

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION.

AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS.

MEETING AT THE TOWN HALL.

The interest in the proposal to erect a Students' Union Building in connection with the University of Adelaide, was shown by the largely attended meeting at the Adelaide Town Hall last night.

The need of a Students' Union, although felt early in the history of the University of Adelaide, did not find concrete expression until 1896, when £750 was raised by the students and expended on the erection of the men's union room. The project was not revived until the close of the war, when it was decided that the proposed University War Memorial should be incorporated in the union building. It was not, however, until last year, when the Government made available the site facing Victoria Drive, that the project became feasible. To enable the scheme to be proceeded with, Sir Josiah Symon, K.C., on the occasion of the University jubilee last year, donated £10,000 for the erection of a Women's Union building. To enable a corresponding building to be erected for men, and the war memorial, which will take the form of cloisters, an appeal for funds was recently launched by Professor Henderson, who had collected over £7,000 at the end of the war. To further that appeal, and to endeavor to raise the additional sum of £20,000 required, a public meeting was held at the Town Hall on Friday night.

Prior to the meeting the men students had organised a procession, which, starting from the City Baths, paraded King William-street to the Town Hall. It was preceded by an improvised band composed of a medley of unmusical instruments. At the head was a streamer bearing the inscription, "We don't want work; we want a union." Another streamer was inscribed, "St. Mark's for Varsity and union; solidarity for ever." Bringing up the rear of the procession were a number of the unemployed, who held aloft a red streamer. On arrival at the Town Hall the students occupied the northern half of the hall, where a piano had been provided to lead the choruses with which they enlivened the proceedings prior to the meeting and in the intervals between the speeches. The unemployed ranged themselves on the other side, and upon one of their number attempting to address the meeting he was howled down and counted out by the students. For some minutes pandemonium reigned, which was intensified when Inspector Nation removed the man from the hall. Later, two other men who interjected during the speeches by the Premier and Sir Josiah Symon, were removed by the police. The decorum of the students during the speeches was in striking contrast to the lack of it prior to the start of the meeting. They were requested by the president of the Students' Association (Mr. K. H. Boykett) to keep quiet while the speakers were addressing the meeting, and they complied with the request punctiliously. The appearance of the Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) and the other speakers on the platform was the signal for an outburst of prolonged cheering and the chanting of the students' war cry. Sir George was supported by the Premier (Hon. R. L. Butler), Sir Josiah Symon, the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell), the warden of the senate (Mr. Justice Anzas Parsons), and the leader of the Opposition (Hon. L. L. Hill), as well as a number of the council and staff of the University.

Appeal by Sir George Murray.

The Chancellor said the object of the meeting was to launch an appeal for funds to erect a students' union building and a war memorial in the University grounds. It was inspiring to see such an enthusiastic gathering. How proud was the University of its glorious past, and how convinced was it of its still more glorious future. When the University was founded in 1870 it had eight undergraduates. When he entered five years later there were 15. In 1891, when he became a member of the Council, the number had increased to 102. To-day they had 827 undergraduates, besides 830 non-graduating students, and about 600 attending classes at the Conservatorium, a total of 2,200. (Applause.) When the Great War broke out no fewer than 470 graduates and students answered the call of their country, and 63 of them laid down their lives. He, like others, had long felt that this sacrifice should be worthily commemorated, but action had to be deferred because they had no site where the memorial could be erected. That obstacle had been removed, thanks to the late and the present Governments, and the people were now asked for their assistance. A further object of the appeal was the students' union. The advantages of a union had been admirably described in a pamphlet issued in support of the movement

The building which it was proposed to erect had been designed by Mr. Laybourne-Smith, one of the University graduates, and when completed it would be a very interesting and beautiful building. The cost of the women's union building had been provided by Sir Josiah Symon with the munificent gift of £10,000. (Applause.) The building would happily bear the name of Lady Symon. Their gratitude to Sir Josiah was profound, and he tendered to him once again their united and heart-felt gratitude. (Applause.) The cost of the entire building would be about £42,000. They had in hand, besides Sir Josiah's £10,000, over £12,000, which had been subscribed by members of the council, the professorial staff, and a few generous friends, including a promise of £1,000 from the late Mr. John Barker, which had been honored by his daughter. (Applause.) They must not forget the splendid work of Professor Henderson in support of the movement. During the war and recently during a special visit to Adelaide he gathered £12,000. His own contributions consisted of the proceeds of a series of lectures delivered by him throughout the State, and a personal gift of £100. (Applause.) They would require £20,000, and he would like this to be given not by a few, but by a great many. It would be a fine thing if those who had benefited from the University contributed something in memory of those who gave their lives for their country. (Applause.)

Sympathy of the Government.

