ST. PETER'S COLLEGE ANNIVERSARY.

EIGHTY YEARS OLD TO-DAY.

SECOND OLDEST SCHOOL IN AUSTRALIA.

To-day St. Peter's College, Adelaide, celebrates its eightieth anniversary. Since 1847 this school—the second oldest in Australia—has carried on the traditions of the great English public schools, and has proved a worthy fulfilment of the ideals of its founders. From 11 pupils the school has grown to a limit of 800, who are now housed in magnificent blocks of buildings, of architectural grandeur, which have cost £133,000.

The college has developed with the State, and its influence on public life can scarcely be estimated. Old boys have played a large part in guiding the community, and not only in this, but also in other States of the Commonwealth of Australia and in other parts of the world, they have risen to exalted rank, and they have proved worthy leaders and worthy citizens. To the old school many of them owe their early education, and above all their ability to play the game and a realisation of the obligations of rank, as instilled in them by the spirit of the college.

Established 1847.

King's School, Parramatta (N.S.W.) is the only existing college in Australia older than St. Peter's. Within 10 years of the founding of the colony St. Peter's was established. Early in 1847 plans were considered for a proprietary school for day scholars. The settlers had been perturbed about securing an education for their sons comparable with that many of them had themselves received at the English public schools, and the first meeting, a general one, of all interested in education, was held on February 24, 1847, when it was agreed to establish a proprietary classical and commercial school. The committee appointed to draw up a plan and prospectus comprised Major O'Halloran, Capt. Bagot, Dr. Wyatt, Capt. O'Halloran, Dr. Nash, Dr. Duncan, Rev. J. Farrell, Capt. Watts, Mr. M. McDermott, Rev. W. J. Woodcock, Rev. G. Newenham, Rev. G. Haining, Messrs. Andrew Murray, Patrick Auld, H. Jickling, Charles Flaxman, W. Giles, Angus McLean, R. Thornber, G. Stevenson, W. Bartly, and Capt. Allen. Shares were issued, pupils were accepted by ballot, and the Collegiate School of South Australia was opened in the Trinity Church Schoolhouse on July 15, 1847. The schoolroom was used by permission of the Rev. M. Howard, and it is interesting to recall that that little old red brick building still stands to-day on North terrace. Eleven pupils were taken, and of them only Messrs. Hillary Boucaut and James Davison survive. The school was practically in charge of the third master, Mr. J. W. Dempster.

REV. J. K. F. BICKERSTETH, M.A., M.C., head master since 1920.

Proprietors of School.

From that small beginning arose a mightly scholastic institution. The first Bishop of Adelaide (Bishop Short) concerned himself with the school immediately after his arrival in the colony at the end of December, 1847, and, with the object of giving education a sound religious foundation, proposed to establish a Church of England Collegiate School, with assistance from the venerable Society fro Promoting Christian Knowledge; but, after negotiations, the schools were united under the name of the Collegiate School of St. Peter, Adelaide, and established early in 1848. The proprietors of the school bore names many of them still honoured throughout the State, while others have passed out of public life. The original 65 proprietors and their occupations, were:—George Young, merchant; Arthur Hardy, solicitor; William Pinkerton, settler; John Baker, merchant; George Alexander Ansey, settler; Abraham Scott, merchant; Charles Stuart, Government officer; William Allen, settler; John Hart, merchant; Philip Levi, merchant; Lewis William Giles, merchant; Samuel Stocks, merchant; William James, solicitor; Henry Metcalfe, settler; George Stevenson, editor of paper; Robert Thornber, merchant; Benjamin Archer Kent, M.D.; Alfred Rymill; Government officer; Ray Boucaut, settler; John Ellis, settler; Burton Gleeson, settler; William Robinson, settler; John Woodforde, surgeon; John Bentham Neales, auctioneer; George Charles Hawker, settler; John Bristow Hughes, settler; James Philcox, agent; James Stein, settler; Montague Phillipson, merchant; William Henry Clark, brewer; Edmund Isaac Stevens Trumper, merchant; John Wild De Horne, miller; George Mayo, surgeon; H. S. Hulkes, settler; William Paxton, chemist; Henry Ayers, secretary Burra Mines; William Samson, auctioneer; Thomas Sheldam O'Halloran, settler; William Littlejohn O'Halloran, clerk of council; John Adams, agent; James Masters, settler; William Robert Smith Cooke, miller; Edward Stirling, settler; James Bunce, merchant; Frederick Bayne, solicitor; Thomas Brooks Penfold, settler; Jacob Ragan, settler; Henry Seymour, settler; Samuel Elkington Boord, grocer; John Benjamin Graham, director Burra Mines; Stephen King, settler; Francis Stocker Dutton, settler; Charles Burton Newenham, sheriff; William Younghusband, merchant; Duncan Macfarlane, settler; James Henderson, merchant; Marshall MacDermott; Charles Flaxman, surveyor and agent; Frederick Hansborough Dutton, settler; William Wyatt, surgeon; James Hurtle Fisher, barrister; Capt. John Watts, Postmaster-General; William Bartley, solicitor; Augustus Short, Bishop of Adelaide.

