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## TURSDAY 5th OCTOBER 1922 10 A.M.

The Minutes of the providus aftermoon's session were read by Mr. Cox, and confirmed.

## AUSTRALIAN DEAR & DUMB ASSOCIATION.

Mi. APROXEMM: Mr. Luff is really introducing this matter, but as a preliminar if the Metretary would be kind enough to read this extract from the Australian Journal of Education published in New South Wales of 1904. it will give the Congress an idea of the subject upon which Mr. Luff desires to speak. (On Mr. Martin's suggestion the extract was read by the Nev. A. G. Cutbs.).

ARRAMAM. The President of the Victorian Branch of this Association is in a position to inform you what was the result of that conference, and I believe it is his desire to impress upon this Convention the necessity of renewing the vitality of the old Association int his State and in South Australia.

DELIVE: Mr. Chairman, and Contlemen, as you have heard the report read out it gives you a fair idea of the Commencement of the association and its objects. It originated on that metorable occasion when a record attendance of the Deaf of hearly all the states mat in Melbourne in 1904. more than 18 years ago. I would like, therefore to bring under your notice this worthy association which was founded on that Occasion. It has the flower of the Deaf Community on its Committees, and though have pledged themselves to keep their eyes open for any injustice or oppression that may be placed upon the Deaf at large and make every effort to alleviate such. It has adopted for its motto to alleviate and educate the deaf. Its sphere of action is the Commonwealth of Australia. Its operations will not clash with the operations of the Adult Deaf & Dumb Secieties, because these Secieties work for the Deaf, but this association will assert their rights and try to seeme their just claims to citizenship. They decemd that in this respect the deaf shall be equal with the normal. We have a general Board, which is the controlling factor and we had branches in four States, but there are at present only two in existence. This State and South Australia have allowed their operations to lapse, but Victoria and Queensland have stuck together, and the Victorian State has put its shoulder to the wheel and proceed with what business they could. For instance, you have heard a few items read out in the report, how we managed to fight against the sarine act and won the case? We secured promises of amendment, but as the operations of the Association were of a quiet nature, it appears that has Officers crept in to the Department who know nothing about us, and it seems that the old restrictions are in force again, to behaves us to be up and doing and continually fighting for our rights.

Again, we in Victoria took up the cudgels for the education of the Deaf, and claimed the right for free and compulsory education. The school was founded by a Deaf mute under difficulties, and after a lapse of 50 years we opened our eyes to see the injustice the Government were doing in placing us Deaf and Dumb under charity, when with the normal people free education was a right. We approached the Department and got them to take over the scholastic part of the Instn. Not satisfied with that only, we approached them to reward an alose. If the school had been placed under the Education Department 50 years ago, Mr. Rose would have been entitled to a retiring allowance, so we fought for a pension. It was better than nothing.

De have a code of rules printed, and the subjects are plainly printed in booklet form. Now in recommending to your notice this association and the good work that it will see the value of such an association and the good work that it can accomplish. If there is any suggestion or motion made by this Conference, there is opportunity or the association to carry on the work, because its scope of operations wider than the Conference or the Societies of the different States, cause its operations spread over all Australia.

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We the existing Boards wish the other States to take them up, and join the Association, because the Association's operations and Officiers are for a period of time from Congress to Congress at the next Congress the Deaf and Dumb may be re-elected and have new Boards, and that would be an opportune time for this State to get on the General Board and work in harmony with as to educate and realise the status of the Deaf of the Commonwealth.

MR. SHOWELL: The Association is like this table if it had only two legs. It would be too good to throw away, but not safe to sit on. Well, I want South Australia and New South Wales to put in the other two legs.

MR. ABRAHAM: I am merely going to emphasise what MrLuff has said, if you don't mind Mr. Chairman. Well, the Australian Deaf and Dumb Association was formed in 1904, and they did me the honour to make me the President.

Branches were formed in all the four States, and these were the objects:-

(I) To unite the Deaf and Dumb and create interest in their welfers.

(2) To advance and protect their interests and to alleviate their social status.

(3) To give practical illustration of the capabilities of the Deaf and Dumb.

