



"A thing of beauty is a joy for ever."

How the Bridge, so generously donated, will look when completed.

A Bridge in Suspension

Above this article we publish a drawing of the artistic cantilever bridge which generous South Australians have offered as a link between the University and its Sports' Ground—a very vital advance in our great University scheme. For the bridge will unite two adjacent but divided sections of the University. Unfortunately, the University was compelled to seek the permission of the City Council for the project, and the Council has rejected a favourable report by their Market and Parks Committee, and has postponed decision on the grounds that the bridge is inartistic and that it will interfere with the Council's scheme of beautifying the river banks in this locality. Moreover, according to Councillor A. C. Rymill, the bridge will be little used by the University. Let us consider these objections. The bridge was designed by a very well-known engineer and graduate of the University. The City Council is so convinced that it is inartistic that, despite the permission of the University, it has refused to disclose the plans either to the press or to "On Dit." How remarkable! One would think that if the

City fathers really believed that the bridge was unsightly they would immediately make the cause of their objection available to the public. Second, the Council claims that they are spending £1,500 on improving this part of the Torrens, and the cantilever bridge, according to Councillor Rymill, will spoil their project. In point of fact, the bridge has been deliberately designed to fit in with the City Council's comprehensive scheme of beautification. The City Council is not the only organisation which has improved the terrain bordering the river. The University has spent very large sums upon fine buildings and grounds. It is the University and not the City Council which can claim to have made Victoria Drive a magnificent boulevard facing the river, and it is the University which has made so excellent a showing of its very limited Sports' Ground. The Council of the University has secured for Adelaide several of its most beautiful buildings, and they are not a body which would suggest defacing the Torrens by erecting an inartistic foot bridge. According to the press Councillor Rymill states that the pro-

posed bridge "will seldom, if ever, be used," and leads "to nowhere except to the University Sports Ground and the University Boat Sheds," and Councillor Rymill should speak with authority owing to the fact that during a by no means remote period he was a member of the University. But Councillor Rymill never belonged to the democracy of students who rely for transport on their own legs. As a member of a prominent motoring family it is probable that he has seldom walked, to quote his own reported words, the "few hundred yards to the Frome Road Bridge." Indeed if Councillor Rymill had ever walked to the University Sports Ground or the boat shed he would know that this is a longer way than across the City Bridge. Very different is the lot of hundreds of hard-working and impecunious students who rush from lectures or the library to steal an hour's sport before dark. It is well known in the University that many students cannot play games after late lectures owing to the time lost in walking to the grounds by either of the existing bridges. Many of these

are University women students, whose Union Building with its dressing rooms on Victoria Drive, closely adjoins the city end of the proposed bridge, and would be immensely benefited by the bridge. We cannot believe that the press reports are complete and accurate. Councillor Rymill, as a past and loyal member of his Alma Mater, must surely have told his fellow-councillors that the University Sports Association has over 400 members, and that apart from the crowds of University folk who cross the river to view games on special occasions the bridge would be used by hundreds of students every day.

In conclusion we would say that we fully sympathise with the wish of the City Council to obtain the fullest information, and to make the most detailed inspection, but we cannot refrain from putting our viewpoint which has not been placed before the City Council and from answering the inaccurate statements which seem likely to prevent the acceptance of a Centenary gift which would be of value to the public and of inestimable benefit to the University.

ON DIT

Editors:—J. C. Yeatman,
W. R. Harniman.

Sub-Editors—D. C. Cowell,
Miss H. Wighton.

Reporters.—F. L. Crisp, J. Moulden,
Miss Edith Irwin.

Friday, 19th June, 1936.

A MAGNIFICENT GIFT.

The gift of anonymous donors of a bridge to link the University with its playing fields is one that is wholeheartedly welcomed and deeply appreciated by everyone associated with the University. The nature of the gift itself pays an eloquent tribute to the fine public spirit which prompted it, a public spirit which could have found no better expression than in this Centenary gesture. Not only will the bridge be an adornment to the City Council's commendable improvement scheme, but also a benefit of inestimable value both to the public and the University. Such a gift has been a hope dear to all students for many years, and to a man we rejoice at the prospect of its fulfilment.

It is regretted that some members of the City Council, as well as a section of the daily press, have seen fit to oppose the scheme, and in the latter case, even to suggest that it was a matter of no moment whatever to the students. The object of this edition of "On Dit" is to put the University case before the City Council and the public, and assure the donors that nothing could be farther from the truth than to impute an attitude of nonchalance in this matter to the members of the Union and the Sports Association.

