

Register 14. 7. 16

#### THE UNIVERSITY PROBLEM.

From the Rev. F. Slangy Poole, M.A.—  
“The evidence given by Professor Darnley Naylor before the North Terrace Reserves Commission quite justifies the heading used. It is indeed a problem—it might perhaps be more appropriately described as a tangle, an inextricable error. If the learned Professor's estimation of the position may be corroborated by actual facts—and it would seem quite possible that it may be—then the University, in view of the certainty of large future demands, is indeed in a perilous condition, and a full, long, and deliberate consideration by those in authority is imperatively called for, and should be undertaken without delay. I feel warranted in saying as much as this, because my long connection with the University of Adelaide has rendered it very dear to me. I was present at its birth, was one of its first batch of graduates, and in many other ways have shown a keen interest in its growth and advancement. I have thus witnessed the day of small things, for small they were when all its lectures were held on one flat in Morialta Chambers, Victoria square, and I have, with ever-increasing pride, noted the development of the institution towards its proud position of to-day. The dangers which Professor Darnley Naylor foresees will, if circumstances shall not be altered, interfere with, if not indeed absolutely prohibit, any further progress. He tells us that ‘the cramping at the University at present is ridiculous;’ that ‘the time has come when the higher work of the School of Mines should be combined with the University,’ and that ‘separate institutions were growing up.’ It is Ruskin, I think, who says that ‘Unity and co-operation are the principle of life; anarchy and competition the principle of death.’ We do not want a cutthroat competition in the realm of knowledge; besides the very name and idea of a university implies that it embraces all kinds of knowledge; and, moreover, that all these kinds of knowledge be working together, and therefore they should be, as it were, under one roof, under one regimen. The multiplication of various institutions for the promotion of arts and sciences would be a mischievous and lamentable blunder. If, however, they are to have a common centre, and work from there, it is palpable that the existing establishment on North terrace is woefully inadequate to the requirements of the position, even at the present time—‘ludicrous’ is the professor's term of description—and utterly impossible in the future, even if a skyscraper of 20 stories be erected. I reserve for another occasion some remarks in support of residential colleges in connection with the University. I will conclude therefore with a renewed expression of hope that a clear and comprehensive policy with regard to the future needs and the possible developments of the University should be formulated by those in authority—should be enunciated by them—and that opportunities should be given to those who have the best interests of the University at heart to consider, to judge, and to advise.”

Register 14. 7. 16

#### UNIVERSITY SENATE NOMINATIONS

The clerk of the University Senate (Mr. T. A. Caterer) on Saturday received nominations for the position of member of the Senate to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Rev. Canon Girdlestone. The only candidates nominated were Sir Langdon Bonython and Mr. T. A. Caterer. The election will be held on July 22.

UNIVERSITY SENATE NOMINATIONS

Register 17. 7. 16

The council of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce, at its meeting on Friday, feelingly acknowledged the interest the late Dr. Barlow had manifested in commercial matters. The President (Mr. F. W. Vasey) said he had, on behalf of the chamber, gratefully accepted from Mr. W. Herbert Phillipps a photograph of Dr. Barlow, which Mr. Phillipps presented to them in recognition of the services Dr. Barlow had rendered to the commercial world, particularly in the establishment of a Chair of Commerce at the Adelaide University.

## BOTANIC GARDEN CONTROVERSY.

### SUPPORT FOR THE BOARD.

#### GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS CRITICISED.

Dr. B. Pullaine, one of the most prominent botanists in Adelaide, speaking as the founder of the Botanical Society and with a view to advancing the interests of the public, said he was glad the Board of Governors of the Botanic Garden had maintained a determined attitude with regard to the appointment of a successor to Mr. Holtze as director of the garden. "Why it is the Government have so suddenly taken an interest in the Botanic Garden it is hard to say," he added, "because for a long time Ministers in this State apparently have been unconcerned about the garden, and the board and the director have been left to fight along as best they could with comparatively slight assistance. From my point of view the threefold appointment the Government propose would be costly and not necessarily efficient. In the first place, apart from a director, they already have a splendid working staff at the garden. The important point is to have under the sole control of the board a director who shall be the best man it is possible to get, and that is what the board seems determined to have. The man the Government wish to appoint to be director, as well as an officer of the University, is not a botanist, pure and simple, for on more than one occasion, at meetings of the Botanical Society, he has himself laid stress on the fact that he is only a plant pathologist. He was brought from the Old Country in that capacity."

