

STATESMANSHIP

(By Professor Coleman Phillipson.)

A change of Government is necessarily a critical turning-point in the domestic economy, external policy, guidance, and leadership of the country.

Such an event offers an occasion for a little salutary stocktaking, so that we may well ask what is really the true goal of the nation, and whether the means and equipment we have adopted for our great national journey are appropriate and adequate for attaining that goal.

Many questions are thus raised, but for the present we may briefly consider only one—leadership.

Politicians and the Masses

Few thinking and unprejudiced observers are entirely satisfied with the present practice of politics, even in the most democratic countries. Large sections of the public have long been uneasy, distrustful, and suspicious, and the name of politician has been often a byword for shiftiness, insincerity, and self-seeking.

This is because so many persons have entered the political arena without possessing the qualifications in character, knowledge, and practical capacity and aptitude. Their participation is facilitated by the perversion of democracy, which makes it possible for a majority of 100 ignorant men to override 99 thinking citizens.

True statesmen and able legislators are not likely to arise in a country if the majority of its people is unmindful of the right aim of national education—the cultivation of character and the fashioning of fine personality, as well as the discipline of the intellect—if it is too fond of picture theatres and gambling, if it esteems above all things the material trappings of life, if it fails to realise that on its present life and ideals depends the well-being of future generations as well as the position of its country in the society of nations.

We cannot wonder therefore that many people are so indiscriminating in the choice of their representatives in the Legislature, and moreover are so easily seduced by the promises and professions of insincere politicians, or are even prepared to engage in unseemly bargaining with them.

Portrait of the Statesman

Now how can we distinguish a true statesman from a mere politician?

In political life, in the work of legislation, and in the shaping of international policy the statesman is the leader of the people. He is at once an educator, a law-maker, a physician of society, a shepherd of the human flock, and an artist whose material is human and national life.

He pays heed to the good of the community as a whole, and not merely to his party's demands and interests, or his personal advantage. He possesses courage, independence, loyalty, and love for his fellow-creatures. He is noted for his uprightness, devotion to truth, honor, candor, firm purpose, and sincerity. He has that intellectual rasp of things and knowledge of men which give him an insight into the present and foresight in regard to the future.

He will use language, in speech or writing, clearly and unambiguously, and will avoid all subterfuge and prevarication. He will possess extensive knowledge, and on some matters such as commerce, agriculture, industries, an intensive knowledge. Thus he will know something of the various social sciences, especially law and the principles of legislation, sociology, political science, and economics. But he will recognise that most of them are not exact sciences, so that he will not become a slave to this or that theory or doctrine.

He will know history, which will enlarge his sense of proportion and his power of estimating comparatively the value and adequacy of given political institutions, and will throw light on the causes of a nation's rise and prosperity, and on those of its backwardness and decline. He will know literature, which will reveal to him life and the world as seen and interpreted by men of transcendent vision, and so will help him to adjust his own perspective.

Principles and Ideals

Possessing knowledge of this kind, the true statesman will cherish high principles and ideals, but he will not thrust them forward with dogmatic rigidity irrespectively of existing conditions with the intention of applying them indiscriminately. He will realise that, as a statesman, he is not concerned so much with the abstractions of speculative thinkers as with practicable remedies for removing real evils, and practicable expedients for promoting the actual good of human beings living here and now in a real and visible society.

He will not confuse liberty with licence. He will see that true liberty, order, and security are attainable only through the agency of the State, and he will not be misled by the superficially alluring schemes of those theorists, fanatics, and extremist agitators whose enthusiasm blinds them to fact, reality, and experience. He will see how political and social ideals have changed from age to age, and that the frequent failure to realise them has been due to taking the part for the whole and to the neglect of moral principle.

Dangers in Extremes

Though high ideals will ever illuminate his difficult way he will not confuse the ideal best and the best that is possible in the actual circumstances. Accordingly, he will know when he may wisely and honorably take the path of expediency and compromise, so as to achieve a large-minded co-operation and avoid or mitigate the forces of disruption, and he will be alive to the dangers lurking in extremes—extreme conservatism, radicalism, laborism, nationalism, internationalism, or any other ism.

Finally he will be aware of the spiritual and moral force that determines the organic unity of mankind. He will be conscious of the interdependence of peoples. He will appreciate the rights of other nations, and will do his utmost to promote friendly relationships with them, so as to attain not only the well-being of his own country, but also understanding, sympathy, fairplay, and peace between all nations of the world.

Such a statesman will prove a veritable blessing to his fellow-beings, who will ever cherish his name and memory with gratitude, love, and veneration.

