

THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

IMPORTANT WORK.

There was a good attendance at the annual meeting of the South Australian branch of the Australian League of Nations Union at the Institute Building, North-terrace, on Thursday evening. The president (Professor Mitchell) was in the chair.

The report stated that the past year had proved the most successful yet experienced in the history of the Australian League of Nations Union. It could now be safely said to have passed the dangerous stage of its initiation, and was to-day firmly established as a powerful force and influence in public life. The membership of the South Australian branch was now 751, an encouraging increase upon the figures of the previous year. The South Australian Union had lent a hand in the establishment of various branches throughout the Commonwealth, and a central organisation now operated in every one of the capital cities. This had given the Union added influence with the Federal Government. The executive made urgent recommendations to the Prime Minister in support of his statesmanlike proposal that the League intervene in the Near East dispute. This incident was the first of its kind in the history of the Australian Union, and proved the value of maintaining an active and alert organisation ready at all times to exert a steady influence upon public opinion in times of crisis, and to counteract the efforts of those who, upon small provocation, would stampede the country into war. The incident also again served to call attention to the need of closer co-operation between the various State Unions, so that where a policy was agreed upon, the widest possible influence might be exercised upon world affairs. It was considered that a system of Federal co-operation was practicable, and should be established during the coming year. The balance-sheet showed the financial position of the union to be sound, but extra funds were urgently needed for publicity and educational work. Through the issue of pamphlets and literature and other means, the propaganda had reached many thousands. They had helped to establish the league on the firm basis of public support and approval. The next task was to encourage the citizens to make the fullest and wisest use of this great instrument of human progress.

Professor Mitchell said he trusted that the educational work of the league would be continued and extended. The League of Nations was one of the great movements of the world, and it was their duty to keep abreast of its work. (Applause.) The league had few enemies, and he believed its greatest enemy was indifference, which was the enemy of all movements whose strength lay in their moral force. The league had greatly increased in actual and moral force, and Mr. Lloyd George had declared that it was one of the chief pieces of mechanism of civilisation. Professor Mitchell paid a tribute to the work of the South Australian executive in bringing before the people the important work accomplished by the league. He had much pleasure in moving the adoption of the report.

The motion was carried. The following officers were elected:— Patron, His Excellency the Governor; vice-patron, the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray); president, Professor Mitchell; chairman of executive, Mr. J. H. Vanzhin; executive, the Rev. I. A. Bernstein, the Rev. W. Hale, Dr. H. Heaton, Mr. W. C. Melbourne, Dr. Marie Brown, Mrs. J. P. Morice, Mrs. C. McDonald, Mrs. Darnley Naylor, Mr. G. L. Woods, Mr. Birrell M.P., and Professor J. R. Wilton; honorary treasurer, Mr. P. H. Nicholls; honorary secretary, Mr. A. Walker; assistant hon. secretary, Miss Darnley Naylor.

Professor Mitchell said he appreciated the honor of the presidency of the union. He believed it was the general desire of the University to show its appreciation and support of the League of Nations. (Applause.)

Professor Coleman Phillipson delivered an interesting address on the work of the Permanent International Court of Justice, which is reported in another column.

Dr. Heaton said the steady growth of the League in public favor during the past year had been a matter for congratulation. France now regarded it with friendly eyes, and one after another critics and even enemies had been won over: 1922 might be regarded as the year in which the League had firmly established itself. Public attention had been focussed upon it during the Near East crisis, and there was a general desire that the League should intervene. Those who kept in touch with the communications from Geneva would learn much of its manifold activities. The preliminary work must necessarily be largely in the nature of enquiry. The smaller European States were leaning more and more upon it. The League was fostering international co-operation and formulating something of an international line of action. (Applause.) If one nation suffered economically others necessarily suffered with it, and the only possible body that could deal with the present economic chaos was the League of Nations. (Applause.)

Miss Muriel Farr said it was impossible for any nation to live to itself. The educational work of the League was of incalculable value and should commend itself to every citizen of the State. (Applause.) A resolution of the work of the honorary secretary (Mr. A. Walker) was placed upon record.

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE.

THE NEW PERMANENT COURT. A VALUABLE INSTITUTION.

