Ignorance of Employers

"A man who is trained merely in analytical chemistry, however thorough his training and however high his qualifications, is little use unless he knows bio-chemistry and bacteriology. Few firms can afford to employ three men to deal with these aspects of the work. They need one man who can do it all.

"Adelaide University has recently made arrangements to provide a course of training of this character leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science. It is felt that this course will need men trained in these subjects during the forthcoming couple of decades and that there will be a great demand for such men. We hope that students will take steps to qualify themselves to fill the demand indicated and to participate in the future the growth of Australian manufacturing industries."

An important development is the decision of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research to undertake the investigation of factors affecting the nutrition of stock. Prof. Brailsford Robertson has been placed in charge of the work in South Australia.

"It is proposed to concentrate on the nutrition of sheep, more particularly wool production," he explained. "Later, no doubt, the investigation will extend to other directions. The work has begun and we are being prepared for the special nutrition laboratory which will be erected by the Federal Government on grounds adjoining the Adelaide University. A staff will be appointed to the new laboratory, and field investigations will be in progress in many parts of the pastoral areas, under my direction."

THE NEWS

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 1927

HAS DEMOCRACY FAILED?

By R. C. Bald, Lecturer in English at Adelaide University)

All the world is interested in the United States of America. Americans are the wealthiest and most prosperous nation of the world. Their success, even in sports and in feats of endurance, no less than in business, has attracted the attention and envy of other countries.

For Australia America has a special interest. We are nearer to the United States than to Europe, and, being a young country, we are far more receptive of new ideas. In many matters such as our architecture, traffic problems, and even in our religion and our popular songs, we are just as much influenced by America as by Britain.

The economic development of the United States supplies a number of important parallels to our own. Most important of all, our Constitution is modelled on the famous document which was drawn up when the Declaration of Independence had been signed.

Like the Americans, we pride ourselves on being a democratic country. Just as they do, we Australians feel we have are in Britain that we are in contact with an older order of things, a class-consciousness especially, that we have already outgrown. Therefore, I cannot help interesting us when a American writer asks if his country democracy is not merely a failure but a farce.

Average of Intelligence

Mr. H. L. Mencken's latest volume of notes on Democracy, is a pessimistic book. But it is written with his customary vigour. Mr. Mencken believes in the fundamental inequality of mankind. But he is a writer with a keen sense of the equal there intelligences are not.

The basis of his attack is psychological. Within recent years the development of intelligence-testing has given the effective measuring mental capacity. And the difference between man and man may can now be seen more clearly than ever. The intelligence tests are concerned with a man's ability to learn, to apply his knowledge, and to think rapidly in the light of his experience.

The results of intelligence tests on a large scale are disappointing. Some of the most intelligent men learn almost indefinitely. Their capacity for increasing until their bodies begin to wear out. Others stop in childhood even in infancy. They reach, say, the mental age of 10 or 12, and they develop no more. Physically, they become men and grow beards, political opinions, and the desire to propagate their kind. Mentally they remain on the level of schoolboys."

Unfortunately, the greater part of humanity falls within the second class.

Denunciation of Democracy

Let us follow Mr. Mencken a little farther and see where this "pessimistic" thought leads him. Intelligence has proved, he holds, that the minds of the lower orders of men "cannot grasp even the simplest abstractions, and their thinking is done on the level of a few primitive appetites and emotions. Ideas leave them unscathed, and their emotions are all elemental—the emotions, indeed, of children rather than of men"—and the chief of these emotions are fear, hate, and envy.

This is a bitter picture, and these are not the foundations which one would seek on which to build a political philosophy. But Mr. Mencken has strong arguments with which to prove his case that in a democracy these emotions are constantly on the surface.

There is no little truth in the statement that plain people under democracy never vote for anything, but always against something. That is why the Zinoviev letter put the people of Baldwin Government into power and why Mr. Bruce, although he cheerfully admitted that there were fewer than a thousand Communists in Australia, conducted his last election campaign against Communism.

Is There a Remedy?

One may admit, without being too cheerful, that things are probably worse in America than they are here. The reason is probably in part because of the immense hordes of immigrants from all European country who have as yet scarcely adapted themselves to their new political conditions. Further, there is not—and let us hope it there is not—so much corruption in our Governments as there is in America, although Mr. Mencken seems to regard corruption as a necessary evil. Under other forms of government you may get it plus efficiency, but in a democracy corruption and incompetence go together hand in hand.

If all that is here stated about democracy is true, what is the remedy? Mr. Mencken can see none. The main good point that he sees in democracy is that it sometimes amuses him—a feeble conclusion to come to. Perhaps the only remedy is the one suggested by the eugenists—that the race should be bred for certain qualities, just as racehorses or dogs are bred; and that those below a certain standard should not be allowed to breed.

In any case, however seriously one may take the arguments of Mr. Mencken against democracy, one must realise that they are not levelled against those who are seeking for better social conditions, and that these contain no word that need discourage us from working together to improve a world which none of us considers perfect.

REG 16-6-27

His Honor Mr. Justice Angas Parsons was, at a meeting of the Senate of the University of Adelaide on Wednesday, elected unopposed to the office of warden, in succession to the late Mr. Justice Poole. His Honor, who is a noted jurist and orientalist, had previously been a member of the University Council. He is a native of South Australia, and, in years of age, he graduated at the Adelaide University and was admitted to the Bar in 1897. He was called in 1916. Apart from his distinguished legal career, His Honor attained great success in politics. He was a member of the House of Assembly for six years, representing Torrens and Murray, and in 1915 he was appointed Minister of Education in the Jas. Gordon Ministry. He was appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court in January, 1921. Among his many interests, His Honor is President of the English Speaking Union in South Australia. He recently returned from a trip abroad. When appointed on Wednesday he gracefully expressed the gratification he felt at his having been accorded the highest honour it was competent for the Senate to give.