#### First-class Men Shut Out.

What was wanted, explained Dr. Pullaine, was a man who had a general knowledge of botany, and especially of Australian botany, and who also had had experience as a director of public gardens or some similar institutions. There were certainly three or four men in Australia, nearly all equally good, who would fill the position with satisfaction to the public and the board. During the conference on the previous day the question of an arboretum was discussed. Apparently the Government had overlooked the fact that within the city already there was one of the finest arboretums in Australia. He referred to the Botanic Park, which was planted in 1889, where there were a great number of trees growing in a state of nature collected from all parts of Australia and other countries. At the present time there was a total grant for the Botanic Garden and Park of £5,450 per annum. In the time of Dr. Schomburgk the vote was £4,900, so that all the advance that had been made in the grant, notwithstanding the enormous increase in population during the last 20 years, and the extension and improvement of the metropolitan area, had been £550 per annum, and the board had ten acres more garden to deal with. Further the pay of the laboring staff had increased 2/ a day all round. When Dr. Schomburgk was director, too, the Government used readily to advance him money for special work. It was estimated that he was allowed £4,000 for the cultivation of orchids alone while he was there.

#### Value of a Herbarium.

The necessity of having a public herbarium, such as there was in Melbourne, and also in Sydney, was very clear, but the Government and the public were inclined to look upon a botanist simply as a sort of herbalist. As a matter of fact botany, next to mathematics, was the most exact of sciences, and during the last 2,000 years, especially since Linnaeus, it had received the attention of men of highest calibre and greatest intellect. The terminology of botany had been perfected to such a degree that if a known plant were submitted to botanists in every country of the world the same exact terminology would be used by everyone in naming the plant. This had been worked out by Linnaeus, Hooker, de Candolle, and Jussieu (Europe) and von Mueller and Bentham (Australia). Mr. J. H. Maiden, F.R.S. (Director of the Sydney Botanic Garden, and one of the six foremost scientists of Australia to-day) regarded botany, if studied in a proper way, as being equal to mathematics as a mental exercise. The trouble was that botany as taught in the schools and colleges never got past the elementary stage, and consequently its value as an intellectual study was not realised. That was an argument in favor of a State herbarium. Such a herbarium there was in the Botanic Garden, but it would require reorganisation before it could be made available to the public. If five years ago, when the board had asked for a small sum of money to appoint a keeper of a herbarium, it had been granted, South Australia would now have had one equal to that in any State." If the Government wish now to have a keeper of the herbarium appointed," concluded Dr. Pullaine, "they should give the board a free hand to appoint the best man who can be obtained."

Revised 18.7.16

## NORTH-TERRACE RESERVES.

### THE UNIVERSITY PROBLEM.

Further evidence affecting the future of the Adelaide University was taken by the North-terrace Reserves Royal Commission at Parliament House on Monday. There were present the chairman (Mr. Smeaton), and Messrs. Carr, Cooke, Green, Gunn, and O'Connor.

The President of the Industrial Court (Professor W. Jethro Brown) stated that if it were decided to remove the University the law school should remain in the city. In Adelaide the clerk serving his articles also took his University course, and any increase in loss of time, such as would be entailed by the removal of the school to the suburbs, would simply diminish the number of candidates. An even more serious objection was that the University was dependent upon the services of members of the legal profession in connection with the teaching, and he did not think half their law lecturers would consent to go out of town. He believed the future development of the University would be largely on the industrial and scientific side. He, however, fully appreciated the value of the University as a cultural institution. It was to the discoveries made in the universities of Germany and America that those countries owed their scientific and industrial advancement. It was very important that they should strengthen the University in this connection, because the future of Australia lay in science and industry. The

best thing would be to keep the University in the city, if it were at all possible, and join it up with the present School of Mines building. Technical education should be divided into lower and higher branches. The humbler work could be done by the Government technical schools, and the higher left to the School of Mines. He had always been a democrat, and he felt strongly that every attempt should be made to keep the University in the centre of things, because it should be subject to public criticism. The democratic university should be in the very heart of things, easily accessible to everyone capable of gaining by its tuition. He could not agree with Professor Darnley Naylor that the addition of 6½ acres to the present land would be inadequate for future requirements. In his opinion the sky-scraper was only in its architectural infancy, so far as regarded aesthetic considerations. It had been designed for business purposes, and maximum accommodation with conveniences and sanitation had been achieved. The arrangement of the present University was such that if they had wanted to waste space they could not have gone about it more efficiently. A building of six stories would not interfere with the symmetry of the terrace, and the accommodation could be quadrupled. The addition of 6½ acres to the present lands would justify the keeping of the University in town.

