II - SCHOOL OF MINES AND INDUSTRIES

A VALUABLE INSTITUTION.

[By our Special Reporter.]

An honourable place of great usefulness among the educational institutions of South Australia is filled by the School of Mines and Industries, which, when founded in 1910, was attested by the twenty-first year of its existence. Technical instruction of the rising generation is held to be essential not only to the prosperity, but to the very existence of the producing and manufacturing interests of a community, and the School of Mines and Industries came into being at a time when South Australia, if the prospects of such opportunities were neglected, threatened to lose all balance in the development of technical crafts and activities generally. One evidence that this was the case ever since the great 1910 Charter of Manufacturers Exhibition was held adjacent to the school, through whose classes thousands of students have passed in the successive years, and are now putting into good use in their daily avocation much of the practical knowledge and technical skill acquired at the institution. If it were not for the bestowing praise wherever grace was due, the School of Mines and Industries would surely be entitled to no mean share of credit for the part it has taken in the training of South Australian professional men, craftsmen, and artisans.

Origin of the School.

At theheight of strong public opinion, the Downer Government in 1880 appointed a board to inquire into and report upon the state of technical education. This board consisted of Dr. Cockburn, M.P. (then Minister of Education), Professor Lasenby, Messrs. Binns, Maxwell, Hinchliffe, and J. M. B. Greville, Messrs. Poyntz and Messers, A. Adamson and J. W. Bell. The report of the board recommended the establishment of a School of Mines having been made a part of the University policy consideration of how this object could best be carried out.

The President (Sir Louis Bowden).

The school, which in June, 1910, recommended that a School of Mines and Industries should be established. At first, it seemed as if such an institution obtained by means of the schools of technical education in the last twenty years would have to be brought about or be able to make use of the work of the technical colleges. Dr. Cockburn was appointed President, but the need for the school was due much of the movement pro momentum.

A Policy of Alliance.

In the first report of the school, it was stated that the policy adopted had been one of alliance with whatever public technical education facilities afforded by existing institutions for the purpose of establishing such a school. This was obviously meant to be used, not as a means of duplication of work, but as a means of obtaining an advantage. The school was to be associated with the University, and in association with the University, the school would be conducted. The Government had agreed to the establishment of the school, and the government came to the Exhibition, (at that time then, next to the present one, and the opening of the school was the Government grant for education and the election of the President, and the council appointed. Sir Louis Bowden was appointed President, and the school was opened in the position, which he has ever since held.

From Low to Student Increased.

In 1910, there were 24 students. By 1915, the number of students was 91, but by the end of 1920, it continued to grow, notwithstanding a "difficult" session, and the school was able to report a 100 per cent. attendance, particularly in the last session of the Exhibition, in which the Government grant was increased. It is estimated that the Government grant during 1950 was £3,000, and the school had grown to 200 students by that time.

A Noble Building.

In 1922, the new building was opened. The site was purchased for £2,000, and the building was erected within the year. The building was designed by the late Sir Louis Bowden, and was named the Bowden Building, in honour of the former President, who died in 1922. The building was erected to accommodate the increasing student numbers, and was used for educational purposes, including teaching and research.

The school has been able to expand and grow, and has maintained its reputation for excellence in mining and engineering education. It is now one of the most respected institutions of its kind in the world, and has contributed significantly to the development of South Australian and Australian mining and engineering industries.

- More Laboratories.

Although the new building has provided a substantial addition to the accommodation available, it was still necessary for the teaching of metalurgy, and the laboratory was named the Bowden Laboratory. The School's new building was opened in 1924, and is now used for teaching and research purposes.

The establishment of woodworking classes in 1897 was an important step in the development of the system of practical training for students. These classes were available at various workshops, and were supervised by knowledgeable instructors.

The establishment of the School of Mines and Industries in 1910 was a significant milestone in the development of technical education in South Australia. The school has been able to expand and grow, and has maintained its reputation for excellence in mining and engineering education. It is now one of the most respected institutions of its kind in the world, and has contributed significantly to the development of South Australian and Australian mining and engineering industries.

- To the late Sir Louis Bowden.

The late Sir Louis Bowden was a great benefactor of the School of Mines and Industries, and his contributions will be remembered for many years to come.