Origin of Name.

In January, 1848, Bishop Short secured 30 acres of land from the South Australian Company, which he considered was well adapted for a college and episcopal residence, and later it was decided to devote the whole area to the college. Capt. Allen made a donation of £700, to which he added £2,000; and Mrs. Ellis gave £300. With funds gathered on this nucleus the building was proceeded with. The foundation stone of the present college was laid on May 2, 1849. The first stone was taken, with the consent of the Colonial Office, from the old City Bridge. The naming of the college is most interesting. It is a compliment to Bishop Short, who was educated at St. Peter's College, Westminster, and consecrated in the Abbey of St. Peter's on St. Peter's Day. From Westminster the college derived the mitre and peculiar colouring of its badge. The building, in Tudor style, was completed in 1853. The schoolroom had been furnished in 1850, and the boys removed from Trinity. The boarding establishment was for some time conducted separately by Mrs. Baye, at Norwood House. Since 1853 progress has been steady, and the buildings have been gradually added to, until to-day they stand a magnificent pile. The preparatory school was opened in 1910, and the latest addition, a war memorial hall costing between £50,000 and £60,000 is nearing completion, and is expected to be opened in September. Altogether the land and buildings have cost £133,000. To-day the school numbers 900, having been limited to that figure some years ago. There are 700 day scholars and 200 boarders, about 300 boys being in the preparatory school There are four boarding houses. The college is very richly endowed in scholarships.

Controllers of College.

The list of head masters is a notable one. The following have had charge of the school:—Rev. T. P. Wilson, M.A. (1848-50), Archdeacon G. H. Farr, M.A. (1854-78), Rev. W. B. Stanford, M.A. (1879-81), F. Williams, M.A. (1882-89), P. E. Raynor, M.A. (1890-93), H. Girdlestone, M.A. (1894-1915), and K. J. F. Bickersteth, M.A., M.C. (1920). In addition, Mr. T. A. Caterer acted as head master from 1916 to 1919, and Mr. F. A. Wyatt was in charge while Rev. Bickersteth was abroad for 12 months. Long terms of office stand to the credit of many of the present masters and other members of the college staff. Those with the longest service are:—Messrs. G. A. McMillan, H. G. Freeman, each 30 years; Messrs. F. A. Wyatt and F. Ware, each 29 years; Mr. J. S. Thomson, 27 years; A. J. Brookes, 22 years; and Mr. G. G. F. Gardiner, 18 years. The present council of governors comprises the Bishop of Adelaide (Right Rev. Dr. Thomas), the Dean of Adelaide (Very Rev. G. E. Young), the Archbishop (Ven. J. S. Moyes), all ex officio, Sir Lancelot Stirling, Ven. Archdeacon Bussell, Messrs. C. W. Hayward, J. H. Gosse, W. Steele, H. P. Moore, S. P. Labatt, H. C. H. Denton, H. W. Lloyd, E. M. Milne, L. A. Lewis, and John Creswell.

REV. H. GIRDLESTONE, M.A., head master, 1894-1915.

"THE OLDEST OF OLD SCHOLARS."

MESSRS. H. BOUCAUT AND J. DAVISON.

