

RUSSIAN SOCIAL SERVICE
 Address By Professor J. A. Prescott

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION INSTITUTE MEETING
 Acting Premier Opens Conference

The fifth annual conference and eighth annual meeting of the South Australian regional group of the Institute of Public Administration was opened yesterday in the Chamber of Manufactures' rooms by the Acting Premier (Sir George Riehl). An address on "Public Administration in Russia" was given by Professor J. A. Prescott. In the evening the annual meeting of the Institute was held at the Piccadilly Restaurant.

There was a large number of delegates present at the conference. The chairman of the Institute (Mr. H. M. Holland presided).

The Acting Premier stressed the importance of the service which the public servants were rendering to the State. Their work, he said, was becoming more and more complex and intricate, and they were being served with tact, efficiency, and courtesy.

Conferences of officers in regional groups presented the opportunity for study of the problems in a more definite manner than had been attempted previously.

The Acting Premier to the Acting Premier was moved by the President of the Legislative Council (Sir David Jordan), who said that no other State in the Commonwealth better served by its Public Service than was South Australia.

Professor J. A. Prescott, in his address, said that it was possible that eventually the Soviet Union would hardly be distinguishable in many ways from the capitalist countries, which were being compelled more and more to exercise State control over production.

Russia, said Professor Prescott, presented the extreme example of the socialisation of the means of production. The Revolution, being economic in its basis and political theories, enlarged the scope of the civil service to a remarkable degree. When the Government took over in its first actions were to secure work control over the industrial and trade unions of the country.

After three years of experiment in the stimulation of production, the Bolsheviks had to conclude that none of their aims had been achieved. The growth of the bureaucracy under this system was enormous.

Formulation of New Policy
 The result was the formulation of the New Economic Policy (N.E.P.). Under this policy, co-operation was permitted, and the co-operative societies which had originally been suppressed were again permitted.

The State still retained control of certain nationalised industries, and exacted a toll of 5 to 20 per cent, in kind on the products of industries leased to concession holders.

The first five-year plan came into force in 1927. It was to be for the aim the industrialisation of the country, the collectivisation of agriculture, and an attack on private capitalism. The N.E.P. was the basis of the New Economic Policy. The second five-year plan, governing production from 1927 to 1932, was characterised by its greater cautiousness in the matter of estimates of production. It laid more emphasis on expansion on quantities concentrated on railway transport and on the manufacture of consumers' goods, such as clothing, sugar, and food. On the agricultural side it concentrated on the mechanisation of farming, and the development of large-scale agriculture.

The Soviet Union thus developed rather a remarkable public service organisation before the revolution the bureaucracy was relatively uncentralised, at present there was much freedom of movement, and the decision was centralised was the latest move, and many organisations were being transferred from Moscow to the provinces. In the tightening up of administration the Government had not hesitated to use drastic methods. The decision of the political departments being one of the most important. It was not on impulsion and was not the charge of a single man. The Soviet Government of the Russian dictatorship, said Professor Prescott

is that it was only possible in that it found an organisation and a bureaucracy that lent itself readily to the theories of the Marxists, and that as the people become more and more educated and technically efficient, the necessity first for police control and later for party control will diminish, and possibly it will disappear altogether.

CITIZENS' DUTY TO THE STATE

Obtaining A Remedy For Disabilities

CROWN SOLICITOR'S ADDRESS

Education Of Public Opinion Suggested

An arresting appeal to the people of South Australia to repay to the State, by personal initiative of themselves in the cause of its present financial difficulties, the benefits they receive from it in the form of enlightened social services, was made by the Crown Solicitor (Mr. A. J. Hannan, K.C.) in an address yesterday at the annual conference of the Institute of Public Administration.

The education of public opinion, he declared, offered the most effective remedy for the State's disabilities under Government, and the surest guarantee of its survival as an independent political unit. By rallying to the support of the State, a real and general understanding of the importance of the benefits it conferred on its citizens and the necessity for retaining the services of the greater agencies in the way of obtaining a redress of the State's grievances would be overcome.

Mr. Hannan said that in making preparations for the Centenary celebrations next year they would do well to consider what prospects the State held for surviving for another 100 years, or even for another ten years. The fact was that the State, although in all appearances healthy and strong, was in reality suffering from acute financial anaemia. For the normal supply of money for its needs, which in a century has become sadly deficient; indeed, the State was now being kept alive only by the aid of financial blood transfusions from the Commonwealth.

For nearly 100 years South Australia had been managed and administered ostensibly in the interests of the people, but the volume of debt which existed for the promotion of their welfare. But the object of this legislation was purely national, and in providing a basis for regular employment, and by developing the country's natural resources.

"Big Ideas"
 This great improvement, however, had been thought about at a great cost to the State, Mr. Hannan continued, and the paying of that cost was one of the reasons why the State had been in such a financial position that its very existence was seriously threatened. It could be justly claimed that up till the end of the century the State had made a great deal and had made no serious mistakes. At the end of the century, however, there grew up a new spirit of mind was fairly general. It was not surprising that those responsible for the management of the State had carried out their task with a regard for the stating of general principles in vague and grandiose language and that the vast volume of production of interpreters and commentators ever since. A good example of their vagueness was Section 92 governing trade between the States. Section 87 stipulated that "for ten years after the establishment of the Constitution, the Federal Parliament should provide, by law, at least three-quarters of the Customs and Excise revenue shall be paid to the States."

