

RUHR RIDDLE

Australia should be able to form its own idea of both sides of international matters.

"ORDEAL BY TATTLE"

(By Harry Thomson).

One of Oscar Wilde's happiest witticisms was his description of a country house party in England as the "ordeal by tattle." It is a phrase curiously descriptive of the five years' talk that has succeeded the five preceding years of ordeal by battle. Of the making of phrases, of the interchange of notes, of the conferences and committees and commissions, there has been no end.

Situated as Australia is on the outskirts of Empire, and necessarily dependent as she is on press agencies, understanding of the European turmoil is well-nigh impossible. France and the Ruhr, for example, is matter of prime importance to the world. It is a hopeful commentary on the value of personal contact in international affairs that in Australia, where the French point of view has rarely been set forth in print, the prevalent opinion is favorable to the French attitude of "making Germany pay."

The French view has been characterized as "coldly logical." Logic and some element of continuity, one would imagine, were merits in matters international—and infinitely preferable to weathercock changes of policy on the one side, or sickly sentimentalism on the other. "Coldly logical" was the attribute applied to Abraham Lincoln; but his action preserved the Union.

Poincare a Strong Man

Like America three-quarters of a century ago, France is peculiarly fortunate in having at her head an extremely able, long-sighted, strong man in the person of Raymond Poincare. Able as a lawyer, able as a litterateur—he is a member of the Academie Francaise, which is one of the few human institutions that recognizes real merit, and only real merit—Poincare is no less able as a statesman. Being a lawyer, Poincare is cautious, and takes one step at a time. Being a man of letters, he writes most of his own speeches, and—still more unusual—composes most of his own despatches. His recent reply to Lord Curzon's despatch on the Ruhr question is published verbatim in the October number of "The National Review," under the title, "The Unanswerable Despatch." That title says all that is necessary to anyone having the slightest acquaintance with the subject matter—it is unanswerable and, in fact, has never been answered. Points made by Poincare from time to time are:—

1. The legality of France's action in invading the Ruhr has been expressly recognised by England again and again, from the Versailles Conference onwards, and not once, but several times, similar action was threatened by the British Prime Minister if reparations were not paid.

2. The Reparations Commission (which includes representatives from England, France, Italy, and Belgium) has several times threatened to impose sanctions, and in every case by a three-to-one majority or unanimously. France and Belgium are, by agreement of the Allies, entitled to 60 per cent. of the reparations, and have therefore much the greatest interest.

Reparations Reduced

3. Again and again the amount of reparations has been reduced, and again and again payment of the whole or part has been postponed. Actually little more than the cost of the armies of occupation has been paid. The whole burden of reparations properly so-called has fallen on the victors, or whom France suffered much the most material damage. Coincidentally with that Germany has duplicated her main railway lines, largely extended her canals, and has built up a merchant marine. (Incidentally, though Poincare does not mention this, not one of the 13 mammoth guns constructed by Germany for bombarding cities 80 miles away, has ever been given up or even the situation disclosed.)

4. France has done nothing more than any creditor who has obtained a judgment. She has endeavored to obtain security. In as much as not merely her financial credit but her very existence depends on such security no French statesman or patriot could afford to do otherwise.

5. There is clear proof that passive resistance was organised, counselled, and financed from Prussia. The workers were paid for not working. The German railway men were withdrawn, the technical material necessary for working the mines removed.

6. Lastly, France has definitely promised to withdraw if and when guarantees are given. She has only 50,000 soldiers in a population of 6,000,000 Germans. Those soldiers were put in only because the customs officials, foresters, and other French civil servants were impeded in their work. Far from causing outrages, the French have been most tactful. Soup kitchens for German women and children have been started everywhere.

Passive Resistance Failed

Passive resistance has failed. Countermarching orders have arrived from Berlin. Even before this German railwaymen were returning. The Krupp directors have been released. The miners, being paid by the French 20 per cent. more for working than they were offered by the Prussians for not working have also returned. There seems every indication that within a very few weeks French policy will have secured complete success in the Ruhr.

