

News 4-8-31

Adv. 5-8-31

Continued

Adv. 5-8-31

ADELAIDE WANTS SHAKING UP

UNIVERSITY'S FIELD

Financial Problems

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Sir William Mitchell) made available yesterday the appended summary of a letter which he had sent to the chairman of the Committee on Public Education (Mr. Wallace Sandford) setting out the University's activities with their costs. The full letter will be issued as a pamphlet on Friday. It explains the revolution that has taken place in British universities since the war, and why the small countries of Europe—Denmark, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland—have the best universities, and therefore excellent schools. The second half of the letter answers the appeal to the University by the Teachers' Union, and recommends the same principle of reaping the advantage of smallness, instead of copying large countries where the mass-production in schools goes as far as it can, just hoping for the best.

Post-war Revolution

The letter begins by contrasting the origin and slow growth of the University as a tertiary school, or place of culture, with the new purpose everywhere else that was adopted by the South Australian Parliament in 1920. "The growth was not so slow as it looks. The ten young, or provincial, universities in England have all grown faster, and gone farther; but they did not feel the drag of the mental-culture notion. Nor did the State universities of America, which are our proper parallel in having their origin from State Parliaments. From 1896 to 1906 their total income was trebled, and in the next eight years it was trebled again, so that it was nine times what it was only 18 years before; and nearly the same for each as for the thirty of them, though each was promoted by a separate Government. But any previous century. That was due to our rate compares well with that of the ancient universities, which, like us, began as tertiary schools. The people of Scotland have always been praised for their devotion to learning. Their four universities have each been gathering benefactions for centuries; yet, when the British Parliament, after the war, decided to give greater power to all the universities, and at first by a Treasury grant of £1,000,000 a year, the four could be given pound for pound on the income from their endowments; and yet their shares were no greater than the average that was earned by the young English universities. It was naturally thought that £1,000,000 a year was an extravagant addition; but first it escaped the Geddes axe, and at the end of five years Parliament increased it for the next five to £1,500,000.

"Last year, when the vote was due for renewal, the amount was made £1,750,000. Each of the sixteen British universities receives from this grant from 40 to 60 per cent. of its income, however large, in addition to whatever grants it receives from the Board of Education and the Board of Agriculture. They are the only bodies in receipt of Government money that are in direct communication with the Treasury, instead of through a Minister."

In South Australia

In 1920 the council took the whole situation to the Government, separating the activities of the University into two divisions. "For the first division there was no need to point elsewhere, because our home question was clear. A favorable answer meant an annual addition of £20,000 to the statutory £4,000 granted by the Act of 1911. The answer came at once, and the amount has been on the Estimates ever since. Even before the war one could see that soon all the professions would be filled by men from the University. That was a danger, unless the future practitioners were given the same quality of teachers and equipment as at Sydney and Melbourne; the country would be ill-served and not know it. It did not lie with the University, but with Parliament, to say whether South Australia should have its professions filled from its own people. I have never heard the decision questioned, except by those who do arithmetic on the budget of the Minister of Education. The question is not how many doctors can be made for the money, how many lawyers, teachers, engineers, but how far they can be taken.

"For the higher division of work, including research, the council requested the removal of the limit on the offer of 5 per cent. on endowments in the Act of 1874. The Government agreed to put the question to Parliament as soon as the early offer was exhausted. This occurred in 1923, and the 1874 Act was amended by striking out the word ten and substituting in lieu thereof the word twenty. As half of the new amount was due on the Waite Bequest, which was valued at £100,000, Parliament was informed that the subsidy would go to the Waite Institute, in-

stead of to the general chest where all the rest goes. The reaction on the Institute was that large grants came from beyond the State for a variety of researches as useful for South Australia as for elsewhere; and soon Parliament passed the ten-year Act of 1927. In accordance with the two Acts, £14,000 of the University grant last year was for agriculture. The other half of the £10,000 offered in 1923 has now been earned, and the limit again reached, through a wide range of bequests. Some of them are directly for research, the largest of these being the Keith Sheridan, valued at £20,000, for medical research. Putting the subsidies on these with the work of the Waite Institute, we may divide the Government grant in two, as £34,000 for the professional schools, and £20,000 for agriculture and the rest. There is also a sum of £3,000 for the duplication of day work at night, and £2,250 for the tutorial classes of the Workers' Educational Association."

