

UNIVERSITY NEEDS.

STATEMENT BY THE COUNCIL.

ESTIMATED COST, £59,800.

In his evidence before the Education Commission on Friday the Chancellor of the University (Sir S. J. Way) put in a statement prepared by the Council, indicating the financial needs of that body. The statement showed that the number of students was relatively large, compared with the population of the State, but the buildings and staff were not adequate to the work now undertaken, and still less to the work that was waiting. It was desired that the University should be regarded as the scientific centre of all departments of the national life, and the statement set out the needs of the University, and the manner in which the £59,800 required would be appropriated.

The details are:—

1. Increase of present salaries.
2. Additions to the staff.
3. New buildings.
4. Complete equipment of laboratories.
5. Additional annual equipment.
6. University grounds.
7. Exemption from land tax.

Increase of Present Salaries.

Unless salaries are raised towards the level of those in other Australian universities Adelaide must suffer in prestige and it will be impossible to have a staff of equal proficiency. The professorial salaries offered by the recently-established University of Queensland are £900 a year, and even if the salaries here were made the same they would still be well below those of Melbourne and Sydney. A superannuation fund—which is essential—might be formed by retaining 10 per cent. annually. There are five lectureships of £300 or £400 per annum, each of which ought to be increased to £400 and £500 respectively. These increases all together amount to £3,000 a year, and consequential increases in other salaries and wages, including those of the registrar's department, would bring the additional annual expenditure under this heading to, say £4,000.

Additions to the Staff.

1. Faculty of Arts.—The faculty has two needs, viz.—(a) lecturers, at, say, £400 a year each, to assist the three present professors; (b) a professor of French and German at £900 a year. The annual cost of these requirements will amount to £2,100.

2. Faculty of Science.—This faculty has three needs, viz.:—(a) Replacement of cadets in the laboratories by paid assistants. This will cost £400 a year. (b) Additional assistance in physics and chemistry. This will cost £300 a year. (c) A professorship of engineering. This is contingent on all the higher engineering work being done at the University. The salary would be £900 a year. The institution of this chair would relieve the chair of mathematics, to which might then be attached the subject of astronomy. The annual cost of the three requirements would be £1,600. In addition, it is essential that there should be, as in other universities, provision for instruction in zoology and botany; and the question of establishing these departments might be considered in connection with the institution of a School of Agriculture and Veterinary Science at the University. As the University already possesses facilities for the teaching of chemistry, physiology, microscopic anatomy, and materia medica, a School of Agriculture, if provision were made for the teaching of zoology and botany, might be established without much difficulty; such a school, the Council believes, would be of great advantage to the State. If this were done there should be a professorship of zoology and a lectureship on botany. The lecturer on botany, who should have special knowledge of vegetable pathology and parasitology, might also hold the position of Government Botanist; but if this were not the case the salary from the University should be £400 per annum. About a year ago the Government expressed a desire that there should be such an appointment, and the Council has received a donation of £500 from Miss Stuckey towards the encouragement of this subject. Salaries of professor of zoology and lecturer on botany, £1,300.

(3) Faculty of Law.—Besides the professor of law there are four lecturers—all of them in practice. Their total salaries amount to £350 per annum provided by a private benefaction, which expires in 1911. An annual sum of £400 per annum will be necessary in the future to meet this cost.

(4) Faculty of Medicine.—The essential needs are a professor of pathology at £900 a year and a lecturer in bio-chemistry at £400 a year. In bio-chemistry a lecturer only is needed, but he should be a teacher who is fully capable in research work. It is also desirable to have a paid demonstrator in anatomy, at say £100 a year. The additional annual cost of these requirements will be £1,400; total, £6,800.

New Buildings.

The following additional buildings are necessary:—(a) Additions to the library, in accordance with plans now prepared, say, £6,000. (This sum does not include cost of book stacks and furniture, which will probably amount to between £500 and £800, according to the style adopted and the completeness of equipment). (b) Buildings for geology, mineralogy, zoology, and botany, say, £7,000. (c) A new building for the physics and engineering departments, which should include a lecture hall capable of seating 600 persons, to serve also for extension lectures and examinations, say, £25,000. (d) Caretaker's lodge, say, £1,000. (e) Students' rooms, one for each sex, say, £2,000. (f) Additions to workshop, say, £200. (g) An additional lecture-room for the lecturers in the medical school, say, £600; total, £41,800.

Equipment of Laboratories, &c.

The following are required, viz.:—(a) The adequate equipment of existing laboratories, say, £1,600; (b) the equipment for pathology and for the present Pathological Museum, say, £2,500. (This amount depends upon what arrangements may be made for the teaching of pathology at the Adelaide Hospital. The whole sum of £2,500 may not be required.) (c) The equipment of the laboratory for bio-chemistry, say, £500. (This small sum is sufficient on the assumption that a room will be available for this purpose. If an additional laboratory is needed, the expense would be increased.) (d) equipment of laboratories for zoology and botany, say £1,000; (e) additional musical instruments and additions to Conservatorium library, say £200; total, £5,800.

Additional Annual Grant for Equipment.

An additional equipment grant of £1,000 a year is required, viz., £400 for the library, £400 for the laboratories, £50 for the Conservatorium library, and £150 for contingent expenses consequential on the establishment of new departments.

University Grounds.

An annual sum should be provided for the maintenance of the University and sports grounds, say, £400.

Exemption from Land Tax.

The Council consider that the University land should be exempt from the State land tax.

Summary.

The total cost under the above six heads may be summarised as follows:—New buildings and equipment of laboratories, £47,600; new annual expenditure, viz.:—Additions to present salaries, £4,000; additions to staff, £6,800; new annual equipment, £1,000; University and sports grounds, £400; total, £12,200; grand total, £59,800.

a great engineering school could be established. The present agreement crippled any attempt on the part of the University to develop such a school. There was no really good engineering laboratory in Adelaide, such as there should be if engineering instruction was to be given on modern lines. That great laboratory must come, and he had no doubt that if it were established at the University the School of Mines authorities would be aggrieved; but if it were placed with the School of Mines there would be the anomaly of University students taking a degree course at another institution. Electrical engineering was started at the University in 1891, or about 11 years before the School of Mines could have done the work, because they did not have a laboratory until they went into their new building. Since then the School of Mines had furnished an electrical engineering laboratory, and had instituted a three-years' course independent of the University. Looking at the matter from a broad point of view, it would have been better if the money spent in equipping two engineering laboratories had been spent on one. As the students increased in number the difficulties in regard to the agreement would increase, too. An agreement between two bodies, terminable at 12 months' notice, was not a stable foundation upon which to build any educational system.

Mr. Styles—Do you agree with the proposal that the Director of Education should take over control of technical schools in the country?—With the establishment of the high school system in the country, it seems to me that that course is unavoidable, because otherwise in one town you will have a high school, and perhaps also a technical school, and the work will be overlapping. Both will certainly teach such

subjects as mathematics, physics, and chemistry, requiring laboratories, which are expensive to establish, and in a country like this we do not want duplication of effort. If such schools are under independent control it will be impossible for them to work without friction. Moreover, under the present system the Government have no control by inspection of the technical schools.