

SALTER ASSAILS WASTE, CRUELTY OF CAPITALISM

Noted British Economist Tells University Conference System Must Be Changed.

Capitalism was accused of "excessive waste and intolerable injustice" by Sir James Arthur Salter, former director of the Economic and Finance Section of the League of Nations, speaking this afternoon before the Conference of Universities at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. Thomas W. Lamont presided at the conference, which is sponsored by New York University.

Declaring that the capitalistic system must be transformed, Sir James called upon the universities of the world to centre their efforts on instructing mankind in the humanities rather than the sciences.

Science A Frankenstein.

"I do not advocate cessation of scientific research or technical training," he said. "But the proper use of the gifts of science is now more important than their increase."

Man's specialized activities, said Sir James, had developed more rapidly than the framework of society needed to control them, with the result that applied science was a Frankenstein which now threatened to destroy the world.

"The conquest of nature," said the speaker, "while not complete, has for the first time in history become sufficient to supply all men's needs. But in the sphere of human relationships man has failed."

Robbed of Fruits.

"Waste and destructive reactions rob us of nine-tenths of the fruits of our achievements in mastering nature and in organization and industrial skill."

Nations today, he asserted, are so interdependent that to survive and go forward they must cultivate understanding and co-operation.

Academic freedom of opinion and utterances has yet to be won by American universities, Chancellor Samuel Paul Capen, of the University of Buffalo, said at the morning session. He declared that in many universities the scholar speaking counter to popular opinion on public controversies ran the risk of suppression or dismissal.

Spirit of Research.

University educational activities, said Chancellor Capen, should be infused with the spirit of research and made to square with intellectual integrity. Tested thus, he added "I doubt whether one university could be found that is chemically pure."

Although stupendous sums have been given to universities by philanthropists and by public appropriations, said Chancellor Capen, advanced scholarly research has not in general been either adequately or intelligently supported.

A spirited discussion from the floor followed Chancellor Capen's

address in which proponents of learning for learning's sake politely crossed swords with the more practical.

Opposes Factory Element.

Sir James Colquhoun Irvine, vice chancellor of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland, declared for the teaching of pure science in the universities and against the making of the university as an "adjunct to the factory." But Ernest H. Wilkins, president of Oberlin College, urged that learning is not an end in itself and that universities have a real obligation to society outside the campus.

Academic freedom must be maintained, agreed Harold H. Swift, president of the board of trustees of the University of Chicago, but he advised university faculties not to "abuse" such freedom. One "radical" professor, he declared, could "give an entire university a bad flavor."

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