

World

"Political Alphabet."

The real aim of the present decree, which refers not only to students entering higher schools, but also students of all courses, except the last year course, is the sifting or proletarianisation of the students.

Special commissions are to examine the progress of each student; Article 3 of the decree indicates that for proletarian students the examination will be indulgent, and one of the principal heads of the examination is the political alphabet, a kind of Communist catechism, a course which has been introduced into the universities.

The "cleansing" of the Universities is a thing; during last year a large number of professors were sent away from Moscow and Petrograd Universities. From 1920 the Universities have been closed to new students of the former bourgeois element, and those who were already enrolled have continued their work under difficulties.

Bad for Reconstruction.

The last decree, however, virtually makes it impossible for students of the former Russian aristocratic or merchant class to receive higher education or even to have written evidence of the work they have already accomplished in the Universities.

The importance given to training in Communism in the Universities and the lowered standard of technical training, the removal of the old intellectual classes, the almost entire lack of primary education, especially in the rural districts, do not augur well for the quality of the Russians of the coming generation, who will be called upon to continue the work of their country's reconstruction.

THE NEWS

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1924

THE OLYMPIC GAMES

(By Harry Thomson.)

Human nature is a funny thing. Probably logic was invented to conceal how funny it is! One of the principal reasons that led to the reintroduction of the Olympic Games a few years ago was the desire to bring the nations together in amity and friendly rivalry. The feeling was that it was a great deal better for competing nations to fight the javelin side by side than face each other in a trench.

Marathon runs would be infinitely more attractive than route marches in fighting order—particularly from the point of view of the more or less innocent bystander. And from the point of view of the competitor there are certain indisputable advantages in voluntarily executing fancy dives into the water rather than being forcibly blown out of it.

That was the plan—temporarily interrupted by a reversion to the older method of argument during the years 14 to 1918.

Forty-five Nations Join

In 1912 forty-five nations were invited to take part in a myriad of events. Only a polytechnic instructor or a Russian grand duke could understand half the languages displayed in the various programmes; only a Senior Wrangler is capable of working out the preliminary heats; and only a student of Humanism was capable of calculating the results. But that did not matter. Paris was to be the headquarters, and Paris, as we all know, is the centre of that is gay and jovial.

Imagination pictured the Australian White Australia forgotten—buying cocktails for his Japanese blood-brother in the Grand Hotel, Abrahamson and Nurmi arm-in-arm singing down the Boulevard des Italiens, Boy Charlton and Weismuller taking their morning dip together in the Seine, and Mussolini listening open-mouthed to tales of the mighty Mur-derer. Cod caught every Sunday at the edge by Sladden. Paris in 1924 was a better place in the Golden Age. At least, it was the feeling in May, 1924.

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Something Has Slipped

In July, 1924, something seems to have slipped besides all the previous records. Brotherly love seems to have become a little nebulous, and the newspapers are seriously discussing whether or not the Olympic Games are a good thing. A great deal of the criticism simply argues lack of imagination, and some of it lack of experience. There have been charges and counter-charges of unsportsmanship. It is a tremendous pity that they have been given such wide publicity.

The plain fact is that where you have some thousands of contestants representing 45 nations, speaking a score or more of languages, trained under varying codes, and brought up with diverse sets of rules, disputes are inevitable. We have had them in interstate contests here, when all our rules and previous training are practically identical. The Kellaway incident last year, the different interpretations given by Victorian and South Australian football umpires are but passing and, fortunately, easily forgotten instances.

Some of these things are regrettable, but so long as human nature is human nature, so long as rules differ, so long as international rivalry exists, these episodes will recur. They are best forgotten. In nearly all the various competitions just concluded in Paris, the panels of judges, referees, and stewards were drawn from different nations. The wonder is not that the disputes occurred, but that there were not more of them. And on the general question of whether or not international contests are a good thing only one answer can be given.

Advantages Apparent

From the purely sporting point of view the advantage is great in that standards are improved, champions are tried out, new methods of training are studied, and the true sporting spirit developed. But beyond that there is a less direct but an even greater benefit. Inevitably there is mixing of individuals of one nation with individuals of another. The freemasonry of sport soon breaks down barriers. Experiences are exchanged, friendships formed, acquaintanceships made, new customs discussed and studied.