Minimum Reached, But Lost

"The name of university and the power to grant degrees are not permitted in Britain till the annual income exceeds £100,000. By reason of the income of the Waite Institute from different sources, we passed the mark two years ago, but are about to fall beneath the minimum again. In order to secure the steady income that allows the University to make its developments and engagements permanent, the endowments from which it has income were invested in South Australian and Federal stock. The total amount is £405,000, of which £210,000 is Federal and £195,000 South Australian."

Adv. 5-8-31

TO STUDY NATIVES

Party To Go North In Few Days

The party of scientists from the University and Museum, to visit Central Australia to study the physical and physiological features of the aborigines at Cockatoo Creek (about 180 miles north-west of Alice Springs), will leave within a few days.

It will be led by the chairman of the Anthropological Research Board (Dr. J. B. Cleland), and will include scientists engaged in the various aspects of anthropology. The Curator of the Museum (Mr. H. M. Hale), the ethnologist (Mr. N. B. Tindale), and an assistant (Mr. Alan Rau), will make the trip to collect mammals and birds for the museum.

"The members of the party desire to study the unsophisticated native in his wild condition," said Dr. Cleland, "and to see how he reacts, and behaves in his natural surroundings. We will also study his use of food; to see whether he is a more economic user of what he obtains than the white man is of his food. There is reason to believe that he is. Measurements will be made of his physical proportions, and tests taken of his hearing and vision."

Adv. 5-8-31

Farewell to Professors

The reception-room of the Lady Mayoress presented an unusually masculine appearance on Tuesday morning, when the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. C. R. J. Glover) gave a farewell to Dr. Fenner, Professor Kerr Grant, and Professor Chapman. A profusion of mauve malochoids in pots looked most effective as floral decoration.

The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress received, Mr. R. N. Hammant (Lord Mayor's secretary) announcing. Mrs. Glover wore a smart black marocain ensemble, with vest of beige georgette and a becoming black hat, turning off the face.

The guests included Sir George Murray, the Premier (Mr. Hill), Professor Sir William Mitchell, Sir Douglas Mawson, Sir Langdon Bonython, Sir Henry Newland, Professor J. R. Wilton, Professor A. E. V. Richardson, Professor A. K. Macbeth, Professor J. B. Cleland, Dr. F. S. Hone, Dr. R. H. Pulleine, Dr. W. T. Cooke, Dr. S. W. Pennycuik, Dr. L. B. Bull, Dr. Eugene McLaughlin, Dr. L. Keith Ward, Messrs. F. W. Eardley, R. H. Chapman, W. G. T. Goodman, J. H. O. Eason, G. F. Dodwell, F. L. Parker, A. A. Simpson, C. T. Madigan, W. J. Adey, R. L. Butler, A. Alderman, R. S. Burden, G. R. Fuller, E. Bromley, F. W. Reid, E. W. Holden, T. E. Barr Smith, W. J. Young, Norman H. Taylor, Oscar Seppelt, E. V. Clarke, H. W. Gartrel, R. C. Robin, F. W. Wheadon, S. W. Durkin, H. W. Sanders, J. W. Statton, R. I. E. Bosworth, A. E. Simpson, C. B. Armstrong, W. J. M. Sedgley, T. E. Day, J. H. McNamara, H. E. Powell, and the Rev. J. C. Jennison.

City Councillor's Opinion

FAREWELL PARTY

"I AM glad to notice that some professors come out into the open and put a little pep and ginger into their pronouncements. That is a good thing, because Adelaide wants shaking up occasionally."

This remark was made by Cr. R. Homburg at a farewell gathering given by Mr. R. J. Glover (Lord Mayor) at Adelaide Town Hall today to Prof. R. W. Chapman and Kerr Krant, of Adelaide University, and Dr. Charles Fenner (Superintendent of Technical Education), who will leave for London by the Balranald tomorrow to attend the centenary conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

Cr. Homburg also issued a warning regarding the overcrowding of professions. Concerning the legal profession, of which he is a member, he said that there were now about 300 practitioners in South Australia, and there were 60 still studying law.

The question arose as to what was to become of the young men aspiring to professions. The same might apply to medical, architectural, and engineering professions.

Mr. Glover, in wishing the members of the South Australian delegation a happy voyage and a safe return, said that it was with pride that the eminent services of other South Australian scientists were recalled.

GREAT CHANGES

Prof. Chapman said that it was 30 years since he had visited England. During that time there had been a tremendous transformation—a change greater than in any previous century. That was due to the gradual increase of knowledge, particularly by means of scientific investigation.

He paid a tribute to the scientific efforts of Michael Faraday. When the work of other famous men, such as Napoleon and Alexander the Great, was compared with that of Faraday, it was insignificant. Neither of the two mentioned had ever produced anything like the same effect on the human race.

