

International Debate.

Bates Col. v. Adel.

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ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION.

WELCOME TO AMERICAN
DEBATERS.

THE VALUE OF INTELLECTUAL INTERCOURSE.

The value of intellectual intercourse experienced by international debaters was stressed at the luncheon given to the Australian visitors by the South Australian branch of the English Speaking Union. One speaker said the likeness between Americans and Britishers should be emphasised rather than the differences.

In honor of the visit to South Australia of the members of the international debating team of the Bates University, Maine, United States of America, a luncheon was given by the Adelaide branch of the English Speaking Union at the Liberal Club Hall, North-terrace, on Monday. There was a large attendance, and the chair was occupied by Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, who was supported by the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Lavington Bonython), the three guests (Messrs. Charles Guptill, Mervin Ames, and John Davis), Mrs. Ernest Goode, Mrs. C. R. J. Glover, Dr. C. Dagnid, and Mr. C. Harding Browne.

At the instance of the chairman the toasts of the King and the President of the United States were honored.

Value of Debates.

The chairman extended a welcome to the guests. He said they were the representatives of Bates University, which was founded in 1860, and conferred degrees in arts and science. The men from the Bates University had developed a remarkable capacity for debating. The members of the debating team had come with greetings from Mr. John Daniels, secretary of the English Speaking Union in America, who had informed him that of 105 debates the university had been successful in no fewer than 88. They were no mean debates, for they were distributed over the great area of the United States, and in 1921 the Bates University sent a team to debate against Oxford.

The following year Oxford sent a team to debate in America. Since then not a year had passed in which some debating team from the motherland had not gone to the United States. Their guests had left New York on May 21, and expected to return in November. They were engaged on a worldwide avalanche of debating, and what was going to become of the world by the time they were done with it, or what was going to become of them by the time the world was done with them, he would leave to the imagination. (Laughter.) They were prepared to discuss practically every subject except prohibition. Maine, whence the debaters came, had a special interest in the early days of the colonisation of the country. Captain Richard Bonython had been given an extensive grant of land, and to this day there were many of his descendants in Maine. Mr. Guptill was a Democrat, and hoped to go into the newspaper world. He might then be able to deal with some of the misrepresentations of "Bill" Thompson, of Chicago, with regard to England. In going round the world, meeting different people, Mr. Guptill would secure experiences which should be helpful to him in journalism. Mr. Ames was a Republican, and so was Mr. Davis. Mr. Ames was engaged in the teaching profession, and Mr. Davis hoped later to take part in the political life of the country. They were farewelled by the English Speaking Union of New York, and they gladly welcomed them on behalf of the South Australian branch of the Union. He felt sure that great benefits would result from their visit. He looked forward to the debate that evening, and was glad to see present some of those from the Adelaide University who were taking part.

Mr. C. Harding Browne, in supporting the welcome, said he had just been informed that 70 members of the English Speaking Union had taken tickets for the debates. That was direct evidence of the interest members were taking in the

visitors. It was good to remember that although there were fringes of the language in which there were elements foreign to them, in the main stream the language ran deep and pure with regard to both the American and the British people. The English tongue was practically identical in America and England. Nothing could help more to make the people of the two countries understand each other better than a visit such as that undertaken by the debaters. When thinking of "Bill" Thompson they should remember that Walter Page was a citizen of the same country.

Co-operation in Big Questions.

Mr. Guptill, who was received with applause, said they had often been asked to explain their attitude on prohibition. Personally he favored prohibition, because he thought that if he ever had any children he should like them to be free from the temptations to which he had been subjected. (Laughter.) His companion, Mr. Davis, had asked for a glass of water at a hotel in Tasmania, and the waitress said they were not allowed to sell wine after 6 o'clock. (Laughter.) At one reception the mayor said it was a great mistake that the American Republic had ever got outside the British Empire. With that he did not altogether agree. For one thing it gave them a holiday each year on Independence Day, and for another they had to consider what a terrific monopoly the British Empire would have held if the United States had remained part of it. Speaking of Democrats and Republicans, he said that when it came to great questions of national importance the rival parties would co-operate. When big questions were considered minor matters were subordinated. They realised that there were some queer ideas about the United States, and they hoped to dissipate some of them, just the same as some of the ideas of Americans on the state of civilisation in Australia might be dissipated.