The only two surviving members of the original 11 boys are Messrs. James Davison (90), now residing at St. Peter's, and Hillary Boucaut, of Unley Park. Mr. Boucaut, who is now in his eighty-seventh year, when seen at his home this week, appeared hale and hearty, and was full of information concerning the early settlers of South Australia, and the foundation of St. Peter's College, of which he is described as the oldest of old scholars. With his father, Mr. Ray Boucaut, of the East India Company, and nine others of the family, Mr. Boucaut arrived in South Australia on December 22, 1846, and in the next year with his brother, Ray Parkin Boucaut, attended as a scholar the opening of the new school in the little hall behind Trinity Church. Though he has made many enquiries, Mr. Boucaut cannot find any records of names of all of the 11 pupils, but with his retentive memory he can account for seven of them.

"There were two O'Hallorans, relatives of the present K.C.," he said, "two boys named Gilles, James Davison, my brother, Ray Parkin Boucaut, and myself. The O'Hallorans afterwards became captain and major."

Recollections.

In a recent chat with Mr. Davison, Mr. Boucaut said, a humorous incident of their school life was recalled, which he himself had forgotten. In those days a brewery stood just across the road from the school on North terrace, and one day a number of the boys secured several beer casks and rolled them up in front of the entrance of Trinity Church, so that no one could get in or out.

"There were about 74 boys, I think, when we first moved to the present site of St. Peter's," said the veteran. "I remember that I used to ride to school every day on a pony which I used to leave with a woman who kept cows in the open country near what is now the east end of Rundle street, and then from there I walked to school."

Mr. Boucaut, who still takes a practical interest in his old school, has supplied much information to those at St. Peter's College, who are attempting to form a coherent history of the school.

MR. T. A. CATERER, who acted as head master from 1916-1919, and was associated with the college for 36 years.

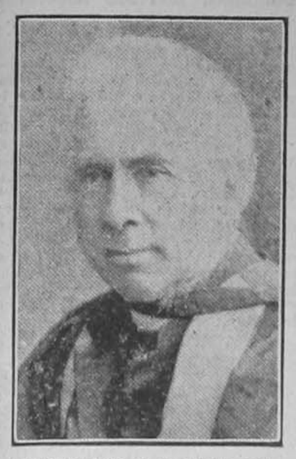
IN THE OLD DAYS.

SCHOOL REMINISCENCES.

Few are better qualified to speak about old college days than Rev. J. C. Haynes who, after having attended the school for seven years, returned as master, and served for 25 years, from 1868 to 1894, rising to the position of chief assistant, bursar, and assistant chaplain. Now in his seventy-eighth year, Mr. Haynes lives at St. Peters. He was only seven years old when he went to college, and he and Dr. Blue were the youngest boys in the school. There were 150 boys, and the buildings comprised the schoolroom, and a front building for boarders. The dining room was used as the chapel, and one night young Haynes fell asleep during service and was left behind when the other boys went out at the close. The facilities for sport were by no means extensive, and the only athletic rivals of "Saint's" were the boys of Whinham College. P.A.C. was established later, and very soon a hot rivalry arose, and Mr. Haynes remembers many spirited encounters between the boys of the respective colleges. On one occasion a number of St. Peter's boys, who were passing P.A.C., were pulled off their horses. At that time and for some years later the land between the college and Mr. Haynes's home in George street, Stepney, was a wheat field, and he used to jump all the fences on his way to school.

Marbles Forbidden.

Mr. Haynes recalls that for many years there was left lying on the front terrace an old stone, part of the original stone used in building the big school, which has since been lost. A number of heads are carved on the front building, and it has never been definitely decided whom they represent. In Mr. Haynes's time, one was attributed to Bishop Short, another to Charles May, one time science master, and another to Capt. Allen, a generous donor and one of the first governors of the college. During the course of one of his experiments Mr. May ran a wire from one building to another, and two workmen who were passing on their way to North Adelaide brushed against it and received a galvanic shock. One of them, it is said, took to his heels and did not stop until he reached the Maid and Magpie Hotel and got a drink.



ARCHDEACON G. H. FARR, M.A., head master, 1854-78.

