

Reg. 9th Jan. 1907.

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NOTES AND QUERIES.

STUDENTS' RAILWAY TICKETS.

From "A Voice from the Country":—"I should like to point out, with others, what seems to me a great injustice to the country people in these enlightened days of free education. In the beginning of 1906 any one attending classes in Adelaide under the age of 25 would get a second-class return ticket from Strathalbyn for 1/10. If that rule had continued there could have been no complaint; but in June the fare was raised to 3/10. When one considers that the fee for a quarter of 12 lessons is five guineas, that the fares for the same period are £2 6/, besides any little expenses there may be in town, it obviously comes rather hard on those who may be struggling along and trying to make themselves proficient in some branch of education with a view to getting their living by it later on. If a student is earning £45 per annum, or has the misfortune to be over 25 years of age, even that small concession in fare is denied. There are young men in the ministry who would gladly take lessons in elocution could they afford the expense; but, owing to the high railway fares, loss of time, and often a very small salary, it is quite beyond those in the country. In consequence, it is often a misery to sit and listen to some of them stumbling through a sermon; and yet we so often hear the question, 'Why don't men go to church?' The townspeople have many more advantages than we do, and yet they are studied in every way to make things easy for them. Why does not the Government try and help those who are doing their best to help themselves? Because a few married women abused the privilege of low fares to the School of Mines to have a day's shopping in town, that is no reason why all should suffer. We are about 35 miles from Adelaide, and can drive down in between three and four hours. To go by train we are dragged round 51 weary miles, for which we have the pleasure of paying extra, besides being three hours on the way. With the lower rates many more would be likely to take advantage of them—in many cases girls who have neither father nor husband to help them. Let those who have the latter pay the full price of the ticket, and give the advantage to the weak. I hope our members will look into this matter, and provide us with the cheaper fares, which would be very little loss to the Government, and might be a gain through increased numbers going up and down, and would also be a benefit to the teachers."

Ad. Jan. 11th 1907.

THE RHODES SCHOLAR OF 1907.

Before the end of next month the Rhodes scholar for 1907 will be selected by the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte), the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way), and the committee appointed by the University council. Candidates must be not less than 19 nor more than 25 years of age on October 1. In the selection of the scholar regard will be had, according to the desires of the late Mr. Rhodes, to his literary and scholastic attainments; his fondness for and success in many outdoor sports; his qualities of manhood, truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for and protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness, and fellowship; and his exhibition, during school days, of moral force of character, and of instincts to lead and to take an interest in his schoolmates. Each candidate is required to furnish the chairman of the committee with various certificates. He must prove that he is within the eligible age limits. The headmaster of his college must declare that he is, in his opinion, able to pass the responsible examination at Oxford. He must provide a certificate stating the grounds upon which his school selected him as the best candidate, his educational qualifications, and his record in athletics. The scholarship is worth £300 annually, and is tenable for three years at Oxford University.

—Rhodes's Day Dream.—

Under the Chairmanship of Lord Milner, the Hon. Sir Lewis Michell, late member of the Cape Ministry, read a paper on "The Cape to Cairo Railway," to the colonial section of the Society of Arts last month. In his opening remarks Sir Lewis Michell paid a tribute to the late Cecil Rhodes. It was, he knew, assumed in some quarters that the idea of such a railway as the Cape to Cairo line was a dream, but there was one striking peculiarity about the dreams of "the great founder of Rhodesia." While he dreamt he was generally very wide awake. The Cape to Cairo Railway was already in great part an accomplished fact. Mr. Rhodes's proposals to the Government that the line should be extended to the southern end of Lake Tanganyika elicited practically no response from the British Government, and as an alternative he was forced to negotiate with Belgium and Germany, both of which, however, failed him. Foiled in his efforts to strike due north, Mr. Rhodes entered into contracts to extend the line in a north-westerly direction, which necessitated that wonderful engineering feat, the building of the bridge over the Zambesi. They were already out of the hearing of the roar of the Victoria Falls, already in the heart of Barotseland, and practically nobody, in this age of progress, could say to them, "Thus far shalt thou go, and no farther." They were investigating the economic value of their teak forests for the woodpaving of the streets of colonial towns, they were hoping to exploit the waters of the Zambesi for carrying electrical power to Johannesburg; they were sending down gold and diamonds for use and ornament; they were working their railways with their own coal; and all this was due to the waking dream of one great man. At the close of the lecture Lord Milner spoke with reference to the railway, which he thought would have a great influence on the wellbeing of South Africa. He had been greatly impressed with the greatness of Mr. Rhodes's achievement. That achievement represented the last and perhaps the most memorable instance in which the power of England had been extended and its prosperity enlarged by the efforts of individual Britons in the teeth of the indifference and almost hostility of the British Government, and sometimes one might almost say of the British people. He was assured that all of them would live to see the full justification of the great enterprise, even though a long time should elapse before the whole of the work was completed.