Mr. Ames said he deeply appreciated the hospitality they were experiencing. While good had come out of the debates such informal gatherings had also been of benefit in making them understand each other. They were a disappointment in New Zealand, because they did not wear check ties and smoke cigars. Some of the ideas of America were received through the moving pictures and the sensational newspapers. To show what ideas some held he mentioned an incident where it was remarked by a spectator on seeing them, "Why they are almost as white as we are!" (Laughter.) Occasionally Australians who visited America were complimented on the rapidity with which they picked up the language. (Laughter.) He and his companions had discovered that there were a great many more likenesses among the English speaking people than there were differences, and they should endeavor to emphasise those likenesses rather than the differences. (Applause.)

Mr. Davis spoke in a humorous vein, in which he referred to the Australian accent. He said he had heard his name pronounced Davis, and that of Mr. Ames Ames. (Laughter.) As great oaks from little acorns grow it was felt that great things would come out of the international debates and the English Speaking Union. (Applause.)

The proceedings concluded with the chairman wishing the visitors a successful future.

EMANCIPATION OF WOMEN.

A WIN FOR BATES COLLEGE.

Mr. Justice Angus Parsons occupied the chair at the second and last of the international debates between teams representing the Adelaide University and Bates College (America), at the Institute, North-terrace, on Monday night. The subject was—"That the so-called emancipation of woman has not been in the best interests of civilisation." Bates College taking the affirmative. The adjudicators, Professor A. L. Campbell, Messrs. C. C. Crump, and F. Kelly, unanimously awarded the victory to the American team.

Mr. J. F. Davis (Bates College) opened the debate by citing a number of historical examples of men being led by women. He stated that although men might ostensibly lead women, behind every man was a woman who led him by the nose. (Laughter.) One could not, therefore, consider the fact that women were taking a leading part in the world affairs as emancipation, because men never had led women. All the modern phenomena meant not emancipation, but that women were trying to be as much like men as possible, which meant that they would break down the barriers which made them different from men. It was not men who had created these barriers, however, but nature. He did not mean to say that all women were doing so, as he felt sure that the great majority of women realised that the differences between the chief atti-

tures of the sexes were natural barriers, and were content to accept the position. Having arrived at a definition of emancipation, one could go on to the more delicate proposition as to whether it was reasonable for women to wish to be emancipated. Women had four outstanding characteristics, namely, the maternal instinct, a less rugged physique, a less analytical mind, and a finer sense of the aesthetic values of life. These made it practically impossible for women to break into those activities of men which women were trying to take. The few social activities from which a woman was debarred, such as smoking, were unsuited to her finer sense of aesthetic values, which might also debar her from politics. She could, in any case, control politics far better from behind the scenes than by casting her vote in the ballot box. One could apply the same principle to man's economic activities.

Mr. S. Pick (Adelaide) said Mr. Davis was astray in his definition of emancipation. There had been a change in the status of women, and it was for the opposition to prove that it had been harmful to civilisation, not merely that it had been of no particular benefit. Emancipation meant the casting off of the bonds which had been imposed by man on woman since the first age of civilisation. There had been both economic and intellectual emancipation. The latter meant simply the assertion by women that they had minds. As to the former, in the past every woman had been dependent on some man from the cradle to the grave. Some women had been forced to fend for themselves, and this had brought about economic emancipation. The surplus of women since the Great War had accentuated the position, and economic emancipation had required intellectual emancipation. With regard to the vote, it was impossible to trace one evil from women's franchise in the last 50 years in Australia, and many benefits had resulted therefrom. The result of women asserting their right to think for themselves had not been to make them like men. He did not think the women present looked much different from their grandmothers. (Laughter)—when their grandmothers were the same age. It could not be said now that they had begun to think for themselves so much as that they were beginning to act on their thoughts. Men had done the same things as the suffragettes to get the vote in the days of the Reform Bill, and they were doing the same thing with it when they had it—nothing. On the economic side, the "intrusion" of women into business had simply meant that they displaced incompetent men. They would not be in business if they could not compete on equal terms with men.