Mr. T. H. Brooker (chairman of the Board of Governors of the Botanic Garden) said he had occupied his position for 19 years. The Garden was 42 acres and the park 65 acres in extent. It was thought that the space was too confined. The acquisition of the Old Exhibition Grounds—10 acres in extent—had been previously sought. He considered there was a possibility of menace to the public on account of the proximity of the Consumptives' Home. If that institution were removed he thought the property should be transferred to the garden. So far as space on North-terrace was concerned, he thought the first thing to do would be to employ the Government domain for educational purposes. He did not like the high walls around the domain. The Botanic Garden was a valuable educational asset, and that was why space for development was sought. With a grant of an additional £1,000 a year, they could do good work. It would be an improvement to replace the North-terrace wall of the garden with an ornamental fence.

Mr. J. McGuire (Acting Railways Commissioner) was called.

The Chairman explained that a report was shortly being prepared with regard to certain matters, and he questioned him with regard to a subway, connecting the platforms at the western end of the station, and thus facilitating the movements of passengers.

The witness said that a subway was provided for in the plans. It was regarded as very necessary for luggage as well as passengers. He would not object to its construction.

Register 21.7.16

News has been received in Adelaide that Capt. John Wesley Blackett has been killed in action. Capt. Blackett, who left Adelaide as adjutant to the 27th Battalion, under Col. Dollman, was an officer esteemed by all ranks on account of his soldierly qualities. He especially endeared himself to the hearts of all those who served under him at Gallipoli. The eldest son of the Rev. J. Blackett, of Sydenham road, Norwood, the late Capt. Blackett would have been 32 years of age on Thursday. He went to Prince Alfred College in 1901, and after a successful career, both in the classrooms and the sports field, joined the teaching staff, on which he remained until the time of his enlistment. While teaching at the college he threw himself very heartily into cadet work, and took the winning team of cadets from this State to Brisbane two or three years ago. He succeeded Major Oldham, who was killed in the first landing at Gallipoli, as area officer for the area 78B. After having been on Gallipoli for about a fortnight, he was wounded and taken to London, where in hospital he occupied the next bed to that of Lieut. Throssell, V.C., an old schoolmate of his. When he had recovered from his wound he was sent back to Egypt, and later left again for the firing line. The late Capt. Blackett was a member of the Norwood football team for three or four seasons, and was a strong back man and follower. He was also associated with the St. Bartholomew's and University teams, and was captain of the latter club. He was a delegate to the Amateur Football League. He had numerous friends in Adelaide, and great sympathy is felt for his relatives. The Rev. J. Blackett has another son serving with the 27th Battalion.

Register  
22.7.16

#### MR. ARCHIBALD ON UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

Mr. Archibald, the ex-Minister of Home Affairs, is not disposed to take University degrees at their face value (says the Melbourne "Age"). He regards them for the most part as evidence of "cramming." Many students, he asserted on Wednesday, when giving evidence before the Royal Commission enquiring into Federal capital and other works, forgot all they learnt a month or two after they left the University. Consequently he preferred to judge a man by his works. He admitted that Mr. Griffin, Federal capital director of design and construction, had "a string of letters from here to Egypt" after his name, but all the same he did not think much of him as an engineer. He could tell an engineer by talking to him. A man who professed to be both an architect and an engineer was generally no good in either capacity. He was suspicious of a "jack-of-all-trades." That was the reason he consulted other persons with regard to engineering problems, and took no notice of Mr. Griffin.

Register  
25.7.16.

#### THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

##### Directorship Dispute.

The Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. C. Goode) stated on Monday:—  
"All hope of a voluntary settlement of the deadlock in connection with the above appointment seems to be at an end. The Government offered a compromise, but it has not been accepted. Our original proposals were these:—

1. That the Professor of Botany of the University should be appointed director at a salary of £250 per annum.
2. That the director reside in the Botanic Garden, and additional accommodation be provided for this purpose as soon as financial conditions warrant. In the meantime £50 be placed on the Estimates in lieu of residence.
3. That, in addition, a curator be appointed at a salary of, say, £300 per annum, with house, &c.
4. That a keeper of herbarium be appointed at a salary of £250 per annum, rising to £300.
5. That a small building be erected to provide offices and boardrooms at a cost of £400.

Further correspondence followed, and I subsequently met the board; and, as it seemed to me a deadlock was highly undesirable in a matter of this sort, I finally offered to accept the following as a compromise if the board would agree:—