The other man's point of view is seen and, however imperfectly, to some extent understood. The foreigner is never again quite as much the stranger-barbarian. "To know all is to forgive all" is quite as true in international as in personal matters.

Memory of the little personal rivalries and even disputes soon vanishes, though the indefinable effect of the contacts made with individuals of this and that nation may fade, but is not lost. That was demonstrated in the recent war, where the feeling and sentiment built up between the individuals of different nations was very different from the official attitudes of the different Governments.

Continuance Justified

If for no other reason such considerations as these would justify the continuance of international contests. The only qualification is this—that in international sporting fixtures, as in most other things, a due sense of proportion should be observed. Although important they are not all-important, and the heavens will not fall because a contest is lost or a wrong decision given.

The British pride themselves on being the pioneers of modern sport, particularly on the Continent of Europe. They have behind them centuries of the traditions of clean sport and of fair play. Some of the other nations are much younger in sport and more excitable in temperaments, and may perhaps be pardoned for excessive and extreme partisanship. Except in swimming Australia has not been particularly successful in the recent games, but she is much too sane at heart and much too highly imbued with the British sporting spirit to worry much over that, or to do or say anything that would indicate that she is a bad loser.

Register. 26 JUL 1924

AT ALICE SPRINGS.

A MOTORING RECORD.

Five Cars Arrive.

No. V.—By Vilhjalmur Stefansson. (Copyright.)

ALICE SPRINGS, Saturday.

A motoring record for Alice Springs was established when our combined parties arrived here with five cars. The largest previous number of cars in one year was five, but this year there have been 12 cars already. Two more are known to be coming, bringing His Excellency the Governor of Victoria next week, and there doubtless will be several others. This greatly rejoices the local people, who feel confident that the majority of these travellers will take away, and spread to the best of their ability, the same high opinion of Central Australia which those who live here hold. The inhabitants of Alice Springs are seven white women and about twice that many men. We are told that the largest number of whites ever gathered here in recent years was 120 for the Christmas races. In connection with the hopes of the local population that there will be a great increase of motor traffic next year over this as this is over last, it is interesting that Mr. Harry Dutton, who now is here with us, was the first man to cross the continent in a motor, north and south. He made his first attempt in 1907, and got as far north as 40 miles south of Tennant's Creek, when his car broke down. The next year he came through with another car, picked up the broken one, and took both through to Darwin. Mr. Dutton believes that to this date his are the only cars that have been across the full breadth of Australia under their own power, since they have done the whole way from Port Macdonnell to Darwin, while other cars have been taken by rail from Adelaide to Oodnadatta, or from the Katherine to Darwin, if not both. Mrs. Dutton went through the whole way to Darwin with Mr. Dutton in 1923, and enjoyed it so much that this morning they were discussing leaving our party here and driving through to Darwin once more. They have decided, however, to do that another year, this time accompanying our party throughout. Mrs. Dutton has driven the car every foot so far, and expects to drive all the way back to Oodnadatta.

A 40-Mile Excursion.

Yesterday we made a 40-mile excursion out over the Burt Plain, and were much impressed with its fertility and its great stock-carrying power when more wells shall have been dug. From the soil and the rainfall record, this seems a promising farming district, using such methods as are employed by the Mormons in Utah and elsewhere. To-day we are adding to our combined party Professor Ewart, of Melbourne, who has just finished a successful investigation of stock poisoning by plants which they eat when being driven across a certain belt a few miles wide, about 200 miles north of here. Professor Ewart will probably be with us only two days while we run out to the Valley of Palms, near the Hermansberg Mission. We expect to return thence to Alice Springs on Sunday evening, everything going smoothly.

Advertiser

28 JUL 1924

ROMAN LAW.

LECTURE BY MR. A. J. HANNAN.

At a meeting of the Classical Association, held at the University on Friday, at which Professor H. Darnley Naylor presided, Mr. A. J. Hannan read a paper on "Roman law."