There is little doubt that when the Council has had a proper opportunity to consider the University case, permission to erect the bridge will be granted. Our object at the moment is to put that case fairly, to express the true attitude of the students, and to convey to the donors the warm appreciation of the University one and all.

**BROWSE AMONG THE
UNLIMITED RANGE
OF BOOKS**

At

PREECE'S

AN ILL-CONSIDERED SUB-LEADER.

OUR IRRESPONSIBLE CON- TEMPORARY.

That highly-imaginative evening paper, "The News," has a number of uses—We have personally found it invaluable for shaving, et cetera—but it has never been noted for looking before it leapt.

This has its compensations, for besides regularly discovering impending warclouds, it has always been extraordinarily willing to criticise those in authority. In its sub-editorial on the University Bridge, however, "The News" has abruptly clattered down, and without the slightest knowledge of the facts, presented a feeble re-hash of the arguments of Councillors Myers and Rymill. Anyone must sense the difficulty which our contemporary finds in filling its space, and so the reappearance of "The News" useful, but undiscovers, man-in-the-street, written up in "The News" own vague and inimitable style is no surprise, but somehow we have always hoped that "The News" would obtain some acquaintance with facts before it started on fancies. However, "The News" leader-writer is not very solid on bridges, and the University still remembers with pleasure his statement that "Horatio held the bridge."

From the guarded tenor of his opening remarks, it is perfectly obvious that "The News" writer has never seen the plans of the bridge, and that he knows nothing whatever about its appearance. It is equally obvious from his remarks that the bridge only cuts off a few hundred yards (the distance is nearer half-mile—that he has never studied the proposed site of the bridge. The bridge in question is a very different structure from the ugly Victorian bridges at Morphett Street and Hackney Road, and would actually be an asset to the river. It will be invisible from the City Bridge, and so will not break any stretch of water. In any case, there are power lines already crossing the river near the proposed site.

If the writer of the article had bothered to talk to the probable users of the bridge he would never have published the outright untruth which is his last sentence on the subject. Instead he talked to his man-in-the-street, who knew less real facts than he did. "The Advertiser" next morning published the names and views of informed and responsible citizens. Why could not "The News" have done the same if it were not fully acquainted with the facts?

COUNCILLOR HOLDEN'S ATTITUDE.

We are pleased to publish a statement from Hon. E. W. Holden, M.L.C., a graduate of the University, a member of the City Council, and a prominent candidate for the forthcoming Mayoralty election.

Councillor Holden, who unfortunately was not present at the last meeting of the City Council, said:—"Since the days when I was at the University I have hoped for such a footbridge, and I am still very much in favour of it."

It seems certain that when the matter comes up before the Council again at a future meeting, Cr. Holden will strongly support permission being granted for the project.

HORATIUS SECUNDUS.

But by the yellow Torrens
Was tumult and affright,
And those who saw the "Tiser"
Could scarce believe their sight.
Uprose a thousand students
In one almighty mass,
And with one voice they cried aloud
"The bridge must come to pass!"

They held a Council standing
Beside the river gate,
Short time was there you well may
guess

For musing or debate.
The multitude said roundly
In justice they must shift,
How could our City Fathers wreck
This great and helpful gift?

But when the words of Rymill
Were read amongst the foes,
A roar of fierce derision
From all the students rose—
"He must be misreported,
This cannot be his talk."
Too right!" they cried, "The reason is
He seldom had to walk."

Old Graduates on the Council
Will surely intervene,
For unlike Rymill, you all see
How much the bridge will mean.
A golden opportunity
The 'Varsity must seize;
Now who will stand at his right hand
And win the bridge with REES!

When the neatest bridge is finished,
When the darkest evenings fall,
When we bath and change in comfort,
When we needn't rush at all,
With cheery thanks and laughter
The story will be told,
Of he who held the Oval Bridge
In the stirring days of old.

BENEFIT TO THE PUBLIC.