REG 16-6-27

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

Meeting of Senate.

A meeting of the Senate of the University of Adelaide was held at the Prince of Wales Lecture Room on Wednesday afternoon. In the absence of a warden, the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell) was elected to the chair, and he called for nominations for the office of warden. Mr. Justice Angas Parsons was the only member nominated, and he was duly elected

MR. JUSTICE ANGAS PARSONS, who has been elected Warden of the Senate of the University of Adelaide.

and took the chair as warden. In returning thanks for the election, he paid a tribute to the late Warden (Mr. Justice Poole), which is reported elsewhere.

The Warden announced that Mr. H. S. Newland, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.B.M.S., F.R.C.S., had withdrawn his nomination for election to the council. The poll for the election of two members to fill the vacancies caused by the death of Mr. Justice Poole and Professor Rennie resulted in the election of Mr. Arthur Murray, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., and Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, Ph.D., D.Sc.

Sir Douglas Mawson moved—"That, in the election of members to the Council of the University, postal voting be adopted," but he withdrew the motion, and on the motion of the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell), seconded by Professor Osborne, the matter was referred to a select committee, consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, the Warden, Sir Douglas Mawson, Professor McKellar Stewart, and the Registrar (Mr. F. W. Eardley) for report.

REG. 16-6-27

Upon being elected warden of the Senate of the University of Adelaide on Wednesday, Mr. Justice Angas Parsons paid a graceful tribute to his predecessor in that office, the late Mr. Justice Poole. He said that 33 years ago he entered the University as a student and, during part of his second year, the late Mr. Justice Poole was acting lecturer in classics. He had been struck then with Mr. Poole's precision of knowledge and conscientious thoroughness. They were at the Bar together and throughout the intervening years he had known him in the way in which lawyers get to know each other. Lawyers were trained to criticise and they did not spare their competitors. Although their criticism might be frank their appreciation of good work well done was impartial and reasoned. At the Bar, when there was a difficult case involving hard work, the late Mr. Justice Poole could always be relied upon, and his services were sought by the profession and admired by Judges. When he was appointed a Judge it was felt that his appointment would strengthen the Bench, and experience had proved that. The Chancellor had said that if the late warden was one of the ablest Judges in Australia. Attempted the intimacy that came through six years of the closest association with him, he was satisfied that the tribute was justified, the bar and the general public. Mr. Justice Poole was a learned judge, tice Piper has had a distinguished career with a searching and profound knowledge at the bar, and has fitted himself to the of human motives. Whatever he took in post he is now to occupy. The son of the hand he did with a scrupulous thoroughness. He was anxious before deciding, Rev. Thomas Piper, a well known but pursued his duty with such ease and Methodist minister, Mr. Justice Piper was ability that he was justifiably confident in born at Faversham, Hertfordshire, Eng-

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decision. Five years ago he had been elected warden of the Senate, and four years ago he became a member of the Council of the University. The Chancellor had spoken of his services as a member of the Council, and the members of the Senate knew that his work as warden was done with dignity and distinction. Every member of the Senate deplored the death of the late warden in the very zenith of his great intellectual power. It had been hoped that he might be spared for many years to come to continue his interests in the University and to give to her his unstinted and unusual services. Unhappily death had claimed him, far too soon, a great and brilliant man, and all that could be done was, with very real sorrow in their own hearts, to offer deep sympathy to his widow and his children, and his venerable father, the Rev. Canon Slaney Poole, who had been admitted to the degree of Master of Arts nearly 60 years ago upon his Cambridge degree. It was difficult to know sometimes what the consolations of life really were; but one could not ask more of life than that there should be left memory of having served one's fellowmen with zeal that was unselfish, with courage that was undaunted, and with ability that was distinguished.

REG 16-6-27

At a meeting of the Senate of the University of Adelaide on Wednesday, Dr. A. M. Cudmore and Professor T. Brailford Robertson were elected members of the council. Dr. Cudmore is recognised as one of the best surgeons in South Australia, and his many public activities, as well as his most distinguished war service, are well known. For many years he has taken a keen and valued interest in the University. Dr. Cudmore is a native of South Australia. Professor Brailsford Robertson has, since 1919, occupied the chair of physiology and bio-chemistry at the University of Adelaide, and his experimental and research work has won him world-wide fame. He secured his degree of B.Sc. at Adelaide in 1902, and subsequently was connected with the Universities of California and Toronto.

ADV. 16-6-27

MR. JUSTICE PIPER.

APPOINTMENT CONFIRMED.

Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C., was in the Executive Council yesterday, appointed to

Mr. Justice Piper.

be a judge of the Supreme Court of South Australia, in place of Mr. Justice Poole, who died recently. He was sworn in by His Excellency the Governor (Sir Tom Bridges). He will take his seat on the bench to-morrow morning, when the Attorney-General (Hon. H. Homburg) and other members of the bar will speak on behalf of the profession.

Since the announcement was made in "The Advertiser" that Mr. Piper had accepted the offer from the Government of the appointment, general satisfaction has been expressed by both the members of the bar and the general public. Mr. Justice Piper has had a distinguished career at the bar, and has fitted himself to the post he is now to occupy. The son of the Methodist minister, Mr. Justice Piper was born at Faversham, Hertfordshire, Eng-