

grounds, but he did not think there were any insuperable difficulties in the way of its being made over to the University. As regarded the matter of the subsidy for which the deputation had asked, that was a matter which concerned partly past Governments and was one now for the Premier and his colleagues to carefully think out.

Mr. F. W. Young, M.L.A., referred principally to the need for money experienced by the University.

Mr. T. Ryan, M.P., agreed in the main with the request of the deputation, but joined issue with them in regard to their request for the transfer of the Destitute Asylum site. When they saw how the University had expanded, and remembered that they had a Government in power which believed in placing the University within the reach of every bright child in the State he thought they would agree it was of no use in entering upon further building on an area of only 14 acres. They needed to go where they could get 40 or 50 acres, and build what would be a permanent University.

Sir Samuel Way pointed out in this regard that the deputation was dealing only with immediate wants. He added that they did not want the £17,000 in cash, but as an endowment, so that the money they had expended would be replaced, and they would get an income to carry on their work.

This concluded the arguments advanced by the deputation.

#### Premier's Attitude.

The Commissioner for Public Works, in his reply to the requests submitted, said he fully agreed with Mr. Butler that the question was not a party one. He realised that the family at the University had grown too big for its home, and he was very pleased to know it. While South Australia during the last few years had been progressing materially it had been speeding ahead also in intellectual and moral progress. While there had been a beneficial breaking up of the broad acres of the State's land there had also been a breaking up of the intellectual land of the human mind. The president of the Chamber of Commerce had put forward a suggestion as to the creation of a degree in commerce. It was a splendid idea, and he agreed that one of the best things they could do was to have their young men trained in commercial life so as to keep pace with the development of the State. The intellectual and moral powers of life must be equally developed with other departments, and this the Government fully realised. (Hear, hear.) He knew that the State would never lose by helping educational institutions, but there were times when that help could not be given however much the Government might desire to give it. As to the first question which had been submitted, that relating to subsidies, he would only say at the present moment that the Government would give the request careful consideration. As to the amounts which Mr. Butler and Mr. Peake had suggested placing on the Estimates, that was a matter which would require some consideration by Ministers. In his opinion, if the country wanted a great University it would have to place it farther out where there was room and free air. The University had been placed in the best situation for the day in which it was built, but now, to use the argument of the chancellor, they had to look to the needs also of future ages. He asked them to consider whether it would not be better to think of placing the University where there was more room.

Mr. Smeaton—It means a lot of money. The Commissioner said that would, no doubt, be the case; but he was using the argument advanced by the chancellor that they had to look to the needs of the future. If the University were going to extend would the small piece of land now being asked for be sufficient for that extension? Personally, he thought it would not be for the extension he would like to see come to pass. They should go where they could get 100 acres and start building there. At the present time they had to pay from £175 to £200 per foot for land in the city, and it was a question

the Government had seriously to consider whether it could afford to give away land which it wanted badly for Government purposes. Would the Government be justified in parting with that land? He had a very fine affection for the University, but thought there was no justification for such a policy, and that had been his views for the last seven years. They had before them just now the problem of training teachers to go throughout the State, and they were looking for a place to train them. All these matters had to be weighed and considered before he could reply with more definiteness. One thing was certain—his Government would never part with the Destitute Asylum to the Commonwealth Government. Concluding, he said he would submit to his colleagues and carefully consider the several requests prepared relative to money, buildings, and grounds required.

The Minister for Education said the requests had been very fairly put, and the Premier had honestly answered them. He wanted to take that opportunity of relieving from the minds of the deputationists any misapprehension that the Premier had created a new law in regard to the introduction of deputations by members. In the past it had been done by other Ministers, and he did not want them to go away with the opinion that this was something new which Verran's Government had done. He dealt with his aims of extending education to every section of the community. He did not want anyone standing off and regarding the University as some conservative body with which he had no chance. It must be brought into closer touch with the mass of the people. As regarded the Destitute Asylum site, he regarded that as the most desirable spot for a teachers' training college.

The deputation then withdrew.

*Register, Sep. 2nd 1910.*

### DIGNITY.

#### A Deputation Dialogue.

##### Premier and Sir Samuel Way.

It was a deputation from the University, to the Premier on Thursday morning. Every one wore a sprig of wattle in his buttonhole, and all seemed happy and bright.