Speaking at the annual meeting of the South Australian branch of the League of Nations Union on Thursday evening, Professor Coleman Phillipson gave interesting details of the work of the recently constituted Permanent International Court of Justice. He regarded the International Courts of Justice as the proudest triumph of civilisation's efforts in the interests of peace. There had been countless projects for the formation of a League of Nations and of International Courts, but until the great war had supplied a powerful impulse nothing had been achieved. At first, indeed, there had been considerable opposition to the scheme in Paris, but a visit to the devastated regions in the north of France had proved effective in converting those who doubted its necessity. Article 14 of the treaty (and of the covenant also) of the League of Nations laid it down that the council should formulate and submit plans for an International Court, which should hear disputes on international questions and give an advisory opinion upon them. Late in 1920 there had been a meeting of international jurists, and a little later the Statutes of a Permanent Court of International Justice were adopted. The first step was to decide on the composition of the court, which was of a unique character. The judges were elected by ballot by the Assembly and Council of the League on September 14, 1921. There were 83 candidates, and from these eleven judges and four deputies were elected for a term of nine years. The public inauguration on February 15 of this year was a solemn occasion.

In the lecturer's opinion most important work had been accomplished by the court in the few months which had since elapsed. The Labor covenant of the Peace Treaty contained no fewer than 41 articles, and the preamble set forth that the avowed object of the League of Nations was universal peace.

Social justice depended upon conditions of labor, and the present conditions engendered injustice, hardship, and privation to many people. The result was that there was a great unrest, and the hope of peace and harmony was unfulfilled. Among the things which would be looked for in this respect were the regulation of hours of work, and of the labor supply; the securing of an adequate living wage and the protection of the worker against accident or disease; the protection of young persons and children; provision for old age and injury; the protection of workers working in another country than their own; the recognition of the principle of freedom of association, and the right to vocational and technical education. From this it would be seen that in the peace negotiations there had been a vision displayed of wisdom, and a comprehensive grasp of the relation between economic, political, and international conditions. The international Labor covenant established a permanent International Labor Conference, and prescribed its composition. There was to be a general conference of delegates, four representatives being allowed each member of the League. Two were to be Government delegates, and two would represent employers and workers. A difficult provision was in reference to the nomination of the two non-Government delegates. Obviously all four should have Government credentials, otherwise they would have no standing in the international courts or conferences. Therefore the two non-Government delegates would also need to be formally nominated by the Government; but the article dealing with the matter set forth that members might undertake to nominate non-Government members in agreement with those industrial organisations most representative of employers or workers, as the case might be. In 1921 differences of opinion arose regarding the interpretation of this, and the credentials of the workers' delegate for the Netherlands were examined. He had been chosen without the agreement of the Confederation of Trades Unions of the Netherlands, the largest organisation of its kind in the country. He was nominated by three other organisations, however, which,

taken together, had a larger membership than the Netherlands Confederation. An acute dispute might easily have followed, but the question was submitted to the Permanent Court. In August last the question was considered by eminent jurists, including M. Thomas. They directed that when the Government could not come to an agreement with all the existing organisations, it might accept nominations from a collection of organisations, whose membership comprised the largest number, although another organisation, not a party to the nomination, might have a larger membership than any one of the associations party to it.

An acute discussion had raged for 18 months on the point whether the International Labor organisation could regulate conditions of employment in agriculture. The court answered in the affirmative. Finally, however, the court was asked to decide if the International Labor Conference might consider proposals for organising methods of agricultural production. The Labor preamble spoke of improving the conditions of labor, and contemplated the protection of the worker. Article 437, in which the guiding principles were set out, showed that these also contemplated the safeguarding of the personal interests of the worker. Therefore it was clear that the International Labor Conference was not intended to occupy itself with questions of agricultural production. Therefore the court in this case found in the negative, but added that the conference was competent to consider the effect upon production of methods it might seek to pass for the benefit of the worker, and the means of production when involved in matters committed to it expressly by treaty. These were only three important questions which the court had already decided of a very great number that came before it. There would always be a number of International Law Treaty disputes. The 440 articles of the Peace Treaty and the many subsidiary treaties often led to disputes arising from a difference in the point of view. The main point was not so much the elaboration of machinery but a formation of the disposition for peace, and a cultivation of the habit of peace. In this regard the education and enlightenment of the people was essential. (Applause.)

