SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1923.

# Prison Reform

## (By Professor Coleman Phillipson.)

In my last article in "The News" I pointed out the general grounds and objects of criminal punishment, and the principles which, in my opinion, should guide the administrative authorities of a progressive nation in imposing the penalty of imprisonment on offenders. I have already said, and in order to prevent misunderstanding I now repeat, that it is far from my mind to treat social malefactors as though they were hotel guests, and to regard punishment as anything but a very unpleasant process and experience. Punishment should and must be unpleasant, but it need not be inhuman, savage, or in excess of what is sufficient and adequate for attaining the necessary object-a duly balanced and rationally adjusted compound of retributive, deterrent, preventive, and reformative ingredients.

#### Reformative Devices

In order to ameliorate the lot of prisoners and to promote their chances for rehabilitation, various devices have from time to time been adopted, especially in the earlier stages of the application of the reformation principle. For example, the system of giving material rewards for good behavior has been tried in several countries, but without success. Another method was discharge by good conduct. This was first tried in Auburn Prison (New York) in 1817, and was adopted, with excellent results, in 1840-1860 by Capt. Maconochie in Tasmania, and by Sir Walter Crofton in Ireland. The practice might with benefit be applied increasingly at present, in the case of certain classes of prisoners whose behavior and disposition have given the authorities concerned confidence in them and reasonable belief that they would return to society as useful and law-abiding citizens. The South Australian Government recently adopted this practice in the case of W---. I had observed him and talked with him at Yatala Labor Prison, and came to the conclusion that the continuance of his long sentence could really serve no useful purpose. By releasing him the Government showed a humane disposition as well as a fine progressive spirit. A merciful and magnanimous pardon in a deserving case redounds to the honor of the administration, is an example for good to the community at large, and to the person pardoned is a great incentive to complete and permanent rehabilitation.

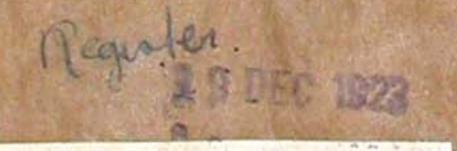
#### Training System

Another plan adopted to effect a reformation of prisoners is the bringing to bear on them of religious influence, through the instrumentality not, as themselves, but of independent chap- lour, Adelaide Town Hall, on Tuesday and Packers Union. lains and missionaries. Efforts of this kind generally failed, when prison life meant solitary confinement and use- Castro, the hon. commisson of the Engless demoralising toil; but they are a lish-Speaking Union, who was visiting dirvaluable adjunct to the more enlight ferent States. He was pleased to be idenened modern prison curriculum. It tified with such a movement. has taken a long time for society to Mrs. de Castro, in outlining the objects realise that training, physical and in- of the union, said those included a mutual dustrial, and general instruction of speaking peoples. The union beneather prisoners, are absolutely indispensable, thing to do with Governments, and with if the prison system is to be produc-|formal alliances, but tried only to promote tive of good, and is to justify the enor- an understanding among the democracy mous expenditure on it. Nothing is of nations which spoke English. Great more stimulating and salutary to a man Britain and America had been at peace who, once a parasite of society, comes to recognise that he can do work which the movement. is valued and paid for, and which can among his fellow-creatures. Several wise than promote goodwill and peace State elections.

work turned out is excellent, despite the present inadequate accommodation. But in a country like Australia, agricultural pursuits are more important than manufacturing occupations; and, in my opinion, the establishment of a great prison farm in South Australia would be, as it has proved in other States, an excellent innovation, and would undoubtedly produce a better return than any manufacturing enterprises that can here be embarked upon. An institution of this kind, too, would not only be intrinsically profitable in financial sense and in supplying wholesome out-of-door activities to the prisoners, but would also be a means of developing the agricultural resources and potentialities of this State, and so preventing or mitigating the exodus of people from the country into the towns -an exodus that is a greater danger to the community than many people realise.