I may mention that the Congress was in every sonse a gigentic success. We had the leading Deaf Mutes from every State and also (her from New Mealand. There were about 20) delegates present, and alteged our various meetings and socials, etc. cost somewhere about 230). We had an exhibition of work done by the Deaf and Dumb which was open for a fortnight and drew crowds of the public, and was a material assistance in helping the deaf and dumb to obtain employment afterwards.

Mr. SON: Was that Congress held in Victoria? A. Yes, it was held in Molbour

MR. ABRAHAM: Ten years after there was another Congress of the Deaf, and the different States were asked to vote upon which plact it was to be held, and on each occasion they voted for Melbourn. That was in 1904. The second Congress of 1911 /12 was in Melbourne. We Melbourne Deaf are most anxious that the Conference should be held in rotation in the difference States. Conference should be held in rotation in the States.

in rotation in the States.

With regard to the resolutions that were passed, the Deaf and Dumb witimately got the Act passed in Victoria. That was one of our resolutions, making the education of the Deaf and Dumb free and compulsory.

/ MR.MARTIB: In that instance did the School Committees and the Mission / Committee join in? A. They all joined in or rather, we had three deputations. The first deputation was to the Director of Education and was led by myself under the asspices of the Australian Deaf & Dumb Society of Victoria.

in. MARTIN: Did the Deaf themselves put their case? A. Yes several of them were speakers. Dr. Tunley was one of the speakers.

"Asylum . That was all we could do at the period. As mentioned by Mr. Luff we succeeded in getting a pension from the Government for Mr. Rose, the Headmaster of the School, and the founder of the first educational school for the Deaf in the Commonwealth. And it was through the work of the Association that the Premier, Sir Thomas Ma Bezt, gave as £ 2,000, to start a farm, so the result of the Confere was at least good for Victoria. Queensland, too, did remarkably good work over there under the leadership of Mr. Showell and Miss. Wilson. I daresay Mr. Showell could report on the work he succeeded in doing there. But for various reasons some trouble with school authoritie

that so were arrived and our our the incidenage a notical past one concess, because the character of market and so being a tel one control of the free control of the free control of the free control of the free control of the control The color and the unit were the despite of gales of system on I said that an area of the color o I may continue that the landing was in every come a planette and closed and continue and cont montes at bled com it; see . A fernote of his bond unergoes Take town in rotation in the difference States; Conference should be bein Consisted and any region of the policy of the property of the 193 Quemolandar aplum . Inch was all so could do at the period . a mentioned in a limit we decorate the covernment for it. Inch is decorate the decorate of the limit is and the feather of the limit of the the commonwealth. Ind it can through the verk of the commonwealth ind it can through the verk of the equalities the remier. It is the second the feather than the remier as remier. not gave an a factor of there, so the result of the Controls hear plantement bib, ool, businees, servoit for book desel do now theeler sein bus tievede to be giderabest out whom erest wave from

in New South Fales and a little misunderstanding in South Australia - the branches in .B.S.W. and S.A.fell to pieces. We are most anxious that those two Branches should come in and affiliate with the gentlemen attending this Conference to bring those branches into existence? I think it would be very nice if you gentlemen would be willing to further the objects of this Association and in a way amalgemente with us, so that you could take office at the next Congress Meeting in connection with the Australian Deaf & Dumb Association.

Mr. Martin: What about Tasmania? A. Pasmania has not got Adult Deaf and Dumb Societies.

MR. SHOWELL: If you forms branch, I do not see why you could not go to the Government and get your £2,000.