The Premier—I beg to point out most respectfully there are three or four members for the District of Adelaide. I always make it a point that when deputations are going to be introduced to me that the members for the district concerned shall have the right of leading them. I don't want to waste any time, but still I am going to maintain that I am not going to receive this deputation unless the members for the District of Adelaide, who have been appointed by the great body of the electors, are going to have the rights of their privileges.

The Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way)—Who are the members for Adelaide?

Mr. Young—There is Blundell, Denny, Anstey—

The Premier—Ponder, Anstey, Denny, and Blundell.

Sir Samuel Way—Mr. Premier, I wish we had had some intimation of your having laid down this new rule. We are waiting on you on behalf of the University.

The Premier—Oh, yes.

Sir Samuel Way—For 30 odd years I have had the privilege of representing the University, and this is a new departure, which was not communicated to me until this instant. I think it is not out of want of respect for the members of the district that we come here without them, but you can hardly say that you won't hear us.

The Premier—I shall absolutely say that, your Honor.

Sir Samuel Way—Oh, will you?

The Premier—Your long-standing position in this State as a Minister of the Crown and member of Parliament certainly should give you full acquaintance with the rights of members, and those rights you ought to know.

Sir Samuel Way—I am not taking advantage of any one.

The Premier—I don't want to be unkind or discourteous, but we shall uphold the dignity and honour of the men who have been appointed by the electors of the City of Adelaide to represent them.

Sir Samuel Way—I think you misunderstand what I said. For 30 odd years I have had the privilege of representing the University, and this is the first time that such a practice has been adopted. I have been present at deputations to your immediate predecessor and to his predecessors, and it has never been suggested before that we were to be introduced by members for the district.

The Premier—Oh, well that is the stand I take.

Sir Samuel Way—No; not until this morning.

The Premier—I don't mean to say that you would be discourteous. I think you are too kind to do that.

Sir Samuel Way—This is all new to me. We had no intimation of any change of practice. The University of Adelaide is not a local institution, Mr. Premier. This institution is for the whole State.

The Premier—I quite agree with you there.

Sir Samuel Way—I should think you should hear us. Still, we have sent for the Attorney-General. We would be glad to be introduced by the Attorney-General.

The Premier—It isn't that I would not hear you, but you are a local body, and you are asking the Government for certain concessions. You get a subsidy from the Government, and therefore, coming for subsidies from the Government, I hold that if I let it be done in this instance, then it is simply a precedent for other people to come here as deputations and ignore any member of Parliament. It would have that effect, and I am against that.

Sir Samuel—We are not a local body. Our work extends over the whole State. Secondly, we have ignored nobody. Until this instance, we have never had an intimation that you would not treat us in the same manner as your predecessors would treat us.

The Premier—We won't find two men alike.

Sir Samuel—We all have our individuality. This deputation comes on a matter of great public importance, and if we had been informed that you desired us to be introduced by one of the members for the district, we would have been glad to ask one.

The Premier—I thought it would be understood that the members for the district would have been considered in their proper status.

Sir Samuel—The University has always been received by the Premier. This is not a local matter in the least.

The Premier—I have taken up a stand. If a man can be flouted in one way, he can be flouted in another.

Sir Samuel—I do hope you will not make a suggestion of this kind in respect to this deputation. This rule has been laid down for the first time in this instance, and I do hope you will not suggest that any one has been flouted.

Mr. Ponder, M.P., who had been communicated with, arrived in several minutes, and in a few words introduced the deputation.

Sir Samuel Way—We express our great indebtedness to Mr. Ponder for kindly consenting to introduce us on short notice.

We have always looked upon the University of Adelaide as a non-political institution, and therefore it has never occurred to us, and was never suggested to us, that we should be introduced by a member of Parliament. We took it that every member of Parliament and every citizen was interested in the question we were bringing before you. We could have no objection to being introduced by Mr. Ponder, who came to our assistance in the difficulty in which we are momentarily placed. I feel I need not take up any further time in dealing with that question.

The Premier—It is entirely in your own hands.

The practical work of the deputation then proceeded.

The Minister of Education (Hon. F. W. Coneybeer), at the conclusion of the deputation, said he did not wish those present to go away with the idea that the Verran Government had established a new rule, and they had been chosen for the first application of it. Past Governments had refused to receive deputations unless they were introduced by members of the district.

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