

Advertiser, Sep. 12/11

DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

NOVEL HOUSE OF BRICKETTES.

Dr. Mawson, who is to lead the Australian scientific expedition to the Antarctic regions, requires for the expedition £50,000, and he has raised about half that amount. On Thursday in Sydney he saw the Premier of New South Wales (Mr. McGowen), who promised to lay the matter before the Cabinet. The Federal Government also have the matter under consideration, and their decision will be known this week. The Victorian Government have yet to be approached. They, doubtless, will take a lead from New South Wales. The South Australian Government has given £5,000 cash, in addition to which it will probably supply a considerable stock of provisions from the South Australian export depot. A novel feature in connection with the Mawson expedition will be the shipment of 45 tons of compressed coal, as used in British submarines. This coal is being shipped in the form of brickettes. When the party lands in Antarctica it will build its house of these brickettes, and demolish it as the fuel is required.

"Some Australians still don't seem to know," said Dr. Mawson on Thursday night in Sydney, "that we are not making a dash for the pole. Captain Scott is to uphold the honor of the British Empire in that respect. Our work first and foremost is geographical. We are going to chart 2,500 miles of unknown coastline—to discover harbors and so forth, so that they can be readily visited from Australia. We don't intend to go very far inland. The interesting belt is that within 100 and 200 miles of the coast. Our journeys will be mostly dog sledging along the coast. There will be 52 men altogether in the expedition. Twenty-five will be permanently attached to the Aurora, and 27 will be landed in three parties along the coast, at intervals of about 100 miles. The vessel is now on her way to Australia, and will arrive at Hobart about the end of October. She will land the dogs and general cargo at Hobart, and then visit Sydney."

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EDUCATION COMMISSION.

£4,000 MORE FOR THE UNIVERSITY.

FIRST PROGRESS REPORT.

The first progress report of the Royal Commission on Higher Education is as follows:—

1. The work assigned to us was begun last year by a Select Committee of the House of Assembly, consisting of the same members as this Commission. That committee had before it a request by the council of the Adelaide University for a subsidy of £17,825, that being half the cost of buildings erected by the University between the years 1898 and 1903, and for a grant of £6,000 to assist the University in making building improvements and additions that were urgently required. The committee recommended:—"That the Government immediately guarantee the cost of the proposed additions to the amount of £12,000 instead of £6,000 as requested, without prejudice to the future adjustment of the University's requests for £17,825 as a subsidy on sums expended in buildings already erected, and for £6,000, the estimated half-cost of proposed additions to the main building; the full payment of £12,000 instead of £6,000, as requested, to be taken into account in such adjustment."

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UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

Progress Report of Commission.

The first progress report of the Commission appointed to enquire into and report upon higher education and the University of Adelaide, was presented to the Assembly on Tuesday. It stated:—

1. The work assigned to us was begun last year by a select committee of the House of Assembly, consisting of the same members as this commission. That committee had before it a request by the Council of the Adelaide University for a subsidy of £17,825, that being half the cost of buildings erected by the University between the years 1898 and 1903, and for a grant of £6,000 to assist the University in making building improvements and additions that were urgently required. The committee recommended:—"That the Government immediately guarantee the cost of the proposed additions to the amount of £12,000 instead of £6,000 as requested, without prejudice to the future adjustment of the University's requests for £17,825 as a subsidy on sums expended in buildings already erected, and for £6,000, the estimated half-cost of proposed additions to the main building; the full payment of £12,000 instead of £6,000, as requested to be taken into account in such adjustment."

2. That recommendation was given effect to by the Government, and the immediate needs of the University having been met, the commission proceeded to deal with the question of the best means of extending the facilities afforded by the State for higher education. After taking evidence from some of the many witnesses to be examined in Adelaide, we proceeded to Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne, where numerous authorities on educational matters, including members of the governing bodies of the Universities, the University professors, and the principal officers of the Government Education Departments gave the commission the benefit of their experience and advice. Altogether 40 meetings of the commission have been held and 36 witnesses examined.

The visits to the Universities of the other States afforded the commission many valuable object lessons; and a comparison of the Adelaide University with those of Sydney and Melbourne convinced us that the local institution is poorly equipped financially, and that its work at present is hampered, and its future endangered by lack of sufficient funds. When the representatives of the University were before the select committee the question was raised whether, in view of the suggested increased financial assistance, the Parliament should not have some direct representation on the Council of the University, and in response to an enquiry the University Council expressed themselves unanimously in favour of the proposal. We therefore recommend—1. That section 15 of the Adelaide University Act, No. 20 of 1874, be amended to provide for an addition of five Parliamentary representatives to the Council of the University, three representatives to be chosen by the House of Assembly and two by the Legislative Council at the beginning of each Parliament, and to hold office during the life of that Parliament.

The report is signed by Messrs. Thomas Ryan (chairman), J. Cowan, A. W. Styles, F. W. Coneybeer, Thompson Green, A. H. Peake, and Fred W. Young.

2. That recommendation was given effect to by the Government, and the immediate needs of the University having been met, the Commission proceeded to deal with the question of the best means of extending the facilities afforded by the State for higher education. After taking evidence from some of the many witnesses to be examined in Adelaide, we proceeded to Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne, where numerous authorities on education matters, including members of the governing bodies of the Universities, the University professors, and the principal officers of the Government Education Departments gave the Commission the benefit of their experience and advice. Altogether 40 meetings of the Commission have been held and 36 witnesses examined.

Financial Assistance to the University.

3. The visits to the Universities of the other States afforded the Commission many valuable object lessons; and a comparison of the Adelaide University with those of Sydney and Melbourne convinced us that the local institution is poorly equipped financially, and that its work at present is hampered, and its future endangered by lack of sufficient funds; and it is in order that immediate action may be taken to afford the University the assistance it so urgently requires that this progress report is presented.

Parliamentary Representation on the University Council.

4. When the representatives of the University were before the Select Committee the question was raised whether, in view of the suggested increased financial assistance, the Parliament should not have some direct representation on the council of the University, and in response to an enquiry the University council expressed themselves unanimously in favor of the proposal. (Vide appendix to the Report of the Select Committee, Parliamentary Paper, No. 113 of 1910.)

Recommendations.

5. We therefore recommend—(1) That section 15 of the Adelaide University Act, No. 20 of 1874, be amended to provide for an addition of £4,000 to the annual grant of the University. (2) That the Adelaide University Act, No. 20 of 1874, be amended to provide for the addition of five Parliamentary representatives to the council of the University, three representatives to be chosen by the House of Assembly and two by the Legislative Council at the beginning of each Parliament, and to hold office during the life of that Parliament.

Future Work.

6. The recommendation with respect to increasing the grant to the University is made without prejudice to the request for a subsidy of £17,825 on buildings erected by the University between 1898 and 1903. That request and the claims of the University for additional building accommodation (in connection with which a suggestion to use the western portion of the Exhibition Building for University purposes is being considered), as well as the larger question of enabling deserving students to have the advantage of a University education, will be the subjects of future reports.

The Commission.

The report is signed by Messrs. Thomas Ryan (chairman), J. Cowan, A. W. Styles, F. W. Coneybeer, Thompson Green, A. H. Peake, and Fred W. Young.