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have, indeed, shown themselves to possess grit and backbone, but circumstances will now overpower them. Throughout their struggle they say they have had many messages of sympathy from the public—will that public now come to their aid? No one can doubt the Director's capabilities to administer the Education Department's affairs, but may he not have made a mistake in this refusal? As one friend of the students, I ask all others who have their interests at heart to come forward now and show their sympathy. They have earned our sympathy and admiration. Shall they not have our help. Such a torrent of indignation should swamp the press that the Director will be forced by the strength of public opinion to alter his decision. The columns of "The Advertiser" have ever been open to those who seek to lift the burdens from the oppressed and the downtrodden, and through these the public should show their determination to stand by the students in their fight for justice.—I am, &c.,

JUSTICE.

Sir—The statement by the Director of Education to the Minister, and the students' reply, as published in the columns of "The Advertiser," do not tend to allay the fears with which all those interested in the welfare of our education system regard the prevailing discontent in the department. First, in regard to the students' request for a holiday for a picnic, apart from the fact that it has nothing to do with the present trouble, the students point out that the day has been granted for the same purpose in the past. To compare the students with teachers is ridiculous, as in their case the working of no school would be interfered with. Then the students and the Director disagree entirely as to the amount of consideration the former have received in order to give them the opportunity of doing justice to themselves in their exams. The Director charges the students with attaching too much importance to their degree subjects, and wishing to neglect the practical part of their training. The students deny the latter charge, and in support of their denial can quote the words of their supervisors. In regard to the first charge, they point out that the increase of their salaries to even the level of a living wage depends on their passing these subjects; and they realise that if they do not pass these subjects while at the Training College they have very little chance of ever passing them, as this Director prevents teachers spending their own time in attending lectures in such subjects as English literature and history. There is no doubt that the students' request was, in the eyes of the public, reasonable. That part of the Director's reply which leads the uninitiated to think that the South Australian teachers are trained by charity is bitterly resented by every section of the teaching community. It is not correct. The privileges the teachers enjoy from the University are ensured them under the conditions of a bequest to that institution by the late Sir Thomas Elder, and are no more charity than the numerous scholarships through which so many of the University students receive their education. As to the £3,000 the Director boasts of as being spent on the students, he does not mention the four-fold return the department receives for this loan. First, each student is bound on leaving the Training College to teach for the South Australian Government for four years, at a salary £50 per annum less than at which the department has recently engaged absolutely untrained teachers. On 60 students £12,000 is absolutely demanded in return for a training, which ensures a supply of trained teachers for our public schools. The Directors says this is a question for the taxpayer, but South Australian taxpayers object to the exploitation of our young men and women. The South Australian love of justice will at least demand that the students may have an opportunity of qualifying for the paltry increments granted by the department while undergoing the training for which they pay so dearly. Instead of a policy of repression being carried out, it would be better if our department gave us enthusiastic and capable servants opportunities of advancement, as were given to the best teachers in the past. Then this unrest and the wholesale exodus of our best teachers would cease.—I am, &c.,

A LOVER OF EDUCATION.

UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF COMMERCE.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the University Society of Commerce was held in the Prince of Wales Theatre at the Adelaide University on Friday evening. The president (Mr. J. R. Fowler, M.A.), presided over a good attendance. The annual report stated:—It may be well to place on record some of the incidents connected with the formation of the society. It was felt by the students that the interest in the course in commerce would be stimulated if something was done to improve its status. Its beginnings were largely in the nature of an experiment, but the response of the students soon made it manifest that the innovation was justified. The whisperings of the students that the status conferred by the possession of the 'Advanced Commercial Certificate' was not a sufficient recognition of their studies found expression at a meeting held at the University, when a deputation was appointed to wait on the chairman of the Board of Commercial Studies for the purpose of enlisting his sympathies with their aspirations for some more tangible recognition. The deputation was courteously received by the chairman, who pointed out that owing to the traditional and jealous regard for the good name of such an exalted centre of learning as the University it was highly improbable that their requests would be granted, unless the students were prepared for the extension of scope of the course and submission to further examination tests. Here for a time the matter rested. The visit of one of our members to Sydney provided an opportunity for a personal investigation of the work required of the students at the Sydney University in the course of commerce established there. Their representations were made, and the chairman of our board again approached the University authorities, with the result that the 'Diploma in Commerce' was substituted for the 'Advanced Commercial Certificate.' The students who had completed the course as then prescribed were requested to pass an additional examination in economics in order to qualify for the diploma. The next step was naturally the formation of our society. In the preparation of the rules governing the society we are all greatly indebted to our vice-president (Mr. P. E. Johnstone) for his gratuitous services. He is second only to our president in the general interest he has evinced in the society. We have also had in our patron, the vice-chancellor, a quiet but none the less enthusiastic advocate. The society should hold periodical meetings, to which our leading men of business and the students in the commercial classes might be invited. Such subjects could be dealt with as 'the economic effect of credit,' 'New protection, 'trades unions,' 'trusts,' and 'Government control of monopolies,' &c. As soon as business permit we hope to offer scholarships, and to secure the establishment of the degree of Bachelor of Commerce at the University.

