

UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT LANDS.

WHAT THE TRUSTEES HOLD.

Some curiosity having been aroused in respect to the reason why the Crown lands demised to trustees under the University Endowment Act of 1904 are apparently valueless, so far as income therefrom is concerned, the acreage and locality of the land in question may be of interest.

The subjoined information was given to the Assembly by Mr. Dalgligh—who stated the approximate value of the land at £135,000—soon after the Ministry of which he was Premier took office:—

Table with 2 columns: Location, Area. Includes North Fremantle (140), Swan (land between Su-biaco and Claremont) (886), Near Fremantle (2330), Near Fremantle (580), Mt. Barker (8), Pingelly (4), Broome Hill (3 1/2), Wagin (84), Cuballing (31), Narrogin (14), Katanning (41).

Total ... 3963 1/2

The following are the university endowment trustees:—Minister for Education for the time being; J. W. Hackett, M.L.C. (chairman); G. Randell, M.L.C.; C. Harper; T. F. Quinlan, M.L.A. (Speaker); T. H. Bath, M.L.A.; and W. H. James (Agent-General).

The trustees, under section 6 of the Endowment Act, have the "entire control and management of all real and personal property at any time vested in or acquired by them. They may set out roads, streets, and open spaces, erect and improve buildings upon, and otherwise improve any land or property, as in their absolute discretion they may think fit, and may apply any trust funds in their hands to any such purposes."

Section 7 authorises the trustees to lease the lands for 21 years, and, with the approval of the Governor, to let them on building lease for 99 years, or to mortgage them.

Section 20 provides that for their services in administering these properties, the "trustees may receive out of the income of the trust property such remuneration as the Governor may approve."

The Governor, apparently, has not approved of any remuneration; and if he had desired to do so, his liberality must have been confined within narrow limits, since, with the £50 voted for the trust in last year's Estimates, its total cash capital appears to be £63 7s 8d. The annual income from the £135,000 worth of endowment lands, would consequently seem to be £13 7s 8d. If these lands—which are exempted from taxation under the Endowment Act, came within the scope of the Land Tax Assessment Bill, the holders would, under the 14d in the £ tax on unimproved value of unimproved land, be called upon to contribute to revenue £831 5s per annum.

while any single subject taken subsequently costs only 5/. These drawbacks are having a prejudicial effect upon the number of candidates, and there does not appear to be any adequate reason for the differential treatment.

It has been pointed out that the paper in bookkeeping might be profitably rearranged. One objection is that it has been too long, and the students have had to rush their work for three hours, with the result that those who require reasonable time to demonstrate their capacity and knowledge have been placed at a disadvantage. It is therefore suggested that this theory and practice paper should be divided into two—one for each branch—and that sufficient opportunity ought to be given for answers to be written. The University authorities have manifested much praiseworthy interest in the development of the Commercial course, and they have already recognised the principle that the Junior examination is intended to be educational in a special sense. Until this year, no one was allowed to sit for it unless he had passed the Primary or ordinary Junior examination; but English literature was added to the curriculum as a compulsory subject, and now anybody can enter for it. As the chief purpose of this trial is to prepare and encourage the candidate to proceed to the Higher Commercial course, it is desirable that no unnecessary obstacles should be put in the way.

Register. 19th Sept 1906

At the latest meeting of the council of Ormond College, Melbourne University, the following resolution with regard to the Vice-Master (Mr. H. Darnley Naylor, M.A.), who has been appointed Professor of Classics in the University of Adelaide, was carried unanimously:—"That the council, while heartily congratulating Mr. Naylor on his appointment to the important position of Professor of Classics in the University of Adelaide, desires to record its deep regret at the loss which the college will sustain through his leaving, and its high appreciation of the services rendered by him to the college. During the whole of Mr. Naylor's tenure of office in the college, from the beginning of 1896 till the present time, first as senior tutor and latterly as Vice-Master, his work had been of the highest quality. Not only has he shown himself a fine classical scholar, but he has also displayed a genius for imparting his knowledge to his students and for kindling in them an enthusiasm for his subjects in some degree like his own. The evidence of this is seen in the long series of their signal successes in carrying off the honours of the university. His whole influence on his students was elevating and helpful, and he was regarded by all with love and esteem. It is with sincere regret that they think of his departure. The council cannot refrain from adding that they feel deeply indebted to Mrs. Naylor for the kindly interest she has always taken in the college students. The women students especially will miss her willing help and genial sympathy." Mr. Naylor has received leave of absence to enable him to take a short trip to England before beginning his work next year, and has sailed from Melbourne. He was entertained on Saturday evening by a large gathering in the Ormond College Hall, consisting of the college council, many of his past and present students, and friends inside and outside the university. The Master of Ormond (Dr. MacFarland) and Professor Tucker (the Professor of Classics in Melbourne) spoke to the motto "Vires acquirit eundo" (may he flourish the more by going), followed by the text "Sed vix sustinuit dicere lingua 'vale'" (the tongue finds it hard to say goodbye). This was followed by a presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Naylor from the students, after which the Melbourne University Choral Society brought the evening to a close by singing Mendelssohn's "Departure."

AMUSEMENTS.