It appears that there are some who consider that the magnificent footbridge (which was wholly erroneously described as "probably a contraption of wires") if it is erected, would be of benefit only to "sporting members of the University." They totally disregard the fact that the public will greatly benefit by its existence also, for several reasons:—

1. Those many citizens and particularly visitors to Adelaide who take a walk along the river banks admiring the attractions of the rotunda and the beauty of the City Bridge will be able to continue their walk further east admiring the improvements (which are now being completed) along Victoria Drive, and without going as far as the Frome Road Bridge, cross by the new foot bridge, and return along the other river bank.
2. Those walkers who come from North Adelaide, via the Memorial Hospital, making for the eastern end of the city, can shorten the distance and travel along a safer and more attractive route by crossing the new bridge, and continuing via Kintore Avenue or Frome Road.
3. Spectators of sport on the University Oval on Saturdays can, if they wish, easily vary their entertainment by walking over to the old Jubilee Oval to watch the Rugby football or other matches in progress there.
4. Additional labour will be utilized in the erection of the bridge.
5. Prince Alfred College boys walking to their boat sheds will have their journey shortened.
6. The new bridge should facilitate the observation and perhaps starting or finishing of rowing or swimming races.
7. The bridge will undoubtedly be a structure of beauty, and fit in with and improve the beautification of the river and its surroundings.

PETITION FROM THE UNIVERSITY.

Below is a copy of the petition which together with over a thousand signatures of members of the staff and students of the University, Teachers' Training College, School of Mines, and Conservatorium, has been received by the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell) to be forwarded to the Adelaide City Council.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE CITY OF ADELAIDE.

Having read of the deliberations of your Council with regard to the proposed bridge across the Torrens, north of the University and between the City and Frome Road Bridge, we, the undersigned members of the University, humbly submit that the matter be reopened and favourably reconsidered at the earliest opportunity, and in support we submit the following grounds for your consideration.

1. In answer to the suggestion that it would probably be little used by University students, we assure you that the erection of the bridge has been considered an urgent matter for many years. During the campaign in 1927 for funds for the Students' Union Building (the centre of student life in the University) University speakers frequently stressed the convenience which would result from the proximity of the Union Building to the University Oval on the construction of a bridge on the site suggested; some of the leaders of that campaign considered the bridge to be an integral part of their scheme.

2. Further, in reply to the same suggestion, we assure you personally that we would find the bridge a great convenience, and that we would certainly make use of it.

3. The bridge would be a convenience to many citizens outside the University who make a practice of walking between their homes in North Adelaide and the City. Assurances to this effect have already been volunteered by persons concerned.

4. The University Oval provides many free attractions to citizens in the many games which are played there, especially on Saturday afternoons, and many of the pedestrian patrons would find the bridge a similar convenience.

5. The bridge, being a footbridge, would form a much greater natural attraction to all persons who wish to enjoy a walk through the park areas on each side of the river, than would the other crossings at City Bridge and Frome Road, which especially at times on Saturday afternoons are crowded with heavy and at times dangerous traffic.

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THE UNIVERSITY PUTS ITS CASE

THE UNION.

The matter of the erection of a bridge over the Torrens to afford a more ready means of communication between the 'Varsity proper and its sports grounds has been a vexed question in University circles for years. It had been earnestly but vainly mooted in the Sports Association and elsewhere long before any of us now present at the University commenced attendance at lectures, a common but misleading synonym for entry upon a University course. It has more than once been suggested, and quite seriously, that the Engineering School should turn to practical advantage its virgin and latent ingenuity, and like Caesar and the Rubicon, should throw a bridge across the Torrens. Now whether it was fear that such a structure might interfere with the shipping from Jolly's wharf, or might not survive the winter floods, or whether it was that the City Council from their Olympus higher up the street frowned on the proposal, having doubts, possibly well-founded, about the slightness of the structure, I am not in a position to judge. Suffice it to say that the proposal came to nought, the cantilever bridge remained canted, and those husky athletes who were in a hurry to reach the Oval had still to put up with the inconvenience of wet ankles from sheer lack of faith which can only be compared with that of St. Peter, in the viscosity of the water in the City Council's lake. So much for the historical aspect.

THE PRESENT.

