

Advertiser 16 Aug. 07.

## "THE MEANING OF LIBERTY."

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR JETHRO BROWN.

There was a large attendance at the Trades Hall on Thursday evening, when, at the request of the Premier, Professor Jethro Brown, of the Adelaide University, delivered an interesting lecture on one phase of political economy, "The meaning of liberty." The Premier (Hon. T. Price), who presided, in introducing the lecturer, said he hoped to see the University and the Trades Hall come into closer relationship. The laboring community were somewhat misunderstood at times, but they were all searching for the truth. He congratulated the University on the extension lectures given by its professors, and hoped the present address would not be the last to be delivered within the walls of the Trades Hall.

Professor Brown said the question of the limits of State intervention was the most difficult problem of to-day. Did State intervention tend to make citizens free? If so it was wise, otherwise it was not. They had to consider the definition of political liberty, respecting which there were three doctrines promulgated during the nineteenth century in English legislation. There was the extension of democratic institutions. "Give the people the franchise," said one eminent scientist, "and they will rule wisely." (Cheers.) But had that happened. Let them not make any mistake: the people did not rule to-day, and if they did they would not rule wisely. The faith of Bentham and Mill was, he believed, in justifiable faith, but its realisation would be the work of generations. Democratic institutions, nowever, had come to stay. (Cheers.) The practical conclusion was not back to class government, out forward to institutions that would bring to every voter a sense of his individual responsibility—such as the referendum, and possibly a wider franchise—(cheers)—and the trend of political politics, as he understood them, was in that direction. The power that democracy possessed must be wielded wisely. The chief doctrine of the 19th century was the one that identified liberty with the absence of restraint. It was a strenuous doctrine of self-help as distinguished from State aid, and had been associated with democracy for centuries. It came into conflict with the industrial development of the last century, which was revolutionised by mechanical inventions. The strong then trampled over the weak, and there was no State intervention. Even Bright and Gladstone were enslaved by this doctrine, and under its influence opposed Lord Shaftesbury's humane proposals for the relief of laborers. Without the restraint of laws there might be the isolated liberty of wild asses—the liberty of the anarchist—but no real freedom for men and women. A place must be found for law in political as in moral liberty. Acts of Parliament curtailed the freedom of some for the benefit of the many, and no law was ever passed which did not in some measure restrain the liberty of some individuals. But a law limiting a man's action did not necessarily limit his liberty, for he might gain more by such law that he would lose by it. There was a higher aspect of liberty, such as that conferred by the eight hours law, which ensured leisure, without which a man only half lived. There was a real danger, however, in State aid being carried to such an extent as to interfere unduly with self-help. The true solution of the problem was a condition of fullest self realisation for all citizens. "The only freedom I care about," said Huxley, "is the freedom to do right." The freedom which democracy desired was freedom for the whole community and not for the few. The State should be composed of men and women not unworthy of the eulogy that they were made in the image of God."

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## THE LIBERTY OF RESTRAINT.

In an address on "The Meaning of Liberty" at the Trades Hall on Thursday evening Professor Jethro Brown emphasised the doctrine that a certain measure of legal restraint was necessary for the enjoyment of political or social freedom. "No law was ever passed," he said, "which did not restrain the freedom of some individuals, and a new law limiting my action is not necessarily limiting my liberty. In the first place I may gain more liberty by the law than I lose by it." By way of illustration, the professor pointed out that the by-law prohibiting people from riding in crowded tramcars might be considered by some to be an interference with their liberty of action. But the operation of the by-law ensured a person a comfortable seat in a car; perhaps saved him from an accident in consequence of a car being overloaded, and prevented the tram company from exploiting him with one car where they should run two. Certain suburban dwellers in American cities were known as "strap-hangers," because the cars were so crowded they had to stand up the whole of the journey. They thus had liberty of action, but no real freedom, and were most uncomfortable in consequence.

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## THE UNIVERSITY AND THE TRADES HALL.

The Premier's idea to import a University professor into the Trades Hall was a marked success. Dr. Jethro W. Brown lectured there on Thursday night on "The meaning of liberty," and his remarks were largely a repetition of an extension lecture which he had given at the University on that subject. The Premier, who presided over a large audience, explained his reasons for having invited the professor to the Trades Hall. He remarked that those who occupied the seats of learning were delving into matters touching the vital interests of the masses, and it was a pity that they should waste their talents on the few people who generally attended University classes. The professor's lecture was devoted mainly to the task of exposing the fallacy of the doctrine of liberty as understood early in the nineteenth century—the doctrine that liberty was absence of restraint by the State. Political liberty implied law. Probably no law had ever been passed which did not impose restraint on somebody, but restraint on the few involved greater freedom for the multitude. Society was made up of a constant give and take, without which the national life could not be healthy. The doctrine of liberty as absence of self-restraint had not only failed as a gospel of national salvation, but was a poor, unsatisfactory, and unworkable version of liberty itself. While, however, their grandfathers had made the mistake of regarding self-help as everything that was vital to life, the real danger of modern State aid lay in the possibility of its interfering too far with the doctrine of self-help. The true province of politics was to preserve a practical balance between the two extremes. Professor Brown at first was subjected to stupid interjections about the use of motor cars on election days. The suggestion was too far away from the lecturer's classical track to be noticed, and when he had got fairly into his subject he was listened to with rapt attention, and received such hearty applause as to suggest that, after all, the Adelaide University is not far removed from the Trades Hall.

