

Reg. 6/4/25.

SUB-NORMAL CHILDREN.

Government's Education Policy.

The policy of the Government in relation to the education of sub-normal children was outlined by the Premier (Hon. J. Gunn) when speaking at the Easter choral service in connection with Minda Home at the Mitcham Institute on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Gunn said that many sub-normal children were educable, and they often revealed unsuspected aptitudes as the result of training by skilled teachers. The number of such children in the community was probably the same in South Australia as elsewhere—namely, 1 to 1½ per cent. Moreover, there were a number of backward children, probably amounting to 10 per cent. of the whole, who were two or three years below the class appropriate to their age. Up till recently, no properly organized arrangements were made for coping with the problem of their education.

Dr. Constance Davey's Work.

In November last, the Government appointed Dr. Constance Davey, a South Australian graduate, with very high qualification in psychology, to organize and supervise the work of grading and teaching these children, and of training the teachers.

Dr. Davey's activities were very numerous. She had to examine and recommend treatment for children retarded educationally, such as backward and mentally defective children. The nervous, unstable, and all other children who formed the problem cases, and the truants and other delinquent children, came under her jurisdiction, while she also had to organize classes for the supernormal and the sub-normal children, the latter comprising dull and backward children, morous, and children with speech defects. It was further her work to supervise the training of teachers for these special classes, and to organize short courses of lectures to teachers, and to those in training for teaching, to enable them to recognise sub-normal children, and to teach them to learn the aims and methods of mental testing. She was responsible for the vocational guidance of normal children and for children in special classes, had to organize and supervise the work of "after care" committees, and to carry on experimental work in order to standardize tests for Australian children.

Dr. Davey began her duties in September of last year, continued Mr. Gunn and so far had examined children in established classes in three of the city schools. Her services had, at the request of various institutions, been placed at the disposal of the Minda Committee, the State Children's Relief Department and the Children's Court.

The Curriculum.

The chief aims of the teacher of these children are to co-ordinate the senses to cultivate self respect and independence and to train the children in good habit and the curriculum embraces reading, writing, arithmetic, drawing, special hand work, singing, nature study, games, an physical exercises, up to the physical and moral capacity of the pupil. At a late stage, concluded Mr. Gunn, it was intended to provide instruction in technical trades and handicrafts, such as carpentry, shoemaking, and tailoring for the boys; dressmaking, laundering, an cookery for the girls, but that was for the future, and would necessitate the establishment of a separate school in which children of 12 years of age or upwards would be drafted.

The news. 6/4/25.

CONSERVATORIUM CONCERT

To be Broadcast by 5DonN

One of the chief delights of listeners last winter was provided by the broadcasting of concerts from the Elder Conservatorium by 5DonN. Mr. Hume has arranged to perform a similar service this winter, and the first students' concert, which will be given tonight, will be transmitted from the Parkside station.

The broadcasting, by the same station, of the Wednesday evening concerts from the Exhibition Building has also met with favor, and will be continued. In addition 5DonN is continuing the Thursday evening studio concerts arranged by Mrs. Hume. The plant has been enlarged and the transmitting power will gradually be increased.

FUTURE OF BRITISH SHIPPING

(By Harry Thomson)

One of the obligations of being a distinguished guest at a dinner is to carry on the real work of the evening by continuing to tickle the palates of one's hosts in making a speech strictly according to plan. It would be the height of discourtesy to interrupt that pleasant lethargy that succeeds a dinner hour well spent by introducing any topic likely to cause the slightest upheaval of the digestive functions.

In fact, one of the main functions of an after-dinner speech is to enable the pancreatic juices to perform their beautiful work uninterrupted, either by physical or mental strain. Cabinet Ministers are well aware of this. In fact only by a long course of such aids to digestion is Cabinet rank as a rule reached. "Wuff-wuff," or the art of murmuring pleasant noises of the sort the listener wishes to hear and meaning nothing, is part of the apprenticeship of any successful politician.