Turning to the present we find a situation which is in every way different. There is scope for the shipping downstream, which, as everyone knows is the way the water runs when the Council's new weir is opened about the beginning of the rowing season. Since the erection of the weir moreover floods simply do not occur—unless, of course, it rains heavily in the hills, in which case it is an act of God, and therefore out of reach of the Council's jurisdiction. Furthermore, there is this time a proposal for the erection, not of a makeshift or temporary bridge, not of an unsightly and haphazard affair, but of a neat, strong structure which cannot be regarded otherwise than as a benefit from the point of view of every member of the public. This proposal is also now backed by the generosity of an anonymous donor, who, realizing just what it will mean to the students, and to their lecturers too, has chosen this as the substance of a Centenary gift to the University. Whatever becomes of the offer, we cannot but feel grateful to him who has made it. The pros and cons of the matter have been fully dealt with elsewhere, and try as I will attempting meanwhile to free my mind from such natural bias as must necessarily inhabit it, I cannot see any really valid objection to the scheme.

USE OF BRIDGE.

On the question of whether or not the bridge would be used, I have no doubts whatever. Not only could it be used daily by hundreds of University students, but by many members of the public as well. It would in addition do much to open up that part of the Memorial Drive as a pleasant promenade—thereby justifying, if justification be needed, the Council's proposal for the beautification of the locality. And as to this latter proposal, while I am not aware of the details of its nature, I cannot believe that a bridge of the type submitted would be so much out of har-

mony with its surroundings, as seriously to affect the appearance of the spot. The commonsense way of dealing with the question would seem to be to proceed with both proposals hand in hand, making such slight modifications, if any, in the Council's original scheme, as may be deemed advisable to render harmonious with it the addition of the bridge.

OPPOSITION.

It may be that that the Council's attitude is not in fact so adverse as it would at first sight appear, and I know that I am voicing the opinion of the Union as a whole when I say that I sincerely hope that when the Council resumes consideration of the matter it will adopt the commonsense view of the question and will grant its permission.

I feel that I should not conclude without adding an apology for the apparently frivolous nature of the earlier parts of this letter, for I do not regard the question at issue in any but a serious light. However, I feel also that in a game of Bridge such as this, with the City Council holding the trumps, there may very well be some excuse for a brief introduction of the joker.

M. F. BONNIN, President.

WOMEN'S UNION.

WOMEN STUDENTS UP IN ARMS. Unanimous Vote for Bridge.

"The man in the street can see very little need for the bridge. It would be used mainly by a number of husky young athletes, and it would save them a walk of a few hundred yards before they indulged in their strenuous games on the University Oval. Nobody, not even the young men concerned, would be very much upset if the scheme were dropped."—"The News," June 16th, 1936.

Presumably the writer did not realize that there are about one hundred and fifty members of the Women's Union besides other women students at the University, and that about fifty of these are financial members of the Sports Association. If he did, then his reference to "husky young athletes," was completely inmistaken.

Women students use the Oval mainly on Wednesday afternoons. It happens that, to avoid clashing with early lectures, the Footlights Club holds its weekly rehearsals every Wednesday throughout the second and third terms of the year. Tap dancing and the other exertions of these rehearsals, strange as it may seem, are extremely energetic and exhausting. The girls then have to waste time and energy changing back into their street clothes from rehearsal costumes, walking around to the Oval via the City Bridge. A changing, again, into short tunics and sandals for their sports activities. If the proposed bridge were erected they could change straight from rehearsal costumes into their sports rig and nip across to the Oval in about three minutes instead of taking nearly three-quarters of an hour to trek round to the Oval changing sheds. "The man in the street," the City Councillors, and the Editor of the "News" may scoff and ask why girls will not walk round by the City Bridge in their sports clothes. Only those who are well informed in feminine psychology and the women students themselves could explain. The fact remains that rather than expose themselves to the public eye wearing their shortest of short black tunics, black cotton stockings and sandals, they

waste a considerable amount of time changing twice.

There is a time and place for everything. Walking can be a pleasant, even exhilarating, relaxation. But not when the hiker is burdened with a case full of clothes and a hockey stick or tennis racket.

Again, the Basketball Club, and sometimes the Hockey Club, hold regular early morning practices on the Oval, starting at about 7.30, and finishing in time for the girls to change and be back at the 'Varsity for nine o'clock lectures. A footbridge leading across to the University proper, would be a real blessing to these girls. It is more than merely aggravating to be in a hurry, and have to walk round a complete hairpin bend, when, if they had wings or a bridge, they could cross straight over from the Oval to the Lady Symon Building.

On Tuesday night at a meeting of about eighty members of the Women's Union, it was carried unanimously and enthusiastically that everything possible should be done to bring about the erection of the proposed bridge.

