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AMERICAN LABOUR...

Lecture by Dr. Goodrich.

The Physics Theatre at the Adelaide University was filled on Friday evening for a lecture by Dr. Carter Goodrich, Assistant Professor of Economics at the Michigan University, on "The American Labour Movement." Sir William Mitchell, Vice-Chancellor) occupied the chair.

In referring to the conditions of labour in Australia and America, the professor said he wished to utter a word of caution against the belief that the conditions in one country could be applied to those in another. There was much difference between big factories in American industry and those constituted the greatest difference, the factory, and the Irelgarten of the industrial history of America might be divided into three periods, namely, the period of the frontier without the factory, the period of the factory with the frontier, and the final period of the factory without the frontier. The "frontier" was free factory labour had to obtain. A man asked why should he work for another when he could go west and secure a farm of his own? Wages was a result were high. By 1880 the easily won free lands were gone, but the frontier of nearly 200 years with the frontier were not to be wiped out during the 30 or 40 years which followed. The flood of immigrants had had an effect on the problem of the labour organization. With the frontier there was an increase in wages, the foreigner made labour plentiful and wages low. No other labour movement had been called upon to face the obstacles of a "climbing" class and a "descending" class. He went on to deal with the anti-slavery movement, the colonies, and the development of craft unions from local toward national organization. The Knights of Labour movement was dwarfed the previous movements into insignificance, was the rise and fall of the Knights of Labour, which at its zenith had 700,000 members. It was the one big union, and its basis was broad enough to include all classes of the workers, farmers and small employers. Half a million men joined the movement in the middle 80's, the biggest of them being the unskilled workers of various occupations. In the confusion the unwieldy organization fell apart suddenly, and it had not, with its size, left behind it any lasting effect. Samuel Gompers was for the first time on the scene in the late 70's. He had been engaged in building up the New York Cigar Makers' Union, and his union had set the pattern for the present-day industrial movement.

American Labour Federation.

Continuing, the speaker said the Amerihelp, and, indeed, are quite untenable can Labour Federation was formed, with Samuel Gompers as its President. Ever since, the chief of Gompers as President. Ever since, the chief of Federation had remained the leading representative of labour in America. It stood for the principles of "bread and butter" unionism, and for starting point round which prevention can the unskilled labour union as the main instrument for the workers' advance. It was strong now stabilized round the four millions of men in the Federation, and, looking upon unskilled men, and considering American office workers, having machinery at his command, unionism as a national movement, its class-mind, which he can use at his discretion. Gompers was the guiding spirit of the Federation, and he was the most outstanding and brave attempt to organize the workers, the movement remained mainly an organization of the skilled. The notification form itself has become of the wage earners were still outdelivered, for in the more advanced public opinion, it was wage-conscious and group-conscious rather than class-conscious. The world of organized labour was the sort of movement that the foreign labour and the foreigner had conspired to make. How there would be a change if the foreigners had been checked in the free land was gone, and the flood of foreigners had been checked by the war and later by the restricted policy of immigration. Those things they should expect a great growth of unionism, and swing to the left, but the employer now had a force in the industry. He had built up a set of devices for checking unionism and at the same time giving his employees some of the benefits of unionism. Scientific management, with its aims, which under the Ford system of mass production, was the rival of unionism by taking away the rafts upon which the unions built. Centres for loyalty and goodwill had been established. Individual payment by results, although rather unpopular, was so common as some Australian newspapers seemed to think. At the moment the system of employes' stock ownership was very widespread. That made it possible for employes to buy shares on easy terms in the businesses in which they worked, and it stabilized the very force of personal administration and employer representation, which had removed many of the friction between employers and employes. The American Labour movement was at a complete standstill by. For the first time since the 8's, unemployment had come to a period of prosperity. In that movement there was a half million workers and had been brought under the influence of unions, employer representation, and shareholders in the business in which they worked. Many thought that that might lead to the end of unionism in America. The question was, what the future existence was in the world, where perhaps nowhere else was the question. Australia.

At the close of his lecture Professor Goodrich answered a number of questions.

NOTIFICATION OF DISEASE.

Australian System Criticised.

Dr. Frank Hone, lecturer in clinical and preventive medicine in Adelaide University, read a paper before the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science on "Notification or prevention" which is of vital importance to us in England at the present time where we, too, have much perturbed over the question of notification (says an April issue of the Medical Officer of England). We are in disagreement with most of Dr. Hone's conclusions. The fact that we differ is immaterial, but the causes which lead us to differ are important, help us to make clear our position over and to put before our colleagues the antipodes a different way of looking at the subject.