Mr. L. S. Amery (Secretary of State for the Colonies) is a very successful politician. It is therefore not surprising that when recently addressing, after dinner, a gathering of Liverpool shipping magnates he breathed a suggestion that in certain events it might even be necessary for the British Empire to revert to the policy of the old Navigation Acts with a view to "bucking up" British shipping.

Old Navigation Acts

Mr. Amery is an extraordinarily able man who for the past 15 years has specialised on Empire and colonial problems. He probably knows more than any other single man today on matters that concern the Dominions and Great Britain. He is much too well informed to have ever contemplated seriously the reintroduction of the Navigation Acts. For one thing, it is doubtful if they had the effects he ascribed to them, and, for another, the Dominions would never consent to them.

For a period of about two centuries the Navigation Acts were in force. Their two outstanding features were that all colonial produce of the important kinds had to be carried on English (not Scotch or Irish) ships, and that European exports to the colonies had to be shipped from England, even if the country of origin were, for example, Sweden. They were imposed on the colonies in spite of vigorous protests from those colonies. Mr. Amery is far too astute a Colonial Secretary to imagine for one minute that either of these principles could be imposed on any of the Dominions today.

Effects of the Laws

According, too, to Cunningham in his "Growth of English Industry and Commerce" it is doubtful if the Navigation Acts had the effects expected or even ascribed to them. In particular it was not so much the Navigation Acts as the growth of commerce with the American colonies (including the slave trade) that reacted so favorably on the English merchant shipping. And it is further significant that the 20 years' period immediately succeeding the repeal of the navigation laws was one of growth and prosperity in shipping, unrivalled in the previous two centuries. In part it was due to the repeal of those laws and in part to the introduction of iron for wooden construction.

What Mr. Amery had in mind, as he has shown in other speeches, was something quite different. We have got away from the old days when the laws of political economy were supposed to be much like the laws of nature—exact and immutable. Supply and demand are not magic gates automatically directing a perfectly fluid torrent of articles this way and that, without friction, let, or hindrance.

Importance of Goodwill

Other factors come in. Among the most important, although it has never been treated as such by the classic economists, is goodwill. The greatest asset in Empire trade is goodwill. The greatest factor in building and conserving Empire merchant shipping is goodwill—and goodwill at both ends.

Goodwill in this sense means more than mere friendliness from a dominion to Great Britain. It means personal connections and actual trade relationships between firm and firm. Most of the things we use could be imported equally well from half a dozen sources. The particular source is chosen because Firm A here has dealt before with Firm B in England, has sampled its products and seen its catalogues. In other words, supply and demand do operate, but normally they operate in defined channels or grooves that have been previously created by use.

Trade Within the Empire

So far as trade within the Empire is concerned, shipping will advance just as such trade generally advances. Anything that will reduce freights or in any other way put Empire shipping on a preferential basis will tend to keep Empire trade within its Empire groove. But since it is the ultimate market price obtained that is the acid test, anything that reduces any of the costs of production, including the intermediate steps in transporting, is equally effective in keeping trade in imperial channels.

Bounties to English shipping trading with the Dominions serve much the same purpose in that respect as a straight-out preference to the exporting dominions. That extent the navigation laws could be restored, but very little further. It would be impossible, and be equivalent to another Boston tea cargo, to attempt to legislate compelling the dominions to trade in any particular direction. Mr. Amery has any such proposal in mind his visit in the near future to Australia will rapidly dissuade him.

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THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PROTOCOL.

To the Editor.

