

# THE UNIVERSITY.

## Forty Years of Progress.

### Reminiscences of Mr. C. R. Hodge.

Last year, after 40 years of service, Mr. C. R. Hodge, Registrar of the Adelaide University, was compelled, owing to ill health, to retire. The news was received with deep regret by the council and staff of the University, undergraduates, and the general public; but all will be glad to know that the rest has done wonders for Mr. Hodge, whose health has improved beyond expectation. The leave of absence granted to him expired on February 29.

During 32 years Mr. Hodge filled the position of Registrar, and during that time and the preceding eight years of service he saw wonderful advancement at the University and vast changes in its work, staff, finances, and attractiveness. The leave of absence granted to Mr. Hodge expired on February 29, and that occasion was deemed opportune to obtain from him for The Register some reminiscences of his association with the University.

#### From Small Beginnings.

"I have had the privilege," said Mr. Hodge, "of seeing the University develop from a very small school to an institution of great importance and usefulness, covering a large field, and known all over the world for its high standard and the fact that the graduates sent out from it are highly equipped for service in departments of arts, science, engineering, law, medicine, music, and commerce, many of whom have attained distinction. It was my privilege also to assist in some small way in its development during my 40 years of service. The University owes its present splendid position, firstly, to those big-hearted citizens who so richly endowed it; secondly, to Parliament, which has helped it so splendidly—especially the Parliament of 1874 for its far-sighted policy in providing for an annual endowment of 5 per cent. per annum on all permanent endowments; thirdly, to those citizens who have comprised its council, for their fine services so cheerfully given; and, fourthly, to its teaching staff for their unflinching interest and generous service, all of whom have taken a personal interest in its development. With scarcely a creak in the machinery, the work during the past 40 years has been carried on patiently and loyally. To the donors the grateful thanks of the community are due; as, but for the liberality of those who gave those who received would have had but a very restricted menu, and one cannot but feel how gratified those generous citizens who have passed on would be, could they but witness the results of their foresight and kindness.

#### Comparisons With 1884.

"In 1884 the whole of the activities was housed in the original building, which has been considerably added to during later years, but every one at that time had plenty of room. The staff consisted of four professors, viz., H. Lamb (Mathematics), E. V. Boulger (English Language and Literature, and Mental and Moral Science), D. Kelly (Classics and Comparative Philology, and Literature), and R. Tate (Natural Science); two lecturers, W. R. Phillips (Law), and E. C. Stirling (Physiology); one laboratory assistant, Mr. W. Fuller (who is still a member of the staff), the Registrar, J. Walter Tyas, one clerk, O. R. Hodge, and one caretaker—a total of 10. There were three degree courses, viz., arts, science, and law. The undergraduates numbered 53, non-graduating students 99, total 152. The fees received amounted to £881, while the total income, in round figures, was £9,000. There were two public examinations held in November, for which 168 candidates entered.

"In 1923 the staff comprised 16 professors, 83 lecturers, assistant lecturers, demonstrators, and teachers in the Elder Conservatorium, administration and other officers (about 20), total of, say, 120. The undergraduates numbered 794, non-graduating students (including the Elder Conservatorium) 1,167, total 1,961. The fees received amounted to £22,327 and the total income to £69,153. For the public examinations (including those in music) 3,581 candidates entered.

For many years the work was very much hampered by want of room and adequate equipment. It was frequently found necessary to duplicate and sometimes even triplicate classes. This was very hard on the professor or lecturer, but they ever rose to the occasion. Even at present, after all the additional building of later years, every corner is occupied, and demands ever increasing.

#### The Various Schools.

"The several schools were opened as opportunity offered or the demand was made. The University commenced with the B.A. and B.Sc. courses, and its first degree was conferred in 1879, Mr. T. Ainslie Caterer being the first graduate in arts. In 1883 the Law School began its work with 39 students. It is a rather remarkable fact that this is the only Faculty without an endowment. In 1883 the sum of £500 was subscribed and handed over to the University for the purpose of founding prizes in memory of Mr. Justice Stow; but the school has had to be carried on by means of the fees and grants from the general funds. The next faculties were those of music and medicine. The chair of music owes its existence to the enthusiasm of Sir William Robinson, the then Governor of South Australia. Sir William desired to see a chair established, and with that end in view obtained promises from citizens of subscriptions amounting to £530 a year for five years. The council at once appointed a Professor of Music, and provision was made for the degree of Bachelor of Music. The subscriptions and fees received were sufficient to support the school, but the council gave notice that it could not guarantee its continuance after the five years had expired. During that period, however, the public examinations in music were inaugurated, and immediately appealed to teachers and students. As a result of this step the school at the end of the five years was self-supporting. In 1897 the school received an endowment of £20,000 from that great benefactor to the University, Sir Thomas