The Premier said as representative of the Government it would have given him pleasure to make a donation towards the union building. However, they were not in a position to do so. Through the secretary to the Prime Minister he had received a message in which Mr. Bruce said that when the appeal was made he hoped it would receive the wholehearted support of the citizens. No fitter memorial could be erected to commemorate the sacrifices of the youth of Australia in the war than such a building. The University of Adelaide was fortunate in having received many munificent donations, amounting in all to £400,000. The Government intended, through the University, to make advances of £5,000 in the first year, and rising to £15,000 in five years, to the Waite Institute to assist in the development of agricultural science. He appealed to the public of the State to respond to the appeal liberally. (Applause.)

Fellowship for Students.

Sir Josiah Symon said they were met to advance a purpose of great advantage to the University, and to make an appeal in respect of its achievement. He did not think there would be any difficulty in raising the amount they sought. "What is £20,000?" he asked, raising a ripple of laughter. "I believe there are enough large-hearted men in this State sufficiently interested in advancing the cause of education to avoid the necessity of asking the Government to make a more or less forced contribution." A University union was part of the institution, but in a certain sense it was outside the scholastic disciplinary regime of the University itself. It was a social and academic home, comfortable and attractive, to which graduates and undergraduates could repair in the intervals of study in the class and lecture rooms, to replenish themselves in private study or reading and recreation, and the interchange of ideas, opinions, and criticism on one another, or perhaps even—greatly daring—on the revered and delightful professors and lecturers. (Laughter.) He regarded opportunities for free and unrestrained criticism under favorable circumstances and with adequate creature comforts as most valuable. The University aimed at turning out, not pigs and book-worms, but real men—(Applause)—and that could never be accomplished by unrelieved atten-

tion to Latin and Greek. To fit their students to make their mark in life they needed the association of their fellow-students in such circumstances as a union would provide, and the clash of minds against mind, free from what he might term the cramping atmosphere of the lecture-room. In the union building under conditions which he hoped would be fairly comfortable and attractive, students could meet with companions of their own choosing, and have their faculties stimulated by the exchange of ideas. There was an excellent precedent for the step they were taking in Adelaide in the rehabilitation scheme being carried out at the University of London, which had twice as many students as Cambridge and Oxford combined. He was confident that the great scheme would be carried to a prosperous issue, that the future of the University and its students would be assured, and that future generations would rejoice with the present in gratitude to all who had contributed to secure that result. (Applause.)

The leader of the Opposition, who was well received, said he thought it his duty to lend his assistance to the movement. It has been mentioned that the Government should do more towards the establishment of the union building. He understood that the appeal was to have been more direct to the people. The University was established by endowment and later subsidies were given by the Government. There was a greater difficulty than finance, and the University found itself cramped for room. He traced the history of the ground made available until in March this year he had the pleasure of recommending to Cabinet that 5½ acres be placed at the disposal of the University. That made a total

of about 9 acres of ground, valued at £30,000, which the Government had given the University. He was pleased to hear the Premier say that the land on which the Exhibition stood would be dedicated to the University. With that policy he was in hearty agreement. (Applause.) He trusted that the necessary amount would be raised to complete the union building. It would establish good fellowship and add to the usefulness of University life generally. (Applause.)

The Soul of the University.