Many customs which appear strange today, were observed in those days. One head master would not allow the boys to play marbles, as it was a grubby game, and a college boy who ran behind a horse bus was in danger of expulsion. Boarders were not supposed to go to town without cap and gown. Archdeacon Farr never discouraged the boys from settling their differences by an honest fight, and himself saw that there was fair play. A remarkable disciplinary innovation was made by Rev. P. E. Raynor during his term as head master (1890-93), and Mr. Haynes considers that had it been continued it would have been a great benefit. Mr. Raynor did away largely with the old system of "trapping" boys, and instead, set them on their honour, which is very similar to the modern method. But the best disciplinarian, Mr. Haynes considers, was Rev. F. Williams, who had a commanding personality.

Memories of Boys.

Of the brilliant boys who were under his charge, Ibbotson, a son of the Rev. D. J. C. Ibbotson, Mr. Haynes thought turned out the most distinguished man. He became a judge in India, and died some years ago. Mr. Haynes also remembers George Murray, now Chief Justice, who had a wonderful memory. On one occasion Murray and Twopeny sat for the Smith history prize. They both answered correctly 35 of the questions set, and Murray answered the thirty-sixth, and won the prize. One of the most remarkable examples of a dull boy at school excelling later in life, he said, was Angus Johnson, now city health officer. Another such was John Creswell, who later revealed a flair for organization. The older boys of the school, Mr. Haynes considers, are nowadays more manly than they were years ago. He attributes this to the progress of education. In his time many of the senior boys were older than those at the head of the college to-day. While he was there several of them went to the Victorian gold diggings and later returned to college paying their own way. One of these was Ben Rounsevell.

VALUE OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

DEVELOPMENT OF CHARACTER.

In a special message on Thursday concerning the commemoration of the anniversary of the school, the head master emphasized the great value of St. Peter's College in training boys in the service of the community, and developing character and the quality of leadership:—

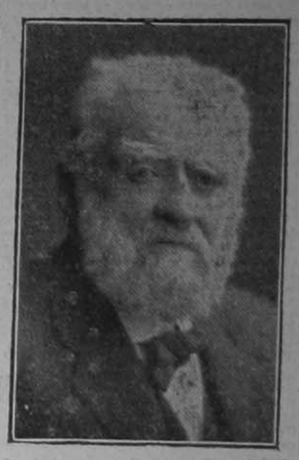
"It is not perhaps unnatural that that type of education, which has not only lasted more than five centuries, but amply proved its worth in Great Britain, should find an honoured place in the educational system of this the most British of the King's dominions. Only last week I visited four of the leading schools in Victoria and New South Wales—the King's School, Parramatta; the North Shore Grammar School, in Sydney; and the Melbourne and Geelong Grammar Schools, in Victoria; and all, as well as many other similar schools in every State in Australia, are flourishing. And if a reason for this success is sought, in the face of the fact that our departmental system of government education, both in primary and secondary schools is undoubtedly also making good, the answer lies in the fact that although these public schools or colleges are ruled autocratically, yet their spirit is essentially democratic. Each boy who enters such a school has an equal chance of success, whether he comes from the home of slender or ample means. From the first he has to check his individual desires to fit in with, and for the good of, the whole community of which he find himself a member, and he becomes imbued with the ideal that life at its best does not consist of satisfying his own ambitions, but in service to others. He soon also learns that his masters seem keenest not on his prowess in the playing fields or his success in the classroom—although these things are not neglected—but on his building up an honourable and straightforward character. It is for this reason that the public school system has been transplanted with so much success to the democratic soil of Australia; and let it not be thought that those in charge of these great schools are slavishly copying their English models. To do this would not be allowing for true progress. As our national life develops and we begin to establish national characteristics and a national outlook, without any disloyalty to the Old Country, our duty is to mould these schools to suit local conditions and to be useful in building up a national Australian character, in the same way as the parent schools have done for England."

Character Building.

