FUTURE OF THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE

Sir Frank Warner K.B.E.

To cite this article: Sir Frank Warner K.B.E. (1918) FUTURE OF THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE, Journal of the Textile Institute Proceedings and Abstracts, 9:7, 149-152, DOI: [10.1080/00405001808631595](https://doi.org/10.1080/00405001808631595)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/00405001808631595>

Published online: 24 Nov 2008.

Submit your article to this journal [↗](#)

Article views: 2

View related articles [↗](#)

or Reconstruction Council will not have occasioned surprise in view of the developments in similar direction on the part of the Cotton Control Board. The constitution of the Control may undergo some modification so far as its reconstructional work is concerned. Agreement appears to prevail that the difficulties against which the Wool Control Board has had to contend will not be removed with the advent of peace. Sir Charles Sykes has made it abundantly clear that the system of rationing cannot be readily abandoned, having regard to the international as well as the domestic character of the whole problem. Already, the Wool Control Board has taken steps to meet the situation both in regard to the period of

transition and the onset of peace. A scheme has been devised for turning cloth made for military purposes to civilian account. The Board has not only won achievements during the war, but has exercised keen foresight in anticipation of events to follow. In some respects, the path of the Wool Control Board has been more difficult to tread than that of the Cotton Control Board; it appears to have had to wring order out of a good deal of early chaos. The fact that the Wool Control Board is regarded as a body well fitted to continue as a permanent institution on the lines of the so-called Whitley scheme is in itself testimony to the high value placed upon its administrative capacity and efficiency.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INSTITUTE.

ANNUAL AUTUMN CONGRESS AT BRADFORD.

By invitation of the Yorkshire Section, the ninth Annual Autumn Congress of the Institute was held at Bradford on the 3rd, 4th, and 5th October. The proceedings commenced on the Thursday evening by a reception at the Town Hall, where the members were entertained by the Lord Mayor of Bradford (Mr. H. H. Tetley, J.P.), and the Deputy Lord Mayor (Mr. W. H. Brocklehurst). In the course of the evening, the President (Sir Frank Warner) and Mr. George Garnett, Chairman of the Council, warmly thanked the Lord Mayor for his hospitality and expressed great appreciation of Bradford's recognition and welcome of the Textile Institute.

On the Friday morning, following a meeting of the Council, the members assembled in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall under the Chairmanship of Sir Frank Warner, K.B.E. (President).

FUTURE OF THE TEXTILE INSTITUTE.

By SIR FRANK WARNER, K.B.E., President.

In an address on the above subject, the PRESIDENT said:—The truth has been impressed upon us during these four years of terrible war that behind the propelling force of explosives and the energy arising from the employment of vast numbers of men must be the will to achieve if success is to be attained. That is indeed the lever which should lie behind all human effort; desire, if backed by the necessary energy or propelling force, is as the faith which moves mountains. The simile may be applied to the case of the Textile Institute. If the Textile Industry is satisfied that the Institute shall remain as it is, fulfilling a useful purpose but unable from lack of funds to grapple with textile problems in the widest sense, then the Institute will not develop. But if there is a widespread conviction that an organisation, possessing the power and the means to act and worthy of the great industry it represents, ought to exist, and if behind that conviction

there is a determination that it shall develop, then accomplishment is certain. Nor is it not only certain, but when we cast an eye over the enormous extent of the textile industry in this country and its great wealth-creating and profit-producing capacity, the accomplishment should be a comparatively easy task.

What, then, is my purpose in addressing you this morning on the future of the Textile Institute? If it is to carry conviction to the minds of the prominent men in the industry of the need of a properly-founded, securely established, and fully developed Institute, working actively, constantly, and efficiently for the industry and its manifold problems, then surely my task should be unnecessary? At the same time, we must remember that Rome was not built in a day, and one can hardly expect men working as they are to-day at high pressure, beset by difficulties and perplexities of every conceivable kind except poverty, and in most cases worn by anxiety, to easily and voluntarily set aside even a few hours to consider the affairs of the Institute, its achievements, its programme of present and future activities, and the financial aspect of the organisation. It is obvious, I think, that, unless they are able to go thoroughly into the matter and convince themselves that the Institute is really undertaking work of a kind essential to the prosperity of the industry, they are not likely to put their hands into their pockets for large sums of money to support it.

The main object of my remarks is to point out to these men the urgent need of the establishment of the Institute on a firm and solid basis, with a sound, financial backing; to plead with them to give their early and careful consideration to the development scheme recently drawn up, and to help us by a liberal generosity—which will prove for them and for the industry generally a sound and profitable investment—to put in hand everything that is immediately essential in that scheme. It is not my intention to go through the scheme paragraph by paragraph, but, looking at it from a broad aspect, it is clear that it deals with a great variety of interests, many of them of a most

important nature and which are not peculiar to the prosperity of one branch of textile manufacture but are common to them all. The main aims are:—To extend the scope and depth of the technology of the textile trades, to establish and maintain lectureships, to encourage invention and discovery, to promote the standardisation of tests, to establish an efficient library and a reference collection of fabrics, and generally to provide for the textile industry that liaison between the business and scientific mind now recognised as essential to the progress of modern nations. Eventually it will be possible, it is hoped, to secure premises for the Institute—premises adequately equipped and worthy of the great industry it seeks to serve. If adopted, this supplementary programme, which is a natural expansion of the objects for which the Institute was formed, will involve not only a great amount of work but a large expenditure, and I have no hesitation in saying that the amount of £50,000 which we have set out to raise is the minimum sum we shall be satisfied to obtain.

We must all put our shoulder to the wheel and push with greater determination than ever to obtain the funds to enable us to complete our organisation and to get the work into full swing. It is a national question, for there are few districts in this kingdom where some branch of the textile industry has not found a home. Nor do we ask only for financial aid; we want the names of textile people on our list of members; we need their co-operation, their moral as well as their material support. The membership subscription is small, only two guineas a year. I venture to say that if every textile firm of repute in the United Kingdom added that small sum to the item of expenditure known as "sundries" for the purpose of joining the Institute they would, before many moons are over, realise directly, through the information given in our *Journal* alone, that they had made a sound investment, and indirectly, as the years roll on and the Institute's work bears fruit, that they had derived incalculable benefit.

To the past achievements of the Institute in the eight short years of its existence, during four of which its work has naturally been cramped and hindered by this terrible war, some reference might well be made. On the scientific side, to which the energies of the Institute will continue to be largely devoted, it is interesting to recall the fact that the Institute launched the research into the electrification of textile fibres during manufacture, which has now developed into an extensive scheme at the University of Leeds. It has also initiated courses of lectures in various textile centres, and has carried out important investigations in connection with indigo dye and the fixing of standards in connection with indigo-dyed materials.

The work done by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Sections in their respective districts has been most valuable, and I hope it will not be long before other important textile centres have equally active local branches. Very instructive papers have been read and addresses given at these sectional meetings in addition to the contributions dealing with technical, scientific, and other problems which have been pre-

sented at our general conferences, two of which are held each year. Such subjects of common interest as textile mill-driving have received special consideration, and the Institute has promoted important conferences on the subject of the sizing of cotton goods. We have the authority of Mr. Frederick Whowell, so prominent a figure in the bleaching industry, for stating that those conferences resulted in the saving of thousands of pounds annually to the industry.

The exhibitions of foreign fabrics at Manchester and Bradford, which the Institute undertook, led to an investigation being carried out at that fine institution the Bradford Technical College, on the influence of the various methods of combing, drawing, and spinning on single and two-fold twist warp cloths. Nor must I omit to refer to the analyses of samples of foreign fabrics exhibited by the Board of Trade, to which the late Professor Fox, a founder of the Institute, and for many years our esteemed colleague on the Council, gave so much of his valuable time and exceptional skill.

Another feature which I should like to emphasise is the need of scientific education, not only for those who are intended to occupy managerial positions, but for the rank and file of the industry. It is more than ever necessary, in view of the conditions which will have to be faced in the after-war period, that all those engaged in manufacturing operations should have instilled into them the scientific spirit. The love of science for its own sake in opening up avenues of thought which have hitherto been denied to the great mass of the workers must tend to create a new interest in the scientific aspect of the particular branch of manufacture in which they are engaged, with results which, I venture to say, although they can only be dimly apprehended at this moment, will be of the greatest national importance.

There is a side to the life of the Institute which impresses me as being one of great importance, although I do not remember having heard it mentioned before—its social side. If the Institute had done nothing else it has achieved a fine thing in bringing together people engaged in the various branches of the industry, cotton men, wool men, silk men, those in the linen and jute industries, as well as those in kindred trades, such as machinists, bleachers, and dyers, in a way that they have never been brought together before. Such close association in the consideration of questions of common interest to all have led to personal friendship and to a feeling of comradeship which have done much to break down old prejudices and to build up in their place a bond of sympathy and co-operation which is good for the individual and makes life pleasanter and sweeter. It is good for business, too, as I know from instances that have been brought to my knowledge. Men get to know one another, to appreciate each other's difficulties as well as their achievements. The whole outlook on life is broadened by personal contact and exchange of views. The expressions of opinion by men better fitted than ourselves on such questions as science and economics are an education in themselves. We are the better for them, and many of us, most of

