

Advertiser, November 25th, 1910

Reg. Nov. 26.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE.

FIRST PROGRESS REPORT.

IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS.

Mr. T. Ryan, M.P. (chairman), in the House of Assembly on Thursday evening, laid on the table the first progress report of the Higher Education and Adelaide University Select Committee, and it was ordered to be printed. The text is as follows:—

The Select Committee appointed on October 26 to report on "the best means to be adopted to make available the facilities for higher education at the Adelaide University to deserving students, and as to extending the present grounds of the University" have agreed to the following progress report:—

1. Your committee have held six meetings and have examined six witnesses, and they have also inspected the University buildings and grounds. The subjects referred to the committee opened up such a wide field of investigation that the members had to abandon any idea they may have had of completing the enquiry during the present session. The instructions to the committee embraced the consideration, *inter alia*, of the following points:—(a) The present financial position of the University and the suitability and adequacy of the existing accommodation. (b) The additional requirements of the University for building and teaching purposes in the event of the facilities of the institution being made available to deserving students. (c) The extent of Government assistance to Universities in the other States, and the methods adopted by them to give a University education, to deserving students, as a guide to similar action in South Australia. (d) The extension of the grounds of the University or the removal of the institution to a suburban situation. (e) Government representation on the council of the University.

The Need of Financial Help.

The pressing necessity of immediate assistance to the University induced the committee to confine their work chiefly to the consideration of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a). The council of the University was accordingly asked to give evidence in support of its application to the Government for a subsidy of £17,825, that being half the cost of buildings erected by the University between the years 1888 and 1903. The following particulars respecting the total cost of the buildings were put before the committee:—Elder Conservatorium, completed 1900, cost £18,780; Prince of Wales buildings, completed 1902, cost £11,050; Medical School, completed 1903, cost £5,014; total cost, £35,650. Evidence in support of the request for £17,825 was tendered on behalf of the University Council by the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) and the chairman of the finance committee (Mr. S. J. Jacobs), and, briefly, it was to the effect that the buildings were erected with Government assistance (in the shape of a pound for pound subsidy on amounts raised by the University Council by public subscription), and that that policy of assisting the University had been followed by subsequent Governments when additions to the buildings had been made. At the same time it was admitted by the Chancellor that it was competent for the Government at any time to change that policy. Indeed, the Government records show that in 1885 the Government refused to pay half of an amount of £1,782, which had been expended by the University Council in gas fittings, architect's commission, and in converting the old powder magazine into a dissecting room. The Government dockets show that in refusing the request the Government were influenced by the following facts:—(1) That the moiety contributed by the University to the cost of the building had not been raised by public subscription altogether, but had to a large extent been derived from rent of lands with which the University had been endowed by the Government, so that the Government had been subsidising, in part at least, its own contribution. (2) That part of the amount for which the subsidy was sought had not been expended on the main building, but on the old powder magazine at the rear of the building. (3) That in the case of institutes, no subsidy was then (in 1885) granted on amounts in excess of the original estimate. In the following year, however, the same Government adopted a different attitude towards the University, and paid £250—half the cost of a medical theatre and biological room. The reason advanced by the Chancellor for the delay in applying for the subsidy of £17,825 was that the State was in financial straits in 1898, and that the council refrained from pressing its request until the Government were in a better position to meet their obligations. Except as indicated in the following paragraphs, the

committee have not yet arrived at a determination with respect to the subsidy applied for, partly because of the policy adopted towards the University in 1885 (which policy was in accordance with certain Ministerial utterances in Parliament during the debates on votes to the University), and to a greater extent because of the necessity of full consideration being given to a question of so great importance as the extent to which the Government should assist the principal educational institution of the State.

The Proposed Additions.

The matter which was most urgently pressed on the committee was the immediate provision of £6,000 by the Government to enable the council of the University to carry out much-needed additions to the main building. These proposed additions consist of building another story on the rear of the main building, by which 4,227 sq. ft. of floor space would be provided for the purposes of the general library, the medical library, the law library, a classical lecture-room, a room for the professor of classics, and a librarian's room; the whole to cost £12,000, of which the Government are asked to contribute half. It was strongly impressed on the committee that the most favorable opportunity of doing the work would be during the long vacation from December to March. Having inspected the University buildings, in company with the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and members of the professorial staff, the committee came to the conclusion that both the professors and the students are hampered in their work by the inadequate accommodation provided for them, and that the proposed additions ought to be made. Before these improvements could be recommended, however, it was necessary to decide whether the University should be removed or not to a locality where more extensive grounds would be readily available, and on this point the opinion of the council of the University was sought. The matter was discussed at a special meeting of the council convened for that purpose, and whilst it was recognised that the suggestion had been made to advance the interests of the institution, a unanimous opinion was expressed that the University ought not to be removed from its present central situation.