"There must, therefore, be still something of the pioneering or experimental character in our colleges," added Mr. Bickersteth. "Good traditions can never be neglected, and indeed are essential if a healthy tone and broad outlook are to be maintained, but they cannot be nurtured at the expense of progress, or stagnation will undoubtedly ensue. But on whatever lines the future development of these schools run, the main objective will always be the same if they are to continue to prove their worth to the community at large, and that is the development of character; and it can be said without fear of contradiction that the best educationalists throughout the world agree that the noblest characters cannot be fostered or built up apart from religion. Education without religion is not true education at all, because it only tries to tackle part of this great task. St. Peter's College was founded 80 years ago to-day, and she is proud to remember the names of many Old Boys who in Church and State have alreday had a deep influence on the progress and life of South Australia. Not least do we record with 'proud thanksgiving' the record of so many in the Great War who embodied in themselves the ideals, that it will ever be our object to teach, of 'unselfish service' to their God and country. Eighty years is a long time, and in the history of this State a very long time, and it is the hope of everybody connected with St. Peter's College that her sons in the future may serve their generation as well as those who have gone before us have done in the past.

National Leadership.

"If I am asked what particular contribution such a school as ours may well be called upon in the future to make to the general life of our nation," said the head master, "I would say that it should be in leadership. No nation can become great without good leaders. The whole of our school system is framed to develop in our boys the capacity for leadership; that is, men who through service and self-control have learnt to stand for right, unperturbed by popular clamour; to dare great things and to lead others to dare great things, without hope of material reward; to be absolutely free from all taint of 'graft' or unfair dealing; ever to be willing to risk their popularity rather than their honour, and to be content to leave self-seeking out of their lives and to rejoice only in serving their own generation. It would seem that as this country of ours grows more and more to full nationhood there will be greater need than ever of men of this character, and if we, in whose hands has been placed the sacred trust of guiding the destinies of these great schools, can continue to turn out men of this type, then we can labour cheerfully on through not a few difficulties and discouragements, certain that our efforts will be one day crowned with success even if we ourselves have long since passed on to other spheres."



MR. HILLARY BOUCAUT, "oldest of the old boys," one of the two survivors of the original 11 pupils.

OLD BOYS' WEEK.

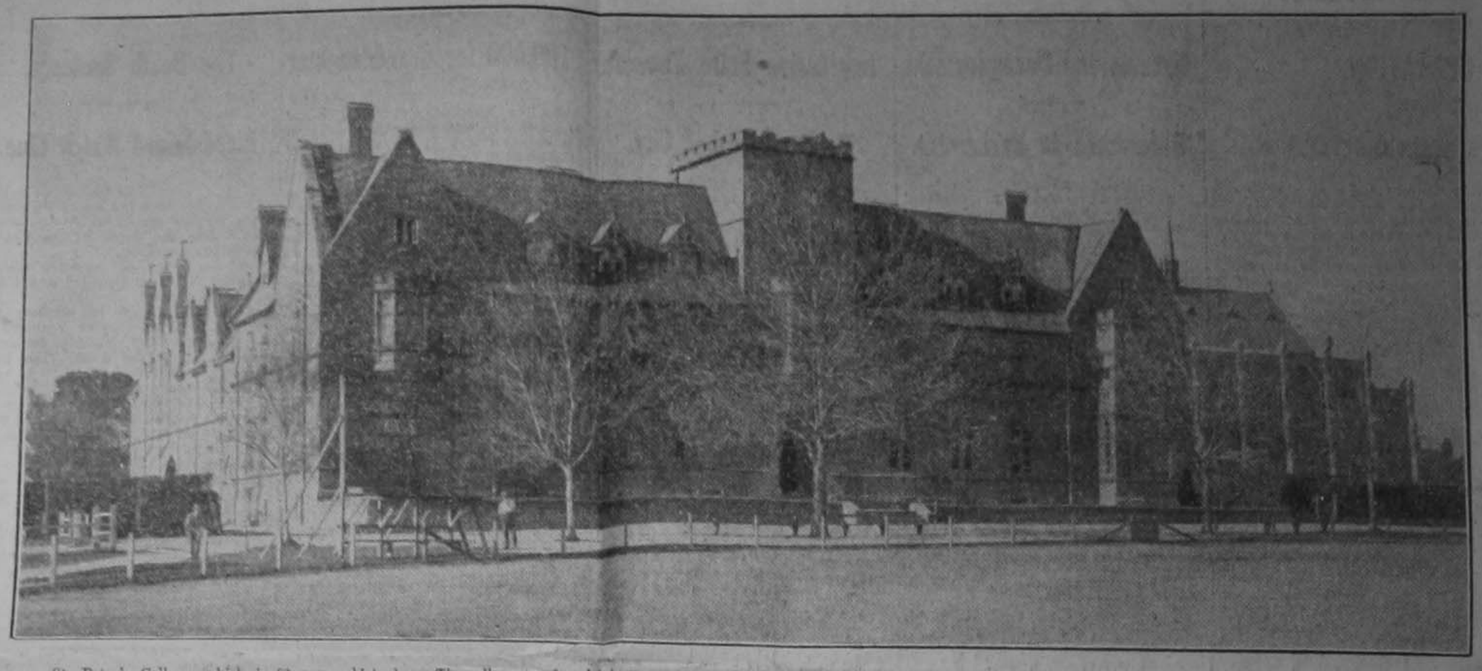
Although the first fixture in connection with the old boys' week of the St. Peter's Collegians' Association opened with the golf match at Seaton last Tuesday, the majority of the sporting events will be conducted next week. To-day a celebration of holy communion for old boys will take place at the school chapel at 7.30 a.m.; and on Tuesday afternoon a lacrosse match against Prince Alfred old collegians will be played. Other meetings will be as follow:—

