

The University Diploma of Commerce.

ADELAIDE IN THE LEAD.

In the matter of providing an academic course at the University, graduates of which are certified commercial experts, the Adelaide University takes the lead in Australia. For many long years there has been an invidious distinction between "professional" and commercial classes, and the former have been accorded a certain pre-eminence, owing to the academic course necessary for their career. Now this is being gradually done away with, and aspirants for success in commercial life do the course and obtain the diploma.

In this matter Adelaide leads Australia. The idea originated with the Senate of the University, and in 1902 it was decided by the academic authorities that a University course should be arranged. In the year named this decision was carried out. It was originally intended that the course should be one carrying no degrees, but as the result of negotiations as between the Board of Commercial Studies and the Senate and Council, it was recently agreed that a degree diploma should be conferred, and graduates have the right to wear the academic gown.

The first examination was held in December last, and the degrees were conferred with other University distinctions at commemoration. The Diploma of Associate of Commerce conferred on 11 successful students at the recent commemoration, therefore, marks an important recognition of the claims of commerce to a permanent place in the curriculum of the highest educational institution in the State.

To the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce belongs the honor of having materially assisted in the initiation of the course, and a yearly contribution is made to the University by that body for the purposes of the course. The public spirit and generosity of Mr. Joseph Fisher, who has furnished sufficient money for the presentation annually to the most successful student of the Fisher Gold Medal, is an added incentive to the students to strive to excel.

The subjects included in the course are calculated to cover every phase of commercial life, and it is matter for sincere congratulation that the University has been able to secure the services of such

highly qualified gentlemen to take charge of the various classes.

Economics I. and II. are in charge of Professor Mitchell, whose name is a sufficient guarantee of the quality of the work undertaken.

Accountancy and Business Practice are under the control of Mr. B. D. Colvin, M.A., of Cambridge, who graduated a wrangler in his year, and whose record, as probably the most successful coach in Australia marks him out as peculiarly adapted for the work he has undertaken.

The classes in Commercial Law first met under the presidency of Professor Salmon, whose genius is stamped on the course now carried on under the supervision of Mr. P. E. Johnstone, B.A., LL.B., on precisely the same lines, and with great success.

Banking and Exchange as one subject is in the hands of Mr. Wm. Neill, a

gentleman with wide banking experience, who brings to his work the temperament and enthusiasm of a student, and a perfect fund of knowledge already acquired as the result of practical experience.

Commercial Geography and Technology, under the supervision of Mr. R. J. M. Lucas, B.A., could not be in more capable hands. In view of the admirable arrangement of his lectures, and the undeniable quality of his material, the students are always anxious to overlook a slight tendency to pedagogism, which is not characteristic of the other professors and due in his case probably to his special training.

With such a capable staff of professors and such a field to cover, it is not perhaps to be wondered at that the course is rapidly growing in favor both with the students and the public, and the recognition of its value in qualifying young men for important public positions has already been exemplified in recent appointments, notably in connection with the Tramway Trust.

The classes meet in the evening, and the scale of fees is so arranged as to be within the reach of almost every one. As certificates are granted for each subject, it is only necessary for those going for the diploma to complete the whole course. This can be done by fairly easy stages in five years, by those who are prepared for the time being to sacrifice social engagements and devote themselves seriously to work.

The photo reproduction herewith represent the associates, the central figure being that of Mr. J. R. Fowler, M.A. (Chairman of the Board of Commercial Studies), to whom the students owe a deep debt of gratitude for the whole-souled manner in which he has

striven to advance their interests, while at the same time conserving the traditions of the University.

In accordance with University regulations the associates will in future be gowned at all University functions, and are entitled to use the letters A.C.U.A. They propose forming a Society of Commerce, membership to be open only to those gaining the diploma. The whole course is under the supervision of the Board of Commercial Studies, which is constituted as follows:—Mr. J. R. Fowler, M.A. (Chairman), Mr. S. J. Jacobs, J.P. (Vice-Chairman), Dr. W. Barlow, LL.D. (Vice-Chancellor), Professor Mitchell, Professor Jethro Brown, the President of the Chamber of Commerce, Mr. H. Fisher, Mr. W. Herbert Phillipps, Mr. J. E. Thomas, F.P.C.A., Mr. J. Shiels, Mr. R. K. Thomas, Mr. J. Gordon, and the lecturers.

It is interesting to note that a diploma in commerce has also been established by the Sydney University, and a degree of bachelor of commerce in New Zealand.



Critic photo. MEMBERS OF THE FIRST COMMERCIAL COURSE AT THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.
Sitting (left to right): Mr. Frank Herman Menkens.
Second Row: Messrs. Carl Wilhelm Ludwig Muecke, George Oliver Robertson, J. R. Fowler, M.A. (Chairman of Board of Commercial Studies), Wm. Frank Harrison, David Kirkman.
Back Row: Messrs. Herbert Edward Annels, Clifford Samuel Bray, Albert Edward Messent, Robt. Moore Steel, Robt. Harold Cotton, Harold Clarke Thomas.