

Council Vacancies.

The following five members of the Council of the Adelaide University retire by effluxion of time:—Messrs. W. R. Bayly, W. G. T. Goodman, E. W. Holden, A. G. Price, and Dr. Helen Mayo, and a sixth vacancy has been caused by the resignation of Sir Joseph Verco. The election to fill these vacancies will take place at the meeting of the Senate on Wednesday, November 28.

University Commemoration.

Owing to the postponement of degree and diploma examinations, it has been necessary to postpone also the date of the University commemoration, which will now take place on Friday, December 21.

Public Library Board.

The Council of the University on Friday nominated as its representatives on the board of governors of the Public Library, Art Gallery, and Museum Mr. W. J. Isbister, M.B.E., K.C., LL.B., and Professor W. K. Hancock, B.A.

League of Nations Prize.

An annual prize of £5 is offered for the best essay on the work of the League of Nations. The topic is prescribed by the University, and the essay must reach the office of the registrar not later than May 18. Students of the University, or of any class under the control of the University, are eligible to compete provided they are not graduates. The subject prescribed for the 1929 essay is "The Kellogg Peace Pact."

ADV. 29. 10. 28

THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

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UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.

Owing to the postponement of the University degree and diploma examinations it has been necessary to postpone the date of the University commemoration until December 21.

MAIL 27. 10. 28

Special Examinations

Examination results of the Australian Music Examinations Board have been released, and it remains only to hold the special examinations next month for the allotment of the scholarships and prizes in grades 1, 2, and 4. These examinations are increasing in number of entries and popularity, and it is hoped that New Zealand will soon be incorporated in the scheme.

With increased entries the cause of music in Australia will be further strengthened, as more and better prizes will be offered. The surplus in each State, too, will be devoted to musical interests outside the Conservatoriums, as under the scheme any surplus can be allotted as seems necessary and desirable. This ensures that all money earned in the State shall also be expended in it.

NEWS 29. 10. 28

The council of the University of Adelaide, at its meeting yesterday nominated as its representatives on the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Art Gallery, and Museum Mr. W. J. Isbister, M.B.E., K.C., LL.B., and Prof. W. K. Hancock, B.A.

a strong team of leaders in all branches of the work. Professor Robertson was the first to be appointed, but already there were others. The question of forest products, soil surfaces, and other subjects were already being investigated, and in the near future the study of the subject of animal health, linking up with animal nutrition, would be begun. He believed that Australia as just beginning to get on to the right lines, and that the co-operation which was coming about between the scientist and the practical pastoralist would be fraught with great benefit to Australia. (Applause.)

The Minister of Agriculture (Hon. J. Swan), in proposing a vote of thanks to the Prime Minister, said they were under a debt of gratitude to Mr. Bruce, considering the strenuous time through which he was going. The opening of the laboratory that day marked a distinct advance in the animal husbandry of Australia. It was an honor to Australia that Professor Robertson should have been selected for the work. He had been engaged in that line of research for something like twenty years. It was almost impossible to foresee what the result of his investigations might be. (Applause.)

Professor Robertson, in seconding the vote, said it was encouraging to reflect more optimistic moments how little had been done and how little was done with regard to animal nutrition, and how a little positive knowledge might yield results of incalculable value. It might not be necessary to achieve so very much, yet the result might return a hundredfold on the money expended on research. The co-operation between the practical man and the man of science was one of the most important features of the work. The department had flocks under observation all over Australia, and often had to ask hospitality of stationers, and never once had it been met in any grudging spirit. The laboratory was the place where the more intensive chemical work was done which would throw light on what had been achieved in the field. It was hoped to take that light back to the field. With such happy co-operation the scientists could be depended upon to obtain results of value to the people of Australia. (Applause.)

After the ceremony the building was inspected by those present. The chief interest was displayed in the numerous caged rats kept for experiment purposes, and the elaborate arrangements made for their welfare. A large Kelvinator keeps their eggs and bread in good condition, and the "latest thing in kitchens" is provided for the preparation of their diet.

ADV. 27. 10. 28 RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

THE SELECTION OF SCHOLARS.

(By Dr. J. C. V. Behan, representative in Australia of the Rhodes Trustees.)