Reg. 18th Jan. 1907.

EVENING SCHOLARSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITY.

The award for 1907 of the scholarships granted by the Government to enable promising students, whose occupations or circumstances preclude them from attending the day lectures, to the University evening lectures, will shortly be made. The numbers and value of these evening scholarships have been modified by the regulations lately made. Up to the present there have been annually awarded 18 scholarships of £10 each. This amount has been found to be more than is required by an art student for lecture and examination fees during the year, and the value of the art scholarships have been limited to £7. The science scholarships remain at £10. These are maximum amounts, and in neither case will the value of a scholarship exceed the actual outlay necessary for fees, textbooks, and material. The department is thus able to offer nine scholarships for science students and 13 for those taking up the arts course—an increase of four on the number hitherto offered. It is desired that attention should be drawn to the fact that the examination for these scholarships is qualifying only and not competitive, and in making the awards the examiners will take into consideration the opportunities candidates have had in the past and their present circumstances. Application should be made to the Registrar of the University not later than February 28. Applicants for first year scholarships must be between the ages of 16 and 25 years on the first day of the next University term. One and two years are allowed in the cases of applicants for second and third year scholarships respectively.

UNIVERSITY EVENING SCHOLARSHIPS.

The attention of students desiring to attend the evening lectures at the University of Adelaide is directed to the new regulations affecting the evening scholarships granted by the department. Twenty-two scholarships, tenable during 1907, are offered for competition to those whose circumstances prevent them from attending the day lectures. Of these eight are offered for competition to students about to enter upon the arts or science course, and the remainder to those who have completed one or two years of their course. The examinations for these scholarships are qualifying only and not competitive, and the examiners will take into consideration the previous opportunities and present circumstances of candidates. Applications must be made not later than February 28 to the registrar of the University, from whom all further particulars may be obtained.

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TEACHERS VERSUS CONSERVATORIUM.

Swords have been sharpened, and a keen fight is going to be engaged in by the music teachers and board of musical studies of the University. The preliminaries have already occupied attention, and shortly the two sides will begin the battle in earnest. The teachers favor the Trinity College and Associated Board system, and the University authorities desire to extinguish those institutions, if possible, so far as South Australia is concerned. With this object in view the Conservatorium is doing everything it possibly can to induce students to submit themselves for examination under its auspices, and the teachers argue that in doing so the Conservatorium is injuring their interests. The scholarships, too, are a source of great worry to the teachers, who hold that in offering free tuition in return for passing examinations the Conservatorium is taking away from them promising students, who would gain equal distinction under their care. Apart from losing the fees of these students, the teachers lose the advertisement which naturally accompanies the success of a pupil, and they complain bitterly of the action of the University authorities. It is also alleged that the Conservatorium is seriously damaging the interests of teachers by accepting students who are practically beginners. It is urged that the original object of the institution was to take students who had attained a fair degree of proficiency and make them perfect, instead of which it is teaching elementary subjects, and thus injuring the private instructors, who depend upon their classes for a living. The teachers have held one meeting to consider the matter, and next week another meeting will be held, and it is anticipated that a determined stand will be taken in opposition to the Conservatorium. It is regrettable that there should be this antagonism, and if any scheme could be devised to bring the friction to an end it would be a distinct benefit to all.

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EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

UNIVERSITY EVENING SCHOLARSHIPS.
Twenty-two Scholarships, tenable during 1907, will be offered for competition in March next. Full particulars may be obtained either from the Education Department or from the Registrar of the University.