Mr. Justice Anzas Parsons said if the gathering was not in the highest sense of the word a great evening, it was certainly a weird and wonderful one. (Laughter and cheers.) As an exposition of the supreme achievement for which the Conservatorium was founded he ventured to think it represented the highest aim and endeavor of Professor Davies. (Laughter.) Fifty-one years ago the foundation stone of the building of the University was laid. That night they were laying the foundation of its soul. (Applause.) There was no doubt that mere bricks and mortar would never make for the realisation of the highest university life. That realisation would come from the hearts and spirit and from the discipline of the students themselves. It was right that on behalf of the Senate he should take this opportunity of saying how grateful the members of that body felt to the present and past Governments for the great and sympathetic aid which they had rendered to the University and its students. It was a matter of delight to every one of them, and particularly to those who took an active interest in the affairs of the University, to hear from the lips of the Premier, with the support of the leader of the Opposition, what they had so long looked for and hoped for—that the boundaries of the University should be widened so that they would have sufficient territory to extend the institution was so soon and so happily to be accomplished. (Applause.) The Chancellor had referred to the work of their old friend, Professor Henderson. He agreed with everything the Chancellor had said. There had been no better friend of the movement for the formation of the University Union than Professor Henderson. (Applause.) His work had not been spasmodic. It began in 1914 and was finished in 1927, and as the result he had raised the sum of £12,000. Now what was to be said of Sir Josiah Symon? What could be said in extenuation? (Laughter.) Sir Josiah was a Scotsman. (Laughter.) He had ploughed a lonely furrow and had risen to a position of positively dazzling eminence. He had done that without going to a university. Great as had been his achievement, what would it have been had he been a residential student at St. Mark's College? (Laughter.) What would he not have done had he enjoyed the benefits which would be experienced as the result of the appeal? The thought of what Sir Josiah Symon would have achieved in such circumstances left the imagination aghast. (Laughter.) The appeal had the support of every member of the council, and of the professors and lecturers. An interesting feature was the enthusiasm shown by the students, who were so sensible of the value of the union and its equipment that they had agreed to contribute £1 each a year for the next three years. Some of them might not have a practical enjoyment of the advantages it would confer, and what they had done represented a fine observance of the finest traditions of the University of Adelaide. (Applause.) He had been informed by Professor Davies that the janitor at the Elder Conservatorium, not to be outdone by the students, had undertaken to make the same donation. The uniting of a war memorial with the student union building was never meant to be used as a slogan for the purpose of raising funds, but when one remembered that out of the comparatively few eligible men who represented the student life of the University 470 "followed the gleam" and that 63 of them gave their lives for civilisation, it was right that a memorial should be erected to them, and fitting that it should be associated with the student life of to-day and to-morrow. The cloisters, which would be specially dedicated to the immortal dead, and to those who survived the tragic struggle, would be the scene of gatherings of care-free students, and if the spirits of the dead should revisit the earth it would surely be to the scene of their University life that they would turn for happiness and solace. The students of to-day and to-morrow, as they paced the cloisters, would turn to gaze on the names on the tablets which were to be erected there, and they would be fired by their example. About 1,500 graduates had passed through the University, and although many of them had made friendships there, the opportunities for getting the full force and benefit of University life had been far too few. It had been largely a matter of attending lectures, and then hurrying away. That was not what University life stood for, or what would make for the development of a University spirit, or for the training of character, or what would bring to the zenith of their potentialities the capacities of the students. Members of the Senate looked on the union movement with interest; they wished to see the students entering into the spirit of fellowship that they might obtain that clarity of mind and grandeur of character, that disinterested purpose, and that noble resolve and high endeavor that would stand for so much in the clang and clash of life. They did not want the University to be come a mere examining body; they wished

to see not only St. Mark's, but other residential colleges as places where students would gather and understand each other. They wanted to found traditions such as those belonging to the Oxford and Cambridge Unions, and to start something akin to Hart House in Canada. They wanted to see a union and a campus which would be a meeting place of students to form imperishable bonds, so that to young men and young women leaving school the University would be a magnet that would draw them together and enable them to make friendships under an influence of such a character that would leave a real impression and be of value to them in life. (Applause.)

MAIL 13-8-27

PROMINENT PERSONS

The Governor

Sir Tom Bridges will celebrate his fifty-sixth birthday on Saturday next. Born on August 29, 1871, Sir Tom entered the Royal Artillery in 1892. With the Imperial Light Horse he served in the South African War, and had command of the Western Australian Mounted Infantry. He was severely wounded in South Africa later in the Somaliland campaign, and also three times in the great war.

His distinguished service in the late war, in which he served during 1914-18, caused his name to be mentioned seven times in despatches, and, as all the world knows, he did some gallant work which brought him decorations and promotion to major-general.

His Excellency retired from the army in 1922, since when he has been Governor of this State. He is a K.C.B. and K.C.M.G., colonel of the 5th Dragoon Guards, and honorary colonel of the 43rd Battalion of the Australian Military Forces.

Head of Holden's

Tomorrow will be the forty-second anniversary of the birth of Mr. E. W. Holden, chairman and managing director of Holden's Motor Body Builders Limited, the largest business of its kind in Australia. Mr. Holden is at present on a trip to Queensland for the benefit of his health.



MR. E. W. HOLDEN

He is one of South Australia's captains of industry, and will probably fill an even more important place in the public life of the State than he holds today.

Apart from his active interest in the great industrial concern of which he is the directing genius, Mr. Holden is a member of the Council of Adelaide University, a city councillor, and a director of the Bank of Adelaide. Son of the late H. J. Holden (a public-spirited citizen), he was born at College Town and received his education at Prince Alfred College and the University. His recreations are tennis and golf.

Dr. Angus Johnson

Citizens generally and those who visit the Botanic Garden will be pleased at the announcement that Dr. E. Angus Johnson has been appointed chairman of the Board of Governors of the Botanic Garden. The doctor has been a member of the board of governors for the last 16 years, and no one except Director Bailey has displayed keener interest in this popular resort, or devoted more time to its advancement.

A lover of nature, a keen botanist, and an enthusiastic amateur gardener, Dr. Angus Johnson has done much, not only for the improvement of the Botanic Garden, which is the pride of the citizens, but for the beautifying of Adelaide. With