

a clever and forcible speaker and writer, knows what he wants, and is unusually successful in obtaining his object without causing friction."

The third is to Mr. Jackson from Mr. E. B. Sargent, late Director of Education in South Africa:—

"It would not be easy to find anyone possessed of greater organising capacity and tact than Hugh Gunn. He has the remarkable gift of always seeing the next step to take, and of taking it with certainty. For the work of starting a new University on a good business foundation, and of keeping in harmonious relations with the persons in Western Australia who are chiefly concerned, he is the best man I know. In connection with this Royal Commission on University Education in London, I have formed ideas of some of the things to avoid in University statutes, as well as of some of the things to aim at, and if Gunn is selected I would gladly give him (confidentially) any experience I have gained, before he starts."

The next is from Lord Milner to Mr. Jackson:—

"I was well acquainted with Mr. Hugh Gunn during the years I was Governor of the new South African Colonies (Transvaal and Orange River) and High Commissioner for South Africa. Mr. Gunn was the head of the Education Department in the Orange River Colony, and he occupied that position for several years after I left South Africa, and did excellent work in it. He is a first-rate administrator, able, industrious, loyal, and tactful, and gets on well with those under him. He is also thoroughly versed in educational organisation. I am glad to hear that there is an intention to employ him as organiser and adviser in the establishment of the new University in Western Australia. I believe that his abilities and experience thoroughly fit him for such work."

The last is from Lord Selbourne to myself:—

"I know Mr. Hugh Gunn well. He was Director of Education in the Orange River Colony when I was Governor of the Orange River Colony, and after I had ceased to be Governor, and Sir Hamilton Goold-Adams had become Governor from Lieutenant-Governor, I still continued to keep in close touch with all that happened, so that I may say that I have known Mr. Gunn and his work for the last six years. I have no hesitation in expressing my very high opinion of Mr. Gunn both as a man and as a leader in education. I am quite prepared to furnish further particulars if you will tell me what you want to know, or to have the pleasure of discussing the matter with you at the House of Lords on Wednesday, say, at 4.30."

In consequence the letter given below was written to Mr. Gunn, in the terms of the wishes of the committee that had met at Sir Newton Moore's. It may be mentioned that Mr. Gunn himself declined to accept an appointment for more than two years. Indeed, he half hinted that he might ask to be relieved at an earlier period.

"Dear Mr. Gunn.—In reference to the University appointment which you and I have discussed on three occasions, I now lay before you in writing the terms of the engagement which we propose to offer to you. We desire to appoint you the adviser and organiser for the new University of Perth, Western Australia. You will be called upon, in all probability, to act also as registrar temporarily. This engagement will be for a period of two years, at a salary of £800 a year, passages to and from Western Australia being provided by the University for yourself and your wife. With regard to the two years' period, should you, in view of a better appointment, desire to sever your connection with the University of Perth, the Senate, I am satisfied, would consider any such application from you in a favourable manner. As was explained to you by myself and also by the Bishop of Perth and Mr. Cyril Jackson, it will be necessary for you at once to get full information as to the working of the modern University in England, and for that purpose you will have to visit several of them. We suggest Cambridge (on its agricultural side), Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, Reading College, and possibly Leeds and Sheffield, and indeed any University which you may think of value to your work. Railway fares and reasonable allowances will be given for visiting such Colleges and Universities. These allowances and the appointment itself we desire to begin on the first day of September, 1911. You yourself are to proceed to Western Australia in February next, or at such other date as you may be informed of by myself or by the Bishop of Perth. Payment of all charges on your presentation of your accounts will be made by the Agent-General if he is satisfied as to the legitimate character of the expenditure. The work in Western Australia would include besides organising and advising, the drafting of statutes, helping in the selection of sites and buildings, the Registrar's work, if called upon to undertake it, and generally carrying out the

instructions of the Senate of the University. If you are prepared to accept the appointment on these terms, I shall feel obliged if you will let me know your decision at the earliest date."