Elder, and the council was able to establish the Elder Conservatorium. The public examinations in music seemed to meet a need, and the University of Adelaide was the first to inaugurate them in the Commonwealth. Other States followed, until a few years ago, it was agreed to coordinate, and an Australian board was formed. The present scheme is conducted under the auspices of the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Tasmania, Queensland, Western Australia, and the State Conservatorium of New South Wales. Its syllabus is the best extant, its standard undoubtedly high, and the progress made is remarkable. It is extraordinary, however, after the object lesson of the eighties, when the examinations were taken up so heartily, and the income thus derived maintained the school, to find that many candidates continue to take the examinations offered by other institutions which send examiners out from England instead of supporting their own scheme. Tea-



MR. C. R. HODGE.

chers, parents, and candidates seem to overlook the fact that they can get here all that the visiting institutions can give them; while, at the same time, they are allowing those institutions to take thousands of pounds out of the States annually. That money, if retained in Australia, would be used in the further extension of musical education.

#### Medicine and Engineering.

"The Medical School was inaugurated as the result of a gift of £10,000 by Sir Thomas Elder. The council, at first, was able to provide for only the first two years of the course; but before that period had expired, it was found possible, owing to further assistance, to make pro-

vision for the full five years' curriculum, and with what good results is well known. "Subsequently it was found possible, in conjunction with the School of Mines, to provide for degrees in engineering. Then followed the commercial course, in connection with which a diploma is granted. There has been no endowment of this school yet, but in its early stages the Chamber of Commerce granted some assistance. The University was the first in Australia to provide such a course. It was not in a position to grant a degree in commerce, but, as there was a demand for commercial education the council responded to it, and results have justified the venture. There is no doubt that provision will subsequently be made for granting a degree, and possibly the time may be hastened when the commercial community recognises that an endowment of fair proportions will make it possible. "The Faculty of Dentistry is the last on the list, and the provision made for granting the degrees of bachelor and doctor has been fully justified.

#### The Degrees.

"Up to the beginning of 1883 provision had only been made for granting degrees in arts and science, but now the University confers them in arts, science, engineering, law, medicine, dentistry, and music, and diplomas in commerce, music, education, economics and political science, and in various branches of applied science, and the record is one of continuous progress. South Australia may well be proud of its University, and it is the bounden duty of every citizen to help it in every way possible, and to recognise it as an asset, the value of which cannot be estimated in pounds, shillings, and pence. Its work in the moulding and equipping of its future professional men, teachers, and legislators cannot be estimated in material terms. An excellent feature of University work has been the formation of local centres all over the State, at which candidates for the public examinations may present themselves on the same conditions as the city candidates. This has proved a great boon to those in the country, and has enabled many hundreds of candidates to get through who would have been unable to go to the city to take examinations and become better equipped for their life's work. As far as possible, the council also provides for the delivery of extension lectures in the country centres. A great deal has been done since I first entered the portals of the University. Its halls and classrooms were quiet and dignified. There were not enough students even to make a decent noise. Now the whole place is a hive, humming from morning to 10 o'clock at night.

#### Wise System of Financing.

"The wise provision in the Act of 1874 for the payment of the annual subsidy at once placed the University on a splendid financial basis, and the council was able to know the exact amount it would receive annually, whereas grants on the annual Estimates were liable, in times of financial stringency, to be reduced. Moreover the council has always been at liberty to make its own investments—subject to the provisions of the Act—thus practically doubling the annual income. For many years the University had to depend to too great an extent upon its income from students' fees, and at some periods a decrease of a few hundreds a year would have been a really serious matter, as the allocation of prospective income and expenditure left but little margin, and no room for extension.

"From the inception of the University to 1874, Sir Henry Ayers was the treasurer, and supervised the finances, submitting a report each month to the council. When he retired from office in 1886 he recommended a system to the council which was approved, and has been in operation ever since. It provides for detailed statements of income for the month and of the prospective income for the ensuing month, together with the accounts to be paid. This is very systematic, has of cash received and disbursed, as the books are balanced when the state-

ment is prepared. Another good system is the preparation, at the beginning of each year, of a statement showing the prospective income and expenditure, so that the council is able to make its allocations to departments and provision for extended work, if possible, with reasonable certainty. That has been a feature of the University finance; nothing haphazard, but exactitude, as nearly as possible. The careful supervision of the finances under such men of experience as Sir Henry Ayers, Hon. David Murray, Mr. S. J. Jacobs, Sir George Brookman, and others, who have been Chairmen of the finance committee, has been excellent policy. There have been periods, however, when the finance committee and council have been very exercised in mind how to make both ends meet. I well remember some years ago that things were serious, and it was actually contemplated asking the teaching staff to agree to a percentage reduction in their salaries. This is rather giving away a secret; but, in the circumstances, I think the reference is justified, as it shows how systematically and conscientiously everything has been done. The

although it could have been very, was fortunately obviated by the did legacy of Sir Thomas Elder. At the same time, had it been deemed necessary to submit such a proposal to the staff, one feels confident that they would have agreed to it, such was their loyalty to, and interest in, the University.

