

fact that during his academic course he passed first class in the following subjects in the science and art courses:—Botany, biology, compulsory chemistry, inorganic and physical chemistry, organic chemistry, practical agricultural chemistry, geology (part ii.), economics, physiology, logic, education, modern European history, English language and literature.

—Appointments.—

In 1903 Mr. Richardson entered the Education Department, and for three years was assistant at the Moonta Mines and Port Adelaide Public Schools, after which he joined the University Training College. During 1908 he was appointed assistant lecturer at the college, and later in that year became Assistant Director of Agriculture. In the interregnum between the departure of Professor Angus and the appointment of Professor Lowrie Mr. Richardson acted as Director of Agriculture, in which sphere he gave convincing proof of his administrative capacity. Mr. Richardson is essentially a scientist, and when he took up his residence at the Parafield Experimental Farm a couple of years ago it was with a feeling of intense satisfaction at the prospect of engaging in the difficult pursuit of wheat breeding with the ultimate possibility of raising varieties which might prove of great benefit to the country. Having made encouraging progress in that undertaking Mr. Richardson will leave Parafield, no doubt, with a sense of deep regret. He will, however, have the consolation of carrying away with him the

knowledge that a number of exceedingly promising and new varieties of wheat will shortly be available for distribution among the farmers.

—The New Post.—

Mr. Richardson has signed an agreement with the Victorian Department of Agriculture for a period of five years at a salary beginning at £650 per annum. He will be the chief of the agricultural division, and, subject to the Director (Dr. S. S. Cameron), will control, direct, and be responsible for the work of the branches comprising the division, viz.—horticultural, science, chemistry, and field. He will be required to arrange and undertake the giving of lectures and demonstrations on agricultural subjects, organize, control, and report on all experimental and demonstration work of an agricultural character that may be deemed necessary by the Director, and assist generally in the promotion and improvement of agricultural practice. In leaving South Australia Mr. Richardson, who will probably take up his new duties at the beginning of August, will bear with him the heartfelt and best wishes of all tillers of the soil.

Register, June 28/11

EDUCATION COMMISSION.

Mr. Ryan, M.P. (Chairman of the Education Commission) which returned from Melbourne on Tuesday, said the Commission had received the utmost consideration from State and Federal Governments, and from the University and Education Departments in Melbourne. A day was occupied in the examination of the Director of Education (Mr. F. Tate) and the Commission was impressed by the system that he had adopted in the matter of meeting the demand for efficient teachers and inspectors. Mr. D. Clark (Chief Inspector in Technical Education) was also examined. The Melbourne University was visited twice, and Trinity, and Ormond Residential Colleges were included in the itinerary. The Chancellor of the University (Sir John Madden), Professor H. B. Allen (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and representative of the Melbourne University on the hospital directorate), Professor Orme Masson, Professor Payne, who recently was brought from Africa to have charge of the engineering school now in course of construction in the Victorian capital, Mr. A. J. Higgin (lecturer in metallurgy, who was metallurgist at the Adelaide University for seven years), Mr. E. J. Robson (Vice-Warden of Trinity College), and others were examined. Mr. Ryan said the members were confident that as a result of the trip to Melbourne the commission's recommendation would be hastened, at least so far as University and technical education was concerned. Although all the witnesses had been anxious to maintain the standard of the matriculation examination, their evidence, on the whole, would lead one to think they fully appreciated the necessity for making a university education available to every deserving student.

Advertiser, June 26/11
TO THE ANTARCTIC.

DR. MAWSON'S SHIP.

LANDING PARTY OF 25.

(From our Special Correspondent.)

London, May 26, 1911.

The Aurora, which has been bought for Dr. Mawson for the Australian Antarctic expedition, and is now bound from St. Johns, Newfoundland, for London, is expected to arrive in the Thames in about a fortnight. She is a sailing steamer, fitted with an auxiliary screw, and is slightly smaller than the Terra Nova, but her displacement is larger by nearly 160 tons than that of the Nimrod. The vessel was built by Stephens, of Dundee, in 1876; her length is 165 ft. 2 in., breadth 30 ft. 6 in., and depth 18 ft. 9 in. The money required to buy the ship, £12,000, was raised by the "Daily Mail" in three days.

The vessel will be berthed in the South-West India dock, and the Port of London authority has given free dockage for the ship, and will also provide free warehouse room. Captain J. K. Davis, who commanded the Nimrod in Sir Ernest Shackleton's farthest south expedition, will superintend the Aurora's fitting out and choose her crew. It is expected that she will leave London about the middle of July for Australia. She will start for the Far South about the middle of November, Hobart being her last port of call.

Dr. Mawson left London yesterday to join the P. & O. boat at Marseilles for Australia. While he is waiting for the Aurora he will tour the country with the view of making further financial arrangements.

