

amalgamated and managed under Mr. Waite's supervision until, as a result of the large resumptions of pastoral country in 1880, and the sale of the 1888 leases the big holding was broken up. The partners then transferred their interests to the Mutooroo, Mulyungarie, and Lilydale stations, and when Sir Thomas Elder died in 1897 the firm of Elder & Waite was formed into the Mutooroo Pastoral Company, which still carries on the runs with Mr. Waite as one of the directors. He holds a similar position in regard to the Beltana Pastoral Company. Mr. Waite has been chairman of Elder, Smith, and Co. ever since the business was formed into a company many years ago. Mr. Waite resided on the stations with which he was associated from 1859 to 1874, when he removed to Adelaide. Mr. Waite has been connected with the boards of other companies. He is a wealthy man, and has been a generous supporter of charitable and other institutions.

## THE GIFT ACCEPTED.

### MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the council of the University on Thursday last the Chancellor reported that Mr. Peter Waite had been in communication with the Premier, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and Mr. Justice Murray in regard to the donation for educational purposes of the Urrbrae Estate at Glen Osmond, consisting of 134 acres. His proposals were subsequently outlined in a letter to the Premier and a letter to the University. [The letters referred to were read by the Premier in the House of Assembly on Tuesday, and are given above.]

The Commissioner of Crown Lands and Mr. Justice Murray reported that they had inspected the property, and found it admirably adapted for the purposes to which Mr. Waite desired that it should be ultimately devoted. The council resolved unanimously to accept Mr. Waite's noble gift, and the following letter expressing their appreciation of his generosity was subsequently written to him by the chancellor and vice-chancellor on behalf of the council:—

"Dear sir—Your letter of the 3rd instant to the chancellor, offering one-half of your Urrbrae estate to the University for promoting the study of agriculture and allied subjects, and the other half for the purpose of a public park, under the control of the University, was laid before a special meeting of the council on the 9th instant. The council unanimously decided to accept your munificent offer, subject to the conditions set forth in your letter. They have no doubt that the object you have in view will be of immense value to the State of South Australia, and that Urrbrae is pre-eminently adapted for carrying out your plans. The prospect of founding a school of agriculture, under auspices so fortunate and conditions so favorable, is viewed with very great satisfaction by the council. We are desirous to convey to you the council's most cordial thanks for your noble benefaction and to assure you that your generosity will be gratefully remembered for all time by the public of South Australia, and in particular by the members of the University of Adelaide.—We are, dear sir, yours sincerely (signed) S. J. Way, chancellor; William Barlow, vice-chancellor."

## ENDOWMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

### SOME SPLENDID GIFTS.

The University has been singularly fortunate in the number and extent of its private endowments. In proportion to its total capital it owes more to private munificence than any other Australian university, with the exception of the University of Sydney. Although the endowments of that university amount to over £500,000, two bequests alone total £350,000, viz., the P. N. Russell bequest of £100,000 and the Challis bequest of £250,000.

The founding of the University of Adelaide was made possible in the first place by gifts of £20,000 each by Sir Walter Watson Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder. Its subsequent expansion has resulted from further gifts by Sir Thomas Elder and other public-spirited citizens. In 1878 the Hon. J. H. Angas, by the gift of £4,000 for the purpose of founding scholarships in engineering, provided a permanent incentive to the preparation for higher studies in engineering. A few years later the gift of £6,000 from the same donor resulted in the foundation of the Angas Professorship in Chemistry. Sir Thomas Elder's original gift of £20,000 in 1874 was only the beginning of a list of benefactions

that enabled the council to make the history of the University a striking record of progress. In 1883 he gave £10,000 for the establishment of a School of Medicine. On his death in 1897 the University received under his will a bequest of £65,000, which he allocated as follows:—£20,000 to the Medical School, £20,000 to the School of Music, and £25,000 as an endowment for the general purposes of the University. Sir Thomas Elder's contributions to the University funds amount to nearly £100,000. Mr. R. Barr Smith has, by successive gifts aggregating £9,000, enabled the University to provide the nucleus of a valuable library. His interest in the expansion of the University has also been manifested by gifts for the purchase of apparatus and for assistance in other directions. These donations are irrespective of his recent offer of £10,000 towards providing a students' hall, college, &c.