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## UNIVERSITY SPORTS.

A happy crowd was attracted to the Adelaide Oval on Friday afternoon, when the annual sports gathering promoted by the Adelaide University Athletic Club was held. The running ground was in perfect order, and was all in favour of last times, while the weather was so delightful that the people viewed the events in ideal conditions. Among the onlookers was His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte), who took the keenest interest in the meeting. One of the heroes of the day was R. H. Wallmann, a good all-round athlete, who won the most coveted prize—the University Cup—with a score of 18 points. V. Cresdee and M. H. Moyes, with 14 points each, disputed second place. Cresdee, who was favoured with a nice start, won the 100 yards championship, while Moyes showed his undoubted superiority in the high-jumping class. Another who distinguished himself in more than one event was E. B. Jones, a runner with an easy attractive style. At the conclusion of the afternoon the prizes were distributed by Lady Way. Officials:—Stewards—Hon. G. Brookman, M.L.C.; Dr. Anstey Giles, Mr. C. W. Hayward, Dr. W. T. Hayward, Dr. Lendon, Mr. W. A. Magarey, Dr. Barlow, Professors Brown, Henderson, Naylor, and Stirling, Mr. F. Chapple, Rev. H. Girdlestone, Dr. J. A. G. Hamilton, Mr. L. A. Jessop, Mr. G. J. R. Murray, Dr. Poulton, and Professors Bragg, Chapman, Mitchell, and Rennie. Judges—Dr. H. S. Newland and Messrs. C. L. Jessop, Andrew Scott, C. A. Edmunds, and S. Talbot Smith. Committee—Messrs. R. J. Verco, R. H. Wallmann, D. M. Steele, G. C. Campbell, W. Henderson, J. S. K. MacLennan, W. B. Angwin, and M. H. Moyes. Handicappers—Messrs. J. S. K. MacLennan, G. C. Campbell, and M. H. Moyes. Timekeepers—Messrs. G. C. Campbell, C. R. Hodge, W. H. Stevenson, and J. P. V. Madsen. Starter—Mr. C. Kellett. Hon. Secretary—Mr. W. H. Moyes. Results:—

- University Cup—R. H. Wallmann, 18 points; V. Cresdee, 14; M. H. Moyes, 14.
- Half-mile—G. Oswald (75 yds.), A. Richards (70 yds.), L. McNamara (70 yds.). Time, 2m. 8s.
- Long Jump—A. Chapman (10 in.), 20 ft. 10 in.; M. H. Moyes (scr.), 20 ft. 1 1/2 in.; H. M. Jay (12 in.).
- 150 Yards Hurdles—A. T. Jefferis (6 yds.), C. F. Drew (1 yd. behind), E. Russell. Time, 22s.
- 100 Yards Championship—V. Cresdee, W. B. Angwin, M. H. Moyes.
- 150 Yards Flat—G. B. Jones (6 yds.), W. Rosengarten (12 yds.), L. W. Jeffries (9 yds.). Time, 14 4-5s.
- 120 Yards Hurdles—A. T. Jefferis (4 yds.), V. Cresdee (5 yds. behind), R. H. Wallmann (5 yds. behind). Time, 16s.
- 75 Yards Flat—E. B. Jones (3 yds.), R. H. Begg, D. R. Cowan (4 yds.). Time, 8 1-5s.
- Sack Tournament—D. Stoddart, D. R. Cowan.
- 440 Yards Flat—R. M. Scott (17 yds.), G. H. Oswald (27 yds.), R. H. Begg (15 yds.). Time, 50 1-5s.
- Sealed Handicap, three-quarters of a mile—A. E. Kain, L. W. Gill, W. E. Gray. Time, 4m. 11s.
- High Jump—C. T. Madigan (9 in.), M. H. Moyes (scr.), A. T. Jefferis (4 in.).
- High Jump Championship—M. H. Moyes, 5 ft. 6 1/2 in.
- 300 Yards Steeplechase—F. E. Rosman (30 yds.), R. A. Goode (22 yds.), H. D. Stoddart (10 yds.). Time, 47 2-5s.
- Graduates' Race, 100 yards—G. C. Campbell, J. S. K. MacLennan, C. A. Edmunds. Time, 10 3-5s.
- One Mile—F. Ellis (50 yds.), A. E. Kain (100 yds.), W. Henderson (80 yds.), C. T. Watkies (50 yds.). Time, 4m. 54s.
- 220 Yards Flat—E. B. Jones (8 yds.), A. C. Richards (22 yds.), G. H. Oswald (18 yds.). Time, 23 1-5s.

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## THE PRIMARY EXAMINATION.

The primary public examination in connection with the Adelaide University will begin to-day. There are over 1,200 candidates, and they will sit in the Elder Hall and in the small halls attached to the Conservatorium in the city, in eight or ten centres in the country, and also in Western Australia.