The council pointed out that a central position was essential to—(a) The medical school, as proximity to the hospital is essential, and because the majority of the lecturers are in private practice. (b) The law school, most of the students of which are articulated in offices in the city, and all the lecturers except the professor are in private practice. (c) The arts school, the lectures of which are very largely attended by teachers, and must be given after school hours. (d) The science school, on account of the joint courses with the School of Mines. (e) The success of the University extension lectures. (f) The students of the Training College, who are also students of the University. (g) The Elder Conservatorium of Music.

Government Help Recommended.

Four professors of the University were examined on the question of the removal of the institution, and they strongly endorsed the opinion of the council, which they said was shared by the entire professorial staff. Your committee are also of opinion that the University must remain where it is, and that the proposed additions to the building should be carried out without delay. They therefore recommend—"That the Government immediately guarantee the cost of the proposed additions to the amount of £12,000 instead of £6,000, as requested, without prejudice to the future adjustment of the University's requests for £17,825 as a subsidy on sums expended in buildings already erected, and for £6,000, the estimated half cost of proposed additions to the main building; the full payment of £12,000 instead of £6,000, as requested, to be taken into account in such adjustment."

Assisting Deserving Students.

Your committee have been in communication with the Director of Education and the universities in the other States and New Zealand on the question of the provision made to enable deserving students from primary and secondary schools to reach the university, and with the Adelaide University on the question of Government representation on the council. The time at the disposal of the committee, however, has been too short to allow of these and other questions being dealt with. The council of the University has rendered the committee much assistance, a special committee of the council having been appointed for that purpose. Members of the professorial staff have also given valuable help.

Mr. George Coutts Ligertwood, B.A., who has served his articles with Messrs. Anderson & Gordon, has again distinguished himself at the final examination in law by winning the Stow prize, thus enabling him to be awarded the Stow scholarship. He has also won the David Murray scholarship for international law.

Reg. Nov. 26.

At a meeting of the University Council on Friday Dr. Barlow was unanimously elected to the Vice-Chancellorship.

Dec. 6th

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE
Ordinary Examination for the B.Sc. Degree (November).
Biology—Supplementary Pass List—Division I., none; division II., Younkman, Landau; division III., Moyes, Morton Henry.

Dec. 6.

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.
Examination for the Diploma in Commerce.—Pass List—Accountancy—Division I.—None. Division II.—Lenton, Leslie. Division III.—Proud, Katherine Lilly.

Reg. Dec. 9th

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY.
STAFF SELECTED.
BRISBANE, December 8.
At a late hour to-night the senate of the Queensland University completed the work of choosing the leading members of the staff of the university. The selections were:—Chair of Chemistry, Dr. Bertram Duncan Steele, lecturer and demonstrator, and at present Acting Professor of Chemistry at the University of Melbourne; Chair of Classics, Mr. John L. Michie, of Cambridge University; Chair of Engineering, Mr. Alexander J. Gibson, at present assistant lecturer and demonstrator of engineering, drawing, and design, at the P. N. Russell School of Engineering, and lecturer on naval architecture at the University of Sydney; Chair of Mathematics, Mr. H. C. Priestly, of Cambridge University.

Reg. Dec. 12, 1910.

An invitation was received by the Council of the University of Adelaide on Friday from the Royal Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1911 to nominate a candidate for a research scholarship or research bursary for the year 1911. On the recommendation of the Faculty of Science it was resolved to nominate Mr. G. E. M. Jauncey for a research bursary. On the recommendation of the Faculty of Science it was also resolved to award a David Murray scholarship to Mr. J. L. Jona, B.Sc. On the advice of the board of M.B. examiners the council awarded the Everard Scholarship to Mr. Edmund Britten Jones.

Reg. Nov. 29/1910.