

imperialistic sentiment, and religious enthusiasm, however deep, does not aid greatly in explaining the rank injustice of the Education Bill unless its clauses are studied and understood. Local enthusiasts should certainly be encouraged, but it would be as well if they confided their arguments to some practised politician before they launched them into mid-air.

It would seem, therefore, that the political education of the country must be undertaken by competent politicians, but they are very scarce, for the simple reason that politics is the only subject which may be practised before it is learnt. Any one who cares to spend money may be a candidate, and any one may become his agent. It is impossible to hope that busy lawyers and business men and gentlemen of leisure who are willing to be candidates will undertake educational work in their constituencies, even if they are competent to do so. That being the case, the spade work must be done by the Inspectors, Agents, and Lecturers of the National Union, and it is necessary to ensure that they know their work.

Now where is the average man to acquire a knowledge of politics? Facts in history, law and economy can be derived from text-books, and a limited knowledge of current politics from the reviews and newspapers. This is not sufficient. Some school of instruction is necessary, in which those who aspire to be Agents and Lecturers can be trained. The value of statistics when properly used, the abstraction of points from speeches, the separation of principles from padding, the best method of meeting arguments, of debating, of constructing speeches, of organising constituencies, all require careful explanation. Politicians would not make half as many mistakes if they knew history well enough to benefit by the errors of their predecessors, and Statesmen would not be driven hither and thither by imaginary mandates if they understood the real feeling of the country. This brings us to the chief part of the organised education of politicians. It is absolutely necessary in these days to discover what the country wishes, and this can only be done by travelling about among people of