

Reg. 6th Jan. 1906.

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THE PROFESSORSHIP OF LAW.

APPOINTMENT OF DR. JETHRO BROWN.

The Council of the University of Adelaide offered the Professorship of Law, vacant through the resignation of Professor Salmond, M.A., LL.B., to Professor Jethro Brown, M.A., LL.D., Cantab., and LL.D., D. Litt., Dublin, and Professor of Laws in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. A cablegram has been received from Dr. Brown, through the Agent-General, accepting the appointment. The chair was offered for Dr. Brown's acceptance in 1896. Dr. Brown is a native of South Australia. He is a son of the late Mr. James Brown, of Mintaro, and his academical career has been a most distinguished one.

Dr. Brown matriculated at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1887. He took first class in the law tripos, part i., in 1889, and also in part ii. in 1890. In 1889 he won an Inns of Court studentship in Roman law, jurisprudence and international law (public and private), and in 1890 the scholarship in common law at the Middle Temple. In the same year he was placed at the head of the list in the examination for the degree of doctor of laws at the University of Dublin. He was called to the English Bar in June, 1891. In 1892 St. John's College, Cambridge, awarded him a Macmahon law studentship of £150 a year for four years, and in the same year he was appointed to the chair of modern history and law in the University of Tasmania. Resigning that appointment in 1897 he held the professorship of law at the University of Sydney for one year during the absence on leave of Professor Pitt Cobbett. In the meantime he took the degree of LL.D. at Cambridge, and in recognition of his literary work as the author of a book entitled "The New Democracy" the University of Dublin conferred upon him the degree of D.Litt. Dr. Brown was appointed in 1900 professor of constitutional law and history at University College, London, and in the same year he won the Chancellor's medal for the encouragement of the study of English law at the University of Cambridge. In 1901 he accepted the position he is now relinquishing of Professor of Law at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Professor Brown has been a frequent contributor to the leading law periodicals, and in prosecution of his enquiries in the question of legal education, has travelled widely in the United States and the Continent of Europe. Last year he was one of the examiners in law at both the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Dr. Brown is expected to arrive in Adelaide in time to take up the work of his chair in May.

Ad. 6th Jan. 1906.

PROFESSOR JETHRO BROWN APPOINTED.

The council of the University of Adelaide recently offered the professorship of law, vacant by the resignation of Professor Salmond, M.A., LL.B., to Professor Jethro Brown, M.A., LL.D., Cantab., and LL.D., D.Litt., Dublin, and professor of laws in the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. A cablegram has been received from Dr. Brown, through the Agent-General, accepting the appointment. The chair was previously offered for Dr. Brown's acceptance in 1896.

Dr. Brown is a native of South Australia, being a son of the late Mr. James Brown, of Mintaro, and as will be seen from the subjoined record his academical career has been most distinguished. He matriculated at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1887, and took first class in the law tripos, Part I, in 1889, and also in Part II in 1890. In 1889 he won an Inns of Court studentship in Roman law, jurisprudence, and international law (public and private), and in 1890 the scholarship in common law at the Middle Temple. In the same year he was placed at the head of the list in the examination for the degree of doctor of laws at the University of Dublin. In June, 1891, Dr. Brown was called to the English Bar. In 1892 St. John's College, Cambridge, awarded him a Macmahon law studentship of £150 a year for four years, and in the same year he was appointed to the chair of modern history and law in the University of Tasmania. Resigning that appointment in 1897, he held the professorship of law at the University of Sydney for one year during the absence, on leave, of Professor Pitt Cobbett. In the meantime he took the degree of LL.D. at Cambridge, and in recognition of his literary work as the author of a book entitled "The New Democracy," in which he enters a strong plea for effective voting, the University of Dublin conferred upon him the degree of D.Litt. In 1900 Dr. Brown was appointed professor of constitutional law and history at University College, London, and in the same year he won the Chancellor's medal for the encouragement of the study of English law at the University of Cambridge. In 1901 he accepted the position he is now relinquishing of professor of law at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. Professor Brown has been a frequent contributor to the leading law periodicals, and in prosecution of his enquiries in the question of legal education he has travelled widely both in the United States and the Continent of Europe. During last year he was one of the examiners in law at both the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. Dr. Brown is expected to arrive in Adelaide in time to take up the work of his chair in May.

Professor Edward Bensly's appointment to the Professorship of Latin in the University College of Wales, at Aberystwyth, will deprive your State of a scholar whose heart was in his work. It is difficult to realize that 10 years have elapsed since he was appointed to the Chair of English Literature in the Adelaide University. Professor and Mrs. Bensly made many friends in South Australia; the permanent parting from whom will cause many regrets on both sides. In a letter to the Agent-General the professor stated that he would always retain happy recollections of his sojourn in South Australia, and warmly thanked Mr. Jenkins, as the official representative of the State, for the very many kindnesses he and his wife had received as its citizens. Professor Bensly expressed some anxiety regarding the very short time left for the appointment of his successor before the beginning of the next University term in March, and it is evident that he relinquishes his old post with a strong desire for the best interests of your University.

Reg. 13th Jan. 1906.

