

# University Jubilee

## CELEBRATIONS IN AUGUST

### ITS EARLIEST HISTORY

#### A DIP INTO THE PAST

The jubilee of the University of Adelaide will be celebrated in August next at a gathering which is already commanding interest in similar institutions the world over. The University is the pride of South Australia; in half a century it has mounted to a position of eminence in the scholastic sphere and has given to the world some of its finest scholars and scientists. The history of the movement to found this institution which, we believe, is here told for the first time in print, is of uncommon interest to South Australians.

Though the first building of the magnificent aggregation of structures now comprising the University of Adelaide was not completed until 1881 the University of Adelaide was established by Act of Parliament in 1874. Officially it is considered to have begun working in 1876, and consequently the jubilee is to be celebrated this year. A gathering of representatives of all the Australian Universities, and a large number of those in other parts of the world will take place in Adelaide and will be of first importance. A large number of representatives has been appointed by sister Universities in all parts of the world. The list includes many distinguished graduates, including Sir John MacFarland (Chancellor of the University of Melbourne), the Hon. Sir William Cullen (Chancellor of the University of Sydney), the Hon. Sir Neil Elliott Lewis (Chancellor of the University of Tasmania), and the Hon. Dr. A. J. H. Saw, M.L.C. (Chancellor of the University of Western Australia). Several other Universities have appointed graduates resident in this or the neighbouring States to attend on their behalf. A complete list will be published later.

#### Its History

Col. T. H. Smeaton has been engaged for some years in a search of records, with the object of preparing a history of education in this State. We are indebted to him for the following account of the events, which led to the establishment of the University of Adelaide:—

"The earliest records of the movement to found the colony of South Australia afford abundant evidence that the spirit of adventure which lies behind all such enterprises was in this case at any rate, tempered with a desire for the moral and intellectual welfare for those engaged in it. This may be read in every measure adopted at the beginning for securing a good class of colonist, and in the arrangements made for meeting as far as possible their educational necessities on arrival at their new home. Special proof of this comes to us in the records of the South Australian School Society, founded in London in 1835, and of the literary and scientific association which was formed a year earlier with the specific purpose of engaging the interest of prospective colonists in matter of educational importance.

"It may be said that such a beginning of a great social adventure included within itself the germ of every educational development that has been achieved in succeeding years—as well of the University as of the elementary schools—but it is possible that the material at my disposal to particularise events more closely and to show more clearly their origin and certain of them took conscious shape and form.

#### The First Reference

"The celebration of the jubilee of the founding of the University of Adelaide to be held in August next fixes the historic date of a very important event, but it is certainly not the jubilee date of the beginning of University classes, and has even less reference to the events of which these were the results. The first definite mention of a University in any record I have seen occurs in a letter from the late Bishop Short to the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge, dated April 11, 1839, in which he stated that he hoped to interest Captain Allen—the donor of a large sum of money for the establishment of St. Peter's College—in a scheme for providing a University. Whilst that is the first recorded reference to such a project, it is impossible to believe that, with such men as the late Rev. Thomas Quentin Stow and Dr. Wyatt taking an active part in all the educational ventures of the new province prior to the advent of Bishop Short the idea of a University had not been already mooted.

#### Churches Interested

"It is not generally known, but it is a well established fact, that the University of Adelaide owes its foundation to an act of generosity on the part of certain representatives of the Presbyterian, Congregational, and Baptist Churches, who, roused with a great, unselfish vision of the future of South Australia, diverted an intended donation of £20,000 of Sir Walter Watson Hughes for the endowment of a Theological College for the training of candidates for the University, to the bigger scheme of founding a University. This scheme was approved by Sir Walter Watson Hughes and confirmed at a meeting of the Council of Union College on September 3, 1872, from which date the functions of the college in certain University subjects, were transferred to a University Association that was the immediate precursor of the Adelaide University, which was established by Act of Parliament in 1874. The story of how all this was accomplished is an interesting chapter in the history of South Australia, which will doubtless be written some day.

#### From Four Chairs to Nineteen

The first building erected in connection with the University is that

now used as the administrative block, and has in front of it a statue of Sir Walter Watson Hughes. It was originally designed to take four professors, with their libraries, private rooms, and lecture rooms. These professors were:—(a) The Hughes Professor of Classics and Comparative Philology and Literature, (b) the Hughes Professor of English Language and Literature and Mental and Moral Philosophy, (c) the Elder Professor of Pure and Applied Mathematics, and (d) the Elder Professor of Physics. An idea of the growth of the University may be obtained from the fact that there are now 19 Chairs, 61 lecturers, 34 assistant lecturers and demonstrators, 30 assistants (including technicians), 18 members of the Conservatorium staff, while there are 35 on the administrative and literary staff.