Why then has British official policy been so divergent? Primarily the answer depends on the economic difference between France and England. England is the reverse of self-supporting, and is a great exporting nation. France is nearly self-supporting and nearly self-contained. With the Lorraine and other iron deposits and Ruhr coal she threatens to be predominant in steel manufactures in Europe and a dangerous rival of the English Midlands.

France, too, is far more of an agricultural country than is England. Behind this divergence of policy between England and France, as at the back of most of the international disputes of the last half century, including the Great War itself, lie economic reasons.

There is good ground for believing since the meeting between Mr. Baldwin and M. Poincare last September, and since the sudden growth and interest in Imperial preference and Empire questions generally, that there will be much less divergence and friction between France and England. From the point of view of Australia the matter is doubly important. She has a real interest in intra-Empire development, particularly if that involves questions of preference. Even more important is it that she should be able to form her own idea of international questions, for she is liable at any time to be drawn in. She has claimed a say in treaty-making, and if that say is to be more than a parrot-cry, it must be based on an appreciation of both sides of a question. So long as there is government by talk—and that will be as long as democracy itself lasts—so long is there the most urgent need of that talk being as well-informed as possible.

TRAINING WOMEN TEACHERS.

"A Forward Move."

At the assembly hall of the Methodist Ladies' College, Wayville, on Monday afternoon, the first three women teachers to complete the course at the Teachers' Training Institute (Misses Marthe Wait, M.A., Kathleen Magarey, B.A., and Crokes) received their certificates.

Miss M. Rees George (President of the Women Teachers' Association), who presided, said the ceremony was unique, and marked a forward move in the progress of training teachers. Hitherto there had not been any scheme outside the Education Department for the training of secondary teachers. The association had taken the matter up, and several of the girls' secondary schools had given valuable support to the formation of an Institute of Training

of which Miss Carson, B.A., had been appointed supervisor. Miss George referred in flattering terms to the work accomplished by Miss Carson, under whose guidance she said teachers were trained in physiology, experimental education, general and special methods, voice culture, school hygiene, and general practice in the art of teaching. The secretary of the institute was Miss Sharman, M.A., and she and Miss Carson had received a diploma in education (Applause.)

Enthusiastic Students.

According to the report of the supervisor, the first term was started with eight students, and eight men had been enrolled by the end of the year. The whole subject of the training of teachers was a most important one to the general community, and the scheme put forward by the institute offered a practical solution to the problem of the correct equipment for their young teachers. Every teacher should interest herself in the study of children. She could not speak too highly of the help and co-operation of the various schools in the formation of the institute. The head mistress of the M.L.C. (Miss M. E. Patchell) had helped considerably by providing practical assistance in every possible way. She was glad to be able to say that the students had worked hard, and realized that if their work was to be a success they must employ all their energy and individuality in it. (Applause.)

Competent Recipients.

Professor Darnley Naylor, prior to presenting the graduates with their certificates, said it was a bitter commentary upon modern civilization that teaching was the worst paid of all the professions. The wish that the founders of the institute was to protect the public against the charlatan teacher. The certificate with which he was about to present the graduates showed that the recipient not only knew a subject, but knew how to teach it. There was, however, in the modern educational system a distinct danger of giving a secondary place to true knowledge of a subject, and substituting for that a knack of interesting presentation. (Applause.)

Messrs. W. R. Bayly and N. M. L. Gratton also spoke. The guests were entertained to afternoon tea by Miss Patchell.

THE RHODES SCHOLAR.

A MEDICAL STUDENT SELECTED.

The next Rhodes scholar to go from South Australia is Mr. F. L. Thyer, a medical student at the Adelaide University, who was selected on Monday.

Mr. Frederick Lewis Thyer, a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Thyer, of Wilsden-street, Walkerville, was on Monday, at a meeting held at Government House, chosen by the Rhodes Selection Committee for South Australia as the next Rhodes scholar to go to the Oxford University. He will take up his residence there in October next. The meeting of the committee was presided over by his Excellency the Governor.

