

Reg. Nov. 11/09.

a great handicap; it was wrong, and should be altered.

The Premier said the Bill offered a good field to speak well of our institute system. In reply to Mr. Archibald and Mr. Smeaton, he said theirs were points on which there could be an honest difference of opinion. He had followed the practice which had been observed in the past, especially as he had not heard any serious complaint against the method of constitution. If the House altered it he would bow to its wisdom. His apology for bringing the Bill down in its present form was that it continued a system which had been in force for so long, and against which there was no complaint. He was not seriously in conflict with Mr. Archibald's suggestion that the Government should appoint the whole board without the domination of certain institutions. In 1907 Mr. Archibald advocated a consolidating measure.

Mr. Archibald—But yours is a consolidating middle. (Laughter.)

The Premier said that the Government contemplated a diversified board from a learned and literary point of view. There would be, perhaps, greater diversity of opinion and expert knowledge than if the Government made all the appointments.

Second reading carried. In committee. Clauses 1 to 6 passed. Clause 7—"Constitution of board." Mr. Archibald moved to strike out the paragraph giving the Adelaide Circulating Library representation on the board. Mr. Rudall would support Mr. Archibald if the Institutes' Association were not to be able to elect three members. Messrs. Burgoyne and Duncan supported the clause, which gave all parts of the country representation on a board which worked for the whole of the State. Mr. Smeaton proposed that the University representation be increased from one to two. He would do away with the member from the Circulating Library, which could stand alone. Mr. Ryan said that to do that would depreciate the value of the Circulating Library. The Premier said the argument was revolving around whether the University should have greater and the Adelaide Circulating Library no representation. The Government was not strong on that, but would stick to the Bill. The representation of the institutes on the board was helpful to the Public Library. Giving representation to the various institutions was with the view of specializing the composition of the board. Mr. Vaughan did not think the University was any more entitled to two representatives than any of the other bodies. He would like to see the Government appoint all the members of the board. They could get over the difficulty by deleting the representation of the Adelaide Circulating Library, reducing the institutes' representation to two, and giving the Royal Society and the Royal Geographical Society one member each. The amendment to alter the representation of the University was lost by 26 votes to 11. Mr. Smeaton moved to amend paragraph 4 by giving one member each to the Royal Society and the Royal Geographical Society. On a division 18 voted for and 18 against the amendment. The Chairman gave his casting vote with the Government against the amendment. Mr. Archibald, in speaking to his amendment to strike out paragraph 5, said that the recent squabble was over the School of Design, which had been removed to the Education Department. One could not find well-informed people now like one could 30 or 40 years ago. (Mr. Rudall—"Notwithstanding all the education.") No. The explanation was that years ago the people worked hard to acquire their knowledge, while now it was a case of reading flippant rubbish. That applied to all sections of the community. He was surprised to hear what Mr. Ryan had said about the Public Library lending books to subscribers to the Circulating Library. It had no right to lend the books. (Hear, hear.) This was one of the theories that new-found educational quacks got hold of. (Laughter.)

Mr. Vaughan pointed out that the Astronomical Society was one of the affiliated societies in the group, and surely it was as much entitled to a representative as the Circulating Library. Mr. Archibald's amendment was carried by 18 votes to 17. Mr. Archibald then moved to strike out paragraph vi.—"The association shall elect three members." He had nothing to say against institutes, but they should not be represented on the Public Library Board. The Premier said he would recommend the Bill to give the University two representatives, so as to keep the full complement of 12 on the board. Messrs. Smeaton and Rudall, in supporting Mr. Archibald, said the institutes now had a separate board of their own. Mr. Burgoyne thought the institutes and the Public Library should work together, and if so there must be some connecting link. The Premier said as time went on the work of institutes would have a wider horizon, and it was wise there should be a connecting link with the Public Library. The amendment was lost

by 22 votes to 13. Clause as amended passed. Clauses 8 to 17 passed. Clause 18—"Chairman." Mr. Smeaton moved to give the Chairman a deliberative vote as well as a casting vote. The Premier said that might give the Chairman too much power. Mr. Travers supported Mr. Smeaton. It appeared absurd that the Chairman should be made the weakling of the board by depriving him of a vote. Negatived. Clause passed. Clauses 19 to 28 passed. Clause 29—"School of Design to be carried on by the Education Department." Mr. Smeaton moved to make the word "may" read "shall" be carried on by the Education Department. Carried. Clause passed. Clauses 30 to 45 passed.

