Queensland Jubilee Celebration

Inauguration of the University.

Sixty Open Scholarships.

Speeches by the Governor,

The Hon. W. Kidston, Hon. J. T. Bell.

Professors David and Stirling.

Queensland yesterday entered upon the second half-century of her history as a separate State of the Empire, and happy thought on the part of her people, expressed by her Parliament, the occasion was commemorated in a most historic manner by the dedication of a University. Though that University is in Brisbane, though it is distant from many of the State's most important commercial centres, it cannot be regarded as local. It is a part of the nation's history, an historic heritage in its future greatness, and its influence will be exercised on generations yet unborn. In a few years, the influence of Queensland's University will be felt not only in the House of Parliament and in professional life, but in the home of the settler and in the council chamber of distant municipalities. In the times of ancient Greece, the man who achieved the proud title, who gained the highest position, while living, and those who are numbered with the dead, will be the proud claim to the last name of a founder. It is said of the Persian Greek, to make a name, how much greater and wider it should be to be found that it gave to the society its unity, its character, and its permanence, especially in a State that is proud of her past, conscious of her future, and doing her full share to add to the prosperity and happiness of the Australian people. For that reason, by one of those ironies, at all events, the eighteenth Parliament of Queensland has won a proud distinction, and winers of the Government's scholarship, which has been established, will recall their foundation as an example of the virtues of the University. The Jubilee ceremony took place in the vestibule of a building that has been the home of most of Queensland's Governors, in the presence of some of Queensland's most distinguished citizens, in surroundings that have won admiration from visitors to this city, and the actual dedication of the building was performed by his Excellency Sir William MacGregor, a scholar, a statesman, and one of the Empire's most distinguished servants. No conditions could have been more happy; no setting more appropriate.

For days past the Chief Secretary's Department and Education Department have been preparing for the ceremony, and it became the general topic of conversation, repeated so often that it seemed to be becoming a matter of faith. The weather, too, was delightful. For those glorious midsummer days which have made outdoor life in Queensland so enjoyable, in such circumstances it was natural that thousands would attend the function. From 3 o'clock in the afternoon they walked or drove along George Street, entered the flower-bedded avenue of the Government House grounds, and crowded in the courtyard and gardens. About 500 girls, wearing maroon sashes over their white dresses, and 250 boys of the metropolitan schools, drawn from the fifth and sixth classes, and about 200 artists were assembled in Albert Street, about 3 o'clock, and marched along the street to the positions allotted to them in the roofed-off area in front of the west side of the building. By this time most of the seating accommodation within the reserved area had been filled, and several thousand of persons stood without the boundaries, and endeavoured to see something of the proceedings. Into the area was the Governor, wearing his Win/our uniform, and over it the beautiful mantle of a Knight Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Chief Justice, in court uniform, Ministers of the Crown, judges of the courts, military officers, wearing their uniforms and decorations, University professors and graduates in gowns and hoods, and members of both Houses of Parliament.

At 3.30 p.m., his Excellency, Sir William MacGregor, accompanied by Lady MacGregor, arrived on the scene, and the school children, under the direction of Mr. Sampson, sang the National Anthem. For the wine-reception and Ministerial party the Works Department had prepared in front of the main house, and partly under it, a dance, decorated with maroon, and covered with a harmoniously coloured mixture of the same color and white, arranged alternately. On the table in the centre was a small electric battery, the switch of which was in the hands of the new Governor, to play an important part in the ceremonial of the historic occasion. Near by was the University Hall, seating forty Sir William MacGregor's statue, to make it the law of the University and the pedestal of a statue, and an elaborate silver inkstand, and the idea and design of which, later, that part of the ceremony was performed by the Hon. W. H. Burt, Chairman of the Public Instruction Committee, at whose introduction the Laws of the House of Parliament, the bill was passed. Later, the Hon. A. H. Burt, formerly Minister for Public Instruction, took his seat, and the preparation and governing of its provisions were in the hands of the Government, and took his seat. Gradually the platform was filled, Miss Martha Burt before the Hon. W. H. Burt.