

Ad. 6<sup>th</sup> March 1905.

The West Australian  
17<sup>th</sup> March 1905.

### UNIVERSITY DEGREE EXAMINATIONS.

#### UNIFORM STANDARD ADVOCATED.

Hobart, March 5.

The Commemoration Day of the Tasmanian University was held on Saturday. The Governor-General (Lord Northcote) and the High Court judges were amongst those present. Ad eundem degrees were conferred on Lord Northcote, Sir Samuel Griffith, Mr. Justice Barton, Mr. Justice O'Connor, the Rev. S. Meyer (Melbourne), Messrs. F. Kellet (Sydney), W. S. Dawson, M.C.E. (Melbourne), and R. F. Teece (Sydney).

The Chancellor delivered an address, in the course of which he advocated a conference of university authorities for the purpose of arriving at a uniform standard of degree examinations.

Ad 16<sup>th</sup> March 1905

#### THE ELDER SCHOLARSHIP.

Master Gordon Short, who was the successful candidate for the recent Elder scholarship in pianoforte playing, is the son of Mr. J. Short, Parkside, and was born at Eudunda, South Australia. He received his education in music solely from Mrs. Holznerland, a teacher well-known in musical circles as Miss Meta Mattfeld (an old pupil of Herr G. Reimann). Master Short has more than average musical ability. At an early age he displayed decided talent. His mother, recognising this, placed his training in the control of Miss Mattfeld, under whose instruction he has continued his studies to the present time. His progress was so rapid that in a short time, and whilst quite young, he successfully performed at numerous concerts, passed his public examination with the highest marks, besides winning numerous competitions and a scholarship, tenable for one year.

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17<sup>th</sup> March 1905

### EDUCATION IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

#### WORK OF THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE.

#### PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES.

#### THE NEED FOR A LOCAL UNIVERSITY.

A ceremony of an interesting nature, and one which marks the progress being made in education in Western Australia, took place yesterday afternoon. At the invitation of the Adelaide University Committee (Western Australian Centre), a large number of ladies and gentlemen attended at the Perth Town Hall to witness the presentation of diplomas, certificates, and other orders of merit gained by Western Australian candidates for Adelaide University examinations and examinations by the Associated Board of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music. Dr. J. W. Hackett, M.L.C. (Chairman of the Committee) presided, and the following members of the Committee were on the platform:—The Bishop of Perth (Dr. Riley), the Vicar-General (Monsignor Bourke), Dr. Meade, Mesdames Moss, Cooke, and Domela, Lt.-Col. Campbell, and Messrs. C. P. Andrews (Inspector-General of Schools), H. Briggs, and W. Kingsmill, M.L.C., T. P. Quinlan, M.L.A., W. E. Cooke (honorary secretary), and H. M. Joscelyne (assistant-secretary). The Acting-Premier (Mr. Johnson) and the Minister for Lands (Mr. Drew) were also present.

Dr. Hackett, in opening the proceedings, said that, owing to the long programme which had to be gone through, the remarks he would make would be necessarily very brief, but he thought he ought to put before them what exactly it was they were called upon to take part in that afternoon. He was sure they must all feel satisfied when they saw the results of the movement which had been inaugurated less than nine years ago. They were present that afternoon not only to witness the presentation of the prizes, which had been obtained through the late examination, but to give one more lift to that University movement of which this was the beginning, and to plant it more firmly in the soil of Western Australia. Amongst all that had been done to further the progress and prosperity of this State in the last few years, one feature had been conspicuously wanting, and that was the existence of a local University. That want, however, was, to a certain extent, supplied by the system of examinations which they were concerned that day, and, in speaking of that system, he wished to bear testimony to the great work done by the two gentlemen to whom its success was, to a large degree, due—