Adelaide is the garden city. Thousands of pounds have been spent upon its beautification. Not least among its attractions are the University and its Oval. It seems a pity when interstate visitors are being shown over the 'Varsity grounds with their magnificent buildings and beautiful rock gardens, to have to point across the Torrens, and say "That's the 'Varsity Oval over there." It is not even worth while taking the visitors down to the Torrens bank, where they might notice that the City Council has spent £1,500 to make the river banks look beautiful, because they would not be able to see the Oval any better from there. With a bridge across, visitors could not only be shown over the whole of the University (including the Oval), but on the way would be able to see and appreciate the work already done by the Council.

MISS JEAN GILMOUR, President.

SPORTS ASSOCIATION.

For many years the need of a footbridge, to lend continuity to the University Grounds and the Oval, has been felt by those members of the University who are connected with or interested in its sporting activities. The Sports Association has considered such a scheme on numerous occasions.

The one difficulty which has prevented such a proposition being placed before the Adelaide City Council has been removed by the generosity of anonymous donors, who have given funds to the University for the erection of such a bridge.

So it is that the decision of the City Council to defer further consideration of the proposal to erect this means of communication comes to members of the University as a whole, and the members of its Sports Association in particular, as an act occasioning the greatest surprise and regret.

Before criticizing the Council's action too harshly, let it be hoped that, in the light of further information which may be placed before them, such as the report of the City Engineer, the Council may see its way clear to reverse its decision. But for the weight of its members, the following facts may help to throw a little light on what, apparently to some of them has been utter darkness.

1. The bridge would be used by almost every member of the Sports Association, numbering some 450, as an

easier means of getting to and from the Oval and University. A number of students, residing north of the Torrens, would use the bridge to arrive at the University for their work, and to leave it after this has been finished each day.

2. The apparent intention of the donors was that the bridge should also be used by those not connected with the University. It is natural to assume it would be used by those of the public who would go for walks in the neighbouring parks and along the banks of the Torrens, which the City Council are improving as part of their beautification scheme. Such a practice would be encouraged by a footbridge providing easy access to both north and south banks of the river in this location.

3. It would not appear that such a bridge as has been suggested, always provided that its design was an appropriate one, would be out of harmony in the City Council's scheme. Those in authority at the University who have examined the plans are of the opinion that the bridge would not detract in any way from the natural beauty of the place.

The Sports Association eagerly awaits the further decision of the City Council, who, it is hoped, after realizing the weight of University and public opinion which is against their present action, will accept the offer of the donors, through the University, to erect the footbridge.

DR. C. B. SANGSTER, President.

COMMERCE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

400 Commerce Students Alone Would Use the Bridge.

This Association is extremely disappointed at the attitude which our City Fathers have adopted in regard to the Bridge proposal. Commerce Students at the University number approximately 400, and the majority experience considerable difficulty in attempting to practise at the Oval after 5 o'clock, and still be in time for their lectures at 6.15 p.m. The convenience of the footbridge to these students is obvious; how can a student be expected to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the words of wisdom which pour forth from the lecturer when he arrives five minutes late, puffing and blowing after his marathon trot from the Oval and with the gnawings of hunger in his inner regions.

My Association earnestly hopes that the position will soon be rectified, and we wish you every success and offer our support to your campaign. May the wisdom and commonsense of the Council yet prevail, and this picturesque addition be made to Adelaide's river.

Yours, sincerely,
G. L. DUFFIELD, President.

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MEN'S UNION.

MEMBERS AMAZED.

"It was indeed a surprise to us, as to all University students to read the report of the attitude adopted by the City Council in respect of the erection of a proposed foot bridge between the University grounds and its oval. For many years such a bridge has been desired by the University authorities, and by the students to complete their scheme of connecting the University proper with the sports ground. Our University, unlike those in other States, is not in the fortunate position of having the sports grounds immediately adjacent to the buildings. Now, when at last this disability seems about to be minimised, through the generosity of anonymous donors, the City Council has not seen fit to adopt a very helpful attitude. Councillor Rymill seems to be under a grave misapprehension when he states that few, if any, would use the proposed bridge.

For the benefit of Councillor Rymill there are at present approximately 400 members of the University Sports Association, including women members, most of whom would use the bridge daily, with the exception of Sunday, to say nothing of the hundreds of students coming from the northern suburbs.