Wednesday—Football, v. P.A.C. old scholars (P.A.C. Oval, 3 p.m.).

Saturday—Intercollegiate football (Adelaide Oval, at 3 p.m.), and annual dinner (Squirrel Cafeteria at 7.45 p.m.).

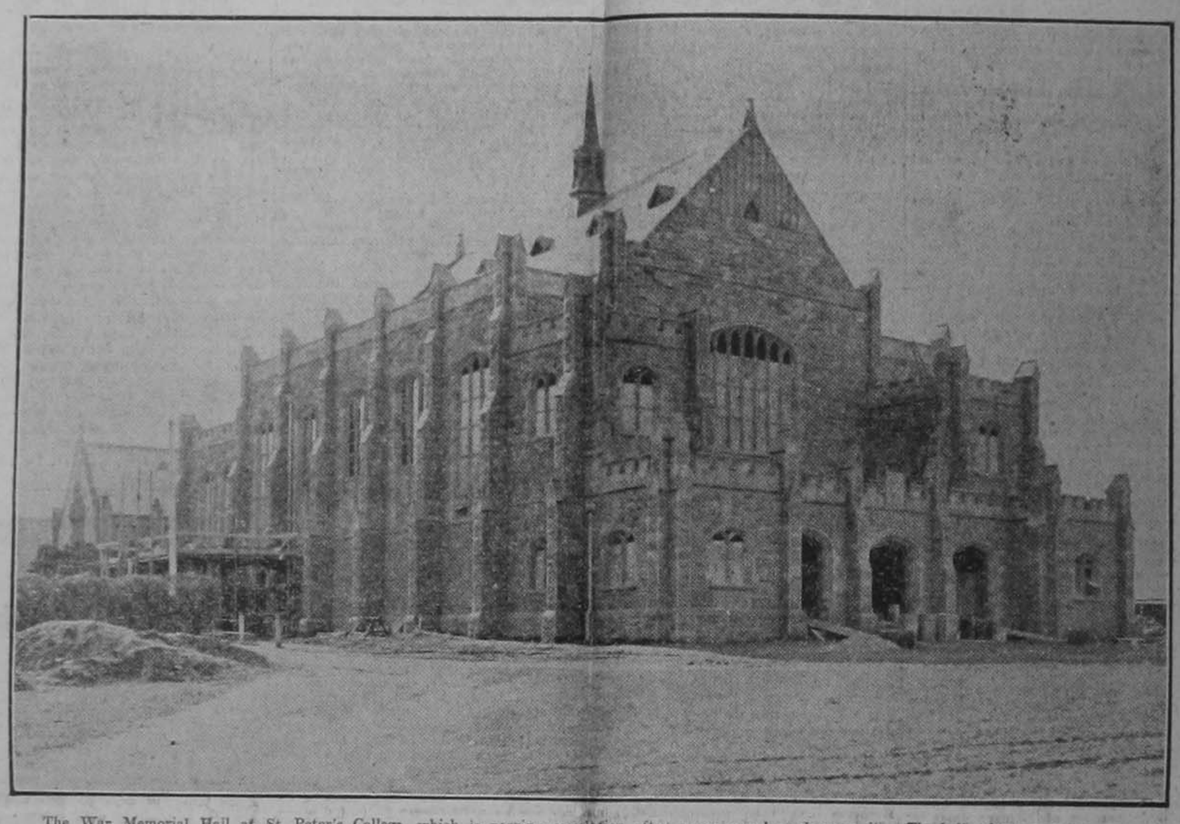
Sunday—Service in the school chapel (at 3 p.m.).