The first lectures in 1886 were attended by eight matriculated students and 52 non-graduated students. The number of undergraduates in 1925 was 702, of post-graduates 58, non-graduating students 676, and there were 632 students attending the Elder Conservatorium.

#### The University Building

An addition to the original structure provision was made in 1886 for the accommodation of Professor Silling's department. This is in front of the Prince of Wales Theatre Block, which was a still later addition. The Elder Conservatorium was erected as the result of a bequest by Sir Thomas Elder, and was completed in 1899. Then came the Prince of Wales Building, known as the Science School. The foundation stone of this structure was laid in 1901 by the present King when his Majesty visited Adelaide as the Duke of York. With his permission the building was named the Prince of Wales Building when he received that title. Then in 1904 came the Anatomical School on the slope at the rear of the main buildings and behind the tennis courts. The next important extension was an addition to the main building to provide room for the Laboratory and Botanical Department. This extension consisted of an additional storey on the back portion, and was effected in 1912.

The handsome and commodious Darling Building, to the cost of which the family of the late Hon. John Darling liberally contributed, was the first of two important recent extensions of the University. This fine structure is behind the Art Gallery, and is used for the physiological, biochemical, zoological, and pathological departments. For many years the engineering and physics departments have been badly cramped in their operations because of lack of room, but the Government erected an extensive building to accommodate these departments, and the structure is now in use.

#### THE EDUCATION SOCIETY.

The third conference of the Education Society will be held in the Institute Building, North-terrace, on July 7 to 10. At the opening address on the evening of the former date addresses will be delivered by the Lord Mayor (Mr. Wallace Bruce), Miss D. Gillian, headmistress of the Woodlands College of England Grammar School, Dr. Helen Mayo, Miss A. Methak and Mrs. T. G. Osborn. The honorary secretary is Mr. R. Holtham, senior modern language master at St. Peter's College.

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#### COUNCIL OF SCIENCE.

#### A Representative Body.

MELBOURNE, Friday. In the House of Representatives to-day the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) said that the first session of the Council of Scientific Research and Industrial Research, appointed under legislation recently passed, would be opened at the council's offices in East Melbourne by himself next Tuesday. The members were:—Commonwealth nominees of executive committee: Mr. G. A. Julius, B.Sc. (Chairman), Mr. W. J. Newbigg, Professor A. C. D. Rivett, D.Sc. (Nominatee of the Executive Committee), Professor R. H. Watt (Sydney), Professor Sir David Mason (Melbourne), Professor H. C. Richards, D.Sc. (Department of Geology and Mineralogy, University of Brisbane), Professor H. A. Wood (Department of Veterinary Pathology, Melbourne), and Professor J. G. Bennett (Brisbane). The Prime Minister stated that the Commonwealth Government is fortunate in having secured the services of so many eminent men in the branches of science and industry. The council as constituted was of a very representative nature, and was properly constituted. It comprised two engineers—Messrs. G. A. Julius and W. J. Newbigg; two chemists—Sir David Mason and Professor Rivett; two biologists—Professors (Ade) Robertson and Professor Goddard; one representative of agricultural science, Professor Watt; one representative of veterinary science, Professor Woodruff; one representative of scientific research in industry, Mr. P. E. Ncan.

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#### SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

#### Council Meeting Next Week.

MELBOURNE, Friday. The Chairman of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Mr. G. A. Julius) arrived by the Sydney express to-day to attend the opening by the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) of the Council. The council, he said, expected to sit about a week. The executive had been three months preparing a report for submission to the council, which would then determine its course of action. The council's function was to take over all work involving scientific research in relation to industry, and to advise the Commonwealth Ministry. Special attention would be paid to problems in agriculture, metallurgy, and the scientific organization of the primary industries. When internal affairs of the council had been dealt with the council would probably proceed to select four men to be sent to England to study research problems at the expense of the Commonwealth. The council would probably investigate food problems, one fuel problem, and the fourth possibly afforestation. The executive had come to certain definite conclusions, which would be placed before the council. The Ministry had given very practical evidence of the fact that it intended to help the council.