

EFFICIENCY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Few people realise fully the universal importance of the administration of the State or country in which they live. On the efficiency of the Public Service rests to a large degree the prosperity of the community.

In Adelaide there was recently inaugurated the South Australian group of the Institute of Public Administration. One of the principal aims of the Institute is to promote the study of public administration in its various branches and thereby develop the Civil Service and other public services (both national and local) as a recognised profession.

Another objective is "to facilitate the exchange of information and thought on administration and related questions, with a view to the increased efficiency of the public services, and to create a well-informed public opinion concerning those services."

To give effect to this it is suggested that the technique of administration be developed by means of academic education, and that it be imparted not departmentally but through the universities.

At the inaugural gathering of the group Mr. A. L. G. MacKay (Acting Lecturer in Economics at the University of Adelaide) impressed upon public servants the necessity for fostering that traditional spirit of efficiency and social status always to be found inculcated among those connected with any large and successful undertaking.

The spirit mentioned by Mr. MacKay is primarily the will to succeed. Unfortunately since the war the spirit of co-operation, which brings with it the will to succeed as a nation, has been partly lost sight of. Society is still too much absorbed in the struggle for material recovery to care much about anything except matters which are strictly utilitarian. But the Public Service group leads the way in the other direction—the direction in which all nations and individuals must head sooner or later.

It is contended by some that academic education is not necessary to the equipment of the average public servant. That is a common fallacy. A man may have thorough acquaintance with his duties, but his fellow-worker who has also academic knowledge must be the more efficient of the two.

The younger generation of civil servants must be imbued with the spirit which leads to success. They have the group and the University to help them, and their future rests with themselves.

It is hoped that the public will awaken to its responsibilities and pave the way for the bringing into operation of an institution which is to be conducted solely in the common interest and from the efforts of which there can be only beneficial results.

NEWS 27.7.28

STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITY

Nearly Two Thousand Attend

More than 1,600 students are attending the University of Adelaide. Their various activities provide an interesting study of the future recruitments for the various professions.

Although the following figures are not complete, they are approximately correct and provide a fairly accurate standard of comparisons of the distribution of the students throughout the faculties.

By far the largest faculty in the University is Arts, which contains about 370 students. A large percentage of these belong to the State Education Department.

There are 71 law students, four of whom are women.

In the Faculty of Medicine there are 116, including four women; in engineering there are 102, with one woman student; and 16 men and three women are studying dentistry.

In the Faculty of Music for the degree of Mus. Bac. there are four students. There are attending the University 100 who are working for higher degrees, most of whom are in the Faculty of Arts. The total number of undergraduates is 770. In addition there are 858 non-graduating students. Three hundred and sixty-seven of these students, which include 43 women, are attending the course for the Diploma of Commerce. Nearly 300 are attending separate subjects in the Faculty of Arts.

Fifty-four students from the Pharmaceutical Society are attending and are qualifying for the certificate of the Pharmaceutical Board, and there are six students from the Massage Association. The remainder are attending various courses in science, engineering, commerce, and so on. The total number of students in the Elder Conservatorium is 605. The majority of these are attending for instruction in principal subjects only.

Others are attending classes on theory, ensemble playing, languages, and harmony. There is a total of 746 students in the faculty of Arts, 188 in the Faculty of Science, 125 in the Faculty of Medicine, in the Faculty of Law, 170 are doing applied science, five music, 23 dentistry, and 1 are studying under the Board of Commerce.

REG. 27.7.28

Professor Woollard and the Unfit.

Sir—I have to thank Professor Woollard for his courteous reply to my letter. I am sure he will not object to a few comments by way, not of rejoinder, but of explanation. The professor appears to me to lack clarity of speech. I do myself; but I feel sure he is worse than I am! For example, after writing with regard to the differential fertility of the various classes, he proceeds to repudiate legislation compelling some people to have more children, and some to have fewer. What is meant is, I feel sure, something with which I am in complete accord; but some people would think that, either in my works or in my letter, I had advocated such legislation. The heavens forbid. The imagination stands aghast at the vision of a zealous officialdom travelling the countryside trying to compel the stubbornly infertile to be fertile, and vice versa.

"The ideal of abolition is not likely to be obtained quickly by sterilization of those actually suffering from feeble-mindedness." Of course not. The sporadic appearances are bound to occur from time to time. The real difference between us appears to be simply whether statutory legislation is or is not of any practical value when, by segregation or sterilization, the attempt is made to diminish a grave tragedy in racial process. The professor appears to take a negative view. I take an affirmative view. But, probably, neither of us is wholly beyond redemption!—I am, Sir, &c.,

W. JETHRO BROWN.

REG. 27.7.28
BROADCASTING.

Why Not An A.B.C.?

By E. Harold Davies.

The announcement by the Prime Minister on the subject of broadcasting policy, indicates that the Commonwealth Government is apparently awaking to a realization of the present unsatisfactory state of broadcasting in Australia, which, as Mr. Bruce says, "should keep abreast of wireless development elsewhere."

But exactly how it should keep abreast is the really important question. In developing the immense cultural value of wireless, as it is now shaping in England, under the direction of the B.B.C., we should gain the greatest possible advantages as a people.

It will be all to the good that the Government shall control the whole of the mechanical apparatus of the various stations, and co-ordinate their working as well as the whole system of relaying. Provision for scientific research in wireless is also eminently desirable. But why stop here? Far better at once to appoint a permanent commission or corporation to do all this and control the whole output of the various stations at the same time.

