

Register, July 12<sup>th</sup>, 1910

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### THE GOVERNOR ON SPORT.

In declaring the Adelaide University sports ground and boathouse open on Monday afternoon His Excellency the Governor (Sir Day Bosanquet) made some valuable remarks on the benefit of physical culture. Why, he said, was this field so important to the welfare of the University? First of all, because athletic sport was a powerful incentive to the formation of character. The character of the man was greatly strengthened by the exercise of the physical powers. The man who kept his body fit and always ready to put forth all his powers to the best advantage in emergency became proud of his physical condition and averse from any mean thought or cruel action. He learnt self-respect, and he learnt to protect the weak, to hold his head up, and in his journey through life to maintain an honourable and self-relying character. The system of training for athletic sport might be laid down as the resolute performance of the three cardinal virtues—temperance, soberness, and chastity. The strenuous exercise of competitive physical effort developed the moral qualities of courage and endurance. The great Duke of Wellington said that the Battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton College. The influence of games on a man's character had been well described in the following words:—"It is not bad training for the battle of life for a young man to be shinned at football or given out wrongly at cricket and to be able to bear the infliction quietly, with good temper, and in a gentleman-like spirit." But there were still further advantages to be attained from the practice of athletic sport—physical advantages which might be described as smartness of bearing and grace of manner. At home in each of the Royal Naval barracks and gunnery and torpedo schools an obstacle race track was provided, over which every man was required to run each day before work began. He had watched the men running the first day slow, ungainly, and feeble, and watched the same men after two months agile, smart, and graceful. No one would believe they were the same men.

## COLLEGE SPORT

### NEW UNIVERSITY GROUND.

### OPENED BY THE GOVERNOR.

The University sports ground, on the northern side of the Torrens, between King William and Frome roads, was formally opened on Monday afternoon by his Excellency the Governor, prior to the lacrosse match between teams representing the Melbourne and Adelaide universities. A large gathering and mild and pleasant weather contributed greatly to the success of the ceremony. His Excellency was accompanied by Lady Bosanquet and the Misses Bosanquet, and there were also present the Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way), the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow), the professorial staff, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Adelaide (Mr. and Mrs. J. Cohen).

#### A Beauty Spot.

Surrounded by parks and ornamental trees, the ground is picturesquely situated, and is itself a beauty spot. It covers 64 acres, the boundary fences having been embellished by Kaffir hedge, which, when full grown, will make an attractive fringe. The pavilion is a handsome and commodious structure, costing £1,300. In the three dressing rooms at the rear—one for ladies—attention has been paid to details, and the rooms are replete with modern conveniences, including electric lights. The fine boathouse, which may be seen from the City-bridge, cost £750. The ground floor has accommodation for boats, and on the upper floor is a large dressing-room and a balcony, from which a good view of the river may be obtained. Electric lighting is installed throughout. A landing stage has been erected by the City Council.

The main entrance to the ground in from Avenue-road, a new carriage way having been laid down by the council. The University authorities, who have secured a 21 years' lease of the ground, were bound to expend £500, in improvements, but already £2,470 has been spent. On the eastern side are several enclosed tennis courts, and a substantial and neat iron storage shed and stable.

#### Generous Friends.

Mr. S. J. Jacobs (chairman of the sports ground committee) invited his Excellency to declare the pavilion boathouse, and ground open. He said they owed the possession of those valuable adjuncts to the University to a number of people, whose generosity had shed further lustre upon the reputation of Adelaide folk for culture. (Applause.) The boathouse was constructed wholly at the expense of Mr. R. Barr Smith, and the history of South Australia would be incomplete if it did not record the benefactions of that gentleman. He had from time to time endowed the University with funds not merely for sports, but for the purposes of learning, and had ever been their friend in need. They owed much also to the Corporation of Adelaide. The City Council, in addition to leasing the ground to them, had made generous concessions in a number of ways. The pavilion had been paid for by 13 friends, who had magnanimously subscribed £100 each, and their names had been inscribed upon the bronze scroll on the back wall of the structure. Mr. G. K. Soward, who had gratuitously given his services as architect, had spared no pains in the work. The cost of preparing the ground had been defrayed by other friends of the University, who voluntarily donated between £500 and £800. To Professors Henderson and Navior they could not adequately express their gratitude for the splendid zeal which those gentlemen had displayed in connection with the movement, and, encouraged by their example, many of the students had done a good deal of manual work on the ground. (Applause.)

### The Benefits of Sport.

His Excellency, who was warmly applauded, congratulated all associated with the University upon having, with the assistance of numerous benefactors, secured such a magnificent sports oval. He said the ceremony was an important one, not simply because the ground would be the means of promoting the happiness of the students, but because athletic sport was a most powerful incentive to the formation of character. (Applause.) The man who kept his body fit, and was ready to put forth his full strength to the best advantage in an emergency became proud of his physical condition, and would feel contempt for a cruel action. Such a man learnt self-respect; he would protect the weak, and he would be able to hold up his head up in the journey through life. The whole system of training for athletic sport might be described as the resolute performance of the cardinal virtues—temperance, sobriety, and chastity. (Applause.) The strenuous exercise of competitive physical effort developed the qualities of courage and endurance. It was the great Duke of Wellington who said that the battle of Waterloo was won on the playing fields of the schools and colleges of England. There was an advantage in the influence of manly games on character which had been well described in the words—"It is not bad training for the battle of life if a young man may be shinned at football, or given out wrongly at cricket, and he is able to bear the infliction quietly, with good temper, and in a gentlemanly manner." (Applause.) In declaring the ground and buildings open his Excellency expressed his hearty wishes for the continued success of the graduates and the undergraduates, both in the field and on the water. (Applause.) Cheers were given for his Excellency and Lady Bosanquet, the Chancellor of the University, the Vice-Chancellor, and the professors. Lively airs were played throughout the afternoon by the Tramways Trust Band. Afternoon tea was served in the boathouse.

## IS THERE TOO MUCH SPORT?

### COLLEGE MASTER SAYS "NO."

Does sport enter too largely into the lives of boys at schools and colleges in Australia? Some people have been bold enough to assert that it does to the disadvantage of the student, while others, who are in the majority, hold the strong opinion that sport is a decided incentive to young men in their school life.

Speaking to a representative of "The Advertiser" on this subject on Monday, Mr. L. A. Adamson, M.A. (headmaster of Wesley College, Melbourne), who is in Adelaide with a football team from his college, expressed his strong conviction that manly sports should be encouraged in the public high schools. "I would be very sorry, indeed, to run a school where no sports are indulged in," he said. "I believe that the great public school is not a technical knowledge shop, but a training ground in the art of life. The more abundant the life the better the school;