Prof. Kerr Grant stressed the need for Australians to make contact at every opportunity with other people of the world. Personal communication with famous scientists was valuable to the teacher, because he found that it was easier then to arouse the interest of the student.

"Once arouse the interest and the ambition of the student, and the rest will accomplish itself," he declared.

On their return, he said, he hoped to find that affairs had taken a turn for the better. Surely there was enough wisdom in the country to keep it on the right lines.

Dr. Fenner said that he was the "youngest and silent member of the party."

News 3-8-31

WORK FINISHED

Advisory Committee to Disband

The work of the Advisory Committee on State Finance will be completed shortly. The committee will then be disbanded.

Composed of Messrs. W. J. Young (chairman), R. R. Stuckey (Under Treasurer), J. W. Wainwright (Assistant Auditor-General), L. C. Hunkin (Public Service Commissioner), and Prof. L. G. Melville, it was appointed several months after the Hill Government assumed office early last year for the purpose of tendering advice on finance to the Government in a critical period.

The reason for the existence of the committee having now been fulfilled, it is felt that it can serve no further purpose.

News 4-8-31

Advice has been received in Adelaide from Mr. Lewis C. Wheeler, South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1929, has been awarded equal first place for the Kingdon Diphtant Prize for the best historical essay for the year at Oxford University. His choice as his subject "Liberal Opinion of the Boer War." He is at Balliol College, Oxford.

Dr. Brian G. Maegrath (South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1930), has relinquished his position at the Adelaide Hospital, and will leave for London on Monday, September 7, by the Hobson's Bay. Dr. Maegrath will take an honors science course at Magdalen College, Oxford.

Adv. 6-8-31

Farewell to Conference Delegates

Many students from the Adelaide University gathered at the Outer Harbor yesterday afternoon to bid "bon voyage" to Professors Kerr Grant and R. W. Chapman and Dr. Charles Fenner (Superintendent of Technical Education), who sailed by the Balranald for London. The students gave the three travellers an enthusiastic Varsity cry as the ship left the wharf.

Professors Kerr Grant and Chapman and Dr. Fenner are the South Australian delegates to the centenary conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, which will begin in London on September 23.

Included among the friends of the delegates, who went to the Outer Harbor to wish them good-bye, were the Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Sir William Mitchell), the Director of Education (Mr. Adey), the Inspector of secondary schools (Mr. G. S. McDonald), Dr. Rodgers, and Mr. E. S. Roach, a former inspector of the Education Department.

Two other delegates to the conference, Professor E. J. Hartung, Professor of Chemistry at the Melbourne University, and Mr. Clive E. Lord, director of the Tasmanian Museum, are travelling on the same steamer.

Adv. 6-8-31

VALUABLE PLANTS FOR UNIVERSITY

Mr. Edwin Ashby, of "Wittunga," Blackwood, has presented to the Adelaide University herbarium, a valuable collection of Australian plants, comprising several hundred specimens, many species of which were not previously represented in the University collection.

Adv. 7-8-31

SCIENTISTS LEAVE FOR INTERIOR

Will Study Aborigines

A party of 13 scientists from the University of Adelaide and the Museum left yesterday morning for Central Australia to study the life and language of aborigines at first hand. The party comprised Professors Cleland, Harvey, Johnson, Wilkinson, and Hicks, Drs. R. Matters, T. D. Campbell, R. Pulleine, K. Fry, Messrs. H. M. Hale, N. Tindale, A. Rau, H. Gray, and E. O. Stocker, a cinematographer from Melbourne.

Lorries, motor cars, camp equipment, and food for three weeks have been sent to Alice Springs, and when the party reaches there tomorrow it will leave at once on a journey of about 200 miles in a north-westerly direction toward Tanami.

Scouts for the party have been busy for some weeks, and it is expected that they will have arranged with a tribe of natives to camp near Cockatoo Creek so that they can be observed. The scientists will carry on the work begun by previous expeditions of the same sort. This present party is the biggest sent to the locality, and besides studying the natives, will make phonograph records of their speech and chants and take motion picture films.

The members of the Museum staff (Messrs. Hale, Tindale and Rau) will collect specimens of vegetable, animal and bird life, which is said to be plentiful in the interior because of the abundant feed produced by heavy rain. The party will return to Adelaide at about the end of this month.

Adv. 7-8-31

FIFTY YEARS AGO

From "The Advertiser" August 7, 1881

To perform the duties of professor of English literature in the University of Adelaide until the end of this year, the Rev. W. Roby Fletcher has been appointed.