ADV. 21.7.26

LEAGUE OF NATIONS UNION.

A. 21

ADDRESS BY PROFESSOR DARNLEY NAYLOR.

There was a large gathering of members f the South Australian branch of the eague of Nations Union at the weekly unch at the Regal Cafe, Grenfell-street, esterday, when Professor H. Darnley aylor delivered an address on the com-osition of the Council of the League. Mr. . H. Vaughan presided.

Professor Naylor said it was just four onths since the League passed through he most serious crisis in its short life. pon whom the blame should be laid was question for the historian. One's busi-ess was to prevent a recurrence of the isease. He who loved the League would lways look forward; the weather was oo threatening and time too precious; the arvest must be got in. Later on there ould be spare hours for reflection, and, t might be for regrets, but not for vain egrets. At least, they might be thank-ul for the courageous stand of Sweden, he generosity of Czecho-Slovakia, and the ignified reticence of Germany. Despite he vexatious failure, the Council kept a tiff upper lip. It immediately ap-ointed a committee to consider and re-ort upon the composition of the council. hat committee met at Geneva on May 0. It comprised representatives of all the tates on the Council, and also of Ger-any, Argentina, Poland, China, and witzerland. M. Motta (Switzerland) was ppointed chairman, Senor Lobreton (Ar-entina) vice-chairman, and Viscount Cecil epresented Great Britain. Important pro-ress was made, and the spirit shown was very different from that of March. The reason was simple, for, with a single exception, every meeting of the committee ook place in public. That procedure was ue to the advocacy of Lord Cecil, and ithout doubt the secret tea-parties of March had taught a salutary lesson. M. Motta, at the conclusion of the proceed-ngs, commented on the fact that such elicate negotiations had been conducted ith complete candor at public sessions. The work of the committee was to consider ll claims for seats on the Council, nd to make suggestions with reference to s composition. All members of the eague had been asked to express their iews if they felt so disposed. Only ven troubled to do so, but among the ven was Australia.

Lord Cecil first put forward a heme which was confined to the umber and method of electioin of on-permanent members of the Council he principle of increasing the number om six to nine was accepted. Sweden, witzerland, Italy, and Germany were, owever, very reluctant, taking the view hat the Council would be too large. The nal suggestion was that non-permanent embers should be elected for a term of hree years, assuming office immediately n their election. Retiring members ight not be re-elected until after the pse of three years, unless the Assembly ecided by a majority of two-thirds that ey were re-eligible. The number of embers thus declared re-eligible must not xceed one-third of the total of non-per-anent members. There was a further nd most important proviso, namely, that he Assembly might at any time, by a two-hirds majority, proceed to a new elec-on of all the non-permanent members of he Council, in accordance with Article 4 the Covenant. Thus, it was possible or the Assembly to retain the services of ny particular State whose prolonged mem-ership of the Council was thought neces-ary or advisable. Moreover, the increase non-permanent seats would enable the ssembly to work out some scheme of eographical distribution of seats. part from those States which had filed claim for new permanent seats, opinion as unanimous that no new permanent ats should be created beyond that of ermany. France adopted that view, and oland accepted it. China and Persia ould be satisfied if Germany alone was dmitted to a permanent seat. The Ar entine and Uruguay made it clear to razil that they did not desire to see razil a permanent member. Lord Cecil ave it to be understood that British olicy was opposed to any further per-anent seats after the admission of Ger-any.

Spain, however, received a hint that ubject to the Assembly's two-thirds ote, she would be certain of re-election t the end of her three years' period. here was, however, one serious difficulty hich might arise. At the Assembly 1921, an amendment to Article 4 of the ovenant was proposed, establishing the ompetence of the Assembly to adopt bind-g rules concerning the election and non-ligibility of non-permanent members. All embers of the Council but Spain had atified that amendment, and the majority League States ratified it three years go. Thus Spain by refusing to ratify r by successfully employing bad old ethods of bargaining might cause an-ther vexatious postponement, and th postponement would be one of 15 months, r under the present practice, Spain ld office until the end of 1926, not end of the Assembly sittings. It satisfactory to notice that Australia had taken a clear stand with Great Britain on that important question, and they, as a union might well express to Mr. Bruce and his Government their gratification at his having laid before the Federal Parliament the policy which Mr. Latham and his colleagues were to pursue in September. That policy meant that there should be no increase in the number of permanent members beyond the addition of Germany, and preferably no increase in the number of non-permanent members, but if any, it should be as small as possible. It might be said with confidence that Mr. Bruce had not ceased to believe in the great possibilities of a saner world which the League of Nations sought to create for mankind. If proof were needed it might be found in his statesmanlike utterances of July 9 last. (Applause.)

