

PULTENEY STREET EXTENSION

North Terrace's Charm Would be Marred

(Written for "The News" by Ald. G. McEwin)

IN view of the fact that since 1920 the larger portion of the Exhibition Block and the Jubilee Oval have been vested in the University of Adelaide in fee simple by Act of Parliament, it came as a surprise to hear of a suggestion to extend Pulteney street into and out of those grounds.

The possibility of such an extension was referred to in Parliament, but apparently it did not appeal to members. The agitation arose on the proposed erection of the Bonython Great Hall on the North terrace frontage, facing Pulteney street. Apart from other considerations this building will add greatly to the beauty and appearance of North terrace, and of the immediate surroundings. I cannot see that any good purpose can be served by the proposed new road, which, I understand, would curve either behind the Exhibition Building into the upper portion of Frome road, or, alternatively, would cut right across the University block from North terrace to a point near the Victoria Drive. The smaller scheme would cost at least £30,000, and the larger one nearly twice as much.

The effect of an unsightly causeway right across the University grounds is obvious. The University authorities have already proceeded with a complete scheme, which includes the erection of the beautiful Barr Smith Library—a building that would be a feature even in a city like London. Avenues, ornamental grounds, and groups of buildings are contemplated, and a plan is in hand for the removal of the ugly galvanised fence and replacing it by the Victoria square railings.

If the road suggested were constructed the Barr Smith Library would be on the outer boundary of the University block instead of as at present in the centre. The embankment which would be necessary for the construction of the road would be many feet above the level of the ground upon which the library stands, with the result that the fine architectural features of the building would be lost entirely.

The University block bids fair to become one of the most beautiful spots in a beautiful city. The design so carefully planned, would be ruined by the proposed through roadway. The shorter road could serve no

