

he saw any reason why these gentlemen, while employed by the Government, should not be allowed to fill the chairs at the University. The word university spelt co-ordination. It depended upon the utilisation of all the teaching possibilities of the community. It was difficult to go back and reconstruct, but it was easy to co-ordinate these things, and in that way to increase their usefulness. It was not for him to go into the question of cost, but he wanted to say that the cost of a University was not as great as some people supposed. It was not a palace that was required for a start. Indeed, that class of building was almost always a disadvantage. The requirements of a University's departments changed rapidly, and a great stone building was a thing not easily changed. It was not really a building at all that was required. What was necessary was to collect the men, when they would soon get the students. The Bishop had spoken of this as a democratic country, and of a University as a democratic institution; that was entirely his (Dr. Hill's) conception too. This was not a question for the favoured few; it was for the many. So far as his evidence was of the slightest value he would say that in contemplating this question of a University they should forget altogether the finance involved, and just think of it as a question for making use of material already in existence in the country, a very great deal of which was at the present time running to waste. (Applause).

The Chairman called upon members of the audience to express opinions if they so desired.

Dr. Haynes, having elicited from the Chairman the information that the University committee had been in existence for several years without receiving any promises of an endowment, said he would like to know why Dr. Hackett had made no reference in his speech to Queensland, where they had no University.

Dr. Hackett: I omitted to refer to Queensland because I am thoroughly ashamed of the place for saying nothing and doing nothing about a University.

Dr. Haynes, continuing, said that it had been his experience of University professors that they did not convey the knowledge which the students expected. In consequence the students had had to rely on the text-books. Unless, therefore, they had good teachers a University here would be a failure. He was most anxious to see a University established, but they must first have the people, and, above all else, the money. The present time was not opportune however, as they were faced with depression. They were splendidly served by the Adelaide University, and he could not see any necessity to make a departure for the next 10 years.

Mr. F. Lyon Weiss spoke of the establishment of a University as a distinct advantage. They wanted a civilising influence of the kind in Western Australia.

Other gentlemen in the body of the hall took part in the discussion, and the proposal was made that a general committee should be formed of all the graduates of the State, whose suggestions might make the project more of a practical question, and prove useful to the University Extension Committee.

The motion on being put to the meeting was carried on a show of hands, the Chairman remarking that Dr. Haynes was the only dissentient.

Mr. Bath moved:—"That this meeting pledges itself to support the local University movement, and requests the University Endowment Trustees and the University Extension Committee jointly to take such steps as they may think fitting to further this object." He claimed that to recognise the influence the educational effort had had in America, in Great Britain, and especially in Continental countries, was to recognise that if Australia was to keep herself in the march with other nations she must pay the greatest possible attention to her educational work. At the same time, he was not sanguine enough to think the present a fitting opportunity for the establishment of a University. They had been told by the Minister that the money spent on elementary education must be curtailed; how, then, could they expect financial assistance from the Government for the inauguration of a University? He agreed that they should not follow the American example of conducting a University. In that country insufficient attention was paid to that general culture which made education complete. He was strongly of opinion that if they had money to spare at the present time, it should be devoted to secondary and technical education. Then they should pay their teachers more than they got at present, and at the same time make better provision for their training. And if these needs could be brought home to Parliament, that night's meeting would have done something.

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Mr. T. E. Quinlan, M.L.A.) thought it was opportune to recognise the need for the Adelaide University had done for this State. But he thought they should strive to have their own institution. Perhaps the present was not the best time to expect to meet with success in this direction, but he was optimistic enough to believe that very soon that would all be changed for the better.

Dr. Smith (President of the University Graduates' Union) pointed out that at present large sums of money went out of the State every year in payment of educational and examination fees. In music alone, he understood that the sum sent away was no less than £1,000. A University did not mean a building, but a body of men, and they should be able to get rid of the pecuniary bogey by being content at the beginning to hold their classes in some modest building.

Dr. Davy, in supporting the motion, said that the idea was erroneous that a University turned out merely impractical persons.

It was announced by another speaker that there were large numbers of students at the Technical School who were anxious for the opportunity of taking University degrees.

The resolution was carried unanimously. At the instance of Bishop Riley, a vote of thanks was accorded the chairman.

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UNIVERSITY FOR PERTH.

LAST NIGHT'S PUBLIC MEETING.

REMARKS BY DR. HILL.

A meeting was held in the Queen's hall last night of those interested in the furthering of the movement which has for its object the foundation of a university in this State at an early date.

The chairman of the University Endowment Board (Dr. Hackett) presided, and with him on the platform were the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Mr. Quinlan), Bishop Riley, Dr. Hill, Mr. Bath, and others. The audience consisted of about 100 persons, of whom a fair proportion were ladies.

