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THE UNIVERSITY DINNER.

MR. FINK ON UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

The annual dinner in connection with the University of Adelaide took place at the South Australian Hotel on Saturday evening. The Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) presided, and among those present were his Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte), the Premier (Hon. T. Price), the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow), the Bishop of Adelaide (Dr. A. N. Thomas), Mr. Justice Gordon, the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. Theodore Bruce), Mr. Theodore Fink (of Melbourne), and the professors of the University.

The loyal toast having been honored, the Chancellor proposed "The Governor." In doing so he said he thought the influence of the University was more beneficent and widespread, and the institution had a stronger hold upon the esteem and confidence of the community than at any previous time in its history. It was gratifying to know that they had that night a larger and more influential company than at any former dinner. Among their guests they numbered Mr. Theodore Fink, of Melbourne, and to no man in Australia was the cause of higher education and the advancement of learning more indebted than to him. During the history of Victoria two men had received the thanks of the Parliament of that State. One was the late Chief Justice Higinbotham, and the other was Mr. Fink. It was due to Mr. Fink's direct personal influence that the Government subsidy to the University of Melbourne was increased from £12,000 to £20,000 a year. They welcomed his Excellency not only as the official visitor of the University, but as a graduate. Paraphrasing the words of Horace, they might say that his Excellency brought the spring-tide into every gathering he honored with his presence, and the warmth of his sympathy was equivalent to sunshine.

His Excellency, in responding, said he took such a deep personal interest in the University that, with the Chancellor's permission, he would refer to a certain matter of moment. A short while ago he was present at the Commemoration festival of the University of Sydney, and a dignified ceremony it was. Both graduates and undergraduates were present in the audience, and although the proceedings were characterised by jovial hilarity, reasonable limits were observed. He trusted that at the next Commemoration of the Adelaide University all members of the University would be brought together again. It made him sad to think there was a temporary estrangement between the governing body of the University and the undergraduates, and he hoped at the next Commemoration they would be reunited. It was pleasing to remember that at no time in its history had the University of Adelaide stood higher than today, and there was much cause for satisfaction in the knowledge that the reputation of the University had been carried to the old country by the Rhodes scholars. He was sure the distinguished Rhodes scholar who would leave Adelaide for Oxford next week would be found in the forefront at the University and in after life. He wished him success and trusted he would return to South Australia.

The Chancellor said the council or the senate sincerely hoped that the next Commemoration would be made complete by the presence of the undergraduates, who were absent from the last Commemoration not through any fault or exclusiveness on the part of the governing body. (A Voice—"I don't know.") But he did know. The undergraduates were invited to attend, but they preferred to hold a demonstration of their own.

Mr. Theodore Fink proposed "Almae Matri." He said it had been his pleasing task to visit the Adelaide University and other branches of the education system of South Australia as a member of two Commissions. The first Commission related to the lower forms of education, from the primary school upwards; but the Commissioners afterwards realised that the Government they represented could not hope to deal effectively with any branch of education without recognising the importance and essential character of the aid and governance to be rendered thereto by the universities, as the head and front of the educational system, and accordingly they charged themselves with the task of ascertaining what was the outlook and attitude of the several universities to national education. And in pursuing that investigation they found no other University in the Commonwealth which had a sounder view or a

greater conception of its national duties as a teaching body than the University of Adelaide. Not only did this University fit students for the learned professions and establish science on a firm foundation, but it thoroughly carried out its responsibility as a body responsible for the development of teaching in all its grades. It was necessary to bear in mind that there could not be national efficiency, based on training in every rank of life, unless the influence of the university was directly brought to bear on every branch of the educational system. It was incumbent on the universities to promote the proper study and cultivation of those qualities that made for the highest citizenship, without which no democratic country could hope to continue its evolution, and he did not think the universities of either Melbourne or Sydney had grasped this conception and kept it in view more definitely than the University of Adelaide. Not only was that his personal view, but it was shared by his colleagues on the Commission and some of the leading educationists in the other States. He believed the Adelaide University, like the sister universities of Melbourne and Sydney, was founded rather on the initiative of public-spirited and munificent citizens than by any well-considered action on the part of the State. Perhaps the reason that the Australian universities had progressed as a result of private munificence rather than as a result of State aid was because they were founded before the modern conception of national education was fully developed. By the modern conception he meant the re-birth of the old conception which was held in the days of Charles the Great, when a university was founded not as a mere seat of elegant learning and culture for the individuals who attended it, but as a place where knowledge was not only taught but applied to all arts and utilities of life and government. That conception had in these days been reborn, and he thought the democratic communities of Australia would see, as had been seen in Canada, Germany, and the United States, that the highest learning, as well as elementary teaching, must equally be the care of a fostering Government, and that the elementary and intermediate schools would fail to fulfil their place in the scheme of national efficiency unless they were connected with the University. The want of co-ordination between secondary and primary education, the haphazard way in which technical schools were started, without any guarantee that children from the primary schools were prepared to adapt themselves to the curriculum, and the dependence of universities on the casual benevolence of pious founders, all these signs persuaded me that the educational unrest had not started a day too soon, and the more the belief was growing that it was the duty of the State as a whole to see that the highest, as well as the lowest, branch of education was supported. He believed the University of Adelaide had begun to assist in the training of teachers before the universities of either Melbourne or Sydney, and as far as he could see Adelaide was in closer alliance with and of more direct service to the State than either of those universities. The increase of the State endowment of Melbourne University to £20,000 a year was made because it was felt that the scientific development of the country's industries and resources necessitated increased provision for teaching science. It was felt that as the successful development of the State depended upon the application of science to mining, agriculture, and mechanical industries, these interests should be in direct touch with the institution that was calculated to guarantee scientific efficiency to its students. Therefore Parliament gave an increased grant, conditional upon special additions being made to the teaching work of the University with respect to mining and agriculture. Accordingly the University was firmly united to the Government by an alteration of its constitution, under which the Ministers of Mines, Agriculture, and Education were given seats on the governing body. The result had not been an interference by politicians with matters of high learning, but it had led to Parliament becoming better informed on university questions, and the cause of education had greatly profited thereby. The association had, moreover, informed the community as to what the University was doing. All the Australian universities could do a great deal more useful work if they had more general recognition. Every department of Government depended for its success on accurate scientific direction, and there was no guarantee that the men in charge of these departments were efficient unless they had had university training, and there could not be efficient training unless the universities possessed well-equipped laboratories and other ap-