"In our opinion it is ridiculous to suggest that students would, had they the opportunity of crossing directly from the University to the sports ground, walk a further quarter of a mile or more, merely for the pleasure of walking over the beautiful city bridge. In any case, as Councillor Rees pointed out, the design submitted is a very neat one, and would in no way detract from the alleged beautification scheme, which is in progress on the south bank.

"Speaking for those students with whom we have conferred since the announcement of the gift, we feel that the objections of Councillors Myers and Rymill to the erection of the footbridge as published in the "Advertiser" are such as can have arisen only from a complete misunderstanding of the position."

J. P. McFARLANE, President.

WOMEN'S STUNT EVENING.

CELEBRATED ASSEMBLY AT LADY SYMON HALL.

Sir Winsome and Lady Dugan, Mrs. Dionne of Quintuplet fame, a party of American gangsters, and several prominent Adelaide barristers, were present at the Lady Symon Hall on Tuesday night for the Women's Union Annual Stunt evening. For the first time, the evening was held as an Interfaculty event, Mrs. Menz and Miss Hope Crompton having the difficult task of adjudicating between the widely different and impromptu stunts. They awarded the laurels to the Arts women for their representation of the landing of Governor Hindmarsh and his pro-

Men's Union

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE

ON

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24th,

7.45 p.m.

"That this house considers that there should be no restrictions on Immigration to Australia."

Prime Minister: Mr. P. R. Ward.
Leader of the Opposition: Mr. N. H. Wallman.

COME AND SPEAK.

clamation of South Australia as a British colony, under the shade of a young gum. Jean Hevett, glorious in gold braid, ribbons and medals, and capped by a magnificent tricorne hat, made a perfect Governor. The next scene showed Father Time, beseythed and bewhiskered, passing slowly over the stage while the real proclamation tree withered to a brown stump, and another young upstart tree grew rapidly in the old gum, with branches that rustled as Rene Ford, as the Patawolonga Breeze, flitted across the scene... Finally Mayor Fisk appeared (as he will appear on December 28, 1936, bedecked in the Glenelg Mayoral blankets) and read the proclamation anew. Sir Winsome Dugan then read a birthday message from the King—a poem composed by King Edward himself with the aid of the poet laureate, and the stunt ended with the discordant strains of the "Song of Australia."

The Massage students gave the audience an intimate knowledge of what unfortunate patients have to undergo when they fall into the fell clutches of students—everything from high voltage shocks to . . . (black out).

The Law stunt consisted of a number of more or less obscure stories, excellently illustrated by sketches (believed to have been executed by Nancy Newland) and read by various members of the Faculty, complete with wigs and gowns. The last, a short play in rhyme, was most enthralling and heartrending.

Science students gave us a peep into the American gangster world, with Edith Irwin as Al Polone, Barbara Cleland as Sadie and Billie Warhurst as the adopted baby. The atmosphere and setting were so realistic that one wondered how far the students' knowledge of crime, police and low night haunts, went.

At about half-past ten the meeting broke up, leaving Mr. Goodall, surrounded by bits of the old gum, vainly endeavouring to find some place to dispose of them. The Torrens was suggested as a suitable place but he shook his head.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"L.M.B."—We cannot publish your letter referring to Cr. Rymill.

"Tortoise Too"—(1) Yes, he is on the City Council.

(2) No, too drastic.

"Sweet Sixteen."—The answers to your questions, my dear, are as follows:—

(a) No; A. C. Rymill did not break the Inter-Varsity Mile Record in 1927.

(b) Yes, he is reported to have designed a lady's dress, and,

(c) He was a member of a jazz-band.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE OPPOSITE POINT OF VIEW.

Sir,—
We have received the following letter:—

Dear Sir,—I have been amazed at the amount of indignation and fuss created in the University world by the City Fathers' decision to postpone sine die, their discussion upon what has come to be known as "The Bridge Question." What indignation has been aroused! Oh, sir! Can it be that this whim is to be denied us? How ungrateful can be even such a body as the City Council headed by that democrat of all democrats, our Lord Mayor—Mr. Cain! Just think, sir, for years the University has allowed useless buildings to be erected on its property, for the sole purpose of providing work for unfortunate stonemasons, et cetera, and now—see how graceless the world can be! The City Council will not allow itself to be bluffed blindly into giving its sanc-

tion to a proposal, the object of which is of rather questionable merit, and the effect of which is as yet hardly known.