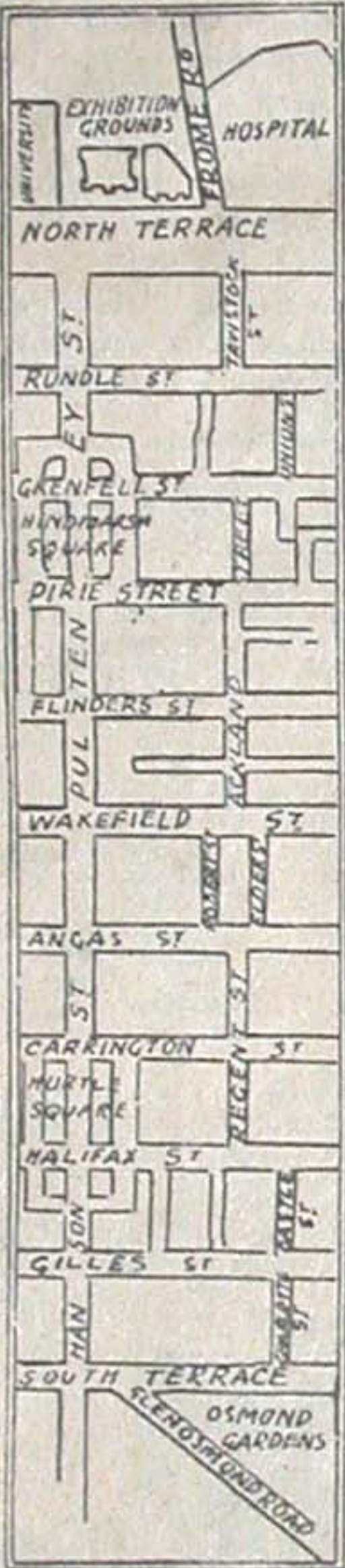
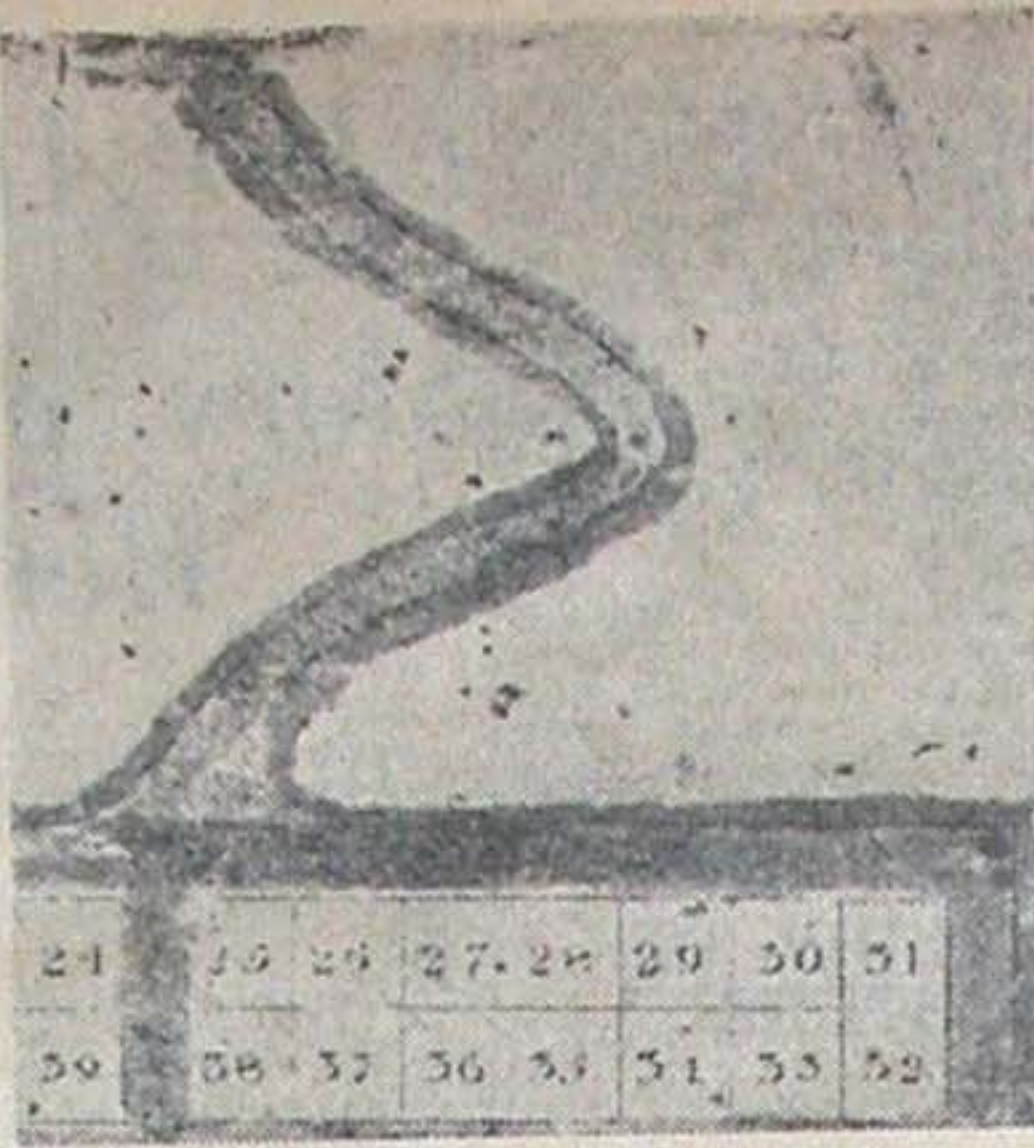


DIAGRAM shows where, it has been suggested, a wide north-south road could be made. It would run from Tavistock street to South terrace.



THIS SKETCH, taken from Col. Light's plan of Adelaide, shows how he proposed to get over the difficulty of continuing Pulteney street to carry the traffic in a northerly direction.

good purpose, as it would save only a few yards for portion of the north-south traffic. In any case the Adelaide City Council has no power or authority to make a road on private property unless under the Lands Clauses Act, and it is not likely that Parliament would intervene.

Colonel Light, in his original plan, portion of which is shown in one of the accompanying illustrations, took the road in an easterly direction well into the flat behind the Adelaide Hospital, and then back to the river bend at the Exhibition Building corner. The steep gradient near the terrace would make road construction very expensive. The existing tree lined road will be greatly beautified in the near future by the removal of galvanised iron fences and the erection of buildings on both sides, and it is constructed on the natural gradient for normal traffic.

The Adelaide City Council must look years ahead and legislate now to cope with the volume of traffic which will come with the expansion of Adelaide. The City Engineer is reporting on a scheme for an arterial road from South terrace to Frome road. The sketch which illustrates this article, shows where this road would be. It will be seen that there are a number of small streets leading off the streets running east and west. The report will be on the possibility of straightening and widening these side streets into one thoroughfare. The traffic may not warrant such a roadway for many years, but we must think of the day when it will.