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THE SOIL.

University Extension Lecture.

The University extension lectures were continued in the Prince of Wales lecture room on Tuesday night, when Professor J. A. Prescott (Waite Research Institute) delivered the first of a series of three lectures on "The soil; from the physical, chemical, and biological points of view." There was a large attendance. Speaking on the physical properties of soil, the lecturer dealt with the origin of soils, soil profiles, physical properties underlying methods of cultivation, moisture relationships, mechanical textures, and temperature, and he illustrated his remarks by a number of lantern slides, specimens, and experiments.

At the outset the professor pointed out that while the study of soil might appear to be purely practical, it was very interesting as a scientific study. The science of the soil was a comparatively modern development. The first consideration was the origin and classification. The simplest conception of a soil was that of a disintegrated rock. This was the classical conception, in which the raw material, the rock, was considered as being broken down by the weather, and laid emphasis in soil classification on geological origins. The Russians, however, had been able to trace the development of certain soil types to a climatic origin. The features of the Russian classification were:—Laterite soils, produced by tropical weathering agencies; loess, wind-blown soils, and steppe soils, corresponding to much South Australian pastoral country; light prairie soil, in Russia, Central Europe, United States of America, and America; black soils, grey soils, temperate forests; podzol, peat and ashy soils; tundras, of Arctic prairies.

For the purpose of physical composition, soil might be regarded as being composed of different fractions, such as sand, silt, humus, and so on. An important thing in cultivation was to have the soil so packed that there was sufficient air, space and water content to enable the plant to grow comfortably, and particularly to enable seeds to germinate. The next important thing in connection with physical properties was the capillary rise of water. The average capillary rise of clay was calculated at more than 150 ft. The actual capillary pull of soil was never more than a few feet. One thing of importance about soil was the fact that some of the particles were so small that the amount of surface exposed by the particles themselves reached comparatively high figures. He had calculated that in 13 lb. of soil in the Georgetown district the surface exposed by the particles was roughly one acre. That explained why the heavy soil held so much water.

Professor Prescott said clay was the finest soil fraction. To it, was due the plasticity of the soil, its retention of water, and its shrinkage powers. It was known as a colloid. A soil that had a great shrinkage and swelling power was known to Adelaide residents as Bay of Biscay soil. Another interesting feature about colloidal particles, of which clay was composed, was that that they moved in an electrical field. That had recently been put into semi-practical use. It has been shown that by passing an electric current through two sheets of metal in the soil one of the sheets was lubricated and could be moved through the soil more easily. The importance to agriculture of that application had not as yet been fully appreciated. By passing electric current through the metal parts of a plough, and so lubricating the shares they could be moved through the ground more easily. The lecturer described the properties of fine sand, and said the most interesting point about it was that soil containing more than 40 per cent. of fine sand set hard after rain.

Dealing with the cultivation of the soil, the speaker said the question of conservation of moisture in fallowing was too well known to need emphasizing. The main purposes of fallowing were to preserve the moisture, and to leave the soil in a suitable condition to acts as a bed for young seed plants. They were beginning to learn more. They knew it was better to cultivate soil when it was moistened after a dry spell rather than when it was drying off after being wet. Science had only recently found a reasonable explanation. In cultivation, two forces had to be overcome. The first was cohesion; the second was the friction of the soil against the implement. That increased as the soil became wetter, but fell away as the soil got too wet. The ground was then useless for cultivation. An important discovery was that an area of ground could be covered much faster than usual without any appreciable increase in the draw-bar pull of an implement. That explained why implements in Australia were now being drawn by 10 or more horses. However, it would probably be necessary to redesign some of the tractors and implements to enable them to be worked faster.

ADV. 22.7.26

THE SUPREME COURT.

A FIFTH JUDGE NECESSARY.

"We are of opinion that, without the appointment of a fifth judge, it will be impossible to avoid great delays in hearing and determining cases before the court," states the report for 1925 of the judges of the Supreme Court, which has been laid on the table of Parliament.