Cluses 46, 47, and 48 passed. Clause 49—"Council to be trustee unless trustees appointed." Mr. Rudall said the clause should be struck out. Institutes should have their own local trustees. Mr. Smeaton thought the clause went too far and was too interfering. The Commissioner of Crown Lands said the object of the Bill was not to interfere unneces-

sarily with the internal management of the institutes. (Mr. Smeaton—"That's just what you are doing.") No; under the clause there was power to elect trustees if they wished. Clause passed, and also clauses 50 to 60 inclusive. Clause 61—"Property of institutes exempt from corporation and district council rates." Mr. Rudall thought this should be a matter of arrangement between the corporation and the institute committee. Mr. Smeaton said Parliament had no right to be generous at the expense of bodies which had to undertake the responsibility of keeping roads in order. In Adelaide, for instance, magnificent building sites were occupied. (Treasurer—"We give a subsidy.") That was not sufficient. Mr. Jamieson hoped the clause would be retained, as institutes should be on the same footing as churches, roads and footpaths would have to be made in any case. Mr. Denny urged the Government to stick to the Bill. (Treasurer—"The trouble is some Bills don't stick to us.") Laughter. Institutes were educational and should certainly be exempted from rates and taxes. The Premier said the Government intended to adhere to the clause. A case against it had not been made out. Educational and charitable institutions were exempted. He was sure there was no disposition on the part of the committee to introduce the principle sought by Mr. Rudall. Mr. Vaughan said it would be most absurd to make institutes pay rates or taxes. Such a course would have the effect of discouraging the erection of fine buildings. Remaining clauses passed. Report to be considered on November 10.

Reg. Nov. 11/09.

PUBLIC LIBRARY BILL.

From "What For":—"I hope that the Assembly will not persist in depriving the Adelaide Circulating Library of the representation on the Public Library Board which it has held for many years, and certainly that the University's number of members will not be increased to one-sixth of the total. There is a general feeling that it would have been much better for the Public Library if it were not mixed up with the University in any way. Mr. Smeaton seems to have listened to somebody on one side only, instead of looking all round the question. It is not as if the two members appointed by the University were the only representatives of the University on the board. If the change he made about half the members of the Public Library Board will be connected with the University, and that would be a great mistake."

GOVERNMENT EDUCATION POLICY.

The Premier, who is also Minister of Education, had attracted to him on Wednesday the close attention of members of the Assembly while he expounded his views on the question of secondary education. Mr. Ryan had moved in the direction of increasing the facilities to deserving students to study at the University. Mr. Peake made an admirable speech, based on the premises that it was not necessary to advancement in life that every boy and girl should have a University education, but that all should have the opportunity to acquire practical knowledge at secondary schools which would fit them to fight the battle of life in a young progressive country. The Minister intimated that next January the department would inaugurate a new system for the training of infant, primary, and secondary teachers, and said he believed it would compare favourably with that in any part of the Commonwealth. Also, next year a scheme of maintenance scholarships would be inaugurated. The Minister concluded by saying that the effort of the Government for some time to come would be directed towards:—1. Improving the primary system. 2. Establishing a secondary system on sound lines. 3. Organizing the work of country technical schools. 4. Establishing evening continuation schools. After Messrs Denny and Dankel had spoken the debate was adjourned until December 15.

Ad. Nov. 11/09.

From Mr. T. Ryan, M.P., we have received a copy of a pamphlet entitled "A Plea for Higher Education." It is a reprint of the author's contribution in the House of Assembly to the debate initiated by himself on the motion "That it is desirable that increased facilities be given to deserving students to continue their studies at the University of Adelaide." The University Mr. Ryan regards as a storehouse of knowledge, and he urges that the doors should be opened to many who would render a good account of themselves if the opportunity were extended to them. Mr. Ryan fortifies his argument by referring to the position in Europe, where "97 municipalities provide large sums to enable working boys and girls to attend the universities." A number of authorities are quoted, and the value of advanced education in national development is insisted on.