadest, highest meaning is not universally shared. Some people are born with a higher endowment, but how many go beyond the limits necessary to pass an examination? In most cases study is undertaken with the view of securing a higher remuneration, or otherwise advancing one's material progress. But the passing of an examination does not make a person "educated" in the real sense of the word. General knowledge tests among all classes of society would reveal some amazing complexities and inequalities.

Civilization appears to many to have developed in a straight line, but the truth, still in the developmental stages. In the political sphere the relations between Capital and Labor constitute the outstanding problem of the times, and it would well be that the ultimate solution may, as yet, not have been hinted at. It is in the broad, more impersonal outlook on the part of all concerned regarding this and other world-wide questions that we have the way for satisfactory settlements.
Yours, etc., "ARUNDEL,"
North Kensington, August 6

Mismanaged Land

Sir—Referring to the views of a prominent Adelaide doctor that "man's intelligence is not above that of a sheep dog," I would like to say that I entirely agree.
The response on the part of the university student savers of the Communicative Society, in their criticism of the doctor's statements without substantiating his own. He takes the part of the "sheep dog" who receives only 44 pence a week, and asks how the doctor expects them to act. He does not realise that he is unconsciously corroborating the views of those thousands of workers, would without great loss to industry be removed from this earth. Does the university student suggest that this wage is insufficient remuneration for their services? Many of these workers would starve if they were not given to the quantity and efficiency of their work.
Australia, our wonderful but mismanaged land of opportunity, is not a place where, if Australians would put their feet and soul into their work and ascertain a few of their sports and pleasures, they would be too busy to con-

...industrially with other countries and
take a place for Australia in the economic world.
Yours, etc.,
UNIVERSITY WOMAN STUDENT,
Adelaide, August 6.

...the workers for criticism.
Yours, etc.,
UNIVERSITY WOMAN STUDENT,
Adelaide, August 6.

...the workers for criticism.
Yours, etc.,
UNIVERSITY WOMAN STUDENT,
Adelaide, August 6.

Development and Economy

I endorse the sentiments of Mr. Rule in your issue of August 3, especially his reference to costs of Government. To require 15 Houses of Parliament and attendants costs for a population of 6,000,000 more than ridiculous. It is positively ludicrous, and our Parisian friends are a number too many members. One-half thing would suffice.
Furthermore, South Australia should have a greater proportion of her population engaged in primary production. Out of a population of 580,000, only 60,000 are engaged in primary production. The absence of soil we can never be a manufacturing State, and must therefore concentrate on primary production.
Yours, etc.,
"CIVITAS"

Others Besides Workers

Sir—Like Mr. Rule, I was greatly interested in the Adelaide University doctor's indictment of man's intelligence. It might well be justified in certain directions when he says that the average man does not display more intelligence than a sheepdog. This is a very noticeable statement when we are collected in a crowd and being harassed by a popular demagogue.
In supporting the doctor, I am somewhat perplexed as to what section of the community the criticisms generally are aimed at. It is the Financial, professional, industrial, or political?
I believe that much of the trouble in Australia today has been brought about by the "sheep dog" section. This section too long curbed with the spineless party leader whose main ambition is to get either elected or retained.
Mr. Rule sighs for another Mussolini and suggests work as a remedy for our tribulations. His warning finger points to the "sheep dog" section, but he has not extended to work harder, accept more pay, payment by results, and so on.

The Government administration costs both State and Federal are in proportion to the population the greatest in the world. The Government administration costs both State and Federal are in proportion to the population the greatest in the world. The Government administration costs both State and Federal are in proportion to the population the greatest in the world.
The Government administration costs both State and Federal are in proportion to the population the greatest in the world. The Government administration costs both State and Federal are in proportion to the population the greatest in the world.
The Government administration costs both State and Federal are in proportion to the population the greatest in the world. The Government administration costs both State and Federal are in proportion to the population the greatest in the world.

Awaiting Sane Leadership

Sir—I have been impressed by the letter on "man's intelligence" if admiring the courage and foresight of Mr. W. Rule, who cleverly turned this matter to a national issue.
Mr. Rule has fearlessly signed his name to what appears to me to be a letter which rings with sincerity. Many others and I are waiting for that "sane leadership," of which he speaks. Yours, etc.,
W. M. BENJAMIN,
65 Vine street, Prospect, August 9.

Citizenship Needed

Sir—"The Mail" is to be commended for initiating a controversy which, if it brings the people to a sense of responsibility, will do more good than the 15 Governments in Australia.
Go back 15 years, and compare the normal life led then with the wild excesses of today. "Man's intelligence" is devoted to more good times enable them to spend more money. This has developed selfishness of the worst form.
Men and women owe a duty to their country, but thousands with ability to help have followed the easiest way, and the whole of their spare time is devoted to racing, golf, dancing, gambling, and drinking. In moderation this is all right, but an excess becomes a curse to the nation.
Be an "optimist," some people shout, but that is like the ostrich hiding its head in the sand. Business firms know only too well that the economic position of Australia is desperate, and yet the whole of their spare time is devoted to themselves. The Prime Minister, at the Town Hall, told his audience that the people themselves had put themselves in a predicament, and it was only themselves that could get out of it.
Australia is suffering from an economic depression, but things must go on from bad to worse unless the people take a grip themselves, and cast off the many handicaps that prevent them from becoming citizens.
Yours, etc., "RADIATOR,"
Charles street, Adelaide, August 2.

Main Trouble Spiritual

To state that mankind in general has never risen in intelligence beyond the level of a common sheepdog is almost blasphemous. Granted that man has an animal body, he differs from the beast in that he is blessed with a soul and a spirit.
This human "soul" becomes the seat and centre of all energy and activity. It is the birthplace of all affections and emotions, and is the great battleground of God and Evil. It is in the human soul that all the great decisions of life are fought out and decided.
We are living in the days of rapidity and momentum; the days of the debilitation of man, when the works of man are being called above the wisdom of God. We are living in the days of shame, dastardly, and self-delusion. The world systems have miserably failed.
Can a Mussolini put right the wrongs that so sorely grieve and afflict the inhabitants of the earth today? Could a Mussolini usher in that beautiful era of perfect peace and prosperity which is the desire of every man?
Our only trouble is a spiritual one, but it is deeply rooted. Too long have we as a people been living in a fool's paradise. They say that super-power is needed. Our Lord said—"The Kingdom of God is within you." Is not this super-power within us?
Yours, etc.,
EVANGELIST,
Leicester street, Parkside, August 6.