The various State of Australia have widely varying health laws. The most advanced State is the youngest, Western Australia, the least advanced, the oldest, New South Wales. In all the States the public health codes are modelled on that of England and Wales, and where they differ from our code, they usually differ for the worse. And in no sphere is that difference more marked than in the laws and practices relating to the notification of infectious diseases. Every State in Australia has taken from our notification laws all parts which are bad and rejected by us. In England we have cut out all that is useless, and we have added to our code all that is beneficial, and we are pressing for their amendment. But in practice we have long since discarded much of the law which is obsolete, and we have added to it a system which, although strictly it has no legal sanction has been accepted by the people, and accepted by the authorities, because it is considered to be beneficial. The result is that in Australia the reverse process has been going on; the legal side of notification—which in this country is kept in the background—has been made the main feature, and a position has arisen, which justifies Dr. Hone in saying:—"From what has been said it is apparent that notification as a preventive measure has broken down."

Untenable Ideas.

We admit that the ideas which led to the Notification Act of 1889 are no longer tenable. We admit that we were wrong, and that we were wrong in the assumption that we could use the notification as a preventive, but we admit that it is not necessary make the measures we have been using, which have been based upon that assumption, the basis of our preventive measures. We admit that the notification form itself has become a mere communication from one medical officer to another; from one practitioner to another; from one practitioner to one who is a public health officer, having machinery at his command, which he can use at his discretion. The value of notification to a medical officer is the assurance of knowing for certain the extent and nature of disease, and the knowing of the earliest indication of the outbreaks of epidemics, and it enables him to correlate objectively, and with the light on public notification, in our opinion, the chief value of its value. We should never have fallen to the extremes we have, or unsuspected cases of infection if we had had notification. Even now, it is only in disease which have been made notifiable that we know anything definite about the corrier state, or have any precise knowledge of the notification rate of disease had not been notifiable. Typhoid fever never have kept mice, and the infections of the nervous system would remain in the total obscurity in which they have lain for 5,000 years. Nor are the advantages to be derived from notification by private practitioners and public by any means inconsiderable. Our more remote notification orders, in which the legal side is practically disregarded, the medical side made paramount, opens immense vistas of good. Dr. Hone's ideas are based on the belief for the better management of disease. We admit that notifications by parents, and so on; that notification to local authorities and not to medical officers; that passing on notifications to sanitary inspectors with instructions to procure stamps, candles, and drain testers, are not the best measures. But in England these are obsolete or exist only in Australia. Why are they retained? Truly, there was the reason why Dr. Hone says notification is useless, and should be discarded; while we say that notification is the first and most vital step in prevention. The difference of opinion between us is caused by our discussing totally different functions, having the same origin, and called by the same name.

REG. 11-6-27

VIOLIN TEACHING.

LECTURE BY MR. CHARLES SCHILSKY.

At the Elder Conservatorium on Friday evening, Mr. Charles Schilsky gave a valuable lecture of violin teaching. This was the fifth public lecture in connection with the Australian Musical Examinations under the Elder Conservatorium. Before dealing with the violin, he put a point important in the teaching in general. In music study, he said, the first stages must be tedious to the student. It was necessary to study the technique of music. Some were serious, and others appreciated a touch of humour, which would not be considered by the critics. Playing the violin was, perhaps, more difficult than any other instrument, as it was necessary to take into account the physical formation of their pupil's arms and fingers. That was to say, that a pupil with long arms could not be expected to approach violin-playing in the same way as one with short arms and a small hand. This was a very powerful judgment was necessary, and it was impossible to adhere to hard and fast rules, although there were certain principles applicable to all students of the violin. In the first place, the way of holding the instrument must be considered, and, in connection with this, it was illustrated modifications necessitated by different types of hand. Some people obtained a firm grip easily, but it was a matter which depended upon the pupil, for while people with short necks did not raise the shoulder awkwardly for want of a pad. While in violin playing sound was important, it was not the principal. The method of holding the bow was next touched on. Bow technique in solo work was comparatively simple. In violin playing it was much more exacting. The lecturer illustrated and explained each point in turn, showing how it was arrived at, dogmatizing, but giving examples and reasons. Quite 50 per cent. of Mr. Schilsky's lecture was given by his beloved violin. The passages on touch and the attainment of tone were most valuable.