Sir—I thank Mr. Hamilton for his letter. The issue is so momentous that I break the rule of a lifetime and enter into a newspaper controversy. If the rejection of the Protocol is discussed, the controversy may be worth while. Let me deal with some minor matters first. Mr. Hamilton asks if Mr. Parkin and I think we ought to have been consulted. I reply that any intelligent person who has watched European affairs during, say, the last ten years (as doubtless Mr. Hamilton himself has done) should be competent to make suggestions of value even to a Prime Minister. If we are forbidden to reach to such heights, what's a democracy for? Mr. Hamilton says that Mr. Lloyd George has called the Protocol "a booby trap." If Mr. Lloyd George is right his view is somewhat hard on Sir Littleton Groom, who was chairman of the committee that drew up the Protocol. But Mr. Lloyd George's view is not that of Lord Cecil or Earl Grey or Professor Gilbert Murray, or Sir Frederick Pollock, K.C., or Sir Cecil Hurst, legal adviser to his Majesty's Government. Mr. Hamilton's last point is that under the Protocol the British Fleet will be called upon "to act as the world's policeman, and pay the cost of it also." This contention is not valid in the eyes of distinguished publicists who have studied the Protocol from every angle, but, in any case, this is not the point at issue. The real question is not the merits or demerits of the Protocol but the summary treatment it has received. Let me repeat categorically the grounds of my protest against the Prime Minister's action:—(1) Sir Littleton Groom was largely concerned in the drafting of the Protocol. (2) He voted (presumably with the approval of the Prime Minister) to recommend to the earnest attention of all the members of the League the acceptance of the said draft Protocol. (3) The Prime Minister, without consulting Parliament, informed the British Government that Australia could not accept a document of the highest importance whose terms were hardly known by many Federal members, let alone by the electors of Australia. I ask Mr. Hamilton to assist in enabling Parliament and people to understand the meaning and effect of the Protocol and so reach a decision founded on reason and calm judgment.—I am, &c.,

H. DARNLEY NAYLOR.

April 6, 1925.

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ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY JUBILEE.

In August next year the University of Adelaide will celebrate its jubilee. Although no details could be ascertained yesterday, it is stated that the jubilee will be fittingly recognised.

Peninsula Lawyer

Mr. L. H. Shepley, solicitor, of Kadina, was born in 1883, and is the second son of Mr. W. J. Shepley, late of the National Bank, Laura. He was educated at Sturt Street Public School, and afterward at the Glenelg Grammar School, under the late Rev. Donald Kerr.

Later he decided to follow the legal profession, and in 1906 became articled to Mr. Angus Parsons (now Mr. Justice Angus Parsons), of the firm of Messrs. Glynn, Parsons, McEwin,



MR. L. H. SHEPLEY

and Napier. He obtained the Bachelor of Law degree at the Adelaide University in 1909, and was admitted to the Bar in 1909, beginning practice at Kadina in 1911. On the death of Mr. S. R. Page in 1918 he also took over his practice at Moonta.

Mr. Shepley has taken keen interest in public affairs in Kadina, and for seven years was one of the representatives in the town council for Stirling Ward, occupying the position of chairman of finance for the greater part of that period. In 1919 he was elected to the mayoralty, which position he held for two years. Among other public positions he has occupied are that of secretary of the Kadina District Trained Nursing Society for six years, secretary to the Institute Committee for three years, vice-president of the Kadina and Wallaroo Jockey Club, president of the Kadina Bowling Club, member of the Kadina School Committee, Wallaroo Mines High School Committee, and Moonta Technical School Committee.

He is also a lay reader in the Anglican Church, and is a Past Master of Union Lodge No. 13, and Past First Principal of the Kadina Royal Arch Chapter of Freemasons.

For some years he occupied the presidency of the Yorke Peninsula Football Association, and at present holds the position of sole arbiter. In 1910 he married a daughter of the late Mr. W. J. Maxwell, of Edwardstown. Mrs. Maxwell will be remembered as a sculptor of high ability. Mr. Shepley returned last week from a three months' holiday in New Zealand.

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INTERCHANGE OF UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS.

It is understood that Mr. J. A. M. Elder (Australian Commissioner in America) has suggested to the Prime Minister, the desirableness of arranging an interchange of Australian University professors with American professors. The Prime Minister, it was learned yesterday, has submitted the suggestion for the consideration of the Australian universities. The matter is stated to be under consideration, but whether its practicability will be tested by an Australian university is not yet known. Through the League of Nations a committee of the League of Nations is also endeavoring to bring about an interchange of Australian university professors with Continental universities. Linguistic difficulties in this case, however, are likely to operate against such an invitation being accepted.

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UNIVERSITY STUDIES.

From an outside source we have been informed that a small committee of the Adelaide University Council is at present enquiring into the propriety of a member of the professorial staff providing special "coaching" for monetary consideration to one pupil in his classes.