Mr. M. L. Ames (Bates) said women had been quite able to recognise certain facts about life and business, one of them being that the ordinary haggling of commerce was quite within her powers. Business, however, had not improved her. She had found, among other things, that the expression, "tired business men," was not a figment of the imagination, created by club-loving husbands, and found herself, at the end of her day, quite unable to be a companion to the man of the family. Her entry into business had, therefore, not been emancipation at all. Further, she was untutored in the simple art of getting a decent living wage from an employer, and found herself ready to accept almost anything for the sake of "independence." This did not improve her economic position, and led to unemployment. She had also decided that she was quite capable of entering politics. Having got the vote she could either make a determined but futile onslaught on the party system, vote with her husband and double his vote, or vote against him and cancel it. The opposition would not be able to point to a bit of the constructive social legislation which woman herself had accomplished. The money-making and political urge in women had, so far as America was concerned, struck at the basis of society, the home, leading to "delicartesian" meals and the passing of the training of the children more and more from the home to the school.

Mr. S. H. Mayes (Adelaide) said men were unable to shed their prejudice against women entering business, even after the demonstration that had been provided in every country during the Great War. Freedom moved the wheel of progress, and if the emancipation of woman meant fuller progress, then society had acted in its best interests. Man might claim that he had protected woman when she was his slave, but he had unfortunately "protected" her from a full life, protected her from being human. The supposition that women had no minds had led to the great literary geniuses of 50 years ago using such pen-names as "George Eliot" and "George Sande."

Mr. C. H. Guptill (Bates) said there was no particular objection to women entering various fields of men's activities,

but there were some things women could do better than men. Women should be left to handle those tasks, and leave men to do the few things—few, indeed—(laughter)—which they could still excel at. When woman attempted to adopt man's status, she lost her security, that prestige which was accorded her while she maintained herself in her own occult and mysterious orbit.

Mr. R. Harry (Adelaide) said the emancipation of woman had been an economic necessity on account of certain changes in society, which came about with the industrial era. It had overcome that smug hypocrisy of the age which Jane Austen portrayed. Women became part of the industrial machine, and were bound to take an interest in its welfare. Those who opposed the coming of women into men's activities should ask themselves how the positions vacated by the million men killed in the war would have been filled had it not been for the women coming forward.

Messrs. Pick and Davis summed up the case for their respective sides.

Dr. W. J. Duffield.

Work at Mount

Stromlow.

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SOLAR OBSERVATORY.

Work at Mount Stromlow.

Dr. Walter Jeffrey Duffield, Director of the Commonwealth Solar Observatory at Mount Stromlow, accompanied by Mrs. Duffield, left on his return to Canberra by the Melbourne express on Sunday afternoon, after having concluded an official visit to Perth, Western Australia.

Explaining his mission to the western capital, Dr. Duffield said there had recently been a proposal that the Perth Observatory should be transferred to the Commonwealth, and his mission was to investigate the matter fully. That mission would be the subject of reports to the Governments concerned on his return to Canberra. Beyond that fact he could give no fuller information.

At Mount Stromlow.

Dr. Duffield, in speaking of the observatory at Mount Stromlow, said it was truly a national institution, and belonged as much to South Australia as to any other State of the Commonwealth. Mount Stromlow was situated 10 miles west of Canberra, and was 2,600 feet above sea level. It was among the forest of pines which had been planted, and from an observatory point of view, it was rather fortunate, as the pines prevented the intense radiation of the sun heating the bare rocks, which otherwise would have led to disturbed atmospheric conditions, due to rising currents of air.

Work of the Scientists.

The work they were doing at the observatory consisted of the observation of the number and extent of sun spots; the measurement of the amount of radiation of the sun, which is recorded automatically throughout the day; the measurement of the electrical conditions in the atmosphere; the determination of the amount of radiation secured from various stars, and the manner in which the radiation varies from time to time. That work is done with a very delicate photo electric cell attached to the end of a telescope on place of the eyepiece. In addition to that, spectroscopic investigation is made of the radiation from the stars, whereby may be determined their absolute brightness and their distances from the earth; and information is also obtained about the condition of the atmosphere surrounding the stars, and of its age and mass.

Wonderful Instruments.