University Council
Advertiser 28.10.22

In November each year five members of the council of the University retire. At a meeting of the council on Friday the order of retirement this year was considered. Professor Chapman, Professor A. J. Perkins, Mr. S. Talbot Smith, and Sir Joseph Verco retire by effluxion of time. On a ballot being taken of members who had been next longest in office Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., was declared the retiring member.

Public Library Board
Advertiser 28.10.22

Prof. Isbister and Mr. W. J. Isbister have been nominated by the University to represent that body on the Public Library Board.

ALICE SPRINGS FOR AN OBSERVATION STATION.

At the suggestion of members, the Government Astronomer (Mr. G. F. Dodwell, M.A.) gave an interesting account of his recent trip to Cordillo Downs, at the annual meeting of the South Australian branch of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia on Monday afternoon, in which he referred to an inspection of historic landmarks associated with the travels of the early explorers, such as Mount Poole (which had been visited by Capt. Sturt), where there were a number of trees still preserved. At Innamincka the flood waters had drifted the sand up to the level of the posts originally put in, and a new fence had been made. The level ground was close up to the original mark made on the tree where Bourke died. The Cordillo expedition had camped close to that tree. At another locality a few posts marked the burial place of the explorer Wills, with a palisade to protect the spot against the blacks. Close by there was another large tree, on which a surveyor in 1889 had engraved his initials very deeply. Mr. Dodwell also saw a fine carved likeness of Burke on a tree, still in excellent preservation. He suggested the extension of the Adelaide Observatory by having an expeditionary observation station under the clear skies of Alice Springs, which he considered would be an advance commercially as well as in the interests of science. Capt. S. A. White supported this view. In addition to being the most wonderful place in Australia for clearness, it had a beautiful climate, and the situation was almost in the centre of the continent. Capt. White appealed for the preservation of one of the few remaining relics of John McDowell Stuart, at Daly Waters, which bore a large "S," carved by the wonderful explorer. The spot was by the telegraph station, and at any time a fire might burn the historic tree, which was now dead.

OBITUARY.

The death occurred, early on Sunday morning, at the home of her parents, in Victoria avenue, Rose Park, of Miss Erica Chaplin, A.M.U.A., L.A.B., the talented young violinist. The deceased, who was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Chaplin, was 23 years of age. She had been ill for more than two years. She had been time her health had shown an apparent improvement. Only recently, for the first time for a long period, she asked for her violin, so that she might play on it. The late Miss Chaplin won the Elder Scholarship in 1919, but was compelled on account of ill-health to abandon the coveted chance of a London musical training which the scholarship is intended to afford. Miss Chaplin's selection as Elder Scholar was the climax of a brilliant student's career, which began at the early age of four years, and during which she won five scholar-



THE LATE MISS ERICA CHAPLIN.

ships. Her first instrument was the piano, and it was not until she had reached the relative maturity of seven that she took up the study of the violin with Miss Sylvia Whittington. Later, while a pupil of Mr. H. H. Davies, she won, at nine years of age, two gold medals for candidates under 12 years at the Ballarat musical competitions, and later secured a scholarship at the Adelaide Conservatorium of Music, for violin playing, and was first a student under Miss Nora Kyffin Thomas at that institution, and then under Mr. Heinicke's tuition. In 1910, at the Chamber of Manufactures Exhibition, Miss Chaplin won certificates in every division she entered, and at the Unley competitions of 1911 she took the highest number of marks in the violin section, winning a gold medal. In the same year Miss Chaplin headed the list in the advanced grade of the Associated Board Examination. Having won a further scholarship, she made the piano her principal instrument, studying under Miss Elsie Jeffries and Mr. G. Reimann. She soon afterwards gained a scholarship, entitling her to the Mus. Bac. course, which she pursued for two years, and then abandoned to devote all her energies to the study of the violin, under Mr. Gerald Walens, who had just arrived from England to join the teaching staff of the Conservatorium. Her progress as a violinist was sufficiently indicated by the honour of the scholarship, and she was naturally much disappointed at the possibility of its being an empty distinction. The monetary value of the Elder Scholarship, which is for three years, is set down at £100 a year. Of that sum half is absorbed by teaching fees at the Royal College of Music, and only £50 a year remains for living expenses. As things then were in London, £50 a year was impossible. The Adelaide musical festival gave the young artist a benefit concert in the Adelaide Town Hall, and other friends proffered help, but the project of a training in England had reluctantly to be foregone.