ST. PETER'S COLLEGE.



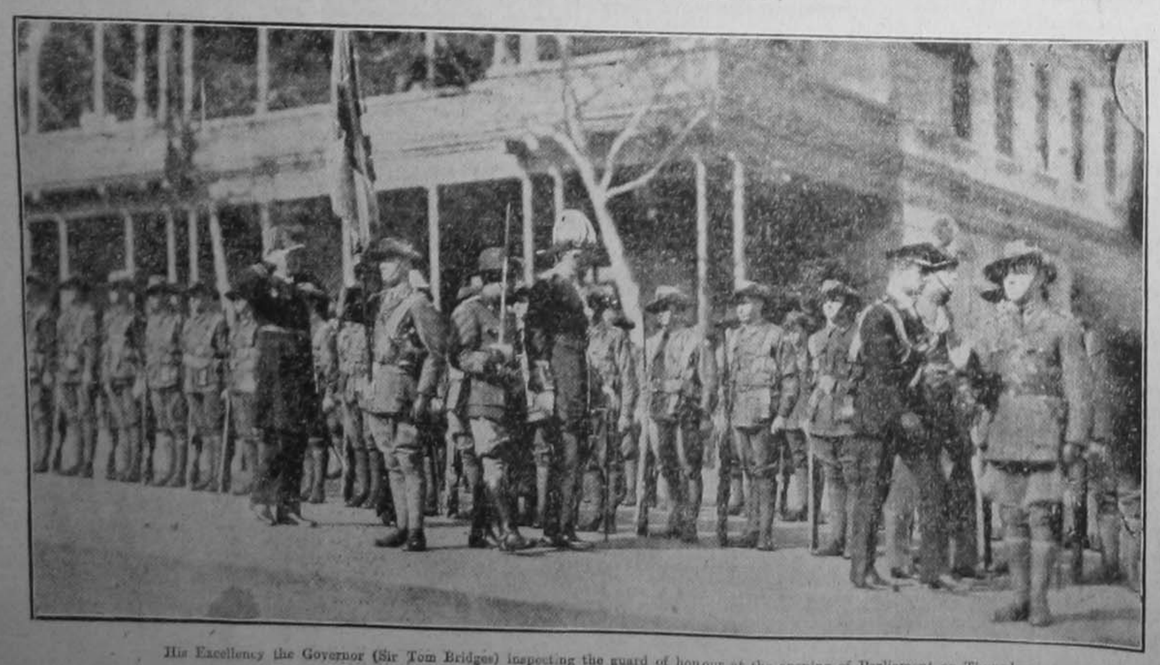
St. Peter's College, which is 80 years old to-day. The college was founded in 1847, opened in the Trinity schoolroom, and transferred to the present building in 1851. St. Peter's is the second oldest college in Australia.

MAGNIFICENT COLLEGE WAR MEMORIAL.



The War Memorial Hall at St. Peter's College, which is nearing completion after seven years' work upon it. The hall, which possesses great architectural beauty, will be fitted in keeping with its exterior, and, when opened in September, should be a worthy memorial to the hundreds of old boys who served in the Great War.

OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.



His Excellency the Governor (Sir Tom Bridges) inspecting the guard of honour at the opening of Parliament on Thursday.

PASTORAL INDUSTRY.

Mycological Problems.

Appointment of Canadian Professor.

Recent events and discussions have demonstrated that the Government and branches of the primary producing sections of the community have become seized with the importance of giving adequate and organized attention to the matter of controlling pests and diseases in industry. So very cordial approval has been given by pastoralists, according to advices received from Melbourne and Sydney this week, to the proposal by the pastoralists to provide a trust fund of not less than £200,000 for scientific research, Sydney wool-selling brokers when in Adelaide last month did not fancy a generous response to the appeal for funds in view of the prevailing drought conditions in New South Wales and Queensland, but, it is stated, the replies already received have exceeded all anticipations.