Mr. Cooke (the Government Astronomer), who was the founder of the system, and Mr. Joscelyne, on whose shoulders principally fell the work of carrying it out. They all felt, however, that, while the examining system was a great thing to have, it was not all they were anxious for in connection with the University. He would point out that, while an examination was not, perhaps, the most successful way of obtaining a knowledge of the proficiency or progress of a boy or girl, it was a very good way, and it was the only method available to them in Western Australia for testing the progress of teacher and taught, of the master and the scholar. There were one or two little figures and facts he would like to make known. The University examination system was brought into force in 1896. Two years afterwards it was reorganised, when the Registrar of the Adelaide University visited the State, and then the new system commenced its career—a career which it had followed with accelerating prosperity and success every year of its existence. Last year examinations were held in the following country centres, as well as in Perth, some of them musical, some of them general, and some both:—Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Menzies, Norseman, Boulder City, Albany, Geraldton, Collie, York, Rottneet, Kojonup, and Northam. The number of certificates gained had increased year by year with the most encouraging rapidity. In 1896 18 certificates were obtained, and in the following years 24, 47, 84, 143, 201, 218. Then came the visit from the examiner of the Associated Board of Music, London, and the figures in 1903 sprang to 284 and last year to 363. The examinations were divided into two branches—the general public examination and musical examination. In the general public examinations they had some very cheering facts to record. In the senior examination for the last two years Western Australian boys had topped the list for both South Australia and Western Australia combined, while in 1901 third place was obtained, and last year second place. With regard to the junior examinations for the five years following 1898, inclusive, Western Australian boys had topped the list for both South Australia and Western Australia, while in 1899 second place was also obtained; in 1900, third place; in 1901, second place; and in 1902 second place. In 1903 second and third places were obtained, and in 1904 second place. These were facts that went far to set at rest any doubt as to the perfect success of the system of university examinations in this State. Then they came to the musical examinations, and the results there were almost as marked. He would ask them to bear in mind that in the last two or three years the examination in Western Australia had been conducted by the examiner who tested the students in England itself. That examiner had brought with him the same standard and the same high test that he applied in the old country. The musical candidates last year numbered 194, out of which 164 passed, 35 with honours. He wanted to draw attention to the chief honours that had been obtained. In the first place they had to congratulate themselves on having on the platform the first graduate—a lady—who had obtained her degree in Western Australia. Miss Gertrude Walton headed what he hoped would be a long and honourable list of Western Australian graduates by having taken last year the Adelaide University degree of B.A. Other special prizes obtained were: General public examination: First in senior examination, Stanley Cantor, £10; second in senior examination, Charles L. Riley, £5; second in junior examination, John W.A. Horan, £5. Music: Gold medal, Vera M. Craig; silver medal, Dorothy M. Cochran. He would ask those present unitedly to join in an expression of thankfulness, encouragement, and cheerfulness at what had been achieved in so short a time. (Applause.)

The certificates, numbering 603, were then presented by Dr. Hackett to the successful candidates.

Bishop Riley was afterwards called upon to address the gathering. He said that they looked upon the function that day as a very great occasion, such a great occasion that they had had a public distribution of the certificates. He hoped that the certificates gained would be an incentive to both the successful and unsuccessful candidates to continue their studies. By examination they found out what they knew and what they did not know in order that they might learn more. He desired to bear testimony to the good work done by the secretary (Mr. Cooke) and the assistant secretary (Mr. Joscelyne), and they ought not to forget the chairman (Dr. Hackett). They had an immense amount of work to do, and although the result of their labours was sufficient praise and thanks to them, they should do what they could to add to that praise. On that public occasion he would like to say that the people of the State were very grateful for what the Government had done for education. As one of the citizens of the State he was delighted to find that every Government had tried to do what it could to uplift the education of the people. Of course there was very much more that might be done. They might help a great many more boys

to continue their studies at secondary schools. He was not complaining, but if the Government would do more the people would be very grateful. A gathering like the one that afternoon was the best evidence they could produce that the time had arrived when they should have a University in Western Australia. (Applause.) His plan, and he still had hopes of it being carried out, was that the Government should provide at once one professor, and, in a few years, another, and so gradually build up a professorial staff and a university. Any Government that started on that good work would earn the undying gratitude of the people of Western Australia. (Applause.) He proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Dr. Hackett, Mr. Cooke, and Mr. Joscelyne for the work they had carried out.

Monsignor Bourke, in seconding the motion, added his congratulations to the young people who had gained certificates. He trusted that they would be the means of spurring on the candidates to further endeavours.

The Acting-Premier expressed pleasure at being present. To those who took an interest in the State, the gathering marked the progress that had been made. Although much had been done in regard to education in Western Australia, they could go a great deal further. He desired to say that he applauded, as an individual, the action taken by Mr. Walter James in going to the extent he did towards the establishment of a university in Western Australia. He (the Acting-Premier) had no hesitation in saying that the time was not far distant when the Government would have to do something more towards the establishment of a university in this State. They knew, however, that there was a great deal of opposition to the movement. There were some members of Parliament who said they had not yet gone far enough with primary education in the country districts. There was, perhaps, some soundness in that view, but they must remember that, while they should not neglect the country districts, they should also not neglect those who had already gone through the primary schools. (Applause.) In this free country everybody had an equal opportunity, and, in the struggle of life, the only advantage one individual had over another was that he possessed a better education. He had found that his own great handicap was that he had not taken the opportunities of his early youth in the way of education. He impressed upon the boys and girls the necessity of realising that they should not lose the opportunities provided. Those who had been successful in the last examination should endeavour to gain more honours, and those who had been unsuccessful should make further endeavours. On behalf of the Government, he desired to thank the chairman and the secretaries of the Committee for the attention they had given to the good work.

The Minister for Lands said that he could assure those present that the foundation of a university in Western Australia had been substantially laid, owing to the great enthusiasm of the chairman, Dr. Hackett. Largely through his instrumentality a Bill had been introduced into Parliament about two years ago and passed by both Houses, permitting the endowment of a university, with the result that the late Government had provided £138,000 towards that endowment.

The vote of thanks was carried by acclamation.

Dr. Hackett said that they were grateful that the work done by the Committee had been appreciated. It had, however, been a labour of love, and a labour due to their country. He desired to make an announcement in regard to another branch of the Committee's work—the University Extension lectures. They had made arrangements for a series of lectures by Professor Bottomley, of King's College, London, who expected to leave England in June. He would lecture throughout the State as Mr. Soddy had done, and the subject taken would be bacteria.