Mr. Thyer, whose father has held a responsible position for many years with



Mr. F. L. Thyer.

Messrs. Clutterbuck Bros., is an Adelaide High School boy and a student at the Adelaide University. He was born on November 19, 1902. After attending Miss Stock's private school at Madindie Mr. Thyer entered the Walkerville public school in 1910, and in 1914 obtained his qualifying certificate and held the first position in the school. In the following year he entered the Adelaide High School and in 1916 passed the Junior Public examination in eight subjects, with credits in four. In 1917 he was successful in the Senior Public examination in eight subjects, with credits in four, and he was fourth on the general honors list. He was awarded a prize and a senior exhibition. In the following year he passed the Higher Public examination in five subjects and obtained a credit in the chemistry test. In that examination he was sixth in the general honors list, and was awarded a Government bursary in medicine. Mr. Thyer began his medical course at the Adelaide University in 1919. At the end of that year he secured first position in the class (Elder prize). In 1920 he secured a first class pass, his position being second for the year. He obtained a second class pass in 1921 and in that year occupied fourth place. Last year he was in third position, with a second class pass.

Mr. Thyer has been interested in various branches of sport. He rowed in the winning inter-faculty tub-fixed crew in 1921, and in the same year was in the University Eight which won the Maiden and Dash Eights at Henley-on-Torrens. He rowed No. 4 in the Adelaide crew at the inter-University boat race in 1921. He also played tennis and in 1922-3 was a member of the University team in the S.A.L.T.A. matches. Rifle shooting and lacrosse also engaged his attention. His hobby is photography. At Oxford he intends to undertake research work in the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis and also to extend his studies in physiology and pathology and enlarge his clinical experience.

UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

A Supplementary List.

The following additional list of candidates to receive degrees at the Adelaide University Commemoration this afternoon has been issued:—

For the Ordinary Degree of Master of Arts—Stevens, Aubrey Clement, B.A.

For the Degree of Bachelor of Music—Mitchell, Ernest Edwin.

For the Ordinary Degree of Bachelor of Science—Oldfield, Frederick Bernard.

For the Degree of Bachelor of Engineering—Buring, Franz Maurice; Gibb, Claude Dixon.

For the Diploma in Applied Science—Buring, Franz Maurice; Gibb, Claude Dixon.

For the Diploma in Commerce—Berriman, Alfred Andrew; Brown, Thomas Roderick; Browne, Clifford Harding (Fisher Medallist); Burr, Frederick Samuel; Dalton, Victor Ernest; Davis, Rosalie Olive; Fahey, George Ambrose; Gray, Gilbert William; Greenham, Alfred Howard; Loan, William Clarence; McEgan, Ernest William; Martin, Eric John; O'Grady, Oswald James; Park, Gilbert Maxwell; Philcox, Claude Joseph Owen; Pitcher, Ronald Samuel; Sellan, Norman Lionel; Smith, Isaac Francis; Thurston, Frank Harris; Travers, Edward Ambrose; Wästqvist, Hugo Carl; Clarke, Geoffrey Thomas (absentia); Foxworthy, John Henry (in absentia).

Scholars and Prizemen for 1923.

Faculty of Arts.—Tinline Scholarship—Walter Russell Crocker; prox. acc., Beatrice Mary Heywood Reynolds. Bunday Prize (for English verse)—Thelma Evelyn Bleby.

Faculty of Science.—The Lowrie Scholarship—Harry Kingsley Lewcock. John L. Young (for research)—Joseph Garnett Wood, B.Sc. The David Murray Scholarship—Richard Baker Aldersey.

Faculty of Medicine.—David Murray Scholarship—Frank Raymond Hone, M.B., B.S.

Board of Commercial Studies.—The Fisher Medal—Clifford Harding Browne; prox. acc., Frank Harris Thurston, Oswald James O'Grady.

Miss Kathleen O'Dea, the Adelaide soprano (cables our London correspondent) is singing leading parts in an opera company, which is touring the principal Italian cities.