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

There was a fairly large audience—which included His Excellency the Governor and Lady Le Hunte—at the Elder Conservatorium on Monday evening, when the second and last chamber-music concert by the staff for the season was given. The principal items on the programme were a "Quartet in B minor," by Thomas F. Dunhill, and Christian Sinding's "Quartet in E minor." The former, which opened the concert, is the work of a young English writer who, although in only his 30th year, is the composer of a number of successful works in the important art forms. These have been warmly received by the most eminent critics, and Mr. Dunhill is regarded as one of the most promising of the young British composers. He was a student at the Royal College of Music with Mr. Bryceson Treherne, and it is owing to the friendship then formed that this work, which is yet in MS.—though it gained the Lesley Alexander prize of £20 a year ago—is available in Adelaide. Like most works in this form the quartet is cast in four movements—an "Allegro," "Adagio non troppo," "Scherzo," of brief dimensions, and final "Allegro moderato," which is preceded by a brief "Molto lento" of an introductory character. Of its many parts of interest may be noted the writer's fondness for the viola, which opens two of the movements, and in the second the solo is quite of an extended character, and in this same section a showy and effective part where an impassioned melody is sung by the violin and viola against the pizzicato accompaniment of the cello, and pianoforte with extended trills. The work throughout is melodious, well knit together, and the climaxes are strong and sustained. Its performance by Mr. Treherne (pianoforte), Mr. H. Heinicke (violin), and Miss Elizabeth Delprat (viola), and Mr. H. Kugelberg (cello) was of a generally satisfactory character. Their intonation was invariably good, and they treated the music with sympathy and intelligence. Sinding's quartet, like the English composer's quartet, is cast in four movements—an "Allegro ma non troppo," "Andante," "Intermezzo," and "Allegro vivace." Most of the writing is of a brilliant character, especially the pianoforte part, and it abounds in strongly contrasted effects. The "Andante" is a particularly good movement, opening for strings only, and concluding in the same fashion, but con sordini, with some passages of striking beauty. As an intermezzo, the composer has written what is really a quaint Norwegian dance of a most animated character. There is also plenty of movement for all the instruments in the final section, which forms a worthy pendant to an inspired and most interesting composition. Its performance was undertaken by the same four instrumentalists—with addition of Miss Elsie Cowell (second violin), and throughout a very gratifying rendering of the fine music was given. The ensemble and the intonation were invariably good, and the quintet was played with musicianly feeling and finish. It created a splendid impression, and would certainly bear repeating at an early date. Mr. Heinicke, the only instrumental soloist of the evening, played as his one number, Beethoven's "Romance in F, op. 50," was a strong, full tone, and such expression and taste as to excite a recall. He responded by bowing his acknowledgments. The vocalist, Miss Gull Hack, A.R.C.M., introduced six songs, all new to this city, and all of considerable musical worth and interest. As her first selection she gave a bracket of "Si mes vers avaient des ailes" (Hahn), "Soft-footed snow" (Sigurd Lee), both of which were sung with much refinement and delicacy of tone, and Chaudé Debussy's merry "Mandoline," which was rendered with appropriate spirit and vigour. Later in the evening Miss Hack gave a couple of MS. songs by Mr. Treherne, entitled "Mountains by night" and "Home," which are cleverly written and display musicianly feeling; and another capital song "The Devon maid" by Hamilton Harty. The two latter numbers were finely sung and deservedly recalled. "Home" was repeated, and in response to the second encore the vocalist bowed her acknowledgments. Mr. Treherne played the pianoforte accompaniments in an irreproachable manner.

Register. 28th Sept 1906

18th Sept. 1906

UNIVERSITY COMMERCIAL COURSE.

The Adelaide University rightly enjoys the distinction of having pioneered the university commercial course in Australia, and the friends of mercantile education are naturally anxious that the examinations shall be as attractive as possible consistently with an efficient standard. In connection with the Junior Commercial course there are two or three matters in which improvements may be made. First, the student has now to pass in five specified subjects at the one sitting in order to secure the certificate. No other analogous test is quite so severe. In the ordinary Junior the candidate must be successful in five subjects; but, if he satisfies the examiner in only one subject one year, he is allowed to subsequently take the others singly or together. The Junior Commercial examination is handicapped by—in addition to this disadvantage—a higher fee than is charged for the ordinary Junior. The compulsory subjects for the former are Junior English literature, commercial arithmetic, commercial geography, bookkeeping, and business correspondence; but shorthand and typewriting, which are optional, are regarded by teachers as essential. The student must pay £1 for the compulsory subjects and 2/6 each for the optional—practically 25/ each time. For the other examination mentioned the fee is £1 for all subjects, both compulsory and optional;

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY.

FOUR HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY.

LONDON, September 27.

The completion of the fourth century of eventful history by the Aberdeen University is being suitably celebrated in the ancient Scottish city. The Australasian delegates in attendance at the proceedings have been cordially welcomed, and all the leading universities of the world are represented.

The University of Aberdeen was, until 1860, two separate seats of learning. The one—the "University and King's College"—was founded in 1494-5 by William Elphinstone, Bishop of the Diocese, and sanctioned by a Papal bull obtained by James IV. The buildings were erected in 1500-6. The other—Marischal College and University—was founded in 1560 under a charter ratified by Parliament, by George Keith, Earl Marischal. The registered members of the general council for the year 1860 number 4,000.

The University has conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws on Sir John Madden, G.C.M.G., Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria.