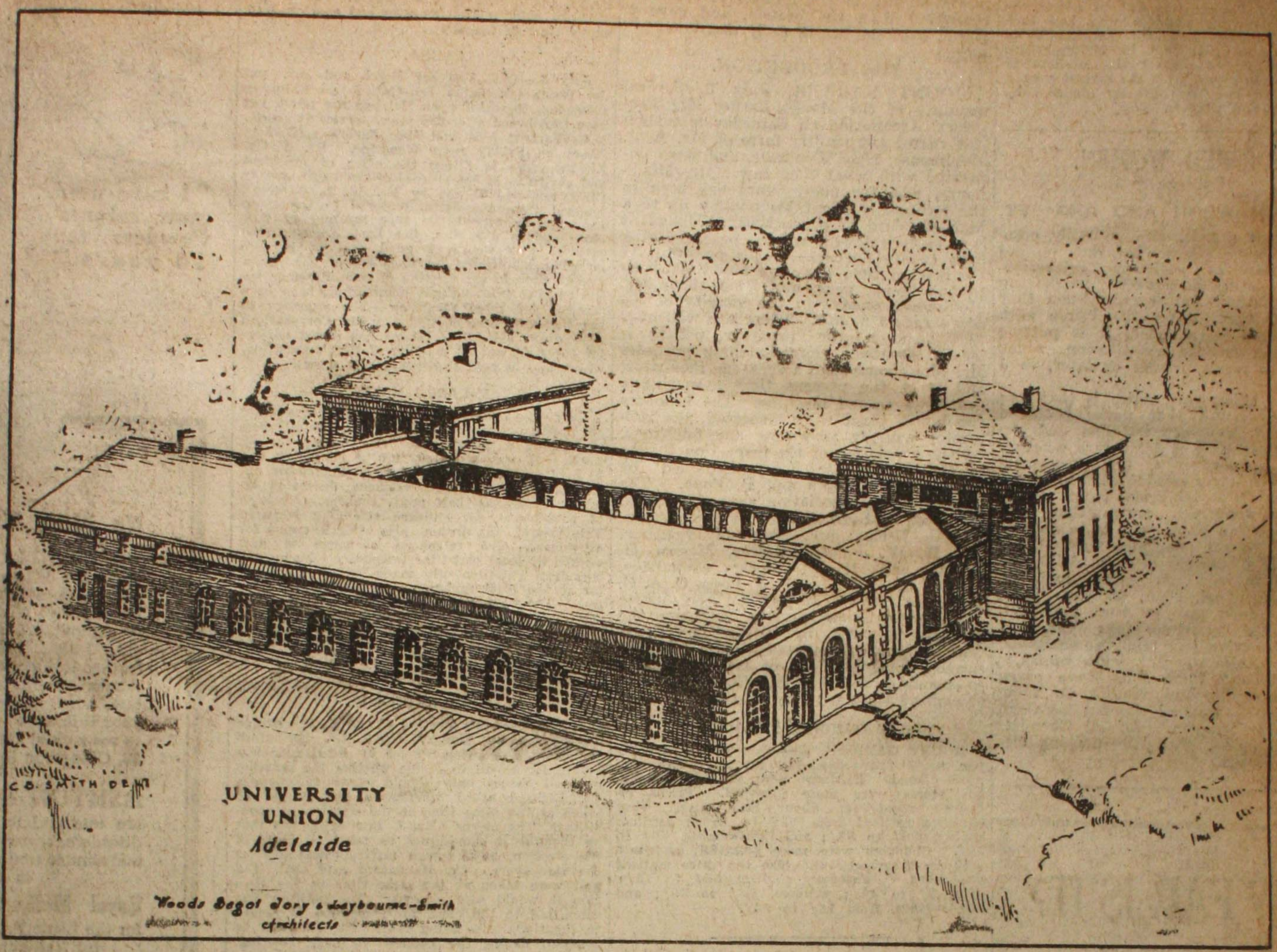


# UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION BUILDING.



A comprehensive perspective drawing of the structure as it will be when completed, viewed from the south-east. The dining hall is shown in the foreground, and the memorial cloisters at the rear.

were lost in coming to a decision as to whether or no a national library should be founded.

Other great libraries have similarly been built up by the aid of gifts, notably the Bodleian at Oxford. A story is told of Sir Edward Maunde Thompson, that his life ambition was to become Bodley's Librarian, but failing its realization, he had become Librarian of the British Museum. Oxford's great Library, which is even more a national than a university library, was founded, or rather refounded, by Sir Thomas Bodley in 1602. He gave the building and the books, and obtained for the library a covenant with the Stationers' Company for it to receive a copy of every book published in the Kingdom—a privilege which was perpetuated by Act of Parliament of Charles II. in 1662. James I. visited the Library in 1605 and again five years later, when, joking with more than usual difficulty, he complimented the founder by saying, "Sir Thomas Bodley should be Sir Thomas Godly." Gifts came in from all sides, from the King himself and from learned men all over the country. He enlisted the help of such men as Burleigh, Raleigh and Sir Kenelm Digby. The last-named cut down fifty oaks in order to buy a building site near Exeter College, and later gave a number of fine books, some of which had been given to him by Thomas Allen. He justified this presentation by saying that he believed Allen would like them to be well used, and he knew that "all good things are the better the more they are communicated." Instances both ancient and modern could be multiplied of presentations to libraries by which the names of great men have been perpetuated in the gifts of libraries or of collections of books to national institutions. All the great libraries of Europe have received such gifts; and America is probably more richly endowed by gifts of libraries and books than any other country.

Australia, though far in arrears in regard to library provision in general,

has nevertheless received some generous gifts towards the State and University Collections. Chief among these is the Mitchell Library of Australiana in Sydney, which not only comprises a unique collection of books, but also a rich endowment towards its upkeep. More recently the Dixon collection has still further enriched the State Library of New South Wales. Sydney has also the Fisher Library, a noble endowment to its University. In South Australia the University has been perpetually benefited by the thoughtfulness and care of the Barr Smith family. How much less comprehensive, too, would be our Public Library but for the generous bequest of Dr. Morgan Thomas, whose endowment has, in the financial stringency of recent times lasting for several years, constituted almost the sole source of book purchases. These gifts and bequests to libraries can be roughly classified into three kinds. There are the collections deliberately built up with the idea of benefiting the public. There are the gifts made to institutions as thankofferings for the benefits derived by the donors from their use. And there is the gift made by a lover of books of his own collection that has been his chief resort and comfort throughout his life. In this last category Sir Josiah Symon is linked in spirit with Sir Richard de Bury. His collection is one of the most notable private libraries in Australia. Rich in English literature and particularly in works of and relating to Shakespeare; with many beautiful examples of printing from the modern fine presses, such as the Kelmscott and the Doves; and containing an exceptionally fine selection of the best works relating to Australian history, culminating in a full record of the country's consolidation into a Commonwealth, Sir Josiah's library is one of which he may well be proud. His desire is that the public of the country with which he has been for so long and so honourably associated may have access to the collection just as he used it, and

that they too may have the opportunity of experiencing the feelings of the book-lover expressed by Southey in his poem:—

"... Around me I behold,  
Where'er these casual eyes are cast,  
The mighty minds of old;  
My never-failing friends are they,  
With whom I converse day by day."

MAIL 7-7-28  
ALSO NEWS

## TEACHING ENGLISH FAILURES IN EXAMS

ADV. 7-7-28

### MUSICAL KNOWLEDGE.

From EDWARD HOWARD, Adelaide:—The possession and display of a cap and gown by a University graduate are a guarantee to the general public, by a legally responsible body, that their wearers possess some knowledge, ability, capacity, or skill, a degree of excellence on which reliance may be placed. The caps and gowns with which Adelaide and its suburbs are being saturated by musical tyros seem to be meant to suggest the same idea. The unwitting and unwary are thereby misled. A false standard of musical culture is being set up, and the art of music is thereby degraded. Do not the holders of these certificates—they cannot truthfully claim to be called diplomas—set up as qualified teachers, and is not good natural talent thereby grievously injured instead of being skillfully and wisely directed? Is not pecuniary advantage, rather than the advancement of music, the motive that sways the institutions and teachers concerned; and vanity and prospective pupils those that sway the wearers of the caps and gowns? It is the duty of those who understand to enlighten the public. Most of the leading bona fide teachers have strong objections to the position.

Sir Archibald Strong (professor of English at the University of Adelaide) met representatives of the teaching profession in Adelaide in conference at the University this morning. The conference was the result of representations made by the professor to the University council. The teachers considered that the large number of failures in English at the last leaving examinations had created a most serious position. About 12 teachers from public and private schools attended. The chair was taken by Mr. J. C. McDonnell (St. Peter's College). Sir Archibald addressed the conference for more than an hour, and spent a like time answering questions from the teachers.

Sir Archibald stated afterward that both the teachers and himself had given their respective points of view in regard to the teaching of English in South Australia with incidental reference to the public examinations.

"A perfectly satisfactory understanding was reached between the teachers and myself," concluded Sir Archibald.

"Satisfactory Understanding"

ADV. 11-7-28

### THE UNIVERSITY UNION.

A meeting of students was held at the Adelaide University during the lunch hour on Tuesday to discuss the draft constitution for the University Union. Dr. F. S. Hone occupied the chair. The draft constitution was submitted by Professor A. L. Campbell and Dr. Helen Mayo, after which it was discussed by the meeting and certain minor amendements suggested. The suggestions adopted by the meeting will be referred to the drafting committee for consideration before the constitution is submitted to the University Council.