Herald

23 APR 1924

LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

Professor Darnley Naylor, in addressing the teachers' conference on Tuesday, said that he was sorry he had interrupted what was obviously a very keen discussion upon geography and history. The great new venture of the League of Nations would alter the whole aspect of those two subjects. He remembered learning history in his school days of the beheading of Charles the First and other "useful" incidents. He believed that that kind of teaching should be minimised to the greatest possible extent. The League of Nations movement was progressing gradually, but surely. They had established a kind of junior league of nations movement. This movement consisted of children of all nations, who paid sixpence per year for membership. Christmas trees and other treats were provided for them, and the extension of the League of Nations spirit generally fathered. The professor replied to questions concerning the subject which were put to him by the conference.

Advertiser

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Mr. W. Muirden, B.A., head of Muirden College, Adelaide, has returned from Melbourne. He recently purchased Hasset's Commercial College, in Chapel-street, Brisbane, which is one of the largest institutions of its class in the Commonwealth.

Advertiser

Register

24 APR 1924



SIR EDWARD LUCAS.

Agent-General, and representative of the South Australian Government.

THE MEMORY COVE TABLET. Mr. Deputy-President Webb writes.—The discovery of the true text of the plate which Flinders erected at Memory Cove is wonderfully interesting and has set at rest the speculation which has been so long going on as to the missing words of the last line. I always had an idea that it was a Latin quotation, and suggested that it was "Requiescat in pace." Some time last year I was examining the fragments of the copper plate with the late Mr. Thomas Gill, and Mr. Vaughan, the late Government photo-lithographer, and I think, Mr. Marshall, the secretary of the Museum, when Professor Henderson came in and stayed a few minutes chatting about the missing words. Professor Henderson said, "I think the letters are part of the word 'cavete.' I think it is a warning to sailors in Latin." It is very remarkable that Professor Henderson was able to decipher the fragment with such accuracy. I did not accept his solution at the time, and I doubt if the mystery would ever have been satisfactorily solved had it not been for the discovery in Flinders's Log. The words "nautici cavete" are not familiar to me. Can any of your readers tell where the quotation is to be found.

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Pen Portrait

Christian Sociologist

Although the teaching of theology provides the Rev. Edward Sydney Kiek, M.A., B.D., with his life's work, he finds much to interest him in other branches of study. Sociology is a subject to which he devotes many hours of thought and research, and it is in this realm that he has achieved a reputation. His theological work is devoted mainly to Parkin College, of which he is principal.



Rev. E. S. Kiek, M.A., B.D.

Born in London in 1883, Mr. Kiek spent some time in the Civil Service before deciding to enter the ministry. He went to Wadham College, Oxford, and gained his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1906. Three years later he secured the M.A. degree with honors in modern history, and in 1911 was made a Bachelor of Divinity of London University. While at Oxford he studied under Principal Fairbairn, one of the most famous theologians in Europe.

Upon his ordination to the Congregational ministry he went to the Newcastle-under-Lyme Church, and remained there until 1913. The next seven years he spent at Halifax.

Mr. Kiek has always been an active supporter of educational movements, and on being appointed to his present position in 1920 in succession to the late Dr. Bevan, he immediately became associated with the Workers' Educational Association as a lecturer. This year he is also lecturing on modern history at the Adelaide University.

Parkin College houses one of the best theological libraries in the State. Most of the 10,000 books were brought by Mr. Kiek from England. He is a strong believer in stating Christianity in terms of modern thought. He was one of the founders of the Round Table Christian Sociological Society.

Music and drama provide Mr. Kiek with mental relaxation, and he finds an outlet for his physical energy in cycling and golf.

LATIN NOT NECESSARY

Teacher Advocates Abolition

Mr. E. J. Rourke, B.A., B.Sc. (New South Wales) advocated the abolition of Latin as a compulsory subject for matriculation at the conference of the Australian Teachers' Federation today.

It was the second day of the gathering, the chair being occupied by Mr. A. G. Alanson (president).

In a paper dealing with a uniform matriculation standard, Mr. Rourke said that although he admitted the virtues of Latin from an educational point of view, he considered it should be abolished as a compulsory subject for matriculation. There was not sufficient justification for the exclusion of many men and women from a great deal of university life because they had little or no knowledge of Latin. Few of those who reached the present matriculation standard were able to read with fluency and pleasure classical authors, and the majority found that they could get nearly all they desired in beauty of expression and grandeur of context in the works of English and French writers. Few continued to read Latin after they passed the matriculation.

Latin was not the means of communication, either verbal or written, on politics or science as was the case in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, he said. It could not be argued that those who took Latin to the matriculation standard got a reasonable insight into Roman literature.

It was decided to refer the question of a uniform matriculation scheme to the University Conference to obtain an expression of opinion from that organisation.