There have been many gifts from time to time for the purpose of establishing scholarships, prizes, and medals, and some special donations for assisting in the establishment of a School of Botany. The total private endowments of the University aggregate £146,265, exclusive of various donations received which amount to £5,937.

## FAR-REACHING POSSIBILITIES.

### ADVANTAGE TO PRODUCERS.

When seen on Tuesday afternoon Mr. W. Angus, M.P., formerly Director of Agriculture in South Australia, who is a member of the University Council, expressed his high appreciation of Mr. Waite's magnificent gift to the State. "We all realise," he said, "the munificence of the gift, which has been prompted by the finest patriotism on the part of the donor and his family. It is all the more valuable to the State from the fact of its dual nature. It is evident that the donor has given considerable thought to the question how best to benefit the primary industries of the State in making this gift to South Australia, and he has come to the conclusion that these would be best served by handing over part of his estate to the Government, to be used as an agricultural high school, and the rest of the estate, together with his fine mansion, to the University, to be used as a centre of training and research in those branches of science which have an intimate bearing on the agricultural and pastoral industries. Mr. Waite has realised that on the education of our youths and the training of our young men, who are to be the future producers of the State, the full expansion and development of our production depends. In this disposition of his estate he has recognised, too, that science must play a more important part in that greater production of which our State is possible. So far as the two institutions to be established are concerned, he has provided the means whereby science and practice shall go hand-in-hand, as they ought to do, and must do, in order to bring about the best results."

### A Boon to Town Boys.

"The agricultural high school will, indeed, be a boon to the town boys. Our present educational system in this State provides no means whereby boys in Adelaide, who wish to turn their attention to agriculture in after-life, can get such a training as best to fit them for such a life. There is a gap to be bridged between the State school and the Agricultural College for such a boy, and the agricultural high school, as now made possible, will go far to effect this. Not only will such be the case, but Adelaide boys will have the further advantage of being able to undergo this training, both practical and theoretical, without going beyond the wholesome influences of the home so early in life. The land is ideal for the establishment of such an institution, and the surroundings will be most beautiful. No finer or more convenient site is possible."

### A Feeder to Roseworthy.

"A high school of this nature is bound to increase the usefulness of the Roseworthy Agricultural College. For long it has been felt that students entering the college have not had adequate preparatory training. Such, however, need no longer be the case in regard to those pupils of the agricultural high school who may wish to take advantage of the wider training provided at Roseworthy. Their elementary training will enable them to receive the greatest benefit from the more advanced college courses. In this way, too, the high school will act as a feeder to Roseworthy, and, doubtless, will increase the number of students attending."

### Scientific Research.

"So far as the gift to the University is concerned, it is not difficult to foresee that it will be of immense value to the producers of the State, and, as one who has been associated with the more scientific side of agriculture, I cannot speak in too appreciative terms, not only of the generosity of Mr. Waite, but also of the conditions under which the University are asked to accept the mansion at Urrbrae and the adjoining stretch of fine land. The only condition of acceptance in regard to these is that they shall be put to the best use in the interests of the producers of the State in the training of men in the sciences bearing on agriculture and stock-raising, and in the investigation of those problems with which the producer is brought face to face in his daily practices. It is in this latter branch of work that the new institution will be of immense service to the State, a splendid addition to the usefulness of the University, and as an agricultural research station unique in Australia. It is something for South Australia to be able to say that the first University institution of this nature in Australia has been established through the munificence of one of its oldest and most respected citizens. I need only add that Mr. Waite may feel assured that the producers of South Australia appreciate very highly the fine spirit which has prompted this most generous gift."

### WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.

Mr. A. Mansbridge, M.A., secretary of the British Workers' Educational Society, will deliver an address on the aims and objects of that body at a public meeting to be held in the Seamen's Union rooms, Port Adelaide, on Saturday night. The Mayor of Port Adelaide (Mr. J. H. Clouston) will occupy the chair, and an interesting discourse is expected. All unionists are requested to be present.