The proposed system of open tendering for the programmes may lead to very undesirable results. In any case, the successful tenderers will primarily be out for the maximum of financial gain, and the interests of listeners will be of secondary importance. If broadcasting in Australia is to reach the highest level of recreative and educational usefulness, it must be delivered from commercialism. Few people realize the profits which have already been made.

Questions which were recently asked and answered in the Federal House show, for example, that while the original subscribed capital of 3LO was only a little over £6,000, profits to the extent of over £100,000 had been distributed. In England these huge sums of money would have been devoted entirely to the interest of the listeners in a vastly improved service, and possibly also in a substantial reduction of the licence fee.

There is not the least doubt that the people of Australia should demand emphatically the same privileges as the people of England now enjoy. The Federal Government's policy of an honorary committee of five is interesting, but, in my judgment, of little value. The business of advising and directing so great a concern is a whole-time job for the biggest experts in every branch. As the most practical step that could now be taken, I should like to see an invitation sent to Sir John Reith, the director-general of the British Broadcasting Corporation, to visit Australia, and give our Commonwealth Government the benefit of his long experience and sagacious counsel in the control of broadcasting to the fullest national benefit.

REG. 27.7.28

SEARCH FOR ENTOMOLOGISTS.

No official pronouncement has yet been made on the subject, but it is said that some of the investigations of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research are being interrupted and threatened with delay owing to the difficulty being experienced in obtaining senior entomologists. References were made in The Register on Thursday to the intentions of the Commonwealth Government in regard to entomology. For some time the council has been endeavouring to obtain three entomologists—one to superintend its investigations into the blowfly pest, another to take charge of the investigations concerning noxious weeds, and a third to supervise activities at the new laboratories in Canberra. The salary offered for each appointment was £700 a year. Dr. Tillyard (head of the division of economic entomology), who at present is abroad, has interviewed a number of possible candidates for the positions during his visits to Great Britain and America, but according to latest advice has been unable to find a suitable man prepared to accept any of the appointments at the salary offered. Up to the present not one of the positions has been filled, and, owing to the Federal Government's introduction of an economy programme, it is understood the council will have difficulty in arranging for any increase in the rate of salary which it is offering for the entomologists whom it requires.

ADV. 30.7.28
THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY UNION.

The council of the University of Adelaide has adopted a constitution for the Students' Union, which will come into operation on August 1. Steps will be taken immediately to form the general committee, provided under the constitution, so that the union may begin the work of organising without delay. The Council has appointed Dr. Helen Mayo and Professor J. McKellar Stewart as its representatives on the committee, which will comprise, in addition to two members appointed by the University Council, two members (of whom one only shall be a professor), to be appointed by the professorial and teaching staff, two members appointed by the Graduates' Association (one man, one woman). The chairman of the Men's Club committee; the chairman of the Women's Club committee; eight representatives to be elected by a ballot of men student members (provided that not more than three are from any one faculty); four representatives to be elected by a ballot of women student members (provided that not more than two are from any one faculty), the Registrar of the University, and a permanent officer of the University appointed by the University Council, who shall act as honorary treasurer, and such person shall have the right to take part in the deliberations of the committee, but not to vote; members of the University Council and teaching staff, graduates of the University, or of any university recognised by the University, holders of a diploma or final certificate, and members of the clerical administrative staff. Students who have paid the union fees may be admitted without election, and if agreed by a two-thirds majority of those present at a committee meeting, non-graduating students attending the University, including those from the School of Mines, Pharmaceutical Board, Massage Association, Adelaide Teachers' College, Elder Conservatorium (if over 16 years of age), scholars of the University, or persons engaged in research work at the University, and such other classes of students as may from time to time be added to this list by the union committee may be admitted members.

REG. 30.7.28
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

Headquarters at Canberra.

CANBERRA, Sunday.

The Council for Scientific and Industrial Research has selected a site for its future headquarters in Canberra, and at an early date the erection of two laboratories at a cost of £25,000, will be started. Members of the council, who are visiting Canberra, have inspected several sites, but finally decided on one at the northern end of University avenue.

Mr. G. A. Julius (chairman) was accompanied by Professor A. D. C. Rivett (chief executive officer), Dr. B. Dickson (Chief of the Division of Economic Botany), and Sir Arnold Tyler (an animal health expert), who is on loan to the council from South Africa.

The first building to be constructed on the new site will be the insectory, and tenders close on August 6.

ADV. 30.7.28

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

The Council of the University has decided to make no award of the Angas Engineering Scholarship for 1928. The scholarship will be offered next year. It is of the annual value of £200 for two years with an allowance of £100 for travelling expenses. The award is made on a comparison of the academic records of the candidates, and also on the merits of an original thesis, design, or investigation. The scholar is required to proceed to the United Kingdom for further engineering experience, and with special permission may spend the whole or part of his time in study or practical training outside the United Kingdom. The conference of the Australian Universities will be held on August 20 and following days at the University of Melbourne. The Acting Vice-Chancellor, Professor R. W. Chapman, and Professor J. McKellar Stewart will represent the University of Adelaide.

REG. 30.7.28

The conference of the Australian universities will be held on August 20 and following days at the University of Melbourne. The Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor R. W. Chapman) and Professor J. McKellar Stewart will represent the University of Adelaide.