

Mr. CAMPBELL said the question of the payment—or rather the ill-payment—of officers of the Education Department required immediate attention. The educational oligarchy existing in the State was a most serious stumbling block in the way of progress. The educational tests devised for persons desiring to enter or to progress in the railway service, for instance, were absurdly irrelevant. (Hear, hear.) The professors now guiding the intellectual currents at the University, might well be trusted to preserve the interests of democracy. (Hear, hear.) People anxious to effect a wide change in the conditions obtaining at the University would do well to pause and consider what were the present conditions.

Mr. RUDALL—The enquiries of the Commission would help us to form an opinion.

Mr. CAMPBELL said the University was passing candidates into the learned professions as rapidly and as effectively as was needed or desirable. The ideal public school was impossible under a State school system; it must arise from competition among individual schools, each with its own characteristics, and must have history and tradition behind it, as in the great public schools of England. That was impossible here as yet. No doubt the work of the University might be extended advantageously, but he questioned whether the technical education could not better be given in the State schools themselves. The abiding value of Auguste Comte's work was to show the necessity for the co-ordination of human knowledge and of the means of imparting human knowledge. In those days schools were private or semi-private institutions, while to-day they were chiefly managed by the State, which rendered the work of co-ordination much easier. Our system of primary and secondary education was effective as far as it goes, but we had not yet linked up our system of technical education with our system of primary and secondary education. In Germany they had several great technical schools, which were really technical universities, but here we had copied the English system with all its blunders and expense. Our various Schools of Mines had no common certificate of efficiency, and never met to settle any broad principle of technical education. To be effective, technical education must be nationalised. Education should be a broad highway leading from the infancy of the child towards the frontier, where it will enter upon the active work of life, and various roads should branch off in the direction of the various industries, the whole of the high-

ways being under the same control and the same keen supervision. He doubted whether that could be best brought about by a Select Committee. Education was the principal question before the world at present. No concentration of the intelligence in the House was likely to put their education system on a proper basis. The matter was one for a Royal Commission and not a Select Committee. The Commission should not be chosen entirely from the members of the House, but should include some of those men whose names had become deservedly great in educational circles. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RUDALL said it was time Parliament took steps to put the educational system on a better basis, more particularly in respect to technical training.

Mr. SMEATON thought the time was ripe for an enquiry as to how they could best utilise their educational material. A Select Committee could not deal adequately with such an important question. The enquiry should not be made by members of the House alone. The technical education provided at the School of Mines was of the utmost importance, and could not be too highly appreciated. That institution should be given a higher status. They were turning out of the School of Mines men who had diplomas that carried them anywhere. (Hear, hear.) They might well give the institution the same status as the University. The question of technical education could not be excluded from the enquiry. He believed the Government were about to introduce a Bill to deal with Schools of Mines. Anything done by the Government in respect to the School of Mines must have the effect of widening its functions, and of making things better and more comprehensive. He hoped the scope of the enquiry would extend from the kindergarten to the University. He moved to insert after "Select Committee" the words "of five." He hoped when the Select Committee was extended to a Royal Commission at the end of the session it would take in such experts from the University and other higher education circles as would be capable of creating a system of education of which South Australia might be proud. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. RYAN, in reply, expressed his high appreciation of the manner in which the motion had been debated. The charge that his object was merely to extend University work must be denied. He realised, however, the awful gulf which separates those who have had the advantages of education from those who have not. The two sides of the question had now been placed before the House—the ultra Conservative view by Mr. Young and the Radical view by Mr. Campbell.

Mr. RUDALL—There was nothing very radical in what Mr. Campbell said.

Mr. RYAN—Mr. Campbell said everyone should have an opportunity of "playing the game." He opposed Mr. Coombe's amendment because it would prevent the introduction of a Bill by the Government, which would do what the hon. member proposed in a speedier manner than the amendment would do. When the House adjourned he had no doubt the Government would raise the Select Committee into a Royal Commission, with the addition of two members of the Upper House. He thought members of Parliament were quite competent to consider the question, without the aid of outsiders. He would accept the amendments of Mr. Peake.