When Col. Light planned the city he made the main roads run east and west—from the seaside to the hills. Roads running north and south were comparatively few, but they are the ones most used today. At one time the Torrens stretched from Government House wall to Brougham place, North Adelaide. He had to arrange the lay-out of the city to stop at the old south bank of the river. No provision was made for King William road, and there was no outlet for traffic by way of Morphett street.

Since Col. Light's day great strides have been made in Adelaide. We must be optimistic and contemplate similar strides in the years to come. The diversion of Pulteney street into Frome road would mar the charm which North terrace has, and which will be enhanced with the construction of the Bonython Great Hall and other improvements.

The University of Adelaide is an institution of great and increasing influence, and the citizens, I am sure, will be strongly opposed to any movement that will curtail its plans for utilising its property and carrying out its complete schemes.

Geo McEwin



A VIEW OF THE TORRENS in the early days seen from the City Bridge. The building in the centre is the railway station, and Parliament House is on the extreme left of the picture. The tracks leading down to the river were made by water carts. It was from the tall tree in the foreground known as Webb's tree, that boat races were started until recent years.

Midday Organ Music At Conservatorium

In his lunch-hour organ recitals given in the Elder Conservatorium Hall at 12.20 and 1.20 yesterday, Mr. John Horner played with excellent effect characteristic composition of Healey Willan, Clerambault, Handel, and Elgar.

The Clerambault prelude revealed this early 18th century Parisian organist in melodious mood, and the Handel musette, from his sixth concerto for strings, proved a worthy sequel. Elgar's jolly march ("Crown of India") went with the requisite merry swing. The Healey Willan prelude and fugue in G, a modernist work remarkable for its clever construction, obtrusive cacophony, and freedom from melodic or harmonic interest, completed the programme.

Miss Catherine Watson sang with good effect Vaughan Williams's "Silent Noon," to the pianoforte accompaniment of Miss Topsis Doenau.

At the recitals on April 27, Mr. Horner will play the Bach prelude and fugue in G, the Honegger fugue and choral, the finale to Vierne's first symphony, and the Byrd variations ("The Carman's Whistle"). Miss Lyndall Hendrickson's violin solo will be accompanied on the piano by Miss Cynthia Hendricksen.

Adv. 21-4-33

Sir William Bragg's new book, "The Universe of Light," has been published by Messrs. Bell, and is included with his five other books, in their popular science series.

Mail 22-4-33

"DEVIATION ROAD IS AIM"

Proposed Pulteney Street Extension

(To the Editor).

Sir—Writing in "The News" against the Pulteney street extension through the University property, Ald. G. McEwin devotes much more attention to a road straight across the University grounds than he does to the deviation road linking up with Frome road, as was originally suggested by a correspondent in "The Mail."

There is no need for a road straight across the grounds. Therefore Ald. McEwin's statement that "if the road suggested were constructed the Barr Smith Library would be on the outlet boundary of the University instead of in the centre, as at present," need not be seriously considered.

If the original deviation proposal were adopted the roadway would cut off only small sections of the University land, and would not come within five chains of the library building.

Ald. McEwin recognises the importance of an arterial road from South terrace to Frome road, for he says "the traffic may not warrant such a roadway for many years, but we must think of the day when it will." His suggestion is that another wide street should be constructed parallel with Pulteney street, and taking in some small streets and lanes that run north and south, but which are not in alignment.

A thoroughfare such as he suggests would only be about 10 chains east of Pulteney street, and before it could be constructed the purchase of much land now in private hands would be necessary. The cost of this would be considerable, and the benefit of the new road would be problematical, for Pulteney street, with its ample width and direct outlet to Unley road, would be likely to remain the chief carrier of traffic.

Yours etc.— STILL HOPEFUL.

Mail 22-4-33

EIGHT YOUNG LAWYERS ADMITTED TO BAR

Eight young lawyers—seven men and one woman—were today admitted by the Full Court to the South Australian Bar. They were Miss Helen Ethel Solomon, of Rose Park, and Messrs. Maurice Hier Besanko, of Joslin; Herbert Lewis Abbott, of Kensington Gardens; William Donald Padman, of St. Peters; Trevor Roy Taylor, of Unley Park; Keith Alexander Macdonald, of Prospect; Harry Lovat Fraser, of Lower Mitcham; and James Angus Maitland, of North Adelaide.