- Mr. FORRES. It occurred to we while Mr. Abraham was speaking that we are missing a very big opportunity in New South Wales. He stated that the Deaf, as a Deputation, waiting on the Minister for Education in Victoria and they were successful. Now, Mr. President and gentlemen, what an opportunity we have at the present moment if we would only go to our Minister of Education, taking with us from the Conference those who are doaf and Dumb in order to try and get compulsory education for the deaf and dumb children of M.S. Wales. I think we are just alsoing a great opportunity, and if there is no resolution before the Conference, I would nove that this ConfereNOR consider the advisability of waiting upon the Minister of Education re this question.
- MR. ABRARAM: I thinky Mr. Chairman you would stand a greater chance of success if such an appeal came from an organisation representing the whole of the Deaf and Dumb of the Commonwealth.
- Association, they would simply refer us to the Federal Government
  That would be their loopholes of escape at once. I think we are a
  little bit out of order, and I wentyou to confine attention to
  the subject matter actually in front of us the joining formation
  of a Deaf & Dumb Association for the Commentmenth or joining in
  that one already formed.
  - MR.LONSDALE: I had a look through these rules just briefly, and I would like to know whether the idea of the Association is to combine the Deaf Mutes innan association for the Example of Local Committees. A. The idea is to combine the Deaf and Dumb and all interested in their welfare.
  - MR. MONSDALE: quite true, but is it an Association consisting of Deaf Autes or Societies? A. It is to bring the Deaf and Dumb and all interested in their welfare together just as this conference is here to-day.
    - O? You wish this Association to control the whole of the Deaf & Dumb organisations? A. To make recommendations just as this association is doing now.
    - . That wipes out the Local Committees. A. Oh, no. We recommend to those Committees.
    - are superseded? A. Not at all, Mr. Lonsdale. You might just as well say that this Conference here are taking over the whole of the work of all the Deaf and Dumb Societies, but it is not. We are met here as an Advisory Board, as it were, making recommendations to all the State Deaf and Dumb Societies, and that is what the organisa? It finds out information. For instance, this Conference has requested Mr. Cox and myself to find out certain information. Well, the Adult Deaf and Dumb Societies of the various States would write to the Australasiah Reaf and Dumb Association to find the information that you have requested is to get. Then we distribute

MR. ABRAHAM: Excuse me.

MR. LONSDALE: That is my interpretation. I am asking for information.

Local Committees - Our Committee for instance.

MR. ABRAHAM: Excuse me. Sir, the main object of an Adult Deaf & Dumb Society is to provide religious services to visit the sick and othersx at their homes, and fin them employment, to provide homes for the aged, infirm and mentally different and so on. We do not undertake any those objects not one of them.

MR. LONSDALE: We have been talking here two or three days on these very objects. It is confusing really. We ought to make it perfectly plain what is meant and be very careful that the two will not conflict.

MR. ABRAHAM: We have been going 20 years, Sir, and there has been no conflict.

MR.COX: I may say that our Branch of the Association in Adelaide lapsed I have some idea that it was because this Association did not accomplis anything more than what the Societies were doing They were paying subscriptions to the Association, but they felt they were receiving no benefits from it and it was just as waste of money. That is my impression

MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Cox is entirely under a wrong impression. The reason that the South Australian Branch fell to pieces was, I believe, that Mr.
Johnston, the Headmaster of the School for the Beaf and Dumb of the State was against free and compulsory education, and he went and demanded that the Deaf and Dumb break up the Branch. I think that is the truth of the case; at any rate, that is the statement the Beaf themselves gave to me.

Speaking with regard to getting no benefits from the subscriptions given, the position is this, the Victorian Branch set to work and did achieve success as I have just pointed out. They get zzyme for a farm and they get a pension for the education. They get zz,000 for a farm and they get a pension for the ex Headmaster of the first school for the Deaf and Dumb. South Australia simply formed themselves into a Branch and did nothing. Did they expect the Victorian Deaf to go over there and work for them? Our feeling is that each Branch should accomplish its own work, in its own States, and quite independently of the Edult Deaf and Dumb Societies. States, and quite independently of the Rault Deaf and Rumb Societies.

It is not the thing to go and plead for free and compulsory instruction for the Deaf. My

Committee refuse to do it in the first instance, but I was determined to form another independent organisation. This organisation was successful in doing that. The School Committee appraoche the Government, and then our Board felt justifie in going too. That is the exact position.