In every State of the Commonwealth candidates for the next Rhodes Scholarship have already lodged their applications with the secretary to the local committee of selection, and members of that body have now to address themselves once more to the difficult task of choosing a man suitable for final appointment by the trustees in London.

The Rhodes Scholarship is the highest academic distinction open to students of the English-speaking world. To those who are fitted to take advantage of it, quite exceptional opportunities are offered. During each of the three years for which it is tenable the scholar is enabled to reside, for terms covering a period of six months, at one of the most ancient and renowned seats of learning in Europe, where, along with students of many other nations, he can enter into the broad stream of that intimate corporate life which exists in a residential college and nowhere else. During the remaining six months of his tenure the Rhodes scholar is at liberty to travel and study in any part of Europe or North America. The scholarship is thus to anyone who, like Cecil Rhodes himself, has the imagination to grasp its full significance, a key by which he may gain access to an inexhaustible treasure-house of enlightenment and culture.

Mr. Rhodes defined clearly in his will the general type of scholar he desired. He was to be a man in the full sense of the word, and not merely a bookworm. Mr. Rhodes formulated his conception of such a man by directing that his scholars ought to have

four groups of qualities, the first two of which he considered the most important:—(i.) Literary and scholastic ability and attainments. (ii.) Qualities of manhood, truth, courage, devotion to duty, sympathy for the protection of the weak, kindness, unselfishness, and fellowship. (iii.) Exhibition during school days of moral force of character and of instincts to lead and to take an interest in his schoolmates. (iv.) Fondness for and success in manly outdoor sports, such as cricket, football, and the like.

The Rhodes trustees have been impressed by the fact that in different parts of the world a great many educationalists do not seem to understand what sort of a man a Rhodes scholar ought to be. For the general information of those interested in the successful working of the scholarship foundation they have consequently drawn up a memorandum embodying the conclusions which, after nearly 25 years' experience, they have formulated with respect to each of the four factors laid down by Cecil Rhodes. Advance copies of this document have recently been received from the London office of the trust. From it the following significant paragraphs are quoted:—

Sort of Man Required.

(i.) According to the Oxford system, the scholar is expected, in large measure, to educate himself. His success in his final (honors) examination will depend not merely upon the amount of knowledge he has acquired, but upon his ability to think constructively and critically for himself about the subjects he has studied, and to understand their relation to the other major aspects of human life and thought. It is important, therefore, that the student, in addition to the normal literary and scholastic attainments, should have active intellectual interests outside the field in which he proposes to specialise. The career of Mr. Rhodes illustrates the point. Mr. Rhodes, though already a successful business man in Kimberley, thought it worth while to travel backwards and forwards to Oxford from South Africa for a total period of three years between the ages of 20 and 28 in search of education. He did so, not because a degree was important to him in after life, but because he wanted to broaden his outlook by delving into the history of the ancient and the modern world, and by discussing with tutors and his fellow undergraduates every problem which presents itself to the human mind. It was this intellectual vigor and imagination which enabled him to accomplish what he did in later life, and which is necessary in his scholars if they are to reap the full advantage of the opportunity which the scholarship gives them. Real intellectual interest and ability is an essential quality of a true Rhodes Scholar. Leadership of the high kind which Mr. Rhodes contemplated can never be attained by the man who is merely a mixer or a dilettante.

"(ii.) The moral qualities Mr. Rhodes required in his scholars seem to require no comment. It is interesting to note, however, the emphasis he laid upon the sympathetic and kindly as opposed to the forceful qualities of manhood.

"(iii.) Leadership has come to acquire a somewhat special meaning which was clearly not in Mr. Rhodes's mind, namely, success in being elected to office in student organisations. This may or may not be evidence of leadership in the true sense of the word. Mr. Rhodes evidently regarded leadership as consisting in moral courage and in a real interest in one's fellow-men quite as much as in the more aggressive qualities. Resistance to student opinion, for instance, may give more evidence of leadership than success in interpreting or expressing it. Leadership is often a capacity to follow a moral or spiritual call. Mr. Rhodes once wrote:—'Work is not enough in itself—one must inspire others to work.'