Mr. COOMBE'S amendment was negatived, and the amendments of Mr. Peake and Mr. Smeaton were carried. The motion as amended passed.

The members of the Select Committee were elected as follows:—Messrs. Coneybeer, Green, Peake, Ryan, and Young, with the usual powers to call for papers and witnesses, and to move from place to place, the committee to report to Parliament in three months.

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University Education.

The debate was resumed on Mr. Ryan's motion in regard to the Adelaide University, which was eventually carried in the following form:—"That a Select Committee of five members, three to be a quorum, be appointed to report on the best methods to be adopted to increase the facilities for higher education at the Adelaide University for deserving students, and as to extending the present grounds of the University." Mr. Peake spoke at length in support of the motion, and expressed the opinion that the people of South Australia had every reason to be proud both of the University and of the School of Mines. Mr. Campbell stated that at present there was a tremendous gap between the primary education of the State schools and the University and School of Mines. He expressed the hope that the committee to be appointed would include men who had done great work departmentally for the cause of education in the State, and to whom much gratitude was due by the people. Unfortunately in South Australia, he said, they were copying all the defects and perpetuating all the cost of the English methods of technical education. There should be more co-ordination and a better system of central control. Mr. Rudall supported the motion, and Mr. Smeaton also spoke in its favor. He referred to the excellent work done by the English Commission on technical education sent by Mr. McEwen to America, and remarked that he could not speak too highly of the work done by the Adelaide School of Mines, which should be given a higher status. Its students had earned diplomas which would carry them anywhere, and it might well be given the rank of a university. He believed the Government had a Bill to deal with schools of mines which would have the effect of making their scope wider and better. He agreed with the suggestion of Mr. Campbell that the Government might well invite gentlemen connected with the University and holding high positions in educational circles to assist in the work of the select committee. Mr. Ryan, in reply, resented the suggestion to bring into the committee outsiders. Members of Parliament were quite capable of doing all that was required. The amendment of Mr. Coombe to provide that the committee should report on the desirability of providing better facilities for secondary and technical instruction was defeated. The committee appointed were Messrs. Coneybeer, Green, Peake, Ryan, and Young, and the time allotted for bringing in their report was fixed at three months.

The motion by Mr. Smeaton for a Royal Commission in regard to afforestation was defeated. The next motion debated was that of Mr. Rudall, who asked for the payment of a retiring allowance to the representatives of the late Mr. Bentley Wharton. The Treasurer opposed the motion, which, he said, was not justified either on legal or moral grounds. Mr. Jackson also opposed the motion, as he felt sure that if there was any legal claim Mr. Price would not have opposed it when it was originally brought forward. The debate was not finished when members went to dinner.

EXTENSION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

During the recent debate in the House of Assembly in reference to the University, it was pointed out that the present accommodation was inadequate for the fine staff of professors and the students. The Government has had this matter under consideration for some time, and the Ministry are impressed with the absolute necessity of providing extra buildings and grounds for it. In the neighbourhood of the University there are the Police Barracks, the Destitute Asylum, Government House, and the Jubilee Oval, all of which, if taken in, would provide sufficient space for a University capable of filling the needs for a century to come. Nothing has been decided, but the Cabinet is making enquiries as to the best means of providing, as soon as possible, extra room for the University. It is generally believed that whatever provisions are made the University will not be removed from North terrace. To extend its present ground would mean the removal of certain institutions from the neighbourhood, and these considerations have not been lost sight of by the Government. There are sites and buildings in the immediate vicinity of the city which would meet all purposes.

Reg. Oct 21st

The question of the retirement of five members of the University Council, in accordance with the Act of Incorporation, was considered at a meeting on Friday afternoon. Dr. Barlow (the Vice-Chancellor), Professor Ennis, Dr. Poulton, and Mr. A. Williams retired by effluxion of time. Of the remaining members, Mr. S. J. Jacobs, the Rev. Dr. Jefferys, Professor Mitchell, Mr. R. Barr Smith, and Mr. S. Talbot Smith had been next longest in office. On a ballot being taken the Rev. Dr. Jefferys was declared to be the retiring member.

The University Council on Friday re-elected Professors Henderson and Jethro Brown as its representatives on the Public Library Board.