MR. BOOTH: Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen, I was one of the delegates from New South Vales and the time. It is quite true that things have been discussed and carried on the condition that the rules be sent to all the States for perusal, and the rules were made by Victorian alone. I believe when we received the rules they g us a surprise because we were never consulted as to the tru aaims of the constitution, so the most intelligent of our De members went through the rules, and we never advised their adoption
The chief reason for apposing the formation of an A.D.A. was because
it would mean two societies in each State and would cause friction,
and it is possible if any deaf and dumb have a grievance against the
Society, they might make a breakaway, and would tell the Deaf and
Dumb"We have nothing to dowith your work. We cannot help you in
Melbourne; you can do it yourselves". I warn you solemnly not to
adopt the Scheme. For instance, on account of Labour associated with
the different branches now, there have been many breakaways, which
cause the trouble, trouble, trouble. Exactly the same thing will happen
here if it is constituted. The big majority of the Deaf members have
no interest in it. If it is formed the same thing will happen as with t
habour Leagues. It is best to be under one control, that of the Board
of Managerment. I am sorry to say that the Deaf & Dumb have very little
business faculty, and we can trust the hearing Board to look after the
interests of the Deaf and Dumb. They have greater influence with the
Public than the deaf and dumb? They have greater influence with the
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MR. ABRAHAM: There is absolutely no reason why hearing members should not be a part of the Board of Management of the A.D.A. and if there is any thing of that character in the rules it can measily be aftered at the next Conference. The Board elected is composed of such gentlemen as are elected by the whole of the members. I see no argument on the part of Mr. Booth at all.

Mr. Lonsdale: Mr. Dooth has got a very big argument here I think the rules in the book. I picked out that rule myself.

MR. ABRAHAM: The New South Wales representatives passed it.

AR.LONSDAM: I am not complaining about passing it. I just picked out a particular rule before ar. both started to speak. Hearing persons who have spent three years of actual work among the Deaf teachers missionaries and secretaries of Adult Mission Societies may be admitted as members of this association on the same conditions as the Deaf. Take our own Committee. We cannot get into that association we are debarred absolutely. Ar.Mortlock cannot get into it; I cannot get into it. Mr.Mortlock has not been in this job three years, neither have I. Most of our members have not. Under this constitution it is impossible for us to take part at all in this association. This is just what Mr.Booth said. Now, Ar.Fresident, I want to do the very best thing I can for people. May presence here to day shows that I have some sympathy and interest in the show, but I do not think that this is the right way of doing it. To my mind there must be an association or a Federal Body of the Societies. Every Deaf mute has the right and privilege of becoming a member of the Society, there is nothing to debar or stop him and they have the right of electing their officers. Why should we create another Society. Everything will be done by us for the advancement of the Beaf and Dumb. I believe that is the right way. My contention is that if you have two Societies, you will get the trouble that Mr. Booth has mentioned. You also heard what Mr.Cox said, and the reason they cut it out in South Australia.

MR. ABRAHAM: I think Mr. Cox has misled the Convention.

MR. B MSDALE: I do not think that Mr. Cox would deliberately mislead us, but there it is Mr. Abraham- something has gone wrong. I believe that there should be only one Association- one Federal Body.

MR. ADRAHAMI: xxixinkxxxxxxxx That is what I am asking for.

MR.LONSDALE: One Federal Body of Control, and that should be the Societies and not the Association. I am anxious that we should have one governing body right round Australasia to govern and control and help these people. To my mind, only one Society can do it - that is the formation of a federal body of Societies or Institutes or what-ever you call them, and the controlling power to be left in the hands of those

soing to have two controlling bodies in this Commonwealth and that appears to me a waste of time and energy misapplied. There is nothing in the wide world to prevent a Federal body from having a Conference every year or every 10 years. I agree with Er. Booth. I am a hearing man, and I think that if you will get a few hearing people into the control of your Society, you will get very much better results. We sympathise with those dear chaps here because we love them, but we think that they have not got just that ability to control the Association as it should be controlled. Under this constitution, very very few hearing men will be allowed in this Association. I do not even know that Ar. Mart IN will be allowed, although he has been for years and years a worker for the Deaf and Dumb. As Er. Booth pointed out, this Association can be guided a good deal better under a Joint Committee of hearing members.