The report was unanimously adopted. The President (Mr. J. R. Fowler, M.A.) said it was the desire of the board that the diploma should be recognised in Sydney and Melbourne, but they found that Sydney was aspiring to work on more ambitious lines, and the recognition could not then be arranged. He was pleased that the movement for the formation of a society had emanated from the students, and that commercial education was becoming more and more popular. This year there were over 80 students attending the lectures for a course of studies which had no superior either in Melbourne or Sydney. He hoped that in the near future a system of reciprocity would be established with the cities named. Such an arrangement would add materially to the value of the diploma in commerce. He referred particularly to the pioneers of the movement, and made special reference of the move who was chiefly instrumental in procuring the consent of the council of the University. He also referred to the work performed by Professor Braagg, and Professor Mitchell. To these three gentlemen more than any others was due the credit for the establishment of the commercial course, as well as the fact that the society was in unison with the Chamber of Commerce. He was in sympathy with the objects of the society in the advancement of commercial education, the offering of scholarships, and the establishment of a degree.

Dr. Barlow endorsed the remarks made by the president. The election of officers resulted as follows:—Patron, Dr. Barlow; president, Mr. J. R. Fowler; vice-presidents, Professor Jethro Brown, Messrs. B. D. Colvin, J. R. M. Clucas, S. J. Jacobs, P. E. Johnstone, W. Neill, A. W. Piper, and John Shiels; Professor W. Mitchell, and Sir Robert Thomas; hon. secretary, Mr. G. O. Robertson; hon. treasurer, Mr. R. M. Steele, jun.; members of the council, Messrs. H. E. Annells, C. S. Bray, W. J. Coffey, R. H. Cotton, A. R. Hogben, D. Kirkham, T. R. Kleeman, F. H. Menkins, and H. C. Thomas; auditors, Messrs. W. F. Harrison and A. E. Messent.

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The Council of the University of Adelaide has received a letter from the Secretary to the Minister of Education, intimating that the Government has nominated Professor Chapman as a representative from South Australia on the advisory committee in connection with the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology.

UNIVERSITY SOCIETY OF COMMERCE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the University Society of Commerce was held in the Prince of Wales Theatre at the University on Friday evening. There were present the Patron (Dr. W. Barlow), the President (Mr. J. R. Fowler), Vice-Presidents (Messrs. B. D. Colvin, R. J. M. Clucas, P. E. Johnstone, and W. Neill), the Secretary Mr. G. O. Robertson, Treasurer (Mr. R. M. Steele, jun.), and students.

—First Annual Report.—

After the preliminary business had been disposed of, the Secretary read the annual report, which was as follows:—"In presenting the first annual report of the University Society of Commerce, I should like first to refer to the circumstances associated with its inception. A period of active usefulness lies before us. The foundation has been well and truly laid, and the superstructure which is to be raised thereon must be the work of the members. It may be interesting, however, to place on record incidents connected with the formation of the society and the work of those who have been instrumental in bringing it into existence. It was felt by the students that the interest in the course in commerce would be stimulated and its influence and effects made more lasting if something were done to improve its status. Its beginnings were largely in the nature of experiments, but the response of the students to the facilities provided by the University authorities, their earnestness, the regularity of their attendance at the lectures, soon made it manifest that the experiment was in every way justified. There is about a seat of learning such as the University of Adelaide something in the very atmosphere which stimulates endeavour, and raises ideals, and the whisperings of the students that the status conferred by the possession of the 'advanced commercial certificate' was not a sufficient reward for or recognition of the arduousness of their studies, eventually found expression at a meeting held in the University. At that meeting a deputation was appointed to wait on the Chairman of the Board of Commercial Studies for the purpose of endeavouring to enlist his sympathies with their aspirations for some more tangible recognition. The deputation was most courteously received by the Chairman, who listened patiently and sympathetically to the representations and requests submitted, and promised to give them every consideration. He was careful, however, to point out that bearing in mind the traditional and jealous regard for the good name for such an exalted centre of learning as the University, it was highly improbable that their requests would be granted unless the students were prepared for the scope of the course being somewhat extended, and submission to further examination tests, and there for a time the matter rested. The visit of one of our members to Sydney, however, provided an opportunity for a personal investigation of the work required of the students at the Sydney University in the course in commerce established there. As a result of these investigations fresh representations were made to the Chairman of our board, who, having satisfied himself by personal investigation, again undertook to approach our University authorities, with the result that the 'Diploma in Commerce' was substituted for the 'Advanced Commercial Certificate.' The students who had completed the course as then prescribed were requested to pass an additional examination in economics, in order to qualify for the diploma. I am sure we all recognise the debt of gratitude we owe our Chairman for the powerful aid he rendered us in the attainment of our desires. With the establishment of the diploma, the next step was naturally the formation of our society, in which also our Chairman and President has given us his sympathy, advice, and support. The preparation of the rules governing the society has involved a lot of thought, and the exercise of much care, and we are greatly indebted to our Vice-President (Mr. P. E. Johnstone) for his great kindness in gratuitously giving his services in settling these rules in proper form. Indeed, he is second only to our President in the many good offices he has rendered, and the general interest he has always evinced in the society. I believe I am correct in saying that we have also had in our Patron the Vice-Chancellor a quiet but none the less enthusiastic advocate. Such, briefly, is the record of the circumstances associated with the birth of the University Society of Commerce. For the future, I am full of hope. I look to the society to provide a programme of active