The Chairman said he was glad to see so many people taking an interest in the establishment of a university. The members of the University Extension Committee, and all who had the work of establishing a university at heart, thought the time was fitting to call upon the people of this State to take some steps to forward such a scheme, and they had availed themselves of the special opportunity presented by the presence in their midst of an expert like Dr. Hill, who had promised to address them on the subject. Apologies for inability to attend had been received from Mr. Mitchell, M.L.A., Mr. Frank Wilson, the Premier, the Rev. Monsignor Bourke, Dean Latham, and others. Sir Edward Stone, too, had apologised for not attending, but he (Dr. Hackett) was sorry to say that Sir Edward did not express any sympathy with the movement. (Applause.) He appeared to think that the time had not yet come to establish a university, as no men were likely to be forthcoming who would give their fifty or a hundred thousand pounds to help to support it. Sir Edward Stone suggested the establishment of a good agricultural college instead. Continuing, the Chairman said that many efforts had been made to promote their views, and he was sorry to see that there were many, even in that audience, who had yet to be convinced of the expediency of the cause they had at heart. They had to fight against strong prejudices. They were told, for instance, that a university was a place for the reception of young men of means, who wished to get rid of two or three years of their lives, learning the languages, acquiring some of the higher mathematics, but, more particularly, devoting themselves to athletics. But the idea of the promoters was, in the first place, to put the practical side of life and its higher elements before our youth, to enable our boys and girls to butter their bread a little better, to develop their faculties to the fullest capacity, and to compete in the race of life upon even terms with those in the other States and those outside Australia. Where were they to get their pupils? it was asked. If they were to descend from the heights of Latin, Greek, and the higher mathematics to the practical level of every-day life, they would see how eager both sexes would be to improve themselves for the business of life. The community already had many admirable institutions, in the shape of grammar schools and secondary schools generally, where the pupils at present were absolutely unable to proceed beyond their special curricula, as well as schools of mines, technical schools, and so forth, and all these required an outlet. It was said in some quarters that the time had not come, that the population was too small, and that they should wait awhile. In the twenty-four years of his experience of Western Australia, no movement had been attempted for the elevation of the people, but it was received with general cries of "wait awhile." It was not so in other parts of Australia. The Sydney University was formed in 1859, when the population of the entire State was only 189,541 persons, or 70,000 less than there were in Western Australia now. The Adelaide University was founded in 1870, when the population was 230,000; that of Tasmania in 1889, with a population of 145,259. These facts were enough to make them blush, and to silence those who asked them to put off till to-morrow what

ought to be done to-day. A far more serious consideration, however—the most serious of all—and the one not so easy to give a satisfactory reply to was—"The cursed lack of pence." Sir Edward Stone had struck the nail on the head—the want of money. It was much to be lamented that advantage had not been taken of former opportunities. Except South Australia, no State was indebted to wealthy men for its University; nor England either. They were indebted to the determined efforts of people to get a better education for their boys and girls. However, they had no time to discuss that matter then. Still, it was difficult to understand why Western Australia should have to call aloud for the £4,000 or £5,000 necessary to give the movement a proper start, when America had no difficulty in obtaining an average of about £5,000,000 per annum for its Universities. They wanted premises, teachers, and examiners; they already saw their way to a couple of thousand a year, and if some support could be obtained from Parliament, between them they would be able to make a start under the happiest auspices, not only for ultimate, but immediate, success. In January, 1904, a bill had been passed called the University Endowment Trustees Fund Act—it was one of the many admirable works to be credited to Mr. Walter James—and it granted them an estate comprising 4,000 acres of suburban land as an endowment

for the University. He (Dr. Hackett) was chairman of that fund, and he could assure them that not one penny had been spent in payment to solicitors, secretary, or anyone else. They also had a Treasury grant last year of £50, and hoped for the same munificent sum this year. Apart from these two sums of £50, and certain small rents for quarries on the land, they had nothing. The balance of £63 7s 8d they had actually in hand would not go far towards placing their estate, or any part of it, in a fit condition to be put upon the land market. He would only add that the most progressive nations of the world were those who did most for University education—education, too, that was adapted to modern needs, as he hoped theirs would be when they had it. (Applause.)

Bishop Riley moved—"That this meeting records its opinion that the time has come when a University should be established in Western Australia."

He regretted there were not more people present. About 130 years ago, he said, America was in much the same condition as we were in now. They then had nine Universities, and had since made marvelous strides in their educational work. Indeed, if the same proportion were in evidence here, we should have our University in Western Australia, endowed with £125,000, with buildings of the same value, and an annual income of £15,000, of which £3,500 would come from the State; and there would be 250 students. In his opinion the question was not—Could we afford a University? but Could we afford to do without it? This was a democratic age and country, and any University established here should be upon democratic principles. Most institutions of the kind had begun in an humble way, and we could make the same sort of start in this State with every hope of a prosperous future. He wanted every boy and every girl who did well in the elementary schools to have a free education in a secondary school, and all who did well there to go on, still free, to the University. (Applause.)

Dr. Hill, upon rising to second the motion, was applauded. He said he felt it possible for him to address them upon this question with advantage, because for eighteen years he had occupied the headship of a college of Cambridge, and for two years had been one of the vice-chancellors of that University. The conditions appertaining to Cambridge had, of course, no relevancy to the conditions in which a University must be established in Perth. Without the University, the town of Cambridge would sink to a mere village, as it had no commerce, no manufactures, no trade. Five years ago he was appointed one of two Commissioners by the Imperial Government to inquire into the condition of the Universities and University Colleges of Great Britain; and he had found the ascertaining of the competence of all these institutions in all its aspects a delightful task. Now, it was a very popular misunderstanding that a University had to be put down ready-made in the midst of the town in which it was to be placed. Such might be the case in America sometimes, but not in England. In America Rockefeller, in a moment of pique, being offended with the President of Columbia College, had established a University of his own, at Chicago, and endowed it with £4,000,000; and there he ruled supreme. That sort of thing might suit plutocratic America, but it would not do in democratic England or Australia. The University of Birmingham 50 years ago was a small college, called Queen's College, which was really a theological college. Gradually, medical, scientific, and other subjects were added, and its endowments were increased. Then it applied to the Privy Council for the privilege of calling itself the University of Birmingham; and finally brewing, dyeing, and commerce were added to the list of subjects cultivated. That the brewing department was appreciated was proved by the fact that all the great brewers had assisted it by all the means in their power. The problems of brewing were some of the most difficult that human ingenuity had to deal with, and it was perfectly apparent how advantageous it was for the Professor of Brewing to have the support and sympathy of the professors of physics, chemistry, and