Society that invited the Australian Deaf and Dumb Association to send its Bresident over there and found the Society, and now that the Australian Deaf & Dumb Association has founded this Society, New South Wales turns them down. It is beautiful. However, I can see the point Mr. Lonsdale is driving at. That article was at the time strongly opposed by me, but I was convinced in the end that the self-defence. That is, had they not put that clause in, the Board of Management of the Australasian Deaf & Dumb Association in its infancy might have been swamped with hearing and speaking gentlemen, in full sympathy perhaps with the Deaf and Dumb, but not with the knowledge to enable them to do that which was best as the Deaf as the deaf themselves thought for themselves. They had the feeling that their opinions would be swamped by outsiders, and it was a ver natural feeling too. There is no reason however, why this constitution might not be altered in order to carry on the work on the lines that Mr. Lonsdale desires. There is no personal feeling on the part of any of the members. Our aim is to do all the good we possibly can; we are all out for that. At the time this was founded it was necessary that some outside organisation should take over the work. For instance, the work that was carried on here in New South Wales.

MR.CHAIRMAN: Might I just make a few remarks in regard to my attitude personally towards a federated Association. I am not going to rake up any ancient history. I know nothing at all of what happened before the last two years. I am very much inclined to the view taken by our good friend Mr.Lonsdale. I have only curcorily gone throughthe constitutions but I think several things there could be altered for the benefit of the Deaf and Dumb and the benefit of the Association, such as the point under discussion now, I think it manish be formed as an Association consisting of delegates or officers or Committees from the State institutions or societies. That would not debar the deaf mute from becoming a delegate and voicing the views of the deaf mutes themselves. And I think if we could consider carefully not just now this matter of the alteration of the constitution, we might come o to some arrangement whereby the Association, which is at present confined to Victoria and Queensland, should be vitalised and its operations extended, and possibly South Australia and New South Wales would see their way to join in. But I think so far as our State is Concerned, it will have to be very much on the lines asroughly outlined Mr.Lonsdale.

erganisation is made up of representatives of we will say the Deaf & Dumb Societies and possibly the schools, it will consist mainly of hearing and speaking officers, and therefore the deaf will not have a controlling power but the hearing and speaking with. You can see that the idea of the Deaf is to have the controlling voice- 51% in any organisation - quite apart from the work such as is carried on among the Deaf and Dumb in the various States.

- FR. LOUSDAIR: I am sorry that we had not some information before we started to talk, because we might o on talking for years. I move that the State Societies be recommended to consider and bbtain date with a view to resuscitating the A.D.A.or the formation of a Federal Body.
- MR.COX: I cannot see the advisability of forming a Federal Body or association. If members of the Deaf and Dumb Societies meet in Conference, then thetwill certainly carry weight when they go back to our Societies, and the very fact that we have discessed this matter and approved and recommended it to other States ought to be sufficient to aid those Societies in obtaining what they require: It seems to me that it will be unnecessary to form another body.
- MR. AURAHAM: Here is a body holding conferences and making recommendations k and carrying on work for 20 years, and now you say turn them out of existence and form another body.
- MR.LUF: I appreciate Mr.Lonsdals suggestion for a Federal Body, and would ask what name it should be known under. A.That would be for future consideration.
- MR.LOHSDAIR: The ultimate sim of the Association is to unite the whole of the Beaf of Australasia in a common brotherhood, and they would form their own controlling body.
- MR.SHOWELL: I sympathise with Mr. Booth's criticism, and agree with the policy suggested by Mr.Lonsdale.
- Milanspale: For instance look at Australian Pederation. What has become of it? The Federal Government has too much tentrolling power over the x States. Exactly the same thing would happen with our Societies. The A.D.A might becomes very powerfuland be able to overthrow the Societies" management.
- MR. JOHNSTON: Mr. Chairman, the A.D. A will never interfere with the work of the Deaf and Dumb Societies.
- MR. TUNIMY: If you did not have the ATD. A. you would take me the wer not have got compulsion or those other benefits you spoke of.
- MR. JOHNSTON: No. because no other organization would take up the work.
- MR. BOOTH: The Local Deaf Committee would have sufficient power to approach the Board of Management if anything is wanted from them.
- MR.MARTIN: In this suggested scheme, Er?Chairman, is it intended that all tHE States the Missioner shall be ex officien the Chairman of the A.D.A.
- MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Martin, that would depend upon any rule or regulation made at a Congress Meeting.
- ER.LONSDALE: We must abide by the present rules.

In a like some of you gentlemen, I do not know the inner workings of this difficulty at all. I recognise that the Victorian people through the Amsociation were able to do something which was of benefit to the Deaf of Victoria particularly, and that was getting compulsory education for the Deaf. Now, Sir, I would point out that this Conference has agreed to recommend that to all the States. That was one of the cutatanding points that resulted from the Conference of 1904. I amy say, Centlemen, that my son was present at that Conference. Each Deaf and Dumb Association throughout the States appointed delegates, and my son was one of those delegates. On many occasions, I have had to listen to his arguments in favour of what Victoria got, but I felt uncertain as to whether it would be right to stir the thing up again. The Principal of the oducational institution had Advised his Committee that subscription from the public would be reduced, and they would be wise to let this matter drop and not introduce compulsory education for the Deaf in South Australia

I felt that Er. Johnson was amen who ought to know, he had not the interests of the Beaf at heart and we ought to be guided by such an expert as he was. Although I have been a member of the beaf and Dumb Mission Committee, for some eight or nine years, and have been deaply interested, as you may realise from what I have said here, in the Adult Deaf and Dumb as well as the little children, I have been uncertain as to which side I should take. I thought it would be wise when I was coming to this State to call at the St. Kilda Road Institution and get some information at first hand? From there I have come to this Conference. The Secretary assured BO Shusunt this Sundramentary, a have medimentahashymmeticality ALEXIMANABLE EN AND VALUE X EXCHANGE AND AND AND AND COMPULSORY education has worked splendidly, and since we have been at this Conference, Sir, I have realised that practically all the States are at a disadvantage in that they do not know whether the whole of the Deaf are being educated or not. If we want children to be made good citizens we all know that it is desirable that they should be educated - no matter whether normal or abnormal, and it amount to me that education is a very more important in warrant. it appears to me that education is even more important in regard to the Deaf than for the normal child. If I had not taken a special interest in the early stages of my dear boy's life, he would never have been able to take the position that he can take now, kn waxxx There are many parents under very different circumstances to myself? situated perhaps in some remote parts of the different States, or have sent a recommendation form this Conference to all the States hope that some one will advise the best course to take in all the outline. I can conceive that a deputation to the Minister of the Education, heade by a man like the Victorian President of the A.D.A. in order to show him what can be done for the Deaf if properly educate , must have some weight. I am sincerely hopeful that this Conference will not stifle discussion. Some of us have come a long way and we are deeply desirous of doing the very best we can for the deaf community throughout the Commonwealth, and I for one do not care if we sit here for whole of the week. We have in the different States different electoral districts. We can take the Deaf as being an electoral division who have no representation by forming themselves into an association, and wisely guided by their kissioner they from their standpoint will be able to but forward suggestions which they think will be for the welfare fix of their minetitations without inverfering with the general working. I think they are wise to have such an association. I quite agree with Mr. Lonsdale that if it can be merged into this and all work for the same end and be controlled by the same body, a Federated Committee, right throughout the Commonwealth, it will be very helpful indeed. I sincerely hope that we shall give this matter the fullest consideration.

(Discussion) HAM: It is my desire to get the Adult Deaf and Dumb Societies to lend a sympathetic ear in this matter, and to get their representatives such as their Missioners and men who have experience among the Deaf and Dumb, to act as advisers. For instance, supposing a Branch is formed in South Australia among the Deaf and dumb themselves. That is a branch of the Australian Deaf and Dumb Association composed mainly of Deaf and dumb people, but Mr. Cox would be eligible for any rost,
President, anything. It is a great factor if we can have men like Mr. COX
as a member of that organisation as a leader and guide to them where
as if they form the Association themselves and leave us out,
difficulties may arise and there would be no one to take a sympathetic interest in their organisation and prevent it possibly from interfering with the work of other Deaf and Dumb Societies.

RESOLUTION:
"That the State Societies of the Deaf & DUMB recommended to consider and obtain data with a view to:

(A) Red forming the A.D.A. or

(B) The preation of a Federal Body of State

Societies, and to report on this and any other matters relating to the Deaf, to a Conference of CARRIED be held in 1925".

adjos Regardant Ar. Tonsdam Arteknoon 2.30 p