

Adv. 4-2-33

GREAT HALL FOR UNIVERSITY

Two Years To Complete Impressive Building

WORK TO BEGIN SOON

The Great Hall of the University of Adelaide, made possible by the gift of £40,000 by Sir Langdon Bonython, which will be erected on the western side of the Exhibition Building, will be in keeping with the nobility of its conception—a home of sentiment. A design has been prepared by Messrs. Woods, Bagot, Laybourne Smith & Irwin, architects, and, based on it, specifications are being prepared, and tenders will be called shortly. It is expected that the building will take two years to complete.

Designed in Gothic style to harmonise with the present University building and Elder Conservatorium, the new building will form the eastern wall of a three-sided quadrangle, and will balance the Public Library and Museum structures in that respect. The materials proposed for use on the building, the dimensions of which will be 70 ft. by 156 ft., are Murray Bridge freestone for the walls, and Noarlunga slate for the roof.

The front of the building will be flanked with two towers rising 74 ft. above the ground, and the entrance will be through an enriched portico, containing three doorways. These will lead to an ample vestibule, and thence into the main hall. Above the vestibule will be a spectators' gallery approached by two masonry staircases in the octagonal towers.

Buildings of the design of that proposed are suited for duller climates, but to avoid the glare of the summer sun here the architects have provided for recessed windows, capable of being shaded and offering magnificent opportunities for decorative stained glass treatment.

Fine Main Hall

The dimensions of the main hall, which will be used for important occasions, such as Commemoration celebrations, will be 45 ft. wide by 132 ft. long, and will be panelled to a height of 12 ft. with Australian hardwood, which, besides giving a mellow tone, will form an effective background for portraits. A feature of the plan is an ambulatory on each side of the hall, with a gallery, which will hold 150 persons, above each. The hall itself will seat 1,000. At the northern end will be the raised dais on which will be the Chancellor's canopied chair. Above the panelling the walls will be executed in stone colored stucco with dressings of synthetic stone. The roof of the hall will be of open timber treatment with decorated panels and heraldic reliefs. The floor of polished jarrah is to be sloped to improve the acoustic properties and to provide better visibility.

Sir Langdon Bonython's object is to provide the University with an assembly hall similar to the buildings attached to universities and colleges in England, many of which date back centuries. In the halls are placed portraits and busts of benefactors and leaders of scholarship, thought prominently connected with the universities or colleges.

Adv. 7-2-33

SCHOLARSHIP AT LONDON UNIVERSITY

The Rhodes Scholarship Trust has made £200 available to the recently formed Institute of Education, formed by London University, for a scholarship, to be awarded to a person recommended by the Australian universities' standing committee. Each Australian university will nominate a candidate, and the final choice will be made by the standing committee. The selected person will continue his studies at the Institute of Education, London University, for a year.

The Advertiser

ADELAIDE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1933

UNIVERSITY SPECIALISTS

There is an old Cambridge story of an aspiring youth who began by taking all natural history as his life's work. Very soon he realised that the subject was too large for real mastery by one man. He resolved to specialise in entomology. Even that proved to be too wide a field; and he ended his career as the world's supreme authority on one small order of wingless beetles. This parable, with truth underlying its humorous exaggeration, is recalled by the report of Dr. Grenfell Price on a congress of the world's universities, held recently in New York. The specialists of today were there defined as the men who steadily "know more and more about less and less." They are having in sober fact the experience of the man in the story. Should they be brought out of their studies and made to mingle more with the world? The feeling in America seemingly is that this would be an advantage to themselves as well as to those about them. The position is largely one of money. The immense wealth of the U.S.A. has made possible Research Foundations. In these, the untiring brain can be immured, to find something new that may be of permanent value to the world. To use a homely metaphor, the keen razor need not be utilised also for chopping wood—work which a far clumsier implement will actually do better.

The differences between American universities and our own are great. Australia has accepted as a matter of course English traditions of education. The people of America have deliberately adopted the methods of Germany. There, according to E. R. Holme's standard work on the subject, the university "accepts and performs a great deal of the duty of a secondary school;" here, the undergraduate is treated as an adult, and is held personally responsible for both work and conduct. There he is "caught young," and taught rudiments which here are very properly required from him in advance. One odd result is that the American student takes into later life that enthusiasm for his university which in Australia is lavished rather on his old school. Thus, when the former student prospers in life, in the United States, immense gifts and endowments go to the university without question, and tend to make it financially independent. The Americans actually "fear increasing Government control," Dr. Price has reported to his own University of Adelaide; and he records his "impression that they have failed to develop any proper balanced governmental system, such as that which we enjoy." For we do "enjoy" it. Our own University, though having splendid endowments, is yet subsidised by every Government just as far as funds will allow, and is part of the community, to which bona fide enquirers can turn for expert advice on any subject. Fortunately, the members of the staff seem to find it possible to combine their various functions, in the way which New York seems to hold up as an almost hopeless ideal. It is far from easy to know all about something, and also something about everything; but a good compromise is clearly attainable.

