

NEW SHOWGROUND.

Near South Terrace,

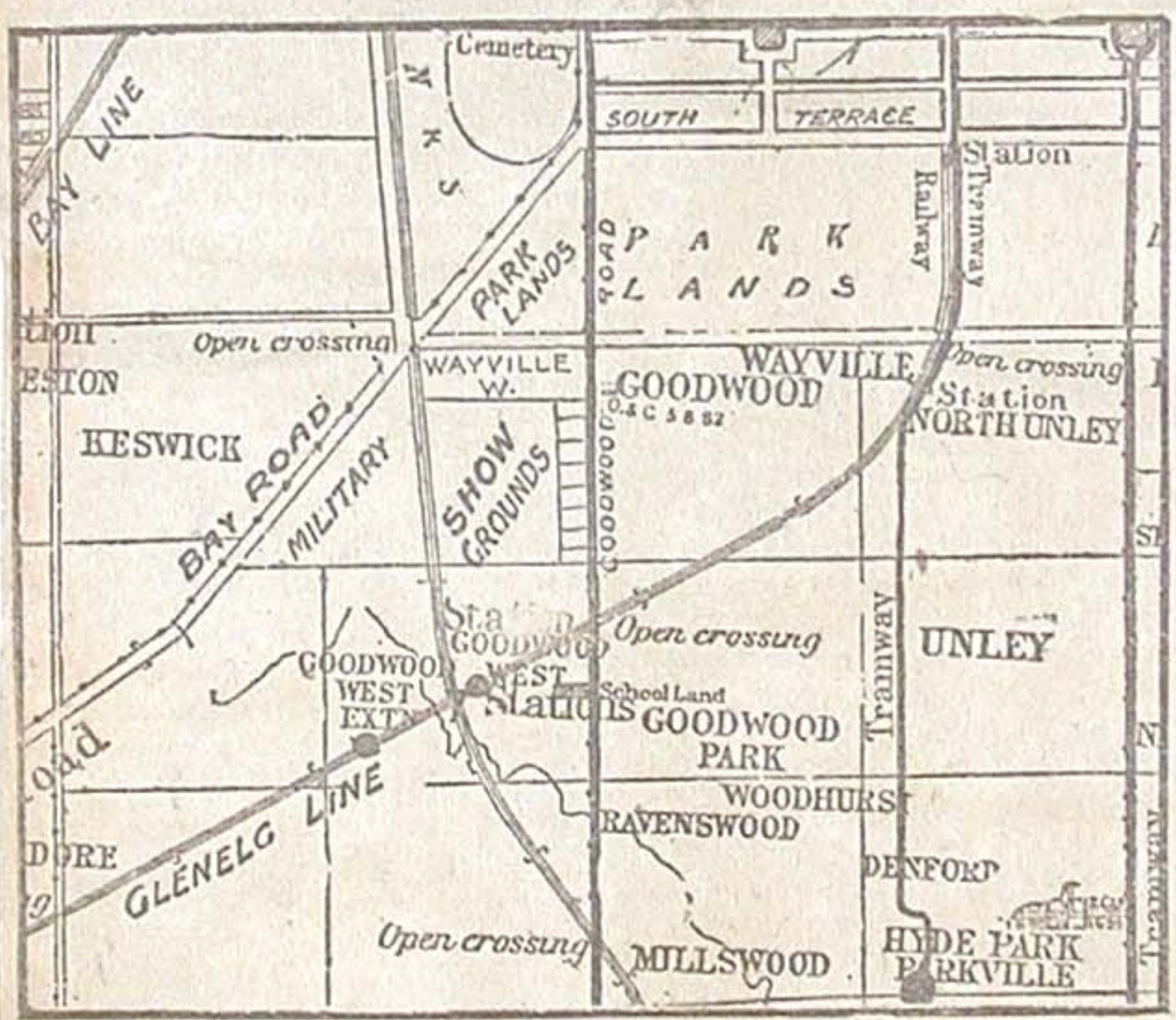
A Convenient Site.