The action taken in appointing Mr. Gunn will, of course, have to be ratified by the Senate of the new University as soon as it is appointed—an event which, I take it, is probably close at hand. Certain it is that the step taken will expedite the establishment of a University by a very considerable amount of time. I am satisfied that in Mr. Gunn we have made an appointment of value. He will be able to do something more than even the rough preliminary work in his efforts to put the new University on its legs. At all events, it cannot be but that his great experience and peculiar qualifications will give our movement a big lift forward. If we are as fortunate in the selection of a Vice-Chancellor as we have been in that of an Organiser, the progress of our University will in all probability be proportionately more rapid and more effective than that of the most successful of our University sisters to the East; but the appointment of this officer is a serious matter. It will be noticed that Mr. Gunn was to begin his work in September, and to be out here shortly after the opening of the New Year. He could not carry out his duties earlier than September, as the Universities are all in vacation up to about that time, while by coming out here in February he should arrive just at the close of our vacation time and as the summer is waning.

**THE CREATION OF A UNIVERSITY.**  
CONSTITUTION AND SITE DISCUSSED.  
INFLUENCES OF UNIVERSITY LIFE.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. T. RYAN.

Mr. Thomas Ryan, the chairman of the Royal Commission of South Australia appointed to deal with the University and Higher Education questions, who is also the Labour member for the district of Torrens, is at present on a visit to this State. During his brief sojourn here he has gone into the question of the University in Western Australia, and in the course of an interview yesterday with a representative of the "West Australian" he set forth what in his opinion would be requisite for this State, and explained the policy and ideals of the Labour Party in the field of education.

"My attitude on the University question," said Mr. Ryan, "is just that which is taken up by other Labour men of the Commonwealth. We have always realised that if the government of this country is to be in the hands of the people, then the more highly educated the people are the more likely to be brought about is the development of their territory and their prosperity. The special grounds upon which I approach with authority any question regarding Universities is that in October, 1909, after I had been elected to Parliament, I moved a motion in our South Australian Parliament with the object of securing an additional grant of £10,000 to the Adelaide University for the purpose of assisting deserving students. The motion was not carried that year, for the reason that the general elections, the result of which placed the Labour Party in charge of the benches, intervened. In July of the following year, however, the House unanimously carried my motion for the appointment of a Select Committee to report on the best methods to be adopted by which could be made available facilities for higher education at the Adelaide University. We realised that education is the god of the future and that the first people will be those who have the best schools. We commenced the inquiry in July and examined a large number of witnesses, including such men in our own State as the Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way), the Principal of the Adelaide School of Mines (Sir Langdon Bonython), and the Directors of Education of Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide, and the leading University men in all of the Eastern States. That Select Committee has recently been formed into

A Royal Commission.

and though at first commissioned to inquire into the University question solely we have since been appointed to inquire into and report upon the whole of the education system of South Australia. The Commission is purely a non-party one, and consists of:—The Minister for Education (Mr. Coneybear); Mr. F. W. Young, a member of the University Council; Mr. A. H. Peake, the late Premier and Minister for Education; Mr. Green, M.L.A., who possesses a special knowledge of technical education; Mr. Cowan, M.L.C., representing the agricultural districts; Mr. A. Styles, M.L.C., representing the industrial section of the community, and myself as chairman."

What form, to your mind, would the ideal University take?

"The idea which I have formed of a University has been well defined by Milton:—'A University should provide that education which fits a man to perform justly, skilfully, magnanimously, all the duties of all offices.' That really is the only ideal that the men of the Labour movement hold either in South Australia or in Western Australia."

What was the general impression formed by the Commission as the result of their tour through all of the Eastern States?

"Firstly, the Australian States are coming rapidly to realise one very great essential, namely, that a University is the property of the nation in whose midst it is situated. I would repeat that—a University is the prosperity of the nation because it is the power-house from which supplies must be drawn, and by which alone the progress of a nation can be maintained. That is to say that we in Australia ought to learn—some of the States, perhaps, more than others—that the sudden discovery of wealth is not a guarantee of national prosperity. Not wealth, but the