The intention of Professor Edward von Blomberg Bensly, M.A., to resign the professorship of classics at the Adelaide University to take the post of Professor of Latin in the University College of Aberystwyth, Wales, as intimated in the personal notes from London, published in The Register on Wednesday, has not yet been officially communicated to the council of the University of Adelaide by that gentleman. At a special meeting of the council on Friday afternoon consideration was given to a letter from the professor to the Agent-General, in which he tendered his resignation. Professor Bensly stated that he was writing direct to the University, but as this letter had not come to hand, it was resolved to postpone further consideration of the matter until the communication has been received.

Reg 17th Jan 1906

THE UNIVERSITY.

"Mines":—"What is wrong with the University? The Professor of Literature was willing to give up his position to take charge of the Education Department; Professor Salmond has resigned his chair in Law; Professor Bensley has sent in his resignation as Professor of Classics; and the Conservatorium seems to be a hornet's nest. Now does not all this call for enquiry?"

Reg 20th Jan. 1906.

Mr. R. W. Chapman, M.A., of the Adelaide University, has been elected Vice-President of the Australasian Institute of Mining Engineers.

Reg 24th Jan. 1906.

COMMERCIAL EDUCATION.

The Department of Education in New South Wales has under consideration a scheme for the establishment of a commercial branch in connection with the Sydney Boys' High School, which will, if carried out along the lines indicated, represent a new and important development of technical education in Australia. Hitherto the Commonwealth has lagged far behind America and several European countries as regards this important phase of secondary education. It is true that in most of the Australian cities commercial schools and colleges have multiplied rapidly in recent years, and that in this State an effort has been made to co-ordinate the work performed by these institutions and maintain a high standard of teaching by means of examinations under the direction of the University. Advocates of commercial training who are familiar with the systems adopted in other parts of the world contend, however, that the scope of the technical knowledge obtainable under present conditions is too restricted to provide young men with an adequate equipment for the keen struggle in which they are destined to take part. It is becoming more apparent every year that commerce has been raised to the status of a learned profession, and that in the future captains of industry will have to undergo a course of training as exacting and specialized as the studies prescribed for doctors or civil engineers. In America this principle is regarded as being axiomatic, and practically all positions of great commercial or industrial responsibility are now filled by comparatively young men who had the advantage of several years' sys-

temized technical study prior to entering the warehouses or factories which they control.

Details of the scheme which is being promoted in Sydney have not yet been definitely settled, but it appears that the fundamental feature of the proposed innovation will be a practical recognition by the Education Department of the fact that in order to be efficient the course of study must be liberal and specialized, and "equal to any severe secondary classical course." The Under Secretary of the Department (Mr. Board), in replying officially to a deputation from the Sydney Chamber of Commerce, emphasized the fact that a good general education, supplemented by such mechanical arts as shorthand, typewriting, and accountancy, is not sufficient to meet the requirements of the situation. Referring to the examinations held under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce—whose certificate represents the highest order of merit obtainable in respect of commercial subjects in New South Wales—he asserted that when the most had been said in favour of these tests "they had to admit that they accomplished very little towards the purpose the department should have in view in establishing commercial schools." Although his remarks on this point were directed to the defects in local methods they are applicable in a greater or less degree to conditions which prevail in all the States. "At the most those able to pass the examinations and enter the ranks of business were nothing more than recruits for what they might call clerical unskilled labour. Those who had reached that stage of entering those ranks, and who were not able to get beyond them, were the most helpless class in the community. The department should take no steps whatever that would increase the number of that class." The phrase "clerical unskilled labour" should not be applied to the young men who pass through the advanced commercial course at the Adelaide University, but the comprehensive list of subjects included in that syllabus does not cover such a wide range as the curriculum outlined by Mr. Board. After referring to the importance of a study of the English language "as literature, and along with that all the various forms of the subject as specially applied to commerce," he advocated the inclusion of two foreign languages; hinted that it might be advisable to give students the option of studying Japanese instead of German; and added:—

Then there would be business procedure, and mathematics should be very fully treated; physical and mercantile geography, a knowledge of products, embracing raw materials, articles of commerce, and processes of manufacture; physics and chemistry, as the basis for the further study of products and processes of manufacture; elementary economics, and then along with that course, the more mechanical arts of penmanship, drawing, typewriting, and shorthand. Unfortunately those four mechanical arts were too much looked upon as being the absolute essence of a commercial education. While perhaps necessary, they were not the heart and soul of preparation for commercial work.

It remains to be seen whether this ambitious programme will be modified by Cabinet, but if the new commercial school should be established on the lines indicated it will prove a valuable object lesson to the other States, and the results of the experiment will be watched with keen interest by all who desire to see Australia equipped with the best possible system of education. There are obvious obstacles which cannot be ignored in considering the merits of the proposed scheme, although it would be premature to assume that they are insuperable. Mr. Board proposes that students should be at least 14 years of age when they enter the commercial school, and that the technical course should extend over three years. As the department proposes to charge "fair fees"—which should be "enough almost, if not quite, to meet the expense in connection with the course"—it will have to be proved whether parents will deem such a sacrifice of time and money justifiable in the present state of Australian trade and industries. In citing American experience as an example of the value of the highest type of commercial training, it must not be forgotten that a country with a population of 80,000,000