For years the Council has been endeavouring, and slowly succeeding in its efforts to beautify the banks of the Torrens. Surely then, it cannot be blamed for hesitating before consenting to the erection of this proposed bridge. Were bridges to be thrown across this placid little waterway (which nearly one hundred years ago caused trouble between Colonel Light and Governor Hindmarsh) with such zest and complete abandon as would please even undergraduates and their teachers, although no doubt an intriguing shadow scheme of interwoven bridges would result, I am sure that the present laudable purpose of the Council would be seriously affected.

I have heard it argued that were a bridge constructed it would be an ideal position from which to view and fully appreciate the beauty of the improvements.

However, the immediate purpose of the Council in carrying out its "Beautification Scheme", is, I feel, not so much to provide a spot where one may go to drink in the exquisite and unmatched beauty of a "long-stemmed pansy" or a "pink aspidistra," as to conceal from passers-by the present irritatingly dull aspect. If it were the policy of the Council to provide a paradise for horticulturists, surely its activities could be better directed to the Botanic Gardens, as even in the culture of flowers it is undoubtedly better to have a few gardens well-tended and planted with the best of what the botanist can provide, than to have many unkept patches which offend even the susceptibilities of an undergraduate, whose appreciation of good gardening can hardly be said generally to be very great. This is not, however, the case.

Thus, as the Council's "Beautification Scheme" must needs cover widely separated areas, it is well that the Council guard against allowing further potential eyesores to be erected without first considering their effect upon the "Scheme."

For these reasons, sir, and for many others which space of course prevents my setting forth, I feel that the Council has acted wisely in adopting the course of action which it has, and the present uproar in the University can, in my opinion, be likened only to the tantrum of a very spoiled child.

I am, yours, etc.,
PERCIVAL BARNACLE.

Coming Events

Friday, 19th.—S.C.M. Open Forum in Lady Symon Hall at 1.20. Subject, "Why be a Christian?" Chairman: Rev. L. C. Parkin.

Fencing Club Meeting, in Lady Symon Committee room, at 1.30.
Public Lecture by Prof. J. I. Stewart on "The Tempest," in the Physics Theatre, at 8.

Saturday, 20th.—Basketball Dance in Refectory at 8.

Commerce Students' trip to Port Pirie.

Last day for Paying Sports Assoc. Subs.

Monday, 22nd.—S. C. M. Concert, in the Lady Symon Hall, at 8.

Repetition of lecture, "The Tempest." Vocal Recital by Miss Hilda Gill.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGES.

ST. MARK'S COLLEGE.

If you take a map of Adelaide and concentrate on the River Torrens—the part about Victoria Drive—you will see that a straight line from St. Mark's to the University lies across the river almost adjacent to the site of the proposed bridge. Therefore the journey to the University and to the Hospital (for Med. students) would be shortened if it were erected.

Therefore this is one of the many reasons why St. Mark's men feel very disappointed at the treatment accorded to the project (and in some quarters hostility) by the City Council, most of whom probably own motor cars. Consider this, if one man by using the new bridge four times a day saves 12 minutes per diem (which is not unreasonable) the entire saving of time to the men of St. Mark's during one academic year would be 50 hours, in which time the entire City Council could have walked to Oodnadatta, or somewhere (or could they?) (Is this important?)

Seriously though, we entirely support the rest of the University in its stating of its case.

R. W. T. COWAN,
(President College Club).

ST. ANDREW'S COLLEGE.

Collectively and individually we are amazed at the tentative rejection of the proposal for a footbridge connecting the University proper and its playing ground.

For years a bridge has been the dream of every member of the University Sports Association. Several aspiring engineers have previously drawn up plans of how, and where, a bridge could be built. Now, with such a splendid Centenary gift to the University, the scheme becomes a reality, and the City Council threaten to shelve the whole matter immediately.

The engineers are assured that a footbridge can do nothing but add to the beauty of the present improvements being carried out by the Council. The design is in harmony with the setting, and we are not competing with the City Bridge; even if we were, they could still have the trams and motor cars and a few pedestrians. Modifications in the plans, too, can readily be made at this stage.

That the "proposed bridge would only be used by a handful of students," shows such a lack of knowledge of the 'Varsity, that we sincerely invite the framer of these words to come down and see us some time.

We pin our faith to the fact that the City Engineer is asked for a report.

G. M. TURNBULL,
(President College Club).

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