On top of the decision of the pastoralists comes the announcement that the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research have appointed Dr. R. T. Dickson, professor of plant pathology in the McGill University, Canada, to the position of chief mycologist in its organization. A graduate of London University, Professor Dickson's research work so far has dealt chiefly with virus and other diseases in tobacco, tomato, potato, raspberry, and other plants, and extensive studies of oat smut and its control, and rusts of oats and maize. Professor Dickson has been highly praised by authorities in plant pathology, and on his arrival here he will communicate with mycologists in the State departments and universities, and will undertake the organization of investigation into the many mycological problems confronting primary and other producers.

Less Labour—Heavier Fleeces.

It is expected that Professor Dickson will be able to assist flockmasters who are desirous of eliminating waste, and it is felt that adequately endowed research, spread over a series of years, will assist the industry to achieve its full development. Unless systematic attention is given to the diseases of sheep, especially their causes, and energetic measures taken to restore the productive capacity of country denuded of its best elements, the wool industry will be carried on only against increasing difficulties. Various substitutes for wool have been threatened—artificial silk in Italy, and fibre from pine needles in Germany. It is felt that the industry must, therefore, seek every means of economic and efficient production, with a maximum application of skill and specialized knowledge to soil, water, and plant feed. It is in this direction that the services of Professor Dickson may be sought.

Huge Field for Research.

Discussing on Thursday the appointment of Professor Dickson, a prominent woolbroker expressed pleasure at the news. Under present conditions, he said, huge losses were incurred in the repeated handling of flocks to cope with foot rot, fly, and "black" disease, or braxy. Each of these diseases opened up a field of urgently needed research work under the most highly trained and competent investigators who could be found. The economic value of preventive work was incalculable, and had been generously outlined by Professors T. B. Robertson and H. A. Woodruff, in their addresses to woolgrowers and brokers at the recent conference. To have healthy sheep meant, above all, suitable nutrition. Overstocking had resulted in much country in Australia being "eaten out," while rabbits had been responsible for much damage. The soil had been depleted of many valuable constituents; the plants which assimilated them consumed, and nothing had been done to restore the elements necessary to provide fresh nutrition. Scientific work, therefore, as proposed by Professor Dickson's appointment, presented a two-fold aspect:—

1. Research into and care of stock diseases such as fly, footrot, and braxy.

2. Provision of edible plants, with systematic restoration and improvement of pastures.

Soils Lacking in Essentials.

Continuing, the speaker remarked that there was sufficient work in these two divisions to keep a corps of highly trained investigators busy for 20 years. Also, the problem of animal disease was never wholly separable from that of animal nutrition. To achieve results of value, and to overcome difficulties which presented new complexities, most continuous efforts were needed. It was possible, for instance, that one area was deficient in minerals, lacking which the sheep were poor and scrubby. Lime was needed for bone, phosphoric acid for bone and nerve tissue; soda, potash, and iodine were also essential. The composition of nitrogenous foodstuffs might also be deficient, and so, the mineral content of Australian fodder plants under natural and artificial conditions required investigation.

According to scientists in Adelaide and Sydney Universities, there was strong reason to suppose that the soil in parts of Australia was definitely lacking in iodine, and this condition inflicted actual injury upon normal development. By the introduction of the most suitable supplementary fodders to correct the deficiency, it might be possible to increase the carrying capacity of pastoral areas. The stronger and better nourished the sheep, the better its chance of coping with parasites, the less human labour it demanded for remedial treatment, and the heavier its fleece. Professor Dickson's aid in this direction would be greatly appreciated, and his appointment by the Government another step in the direction of applying science to industry for the good of the country. It was badly needed in Australia.

MOTOR TRUCK ABLAZE ON BELAIR HILL.

The truck crashed through the fence and hurtled down the hillside, uprooting a tree (shown in the foreground). The driver, Mr. J. A. Treloar, is standing alongside the burning truck. On the left is Mr. J. D. Treloar. A deep quarry is situated just beyond the trees.