#### Honor and Self-Government

In any case—either in the present conditions or in a prison farm—the honor system supplemented by a certain measure of self-government on the part of the prisoners could with advantage be introduced, at least among the best and most promising sections of the prison population. No one, not even the most uncompromising conservative in regard to penal questions, or the severest advocate of the old regime, greatest benefit to all of us if a sense of responsibility, trustfulness, honor, and loyalty could be inculcated in prioners. And one of the best means of bringing this about is by showing more trustfulness and confidence in them, giving them liberty to associate for games, meals, concerts, lectures, debates, and other activities that may be conducted on a communal basis, and generally by imparting a freer and more generous spirit to the usually oppressive and deadening atmosphere of gaol and prison. The whole community or class or section of prisoners, as the case may be, would be interested in and concerned about the good behavior of every member of it. Various privileges, liberties, or concessions would be conferred on this or that prisoner, on his giving his word of honor that he would behave in a fair and sportsmanlike manner, and show himself worthy of the trust reposed in him. This method has been tried, with some success, at Auburn and Sing Sing Prisons in the United States, but it appears that there have been many failures. These failures were due to using the honor system among prisoners indiscriminately. But prisoners differ vastly-some are gentle and innocent compared to the hardened criminals. Hence discrimination is essential. My next article, therefore, will deal with the classification of prisoners.



# ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION.

### ADDRESS BY MRS. DE CASTRO.

A representative meeting of the Adoafternoon, and presided over by the Lord Mayor (Mr. C. R. J. Glover).

The Chairman welcomed Mrs. de

was a bright indication for the future of

trades are taught at Yatafa, and the among mankind. He felt that the happiness and wellbeing of the world were largely wrapped up in the English-speaking peoples, and if they could promote the unity of such great nations it would be for the good of all humanity, as the union would ultimately mean the alliance of other nations, who had similar ideals.

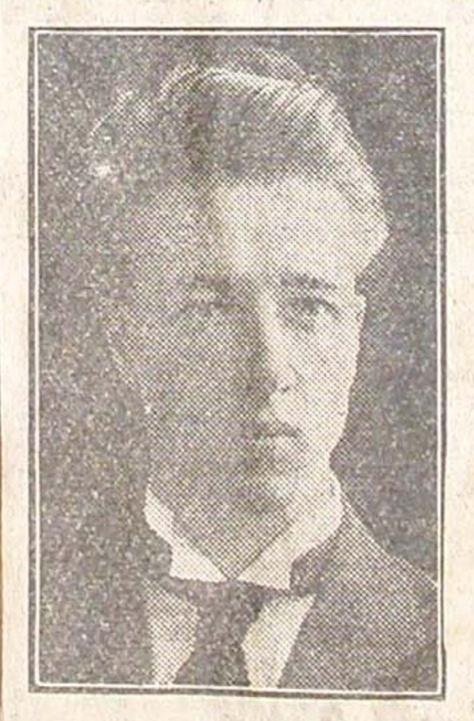
At the instance of Sir Langdon Bony. thon, Mrs. de Castro was heartily thanked for her work. It was felt by the meeting that no mission of trust had been more successful than that undertaken by her. Her work was being done in an honorary capacity.