#### The Council.

"The University has been exceedingly fortunate in regard to the personnel of the council. It has ever been constituted by those of high repute in scholarship, finance, or commerce, and the policy of electing financial and commercial men, in addition to the academic members, has been a very wise one. The action of Parliament in 1911, when amending the Act by providing for additional endowment, and in making provision for representation from both Houses on the University council, was a wise step, and was welcomed by the University. It was satisfactory to each side, and the Legislative members were at once brought into direct contact with University problems and methods of administration, and shared the responsibilities connected therewith.

"Up to the end of 1883 only 11 degrees (all in arts) had been granted, so that I have had the privilege of witnessing the conferring of the whole of the degrees that have been granted, with the exception of the 11 above mentioned. I have only known two Chancellors, viz., the late Sir Samuel Way and the present Chancellor, Sir George Murray; and it would be difficult to find men more highly qualified for the position or more devoted to the best interests of the institution and its work of development. It is interesting to note that the present Chancellor, five members of the council, four professors, and 17 lecturers are all graduates of the University. The University is exceptionally fortunate in its Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mitchell), who, since his retirement from the professorial chair, has devoted all his energy to University problems and development.

#### The Original Council in 1877.

"The original council in 1877 was composed as follows:—The Chancellor (Bishop Short), Vice-Chancellor (Hon. Samuel James Way), the Treasurer (Sir H. Ayers), and Revs. C. A. Reynolds, J. Jefferis, and W. P. Wells, Mr. Justice Stow, Sir W. Milne, Messrs. A. Blyth, A. Hay, W. Everard, G. C. Hawker, W. A. E. West-Erskine, W. R. Boothby, Dr. J. M. Gunson, Dr. A. Campbell, Messrs. J. A. Hartley, A. von Treuer, M. McDermott, and W. H. Bunday.

"The council in 1884 consisted of: Chancellor (Sir S. J. Way), Vice-Chancellor (Rev. Roby Fletcher, and Messrs. F. Ayers, W. R. Boothby (Sheriff), J. A. Hartley, Hon. D. Murray, Dr. E. W. Way, Dr. H. T. Whittell, Dr. W. Barlow, Sir Charles Todd, Sir Henry Ayers, Mr. W. A. E. West-Erskine, Mr. J. W. Bakewell, Mr. W. Everard, Canon Farr, Sir R. D. Ross, Mr. A. von Treuer, Professor Lamb, Dr. J. Davies Thomas, and the late Sir Edward Stirling. The personnel of the present council is given in the University Calendar, but other prominent men who have been members of the executive are Bishop Kennion, Dr. W. Gardner, Professor Boulger, Rev. D. Paton, Sir S. Davenport, Mr. E. W. Hawker, Sir John Downer, Dr. J. Walter Smith, Sir John Cockburn, Mr. James Henderson, Mr. W. A. Horn, Rev. F. Slaney Poole, Dr. F. W. Pennefather, Dr. A. A. Lendon, Sir Josiah Symon, Bishop Harmer, Rev. Dr. Jefferis, Mr. R. Barr Smith, Sir J. L. Stirling, Dr. J. A. G. Hamilton, Professor Bragg, Dr. Poulton, Rev. H. Girdlestone, Mr. John Gordon, Professor Ennis, Mr. S. J. Jacobs, Mr. A. Williams (Director of Education), Sir F. W. Young, Professor Lowrie, Hon. J. J. Duncan, Hon. F. W. Conybeer, Messrs. S. B. Rudall, W. Senior, W. Angus, W. J. Denby, T. H. Smeaton, Hon. F. S. Wallis, Messrs. H. B. Crosby, Hon. A. A. Kirkpatrick, Mr. M. M. Maughan (Director of Education), Mr. T. Ainslie Caterer.

#### Happy In His Work.

"In conclusion Mr. Hodge said:—It is hard to realize that I am not taking up my work as usual in March after my annual leave, and it is a matter of great grief that I have to give it up. In fact, however, of the emphatic medical dictum, I felt there was no alternative but to send in my resignation. The council and staff have been wonderfully good to me, and I shall cherish for the remainder of my life that portion of the Chancellor's address at the Commemoration in December, in which he so generously and kindly referred to my service. Such commendation helped materially to soften the pangs of parting, but it makes one feel humble to realize that one is among the 'has-beens.' I have felt a great affection for many members of the staff and council who have been my very great friends, from several of whom I have received affectionate letters in connection with my retirement. I have been most happy in my work, although it has frequently been very strenuous. Now, however, I have to say goodbye but I feel as Romeo did, that 'partings such as sweet sorrow I could say goodbye until to-morrow.' My affection for the University and what it stands for, and for those who guide its destiny, will remain undimmed."