Dealing with the question of teaching, the lecturer emphasized the necessity for careful work. The bow should at all times be held in a straight line with the bridge, and the position on the string must be varied according to the quality of tone desired. Legato was especially difficult, so often a violinist gave a jerk in coming from one string to another in a legato passage, which should be avoided if possible. Slow, sustained bowing required great calmness of the wrist, and was difficult to practice. The full-length bow was important for the development of the right arm, and for giving and practice of tone. The value of flexibility of wrist was again and again insisted on, and the value of daily practice of sustained and legato passages counted for much in violin teaching, for in no other instrument was such effect of tone production possible. Schilsky then proceeded to give demonstrations with a running commentary as to cause and effect, including staccato, spiccato, or the springing bow. After intoning the trill and vibrato, Mr. Schilsky gave a number of selections, which he judiciously employed, but nauseating in overdone. One thing was to be looked for in the list of works for violin students, beginners up to a high standard of technical efficiency. Even here he illustrated by selections, playing passages from studies, and other compositions, and explaining their value in building up the technique and command of his instrument. Applause at the close marked the appreciation of his hearers.

REG 14-6-27

At a meeting of the council of the School of Mines on Monday, a letter dated from London was received from Professor Kerr Grant, accepting his appointment as a member of the council, and stating that he looked forward to the opportunity offered him of using his best efforts in the interests of the school.

ADVICE TO TEACHERS.

The final lecture of the series arranged by the Australian Music Examinations Board for teachers of music was given in the Elder Conservatorium last night by Mr. Charles Schilsky, who spoke on "The Art of Violin Teaching."

Mr. Schilsky said although the physical formation of the student had to be taken into consideration certain principles were applicable to all students of the violin. The method of holding the violin should be mastered. The student should place his chin on the chin holder in such a way as to allow the chin down the finger board. The thumb should be opposite the first finger, and the elbow the brought well forward. The violin should be held at a slight angle, and firmly with the chin. Students with long necks should be careful in bowing, the wrist very important. The bow should be held with the thumb slightly bent opposite the second finger, the forefinger being brought well over the stick. The tip of the little finger should only be used to balance the bow. The wrist in the production of tone was most important. Legato playing was perhaps the most difficult. The student should practice sustained bowing, the wrist and fingers. Slow, sustained bowing required great calmness of the wrist. It should be practiced in tone studies. Full-length bowing was important for the development of the right arm and for giving practice in flexibility to tone playing. Any part of the bow could be used for slow bowing, but judgment was necessary. In staccato bowing only the forearm and wrist should be used. The "hammered" or hammered stroke, was quicker and stronger.

The lecturer also dealt with staccato, spiccato, and tremolo bowing. It was difficult, he said, to play chords piano. There was, that reason, usually marked forte for the violin. After dealing with other phases of violin technique, Mr. Schilsky said he doubted whether interpretation could be discussed in the abstract. In interpreting the student must be guided by the genius and endeavour to render the composer's intentions with the sincerity and understanding of which he was capable.

ADV. 13-6-27

UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

A special meeting of the Council of the University of Adelaide will be held in the classics lecture room this afternoon for the purpose of conferring the following degrees:—Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Herbert George Letcher; Bachelor of Science, Mervyn Alexander Rankin (in absentia) and Alfred Eric Scott; ordinary degree of Bachelor of Arts, Robert Franklin Booker, Claude Hammond Coats; Bachelor of Engineering and diploma in applied science, Rex Finlayson Cormack Calder, Harold Pflaum Matthews (in absentia). Members of the senate and friends of the candidates have been invited to attend. The members of the senate will proceed with the academic costume proper to their respective degrees and offices.

ADV. 14-6-27

UNIVERSITY DEGREES CONFERRED.

A special meeting of the Council of the University of Adelaide was held in the classics lecture room on Monday afternoon for the purpose of conferring a number of degrees. Members of the University Council, and friends and relatives of the candidates were present. The Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) was accompanied on the platform by the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell), conferred the following degrees:—Degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Herbert George Letcher, in absentia (presented by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. W. Ray); Degree of Bachelor of Science, Mervyn Alexander Rankin, in absentia. Alfred Eric Scott (presented by the Dean of the Faculty of Science, Professor T. G. B. Osborn); ordinary Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Henry Joshua Allen, Robert Franklin Booker, Claude Hammond Coats (presented by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Professor W. K. Hancock); Degree of Bachelor of Engineering and Diploma in Applied Science, Rex Finlayson Cormack Calder, Harold Pflaum Matthews (in absentia) (presented by the Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science, Mr. J. Dalbyl).

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Mr. H. J. Allen, a member of the teaching staff at the Tiebarton Technical High School, received the B.A. degree as a special nominee of the University Council on Monday. Mr. Allen received his earlier education at the Woodville and Adelaide High Schools.