News 6-2-33

Basic English as World Language

THE world needs an international language. Esperanto and others have been invented, but they go unrecognised. Why not use part of the English language for the purpose?

The idea occurred to Mr. C. K. Ogden, of Magdalene College, University of Cambridge. Such a language, he argued, would have the merit that it was not artificial, and that it was already spoken by millions. But it would have to be simplified so that it could be readily learned by the foreigner. Mr. Ogden went through the dictionary, and at the end of 10 years had eliminated so many words that only 850 were left out of 700,000. This he called "Basic English."



MR. A. E. M. KIRWOOD, lecturer in English at the University of Adelaide.

Mr. A. E. M. Kirwood (lecturer in English at the University of Adelaide) cannot see a happy ending to the enterprise of Mr. Ogden.

No artificial language, he says, has ever pretended to enter into rivalry with any natural language, except as a means of international communication. European diplomacy still manages to get along without the aid of Esperanto or Idu. It is not likely that the League of Nations will adopt "Basic English" as the medium of its deliberations. The reason is that the subtleties of thought can be expressed only through the idiomatic turns of speech that have naturally evolved in the languages of different peoples.

"Basic English," Mr. Kirwood adds, may prove useful in much the same way as "pidgin English" is, but it is not likely to do any serious damage to standard English, any more than French or German or Italian or Latin or Greek or Chinese. It is, of course, conceivable that some of the most enlightened Eskimos of Greenland may like to exchange greetings in "Basic English" with the lamas of Tibet; they may even study the works of Plato, of Dante, or of Shakespeare in "Basic English" translations, and add to the sum of human knowledge by acute critical discussions in choicely phrased "Basic English." But standard English is not likely to suffer thereby.

If "Basic English," he says, were to supplant standard English for the purposes of literature, those writers of the present day who complain that the 700,000 words of modern English are insufficient for their purposes might be robbed of some posthumous fame. Probably the greatest calamity of all would be that the "Basic English" speakers of the future would be debarred from the pleasure of reading James Joyce's "Ulysses" unless they undertook a patient, and possibly painful, study of the language in which it was originally written.

Mail 4-2-33

EDUCATION IN POLITICS

N.S.W. Institute Aims at State Branches

"The Institute for Political Science of New South Wales, which intends to establish branches in every State, is going to have very far-reaching effects on Australia," said Mr. Anthony, M.P., today



Mr. Anthony

on his return from a summer school which the institute held in Sydney. The school was attended by some of the most brilliant men in Australia. Every phase of Constitutional, Federal, and political policy was discussed. "There was a tendency for the strengthening of the Federal powers at the expense of the States," said Mr. Anthony. "This was no doubt due to the presence of leading men from the bigger States, which would benefit from such a transference."

"Mr. Menzies, the Victorian Attorney-General, in an address, advocated the abandoning of the field of arbitration by the States, and the handing of it over to the Commonwealth. The president of the institute (Mr. Mackay) said he thought the whole of the taxation powers should be in the hands of the Commonwealth Government."

"Mr. R. D. Nichols and myself pointed out that any sacrifice by the States to the Federal machine was not likely to eventuate in view of the disabilities under which the smaller States suffered."

SMALLER STATES' CLAIM

"We said that, although the reason why such a change should be made was that it would result in greater efficiency and economy, the States were not satisfied with the administration of the Commonwealth in the past, and cited the Northern Territory as an example."

"I also advocated the placing of the Federal disabilities grant to South Australia on a permanent basis, so that we should know definitely what was to be expected. A permanent State Disabilities Committee should be formed to check up on disabilities from year to year."

"The institute aims at giving education and to improve the knowledge of young men in politics. It also wants to produce a civil servant with a bigger and broader outlook."

"When the branches are started in all the States, they will no doubt bring some good young recruits into politics. The institute is conducting a course in conjunction with the Sydney University of two years' study in political science and public administration."