For several years both the Royal Agricultural Society and the University of Adelaide have felt the need for more extensive grounds to meet their growing requirements. It was thought at one time that when the Commonwealth Military Offices were removed from the North terrace site at the rear of the Destitute Asylum the land at present occupied by them might be utilized for the University. The Verran Government soon after assuming office recognised, as the late Mr. Price had done, that the show, as well as the University, was a national institution, and practically committed itself to find fresh grounds for show purposes. Then began a battle of sites, which extended over several months. At the Agricultural Society's dinner in March last the Premier virtually promised to find a new home for the society, and thus make the grounds available to the University, so that effect could be given to the spirit of the motion introduced by Mr. Ryan, M.P., that greater facilities should be afforded at the University. The Education Commission, which consists of Messrs. Ryan (Chairman), Peake, Young, and Green, M.P.'s, and the Hons. J. Cowan and A. W. Styles, M.L.C.'s, realizing the need for extension, advised the Government to advance to the University £12,000. This has been done during the recess to meet the convenience of the University rather than to keep the work hampered until a new showground

possibly have met the society's requirements for only a few years, and the Government were loth to incur such a substantial outlay simply to provide a partial remedy. An important question now is whether the new grounds will be used apart from the two shows held each year. It is understood that the Government intends to grant the society £80,000 to £100,000, which will be necessary to equip the grounds.

—An Official Statement.—

The Secretary to the Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. J. W. Jones) stated on Friday that the area purchased was 54 acres, and the average price paid was £275 an acre. Therefore, the outlay on land amounts to £14,850. The land abuts on the Hills Railway line, between the south park lands and Goodwood. It has a frontage to the Hills Railway of 1,535 ft., and a depth from the railway of about 1,600 ft. Except for a few building allotments which have not been acquired by the Government, the frontage to the Goodwood road is practically the same as to the railway. The block is nearly square. There is a creek running through it, and the sloping banks, Mr. Jones thinks, will be more of an improvement than otherwise, and readily will lend themselves to beautification. The site could not be more convenient to the railway and tramway, and sidings from the hills line could be put in without trouble. The Government were communicating at once with the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society, and an official reply would be sent to the society's letter. In that letter the society laid down proposals—financial and otherwise—under which they would readily vacate the Exhibition Showgrounds for another. The society and the Ministry had agreed as to the site. The Government has urgent need of the space now occupied by the society at the rear of the Exhibition Building, and as a great many of the fixed buildings were



SITUATION OF THE NEW AGRICULTURAL SHOWGROUND.

was provided. In the last four months special attention has been paid to a section of land in Goodwood West. This was owned by Messrs. Ward, Zoe, and V. H. Wilson, and has a frontage to the Goodwood tramway. On the west side it adjoins the 44-acre block, 30 acres of which was purchased for the Defence Department. The remaining 14 acres is at present under offer to the military authorities. One of the factors which induced the department to select this site for its headquarters in this State has influenced the purchase of the blocks for the showground—that the place would be well served by electric trams and by trains. The centre of the land secured for the society is not more than two or three minutes' walk from the cars, or from the Goodwood and Keswick Railway Stations. If the electric cars are run down the Bay road to Glenelg—a scheme on which a report was called for in the closing days of the latest Parliamentary session—it would be a matter of two minutes' walk from the ground. Negotiations in the matter of the price to be paid were conducted by two private valuers employed by the Government to act, with Mr. E. B. Jones, while the sellers were represented by Elder, Smith, & Co., Limited, and Hosking & Ryan, Limited. The price agreed upon, it is understood, averages £275 per acre for the 54 acres. It is regarded as regrettable that the 14 acres forming the key between the Bay road and the showground could not also be secured, but, doubtless, in the event of that piece being purchased by the Defence Department, an arrangement might be made for its joint use. The purchase of the showground site will end once for all the question of the lease of the Jubilee Exhibition Grounds. The society's lease had another 50 years to run, and it was proposed that the Government should spend something like £20,000 for new buildings there. This expenditure might

put up chiefly at the cost of the society, the Government will help financially towards the cost and removal, and the equipping of the new grounds.

MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY COUNCIL.

REFERENCES BY THE PRESIDENT.