Officers elected:-Patrons, the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray), the Premier (Sir Henry Barwell), the Lord Mayor of Addadde (Mr. C. R. J. Glover), President, Mr. Justice Angas Parsons; Vice-President, Sir Langdon Bonython; Hon. Vice-Presidents, Sir Richard Butler, Sir William Sowden, Sir Sidney Kidman, Sir George Brookman, Sir Lancelot Stirling, the Right Rev. Dr. Thomas (Bishop of Adelaide), the Most Rev. Dr. Spence (Archbishop), the Hons. G. R. Laffer (Commissioner of Crown Lands), D. J. Gordon, P. McM. Glynn, K.C., and W. Morrow, Rp. Duncan-Hughes, Messrs. Birrell and Hudd, M.P's., Brig. Generals S. Price Weir and R. L. Leane, Col. C. P. Butler, Professors Mitchell and H. Darnley Naylor, the Revs. G. H. Wright, L. C. Parkin, I. A. Bernstein, J. G. Jenkins, J. K. F. Bickersteth, F. Shannon, Dr. J. A. Seymour, Dr. H. T. Postle, S. C. Myers, F. Lade, Messrs, H. H. Balch (American Consul), E. Kyffin Thomas, T. Barr Smith, C. R. Cudmore, W. A. Webb. G. McEwin, N. J. Kitto, W. B. Wilkinson, James McGuire, E. A. Clarkson, d. E. Davidson, J. H. Vaughan, Lavington Bonython, Stow Smith and W. R. Bayly; would deny that it would be of the Mrs. C. R. J. Glover (Lady Mayoress), Lady Barwell, Lady Kidman, Mesdames T. Barr Smith, Ernest Good, Colin Duncan, T. R. Bowman, J. C. F. Slane and Balth, and Miss Muriel Farr; Executive Committee, Messrs Webb, Glynn, Balch, McEwin and H. V. S. Carey, Mesdames Glover, G. M. Coghill, Slane, Good and

MR. JAMES McCABE, L.T.B.

Balch; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. T. Massey.

Among those who received the degree Batchelor of Laws on Wednesday, Adelaide University was Mr. James



originally, of the prison authorities Union was held at the Lord Mayor's par- secretary of the Federated Storemen

Mr. McCabe, jun. was a member of a team of debaters which represented Adelaide University and won the championship of all Australian Universities in August last.

In 1921 he won the South Australian Societies' prepared speech, and this year gained second prize for the six best speeches of the year at the University Law Students Society. A member of St. Andrew's Literary Society, he has debated for that body on several ocber of the Ministry in the France was also a mem- fine legal system, besides being the ministry in the France was also a member of the Ministry in the University Parliament 1921 and 1922. He is a delewith each other for 100 years, and that gate to the Council of the Australian Condwood Local Committee of the the notion that the child had no image Goodwood Local Committee. A forceful nation. If ever there was a period when The Rev. S. C. Myers said that such and eloquent speaker, with a pleasing there was imagination it was in the day movement was of great importance at personality. Mr. I McCaban pleasing there was imagination it was in the day be the means of his restoration to a a movement was of great importance at personality, Mr. J. McCabe should be an of childhood. self-supporting and honorable position the present time. It could not do other asset to the Labor Party at the coming



Mr. R. J. Coombe,

who has been admitted as a practitioner of the Supreme Court of South Australia.

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ASPECTS OF EDUCA-TION.

LATIN, ENGLISH, DRUDGERY.

PROFESSOR DARNLEY NAY. LOR OUTSPOKEN.

Much food for thought on educational matters was provided by Professor Darniey Naylor in an address at the annual speech night of the Scotch College on Wednesday. He deplored the lack of Latin teaching, the use of slipshod English, and attacked certain methods of modern educationalists.

Speaking at the annual speech night of the Scotch College, held at the Unice City Hall on Wednesday, Professor Damley. Naylor referred to several matters of educational interest, and made some outspoken utterances. He said he approached with hesitation the new methods of education. At the risk of being comidered old fashioned he wished to refer to the teaching of Latin, even as one no presented a dying cause. Nothing that was worth doing was achieved with drudgery. Those who did not learn at school to submit to a little drudger would have to learn to do so in aize life sooner or later, and it was bed laide branch of the English-Speaking McCabe, son of Mr. Frank McCabe, to do so in the first place. There not an occupation or a profession where there was no drudgery involved. The re ward of drudgery was the ultimate remult in the finished work. It had been sale that Latin was "horridly" uninteresting but if it were found dull in his opinion the fault lay with the teacher was worth whis Surely to learn something of the civilisation of a nation which knew the meaning of government and discipline as no other na tion had since known it, and had l a heritage which was the basis of o dium of our moral teaching? Those were things which could not be lightly et asale Modern educationalists were possessed

seemed to think that when the child was

d of a river it was necessary that the

huld be presented to his view a street