The report further states that although for the past five years the number of judges sitting in Civil Sittings had been doubled, there were, at the end of the December Civil Sittings, 49 cases ready for trial with which it was impossible to deal. The Criminal Appeals Act 1924 would still further increase the work of the court, and the Criminal Sessions had been gradually becoming heavier and longer. Power should be given to the judges by appropriate legislation to make, by the same procedure, rules for all jurisdictions at the same time. At present many rule-making powers were vested in the judges which varied in their conditions of exercise. It not infrequently happened that several orders or rules for several jurisdictions had now to be made where, with legislative sanction, one would suffice. In view of the increasing business of the court, additional accommodation was urgently needed.

The rules relating to the admission of practitioners had been consolidated and amended. The principal amendment provided for the passing of an intermediate examination at the University before entering into articles, and the term of service under articles had been shortened. The University had altered its statutes to enable the intermediate examination to be held. The alteration was designed to give those who desired to enter the profession of the law one year at University free from office duties, and, at the same time, to secure that they should have sufficient legal knowledge on entering into articles to benefit more fully by the practical training service under articles should give.

The number of causes and matters entered in the Master's Office for the past three years was as follows:—In 1923, 806; 1924, 941; 1925, 1,005. In 1919, the year in which the fourth judge was appointed, the number of matters was 569. The figures mentioned did not include criminal cases or chamber applications, which had also grown in volume.

ADV. 22.7.26

UNIVERSITY FINANCE.

ADELAIDE SYSTEM PRAISED.

Melbourne, July 21.

The Melbourne University last year had a deficit of £7,000, and this year it is £9,000 in arrears on the year's work. Consequently the University is up against the necessity of providing for more money to carry on its work. The council has suggested the raising of fees, if a further appeal for an increased Government grant fails.

The Assistant Registrar (Mr. Stanley Addison) says the University is a growing organisation, increasing in its functions and its expenditure with the natural growth of the community. For this reason a fixed grant by the Government is not a fair method of finance. Something on the lines of the system in vogue in Sydney or that in Adelaide is urgently wanted here. In Sydney the Government grant, which is very much larger than that of Melbourne, is based on the population. As increase in population comes so the Government automatically grant rises. In Adelaide the same effect is obtained by different means. There £1 for £1 is given by the Government to keep pace with private endowment. As this has been very heavy and generous, the finances of Adelaide University are on a good basis.

ADV. 22.7.26

THE INDUSTRIAL COURT

RUMORED RETIREMENT OF DR. JETHRO BROWN.

It was stated yesterday that in political circles it was considered improbable that Dr. Jethro Brown, who has been President of the State Industrial Court for the past ten years, will take up his duties in that capacity again when his present leave of absence expires. Dr. Jethro Brown's health has not been robust for some years, and he is an inmate of Ru Rua private hospital. So far there has been no mention of a possible successor, but this may be due to the fact that the Government contemplate the introduction of industrial legislation at an early date. This, however, is dependent on the coming Federal referendum.

Dr. Jethro Brown.

Dr. Brown is a South Australian and his academic attainments are of a remarkably high order. As President of the Industrial Court he has not spared himself, despite his failing health, in the thorough investigation of all claims brought before him. Dr. Brown is 57 years of age, and was born at Mintaro. He was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, and took double first-class honors in the Law Tripos. He headed the list for the degree of Doctor of Laws at the University of Dublin. He is the author of a number of celebrated works, including "The New Democracy," "The Austinian Theory of New Democracy," and "The Underlying Principles of Modern Legislation."

He was called to the Bar at the Middle Temple in 1891. He was professor of law and modern history at the University of Tasmania from 1893 to 1900, and then for 12 months filled the Chair of Constitutional Law and History at University College, London, and for the five subsequent years was Professor of Comparative Law at the University College of Wales. In 1906 he became Dean of the Faculty of Law at the Adelaide University, a position which he held for several years. He succeeded Sir John Gordon as chairman of the Commonwealth Sugar Commission when his Honor resigned in 1912. On the occasion of Dr. Brown's admission to the South Australian Bar, Sir Samuel Way paid an eloquent tribute to his ability and scholastic attainments.

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Mr. Cecil J. St. L. Kelly, who recently commenced practice as a solicitor and barrister in Peterborough, has accepted the appointment of honorary solicitor to the Peterborough Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Board.

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The University of Wales on Tuesday conferred an honorary degree on Sir Edgeworth David, K.B.E., Professor of Geology of the University of Sydney, as one of the most eminent of living scientists (our London correspondent telegraphed yesterday). Professor David previously held the Hon. D.Sc. (Oxon), 1911, and Hon. LL.D. (Wales), 1921.