The lecturer said Roman law had performed three great services to civilisation. The first was in keeping the Roman Empire together during the many hundred years it existed. Roman law applied to all the conquered peoples under Roman rule, and as a system of law it was immensely superior to the different local systems. The subject peoples were led to acquiesce in Rome's rule mainly because of the benefits which they derived from having a comprehensive, logical, simple, and commonsense system of law impartially administered, and before which they had the same rights and privileges as the most high-born Roman. Among the conspicuous merits of Roman law in the days of the Republic, and later under the Empire, was the fact that it consisted of a written code not dependent for its interpretation upon the arbitrary caprice or conscious bias of any person. Its interpretation by the judges could be checked by any layman by reference to the voluminous treatises of learned jurists. These treatises took the place of the law reports with us, for at Rome the bar, in so far as it consisted of eminent text-book

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writers, gave the law to the bench. Another great merit of Roman law which must have strongly commended itself to the different nations which made up the Roman Empire was that the Romans were able, at a comparatively early stage in the development of their legal system, definitely to separate law proper, i.e., that which was enforceable in the courts, from other related kinds of law, namely, religious law or rites and moral law. Most ancient codes were like those of Manu and Moses, which never emerged from the confusion of legal and religious conceptions.

The second great service rendered by Roman law consisted in the very great influence it had exercised on the legal systems of most of the countries of modern Europe. "Roman law," it had been said, "is the key which unlocks the legal systems of modern Europe." The law of Scotland was based on Roman law, and so were certain branches of the English law, namely, the law relating to the contract of sale, and the law relating to bailments of goods. The indebtedness of English law to Roman law was eloquently and emphatically expressed by Lord Chief Justice Tindal, when he said, "The Roman law forms no rule binding in itself on the subjects of these realms; but in deciding a case upon principle, where no direct authority can be cited from our books, it affords no small evidence of the soundness of the conclusion at which we have arrived if it prove to be supported by that law—the fruit of the researches of the most learned men, the collective wisdom of ages, and the groundwork of the national law of most of the countries of Europe."

The great service rendered by Roman law was in the sphere of jurisprudence and legal education. Roman law occupied a position of unique value in the history of legal conceptions. It formed a connecting link between the institutions of their Aryan forefathers and the complete organisations of modern society. Its ancient records carried them back to the dawn of civil jurisdiction. The period covered by its development was more than 1,000 years; it passed through every stage of growth, and was subjected to every kind of influence which could possibly be manifested in any legal system, and as they traced its course from its humble beginning in the form of the twelve tables to its magnificent culmination in the form of the Corpus Juris Civilis compiled by the Emperor Justinian there was exhibited a panorama of legal development such as could not be matched in the history of the laws of any other people.

NEW LAWYER

Mr. C. W. Reeves

26 JUL 1924

In the Full Court this morning Mr. L. D. Waterhouse moved for the admission to the Bar of Mr. Charles Wheatley Reeves. Sir George Murray (Chief Justice) congratulated Mr. Reeves and wished him success in his profession.



Mr. C. W. Reeves

who was admitted to the Bar this morning.

Mr. Reeves is a son of Mr. Edward Reeves, the well-known elocutionist. He began his education at the Uley Public School, where he continued until he entered the Uley District High School. After spending a year at the high school, where he secured fourth position in his form, he entered Prince Alfred College. There he passed the Junior Public and Senior Public examinations, won the first elocution prize in 1916, the senior Smith history prize in 1917, and in 1918 secured first place in the senior form in Latin. In 1919 at the age of 17 he began upon his law course at the Adelaide University, in the same year entering into articles with Mr. A. S. Blackburn. At the end of three years he completed his examinations at the University for the final certificate in law. In his earlier days, by his elocutionary abilities, he showed a tendency toward following in his father's footsteps. At the age of twelve years he played the title role in "Little Lord Fauntleroy" in an amateur production of that play before Sir Dav H. Bosanquet, then Governor. The parts of Shylock in "The Merchant of Venice" and Brutus in "Julius Caesar" are among other performances.