The President of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society (Hon. W. B. Rounsevell) occupied the chair at a meeting of the council of the society on Friday afternoon, called to elect a dog and poultry committee. At the conclusion of the business the Chairman said:—"You have all seen a statement in the papers yesterday that the Government has bought the land for the new showground, and that we will have to go away at once, and do this, that, and the other thing. Some of these newspaper fellows are very clever and smart chaps; you give them a hint and they will write you a sermon on it. (Laughter.) Officially we know nothing about the purchase of the land, or of what may be in the womb of the future, as to what this council or anybody else is going to do. If the land has been purchased, the Government has acted on its own responsibility, and we know nothing about it. At the proper time it is most likely I will ask you to go on to the land, and every member will have the opportunity of inspecting the block in situ.

It is generally understood that the society is quite satisfied with the new situation. Although nothing definite has been planned, it is not unlikely that arrangements will be made to begin the removal from the Jubilee Exhibition Grounds after the next September Show. It is expected that it will be at least 18 months before the new grounds can be occupied.

ANTARCTICA'S PAST HISTORY.

TRACES OF VANISHED LANDS. THE MAWSON EXPEDITION. (From our Special Correspondent.)

London, April 13, 1911.

Dr. Douglas Mawson, the leader of the forthcoming Australasian expedition to the Antarctic, lectured before the Royal Geographical Society on Monday last. One of his chief aims, he explained, is to investigate the question of the former connection of Antarctica with Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and South America. "The geology of Victoria Land," he said, "corresponds with that of Australia and Tasmania, while, in the same region, Andean types are represented farther to the eastward among the Pacific islands. I am not by any means the first to entertain this idea of an inverted South America. The Antarctic continent has probably an area of about five million square miles, the major part of which is a plateau of great height. Glimpses only of the past history of Antarctica are yet known. We know that there were periods when ice was almost unknown, when great formations of water-deposited beds accumulated, associated with coal-bearing strata. The beds have their exact prototypes in Tasmania—in fact, where Tasmania leaves off South Victoria Land begins. We believe that in not long (geologically) remote times the intervening 1,500 miles became engulfed.

"Australia and New Zealand types show a remarkable affinity with those of South America and South Africa. Further, fossil evidence is absolutely in favor of a continuity between South America and Australia.

Before the Ice Age.

"The evidence is conclusive, therefore, in the minds of scientific men that in the not long (geologically) past there existed a habitable Antarctic continent, with rays stretching up to meet with what are now Tasmania, South America, New Zealand, and South Africa. Finally, an ice age of almost unprecedented severity overwhelmed the residual Antarctic continent, and swept every trace of life into the Southern Ocean.

"It is our intention to land several parties with stores and huts, to winter between Cape Adare and Gauss Berg, and the ship will return to Australia and New Zealand for the winter. It has been our intention to drop a few men at Cape Adare, for that is the easiest and most accessible landing on the Antarctic continent. The facilities there afforded of coal and stores left by Borchgrevink's expedition would have further simplified matters. In the light of recent events, of course, this must be eliminated from our programme.

"It is our special desire to accomplish a complete coast survey between the two points mentioned, and complete the magnetic charting of the region north of the south magnetic pole. The several wintering stations will simultaneously dispatch coastal sledging parties on either hand, thus dividing up the task. A special journey will be made inland from our main base on the north coast to the south magnetic pole.

Dr. Mawson said the plans for the expedition remained the same as were published over a year ago, with some few modifications. They hoped to have a complement of 50 men—ship and land party—and to proceed south from Australia at the close of this year. Practically every member of the land party would be a specialist in a particular branch of science, and most of the recruiting would be done amongst graduates of the Universities of Australia and New Zealand.

Geographical Society Grant.

Major Leonard Darwin, president of the society, expressed the satisfaction of all present at the safe landing which Captain Scott has made in the Antarctic. He said this well knowing that Captain Scott had been unable to land his eastern party on King Edward VII. Land. While the Norwegian expedition was already on the Great Barrier, the British party was landed at Cape Adare—so, at all events, he read the somewhat cryptic telegrams that had arrived in England. Although this misfortune was to be regretted, it did not in the slightest degree damp their confident expectations that Captain Scott would produce splendid scientific work, or shake their hopes of his reaching the Pole. (Cheers.) As to the Norwegian expedition, perhaps it would be best to say little