"We are," proceeded Dr. Duffield, "engaged in installing a telescope for the observation of the surface of the sun, and hope by this means to obtain a record of the fluctuations of the magnetic fields threading the spots upon the sun's disc." For solar observation a telescope of an unusual design is utilized. Instead of a tube which can be pointed towards the sun, the light passes down a vertical tube about 40 ft. long, with the lens at the upper end, which tends to bring the light to a focus at the bottom of the base, but before reaching the bottom a mirror reflects the beam horizontally on to the wall of the chamber, whence it passes through a narrow slit into an underground tunnel 40 ft. long, at the end of which it meets the spectroscopic apparatus, which splits up the beam of light into its component parts and returns it to a photographic plate placed under the slit, where it can be operated from outside the tunnel. The light from the sun is led into the vertical tube by means of two mirrors, one of which is rotated by clockwork at such a rate that the reflected beam always strikes the same spot on the other mirror, and ensures that it shall pass vertically down the tube.

Well Served.

Dr. Duffield said they were fortunate in having a good road to the mountain, an excellent water supply, and electric current from the main Canberra power house. For a mountain observatory they were well served. The staff of the observatory has been gathered from many parts of Australia, and comprise Messrs. C. W. Allen (from Perth), Mellor (Hobart), A. J. Higgs (Sydney), and Rimmer (Sidmouth, England). There are two mechanics, Messrs. Kelvin and White (from the Cambridge Instrument Company), besides a clerical assistant and groundsman. At the present time vacancies exist for two further members of the staff.

Professor
W. J. Osborne,

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IDEALS IN EDUCATION AND LIFE.

Professor W. F. Osborne, who occupies the Chair of Education in Manitoba University, is now in Adelaide, and will address a meeting at the University this evening. As he told a gathering of the Teachers' Union in Melbourne last week, he has come to Australia with a message from Canada. It is, "Let us two, young, independent nations stop in our tracks and ask ourselves what we really want to be and to do." We are invited to extend our calculations from our material to our moral resources, and to consider whether our schools are doing all that is possible to inoculate the rising generation with right ideals. It was thought by many that the scourge of war had flogged materialism out of us, that it had arrested the decadence of which there were previously so many signs, and that it had given the soul a fresh start in its eternal struggle against the desires of the flesh. The purifying effect of war is a doctrine that has had many votaries. Was not Tennyson one of its chief apostles? In "Maud" he proclaimed that there were some things that could be learned only in the school of war. Valor, honor, all that is included in ideality, were virtues to be acquired on the battlefield. We know that it is not so; that no good lesson was ever learned in a school of horrors, and that it is in peace that man masters the art of adjusting himself to the law of perfect living. Certainly the Great War has not produced a race of moral dreamers. If anything, its effect, as Professor Osborne shows, has been to intensify the pursuit of wealth and pleasure. He is a little unisur to the "hard-headed business man," whom he regards as a foe to idealism. "There is nothing the business man has ever done that lives in history." For so thoughtful a commentator the statement is rather curious, considering the support that a hundred beneficent agencies have derived from the captains of industry, and considering also the importance of trade itself as a civilising agency. But the business man will allow for an excess of zeal in one whose only object is to exalt idealism over realism and to emphasise the subtle dangers of materialism into which men sink, as Professor Osborne too truly says, without being conscious of the depth to which they have sunk.

The gist of the distinguished visitor's discourse in Melbourne was that the teacher's is the "key profession," that it is on the teacher that the community depends for a right response to the appeal from Canada to look ahead in order that a wise use may be made of human, as contrasted with material, resources. The old sanctions, religious and social, are disappearing. Authority has lost the homage once paid to it of a blind unquestioning obedience. The obliteration of traditional landmarks, the reconstruction of the universe by science, the disorganisation of society by economic progress or economic changes, has left large masses of people uncertain as to their obligations and a prey to seductive, and not always wholesome, desires. The problem of the teacher is to find some way of bringing the individual into touch with new obligations; and to do that he must have freedom. Professor Osborne's great fear is that the machine may overwhelm the teacher, that rules and regulations may fetter him and prevent that freedom of movement which is essential in dealing with scores, perhaps hundreds, of divergent temperaments. The professor has not much faith in regimentation. The ideal system is where an "outstanding teacher" is freed from the shackles of machinery and given his head. It is a fine conception; but how and by whom are the powers of the super-teacher to be gauged?