pliances. These things required a great deal of money. Education was a thing that did not directly pay, but no community could maintain its position in these days of commercial competition without spending freely in education. The Adelaide University might well be congratulated on having given more attention to the study of history and social science than the other Australian universities. Australia was part of the greatest Empire recorded in history, and British people had developed the most wonderful free institutions ever known. In no other part of the Empire was it so necessary to teach the historical traditions of the race, for distant as Australia was from the heart of the Empire, and enjoying all British liberties and institutions, they were apt to think these privileges came by nature, and to ignore their growth and use. In Germany, and still more in the United States, there were schools of history and social science, so that whenever a problem arose with regard to municipal government, railway management, the conduct of private charities, or the dividing line between private enterprise and public management, they would find the solid works of University men brought to bear on the solution of all these problems. No Australian could properly value his greatest heritage, his civic and political traditions, unless he understood the leading outlines of the history of the race. In concluding, Mr. Fink said the mission of University men was to lead the community in respect of research, and they should be consulted by governments and other people as to the application of their knowledge to the manifold interests of the nation. In return for these services it was the duty of the State to give financial support to the universities.

Professor Darnley Naylor replied to the toast. He said University men desired to cultivate their bodies as well as their minds, and he hoped the Government would assist them to carry out that ideal by straightening out the Torrens so as to give them a decent two miles' course. (Laughter.) Another crying necessity for Adelaide University was a recreation ground. He was sure the Government would not wish Adelaide University men to be handicapped in their matches with Melbourne and Sydney, both of which Universities had recreation grounds. They had heard a good deal lately about personal efficiency, but he thought that was only half an ideal for a University. They wanted personal efficiency for the good of the State, and that, he thought, was what the Adelaide University was aiming at. He believed that ideal could be best attained by bringing students into the closest corporate union. The way to do that was to found residential colleges, and he hoped Adelaide University would have these at an early date. He also would like to see an old University men's club formed.

The Chancellor briefly proposed the health of the clerk of the senate, Mr. T. A. Caterer, who acted as secretary for the dinner. He said they were indebted for the excellence of the feast to the genius for organisation and the admirable management of the first graduate of Adelaide University, Mr. Caterer. The toast was warmly drunk with musical honors.

Mr. Caterer, in replying, said a leading educationist of the State recently said that the degrees granted by the Adelaide University at its inception were about equivalent to the senior certificate of the present day. Nevertheless, amongst the earliest graduates of Adelaide University there was the Regius professor of engineering at Edinburgh University, a gold medallist in classics at London University, and Mr. Geo. Murray, one of the ablest men in the legal profession in the State. Another of the early graduates was now Inspector-General of Schools, and another was Mr. Stirling Smeaton, who in his quiet way had done much for the natural history of the State. It was interesting to note that of the ten universities represented at the dinner, the most strongly represented, after Adelaide, were Cambridge and Melbourne, which ran a dead heat. Sydney and Dublin came next with an equal number, two each.

The following programme of songs was given during the evening:—Serenade, "When the shades of eve" (Schubert), Mr. Harold Savage; "My friend" (Behrend), Mr. Hurtle Cooke; "When that I was a tiny boy" (Hatton), Mr. Harold Savage; "Ho, Jolly Jenkin," Mr. Hurtle Cooke.