us perhaps, determine to profit by them. No one knows the total of the good that is done, because it is incalculable, but it is there all the same. Much more might be said on this aspect of the Institute's work and influence, and when time and opportunity offer I hope to refer to it again. Meanwhile, I would urge upon the Institute to continue its propaganda and to carry its educational and elevating influences into every important textile centre. Our headquarters are at Manchester, and by common agreement there is no better place for them, but we want the life and energy that are usually associated with the heart of things to be found equally strong everywhere, no matter how far away we may be from the place we make our centre. It is so here in Yorkshire. The work you are doing here in Bradford, where, in 1910, the Institute's ever-memorable first Congress was held, in Huddersfield, which gave us such a hearty welcome in 1915, and in Leeds in 1916, where we were the guests of the University and received evidence of the desire of that important centre of industrial education to help us, proves that Yorkshire is fully alive to the important interests that are at stake and to the pressing need for dealing without delay with the many problems which are involved. I hope that I am not too sanguine in expressing my belief that this Congress will see the beginning, or, to be strictly correct, the continuing of a movement which is to make the Textile Institute the central organisation of an industry which, great as has been its past record, is destined to occupy a still more predominant position and to become a more important factor than ever before in the sum of human affairs.

Sir WILLIAM PRIESTLEY, M.P. (Past-President), supporting the President, remarked that the word Reconstruction was in everybody's mouth, but if they were not very careful he feared that the subject was going to be approached from a very narrow point of view. It was the easiest thing in the world to reconstruct a business and at the same time miss the broad outlook which was necessary. Sir Albert Stanley, in a recent speech, said that one of the first problems to solve was such a re-organisation of industry as would make possible the complete overhauling of our industrial equipment and the establishing of large-scale production in all cases where it was economically advantageous. That represented the spirit to be found everywhere. In his own opinion, however, it would never be possible to make this country's commerce prosperous by organisation of that kind. Wages had gone up, and the conditions of the people must be better in the future than they had been in the past—all of which meant that our products were going to cost more money. Therefore, something would have to be done which was not strictly represented by organisation, for which reason he was supporting the President and the members in pushing forward the scheme for the development of the Textile Institute. Their first duty as business men was to consider the foundations of their businesses—what they were built upon. They were built upon the thought, the industry, and the research of the people who controlled them. Bradford had not

been built up through organisation in its narrow sense, but by the enterprise and careful thought of far-seeing men. Trade in the future must be built up in the same way. Why was Germany so often quoted as an example of success? Germany had not better scientists than those of this country, but she took advantage of everything discovered throughout the world. In the case of her steel industry, there was no publication or book issued with respect to it of which Krupps did not immediately obtain a copy for examination, which showed that they were following research work throughout the world. That was exactly what we ought to do ourselves. That was the reason why he strongly advocated the development of the Institute, because he believed it was doing work which could not be done by the ordinary business man. Associations were in course of establishment for research in reference to the various branches of the textile industry. He wanted it to be clearly understood that the object of the Institute was to encourage research, and, if necessary, to co-operate with other organisations, but there was no question of overlapping. If we were going to take our part in the prosperity of the world during the next two or three generations we would have to realise that everything we were going to produce was going to be more costly than in the past, and that to hold the markets we had, and to extend them, would be more difficult, especially when we realised what America was doing, what Germany might do, and what Japan would do in the future. The costs of production in the Bradford trade to-day were almost level with the costs of production in protected America. If those costs were to be kept up—and they would never be as low as they were before—we were going to have competitors in the markets of the world whose competition had not been asserted previously. Japan was making rapid strides, especially in China and India, and we should have to do something there to keep our trade. The only way by which we would be able to keep that trade would be by encouraging research of every kind. We must go to the foundations of things if we wanted to hold our position in the world as we had in the past. That was why he strongly and heartily supported this Institute movement.

Mr. H. P. GREG (Manchester) said the moral of the war was that in order to get we must first give—give energy, strength, and life, in order to get liberty, justice, and righteousness. In the pre-war days, it was "What can I get"; in the post-war days, it must be "What can I give." It was quite true that "You can't get owt for nowt"; equally true that "You can't give owt for nowt." Give, give, give, and what do we get?—the broader view, the wider outlook. It was because he believed the Textile Institute stood for this broader view, this wider outlook, that he asked them to support it with all their energy. We must emerge from this war, this nightmare of horrors, this glory of heroic deeds, into this broader view, this wider outlook, if we were to escape the horrors of revolution, if we were to enjoy the glory of heroic deeds. What was this broader view, this wider outlook? It was merely the striving to bring into our daily life, our business world, the