"Unfortunately for all the States and particularly for South Australia, this provision extended for a period of only ten years, and the end of which the Commonwealth promptly terminated the payment of a fixed proportion of Customs and Excise revenue. The Commonwealth also provided that the Commonwealth should pay its surplus revenue to the States, but the Federal Parliament through the Surplus

Revenue Act of 1908, had already ensured that there should be no surplus revenue, by the simple expedient of appropriating all the revenue that was being required for current expenditure being paid into trust accounts, and that the capita payments proved entirely inadequate and the States were forced to tax to make up the balance.

"The Mendicant State"
 "This process was continued," Mr. Hannan said, "until it became evident that the taxable capacity of our people had been reached, and then the State had to apply to the Commonwealth for a 'disabilities grant' to help it bail out its budget. Even with such help we have been unable to get on, and in only one (the last) of the past 21 financial years. In the preceding 20 years our aggregate deficit amounted to well over £18,000,000."

It appeared to resent this condition of dependence, or mind being described as 'mendicant.' State not possible apparently object to the State was permanently reduced to playing the mendicant on the Commonwealth's door step. And it was really something pathetic in the sight of any one 100 years old, whether individual or corporate, to see the State in such a position that our founders could not at all pleased if they heard about it. They might recall the blacks whom they met in the bush, and exclaim, 'Gib it, boccas, and think back through long residence here, we had never of this type.'

The recurring deficits which the State began to experience from 1914 onward, Mr. Hannan said, were due to the fact that the State had to pay the Excise revenue. And the great increase in loan expenditure. In nine financial years up to June 30, 1930, the State had borrowed an amount to £44,259,170, borrowings at same period the State doubled its national debt, which rose to £90,813,168.

Education The Citizen

The most obvious lesson to be learned from all these depressing facts and figures is the necessity for educating the citizen in the most elementary facts of public finance, he said. To tell the average citizen that the public debt was more than £108,000,000 would not impress him with the seriousness of the situation. But it was possible to awaken his interest in another way. If, for one reason or another, the Commonwealth decided to withhold its disability grant, the Government would be faced with the necessity of reducing its social expenditure, or of raising a possible alternative, the Government would be faced with a partial default in its interest payments, the Commonwealth Government would be faced with a default in its interest payments, the Commonwealth Government would be faced with a default in its interest payments, the Commonwealth Government would be faced with a default in its interest payments.

It seemed essential that the citizens of South Australia, young and old, should have some elementary knowledge of the dual system of government in Australia, the reason for the financial embarrassment of the State, and above all, the extent to which everyone was interested in the State's remaining solvent. Such knowledge should form part of every educational course, with a more advanced course at the University. The citizen might be told (and it would be true) that nowhere in the world does the State exist for the people in as real a sense as it does in this country. The "dictatorship of the proletariat" which is the aim of revolutionary organisations in certain foreign countries, has in fact been achieved here peacefully and under the forms of law.

"Result of Over-Borrowing"

In the discussion that followed, the Auditor-General (Mr. J. W. Wainwright) proposed Mr. Hannan's suggestion for educating public opinion to make a greater interest in the financial situation of the State. He said that it would probably be best to have a body as the Taxpayers' Association, the Chamber of Manufacturers and the Chamber of Commerce, whose representations on public finance, showed that they did not fully understand the position. All the States were in much the same position, the result chiefly of over-borrowing.

Mr. Hannan, in replying, said that he did not want it to be thought that he was opposing State interests. The detriment of the Commonwealth, what he wished to see brought about was a harmonious co-operation, in which the State's interests would be properly protected.

MORE DOCTORS FOR HOSPITAL

Two Likely To Go Into Residence

EXTRA SALARY

AS a result of the Government's decision to pay new Adelaide Hospital house surgeons £150 a year, with a £20 bonus for 12 months' service, it is practically certain that two additional doctors will go into residence at the hospital. The two doctors, a man and a woman, were both previously in residence at the hospital. The man, who it is understood, has already applied for a position on the resident staff, left the hospital a year ago because of dissatisfaction with the conditions then prevailing. He has since been doing general and insurance work in South Australia.

After study and hospital work for about four years in England, the woman doctor is again in Adelaide, and is expected to make her application for a position on the staff within a few days.

BONUS FOR REGISTRARS

When these doctors take up residence the 11 present house surgeons will receive £150 a year. At present they receive £100 a year. By a recent Cabinet decision they will receive a bonus of £30 for 12 months' residence.

It was learned today that the three medical registrars at the hospital will also receive the bonus of £30 at the completion of a year's service.

The medical registrars are on a salary of £240 a year at present.

The scale of salaries for senior house surgeons will be reviewed when an adequate staff of junior house surgeons has been obtained. At present any second-year surgeon would receive £200 a year, and would have to be increased to place them on a higher basis than doctors in their first year of residence.

DOCTOR SHORTAGE AT BARRIER

Appeal to University

A letter from the Broken Hill District Hospital to the dean of the Faculty of Medicine of the Adelaide University, which has just been posted on the University notice board, is interesting in view of the shortage of doctors at the Adelaide Hospital, and the Government's decision to offer salaries of £150 a year for house surgeons, with a bonus of £20 at the end of 12 months, in the hope of securing them from other States.

The letter from Broken Hill requests the co-operation of the dean of the faculty in bringing before the notice of graduates in medicine the excellent opportunities for young doctors in the hospital there, as this hospital, in common with many others, is experiencing great difficulty in obtaining medical officers.

There is no honorary staff at the hospital, but the work is performed by the resident medical staff under the direction of a surgeon superintendent, thus giving great scope to the medical student. The vacancies at present are at salaries of £300 and £250 a year respectively.

There is also a vacancy at the Kalgoorlie Hospital for a resident medical officer at £358 a year (with certain fees). The cost of transport to Kalgoorlie will be paid to the successful applicant at the rate of 12 months' service with the hospital.