"The landing party which will go with the expedition," he said, "will number 25. Some have already been chosen in this country. Among them is Mr. Wilde, who was with Sir Ernest Shackleton and also with Captain Scott. Another is Lieutenant Ninnis, of the Royal Fusiliers, who will do surveying work and look after the sledges. Lieutenant Watkins, the Brooklands flying man, is joining the expedition to take charge of the Vickers monoplane which we are taking out. For ice work we have secured an expert in Dr. Merz, a Swiss by birth, who won the ski-jump championship in 1908. Most of the members of the party, however, are being chosen in Australia by a committee composed of the leading scientists of Australia and New Zealand."

Advertiser, June 28/11

THE EDUCATION COMMISSION.

RETURN FROM MELBOURNE.

Mr. T. Ryan, M.P. (chairman), the Minister of Education (Hon. F. W. Coneybeer, M.P.), the Hons. A. H. Peake, M.P., and A. W. Styles, M.L.C., and Mr. T. Green, M.P., members of the Adelaide University and Higher Education Royal Commission, returned to Adelaide on Tuesday from Melbourne, where they secured a mass of evidence. Mr. Henderson (secretary) accompanied the members.

The Chairman said the Commission had received the utmost consideration from State and Federal Governments, and from the University and Education Departments in Melbourne. A day was occupied in the examination of the Director of Education (Mr. F. Tate), and the Commission was impressed by the system that he had adopted in the matter of meeting the demand for efficient teachers and inspectors. Mr. D. Clark, Chief Inspector in Technical Education, was also examined. The Melbourne University was visited twice, and Trinity and Ormond Residential Colleges were included in the itinerary. The Chancellor of the University (Sir John Madden), Professor H. B. Allen (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, and representative of the Melbourne University on the Hospital directorate), Professor Orme Masson, Professor Payne, who recently was brought from Africa to have charge of the engineering school now in course of construction in the Victorian capital, Mr. A. J. Higgin, lecturer in metallurgy, who was metallurgist at the Adelaide University for seven years; Mr. E. J. Robson, vice-warden of Trinity College; and others were examined. Mr. Ryan said the members were confident that as a result of the trip to Melbourne the Commission's recommendation would be hastened, at least so far as University and technical education was concerned. Although all the witnesses had been anxious to maintain the standard of the matriculation examination, their evidence, on the whole, would lead one to think they fully appreciated the necessity for making a University education available to every deserving student.

Advertiser, June 29/11 436

THE EDUCATION REPORT.

"It is gratifying to learn from the reports of the inspectors that the quality of the teaching in our schools shows distinct improvement; that it is not only more skilful, but is generally directed towards higher aims and guided by clear comprehension of the real function of the school." Thus remarks the Director of Education in his annual report presented to Parliament yesterday. If this optimistic view is well founded, as doubtless it is, the State will be amply rewarded for the large annual expenditure on public instruction. In several directions commendable efforts have been made of late to improve the educational system, and obviously the methods and ideals of the teachers in the elementary schools must be the most important factor in the entire scheme. The Minister mentions that special consideration has been given to the training of teachers, and that a "serious defect, the result of which has been felt with increasing force for the last ten years, has been removed." More attention than has been given in the past is now devoted to instruction in the art of teaching. It is apparently recognised that, like every other profession, teaching must be learned, and that the acquisition of academic lore will not in itself ensure success to the person entrusted with the responsibility of instructing others. This would be evident even if the sole object of the public school system were to impart information to the rising generation. Many learned men have lacked teaching skill. But education, in the modern use of the term, does not mean storing the mind with the facts of history, geography, or science. It rather embraces the work of developing the mind. It comprehends the training of mental faculties and physical powers, and the formation of character. Viewed in its larger significance the contention of the Minister that "passes in the University examinations do not form a fair criterion of the work done by the district high schools" is seen to be absolutely sound. No examination except that which extends to the whole course of life can adequately gauge the value of the training received in any school. The truly great teachers are not usually recognised while they are actively engaged in their mission. A new generation reviewing the progress of a time immediately preceding them often discover that the men who have left the deepest impressions on their age have owed their force to the influence of the master of one or another of the great public schools, or to some university professor or teacher, such as Arnold or Jowett.

The Minister reports that experience has revealed that the amount allowed under the present Government bursaries is in many instances insufficient to admit of promising pupils taking advantage of the higher education they are designed to make available. Some students have not been able to accept bursaries they have won because their parents could not "provide for them during a four-years' course at the University, and only an insignificant amount is left out of £25 after payment of fees and the purchase of textbooks." It is therefore proposed that the value of bursaries should be considerably increased. To this course no valid exception can be taken, as the object of making these provisions would not be fulfilled if a large section of capable students were excluded from the benefits intended chiefly for young people of this class. While, however, it is desirable to make whatever scholarships are offered liberal enough to admit of the most apparently gifted students receiving them irrespective of the financial position of their parents, there should be no unnecessary generosity. Boys and girls admitted to a University course on these conditions may fairly be required to practise reasonable economy, and even some degree of self-denial. A little experience in Wordsworth's "home of poverty, but not of want," will do no harm. It is gratifying to note that the training of girls, as well as that of boys, is being carried on with a view to practical utility. It would