golden rule—Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you. In our daily life, in our business world, in the pre-war days, we had too much of the base rule—do unto others as they would do unto you, only do it first. Truly, it was more blessed to give than to get. We were at the parting of the ways, and it had been said that industrial re-organisation must be based on social service. This social service was nothing more nor less than "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you." It had been said that confidence was the basis of all true relationship. The confidence between buyer and seller, master and master, master and man, man and man, could only be obtained by the broader view and the wider outlook. He had himself received from a member of the Institute, with whom he conversed the previous evening, an enormous amount of encouragement and inspiration. That member was talking about research work, and said it was no good going in for this work if the narrow view were taken—if it were simply a matter of what could be got out of it. The line of argument was that they must go on the principle of not what they could get out of it, but what they could give and put into it. The getting would come of a certainty according as they gave. He (Mr. Greg) felt sure that, in the past, this Institute had stood up to the line of the wider view and would stand to it in the future. On these grounds, he solicited widespread support for its development.

INSTITUTE FOUNDATION FUND.

THE PRESIDENT made an announcement in reference to the Foundation Fund. He stated that they had received from Mr. John Crompton the promise of the magnificent sum of £2,000. Mr. Crompton placed this money at their disposal in honour of his son, killed in the war, and it was intended to be invested to provide prizes and rewards in respect of design in relation to woven fabrics. He (the President) took a very deep interest in textile design, and he would like to add his personal appreciation of the gift, which was by far the largest, for the particular purpose, which had come before his notice. Messrs. Tootal Broadhurst, Lee Co. Ltd., of Manchester, had subscribed £1,000—a donation typical of the generosity of this distinguished firm. Messrs. G. Garnett & Sons Ltd., Apperley Bridge, near Bradford, £500, in addition to a previous contribution of £100; Belgrave Mills Co. Ltd., Oldham (per Mr. W. Greenwood), £500; Ald. W. Frost, Macclesfield, £400, in addition to a previous donation of £100; The Patent Conveyor Co. Ltd., Bradford (per Mr. John F. White), £100.

THE PRESIDENT, on behalf of the Institute, expressed deep gratitude to the donors, and said the contributions promised well for the success of the scheme. He asked to be allowed to augment his own subscription of £100 by a further contribution of £400.

Subsequently, Sir WILLIAM PRIESTLEY, M.P., intimated his decision to contribute £400—also an addition to £100 previously given.

THE PRESIDENT, having expressed the hope that further donations might come speedily to hand, called

upon Mr. F. W. Sanderson, M.A., headmaster of Oundle, who read a paper as follows:—

SCIENCE, AND EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION.

By F. W. SANDERSON, M.A.

I am very much honoured by your invitation to address this important Congress; I am honoured, too, in being permitted to speak on Education in this great city of Bradford. For your city stands out very prominently in the annals of education, and its educational work is well known by all who have watched educational progress.

I am conscious that in addressing this meeting on the subject of Education for the Industrial Life, I am speaking before men who have much greater experience of that life than I have. Industrialism has tumbled upon us, and it is an untamed, unruly being, the laws of which are not yet known.

You, gentlemen, are concerned with education. You are concerned with the education which will promote the welfare of the leaders and workers in your industry, and the welfare of the people in your district. For some 35 years now—a long spell—I have, in places far away from the voices of industry, devoted my time towards the introduction into public schools of those scientific and technical studies which, as I understand it, lie at the basis of industrial life. I have always had before me the work of organising technical subjects so that they might give all that is best of spiritual and intellectual training. And our object is to send forth from school boys who will be in sympathy with the work they have to do—that they will be privileged to do—and that they may be equipped for it. And your wish is the same. Your wish is that the boys and girls of your country should have every chance of developing into effective workers in the community, and that they should take a zealous, intellectual interest in their work—that they should love their work, love to do it well, and feel always anxious to go on to higher things. One of the difficult problems in the immediate future will be to re-organise industrial conditions so that each worker has the chance of stretching his faculties, and of getting on to work which will give him reasonably full play for his abilities. The fact that able and clever men are, on the present system, kept too long at work which does not stretch their brains is a cause of unrest. Fortunately, there is a growing consensus of opinion that more freedom for change and for advancement is seriously necessary, and this sympathetic opinion leads towards a solution. It is also well within the work of a school to promote this sympathy by sending out boys with those intellectual, scientific tastes and knowledge which will react upon themselves, and attract the workers to them.

There are two other questions which I will mention before I come to the actual work which may be done in schools. One of the main aims of a good school is to see that each boy and girl is cared for, that each one has every opportunity of development. We must not cast out, or send our weak ones away—we must find