"(iv.) In a private letter Mr. Rhodes makes it clear that he was more concerned that his scholars should 'be moderately fond of field sports,' than that they should attain 'success' in athletics. In the sense of winning a university 'letter' or a 'blue.' At Oxford all but a small minority of undergraduates play games of some kind. What Mr. Rhodes seems to have wanted was that his scholars should play some game sufficiently well to make it an easy road of entry into the social life of his college, that they should be active and healthy in body, and that they should know how to 'play the game' in a sportsmanlike manner. He regarded the colleges as places where friendships as opposed to mere acquaintanceships are made. Between two men both interested in sports it should not be assumed that the better athlete would be the better Rhodes Scholar."

Exceptional Men.

In their instructions to selection committees the Rhodes trustees have frequently emphasised "the importance of quality in candidates," stating that "it was undoubtedly Mr. Rhodes's idea that his scholars should be, not merely good or average men, but as far as possible exceptional men. The trustees feel

that too rigid an insistence that a candidate must possess all the qualifications mentioned in the will, in equal degree, may result in the selection of average men. In their opinion, in the absence of a candidate possessing all the qualifications in the fullest degree, committees should choose that candidate who, while not conspicuously deficient in the athletic qualification, seems to them to have the strongest claim to be regarded as outstanding in quality either of intellect or of character, or of both." In their most recent memorandum, for the further guidance of selection committees, they cite a phrase in a private letter which Mr. Rhodes addressed shortly before his death to the chairman of the first selection committee in South Africa. In that letter Mr. Rhodes advised against a competitive examination as the test to be applied in selecting his scholars, and said that he wanted the system which would "get the best man for the world's work." The views which the trustees have thus put forward time and time again are reinforced by two weighty considerations. The first is the press criticism, current in practically all the countries from which Rhodes Scholars are drawn, to the effect that the performance in after-life of old Rhodes Scholars is not coming up to expectations. In the opinion of the trustees there is as yet no ground for disappointment. The vast majority of returned Rhodes Scholars are still under 40, and the trustees state that there are among them a considerable number who have already achieved real distinction in their careers, while it is quite obvious that many of the younger men are on the high road to success and public influence. At the same time the trustees recognise that there are men, of the general type contemplated by Mr. Rhodes, who do not make successful Rhodes scholars. Some are so set in their ideas, or so lacking in imagination, that they can see little in the scholarship save the degree to which it will lead them at the end of their three years at Oxford. Others are so receptive, and so lacking in stability, that they become unsettled, and have difficulty in making a success of their after-life. The key to the solution of the fundamental problem which presents itself for solution lies in the hands of selection committees; it is for them to choose the men whom the judgment of later generations will declare to have reached the high standard of achievement which Mr. Rhodes set before the students he endowed.

A Rising Standard.

The second consideration is the important fact that it is becoming more and more difficult to find places in the colleges at Oxford for Rhodes scholars, unless they are first-class men. The capacity of the colleges is limited, and the number of candidates seeking admission from Great Britain, from Europe, from Asia, from the United States, and from the Dominions overseas is constantly increasing. The colleges, therefore, while anxious to continue taking the quota of Rhodes scholars to which they committed themselves so far back as 1904, will only do so if the men now sent to them satisfy the steadily rising standard which they set for admission. If all Rhodes scholars are to enjoy to the full the benefits of Oxford life by gaining admission to one or other of the colleges, it will only be because all are men well above the average.

The trustees, therefore, express the hope that when a candidate does not present himself who is really up to the standard, the selection committee will abstain from making a nomination. It is desirable, from the point of view alike of the country of origin, of the Rhodes scholars themselves, and of the Rhodes scholarship system, that no one should be elected to a scholarship who does not show definite promise that he will gain intellectually and morally from the scholarship, make, in after life, the best use of what he has learned, and so, to modify slightly the phrase used by Cecil Rhodes, prove himself to be "a good man for the world's fight."

ALSO ADV. REG. 29. 10. 28

Mr. H. C. Trumble, of the staff of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, who last year went to England for further experience, has completed his course of training at the Rowett Institute and the Welsh Plant Breeding Station. He has been asked by the Empire Marketing Board to visit Morocco and Algeria to enquire into the possibility of securing drought-resistant grasses for Australia, and to study the progress of the French Government scheme for the establishment of the merino sheep industry in Morocco. The visit has been undertaken at the request of Major Elliot (chairman of the Empire Marketing Board). Mr. Trumble is returning by way of South Africa, and is expected to arrive in Adelaide early in February.