

1909

Register, June 6th

WESTERN UNIVERSITY.

COMMISSION AT WORK.

PERTH, June 7.

Professor Darnley Naylor, of Adelaide, giving evidence before the royal commission appointed to enquire into the question of the establishment of a university in Western Australia, said that with four chairs—history on the arts side, English and dead languages, philosophy and science, and physics and chemistry—they would cover most of the ground that a university in its initial stages could hope to cover. It would cost £3,200 per annum to start with four professors. He did not agree with the decision of the Queensland authorities that a scientific mining department should be established before the arts department.

Register, June 10th

EDUCATION IN THE WEST.

In the course of a chat concerning his recent visit to Western Australia Professor Darnley Naylor remarked:—"I visited both State schools and secondary schools. Speaking of the former, from what I have seen I believe that if anything they are ahead of both South Australia and Victoria. They seem to have successfully met the difficulty of religious teaching, and I have been impressed all through with the earnestness of purpose and high moral tone of the teachers in those schools. I hope that at an early date the Government will be able to provide a continuation of the educational facilities between the ages of 14 and 18, the period which is really the most valuable in a boy or girl's life from the educationist's point of view. At the same time I want to draw attention to the danger of isolating the State-educated boy or girl by keeping him or her entirely in the surroundings of the State school system. By that I mean this—I have noticed in South Australia that by the institution of continuation schools the boy does not necessarily associate with those who are to become the lawyers, doctors, and ministers of the future, and if he is ultimately trained to be a State school teacher he may find that he has never come in personal contact with any except those who belong to his own particular profession, and that only one branch of it. I am, therefore, not quite sure whether the system of providing scholarships under which boys over 14 may be sent to duly accredited secondary schools, not directly run by the State, but, of course, under the same supervision, is not better. When they get a university in Perth, I trust that all who are to be State school teachers will be compelled to go through a university course, and thus mix freely with the various other professions. Thus when the teacher is transferred to some up-country town he will find himself on equal terms with the doctor, lawyer, banker, and minister of the township, and not only that—he will find also his university friends in these men."

Register, June 11th

UNIVERSITY FOR THE WEST.

INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR NAYLOR.

Professor Darnley Naylor, during his recent visit to Western Australia, was invited to meet the royal commission appointed to discuss the question of a Western Australian University. When seen by a representative of The Register on Thursday he said:—"In giving evidence before that commission I expressed my pleasure at the prospect of the establishment of a university in the sister State. I warned them to avoid the almost fatal error committed in Adelaide of cramping the university in the meagre space of five acres. They informed me that the Government had presented them with several hundred acres, including some of the best situations in Perth. This will provide an admirable site, and in the future a rich source of endowment. I strongly urged the policy of commencing small, but good. The members of the commission seemed to realize the danger of being satisfied with already existing institutions and imagining that they had got a university by altering the name. I pointed out that the real aim of a university was to turn out the ideal citizen, and that the cheapest means of doing this in the beginning was to establish the arts side forthwith. The majority seemed to agree with me that the policy adopted by Queensland of commencing with the science faculty was inadvisable, on account of the heavy expenditure demanded at the outset. I emphasized the great importance of an historical chair (ancient and modern) in a new country like ours. I strongly urged provision for the establishment of residential colleges. Mere attendance at lectures seems to me a comparatively small advantage. Far more important is it to bring young students into close personal contact. The man of action must meet the man of thought, the scientist the literary aspirant, the crude materialist the raw theologian; they should discuss everything under heaven and earth until the small hours. If this be done at an age when the brain is plastic, when no prejudices have crystallized, the results are magnificent. Men learn toleration without latitudinarianism. They become gentlemen in the only sense which has any value. Furthermore, they grasp the meaning of civic obligation. Every success and every failure have relation not merely to themselves, but to the institution of which they form a part. They also learn the great lesson of patriotism within patriotism. Their own success means the success of their college. This means the success of their university, and this again the success of true enlightenment in that part of the Empire

GREEKS AND A CLASSIC LECTURER.

While in Western Australia recently Professor Darnley Naylor was the guest of honour at a supper given by the Greek community of Perth. There were a large number of business men of Greek nationality present, and the chair was occupied by the Greek Consul. Speeches delivered in both English and Greek showed that the race has lost none of its power of eloquence. An exceedingly interesting address was presented to Professor Naylor. It stated:—"From the Greek community of Perth to Professor Naylor. Sir—The Greek community of Perth, on the occasion of your visit to this State for the purpose of lecturing on Ancient Greece, desire to express to you their heartfelt thanks for and high appreciation of the informative nature of your discourses, which have awakened renewed interest in all that pertains to their country and their ancestors. Therefore they deem it a great honour to consider you as their friend—since the man who melts with social sympathy, though not allied in blood, is more valuable as a friend than ten thousand kinsmen.—Euripides. Perth, Western Australia, June 2, 1909. On behalf of the Greek community of Perth (signed) J. Doscas, J. Michelides, V. H. Lucas."

to which they belong, and ultimately means the success of humanitarianism throughout the world. Mere attendance at lectures will never give this. I believe that colleges run on cheap lines, like those of Ormond, Trinity, and Queen's, in Melbourne, are most important factors in real university education. Dr. Hackett, the proprietor of The West Australian, has already offered to endow a chair of agriculture, but there appeared to be a general feeling that something more than a university of mere utilitarian characteristics was necessary."

Register, June 12th

"EDUCATION IN THE WEST."

From A. Gray, Orroroo:—"With reference to a paragraph, 'Education in the West,' in The Register of June 10, there are many doubters who would be pleased to know whether the concluding sentence of Professor Darnley Naylor's remarks is intended to refer to the teachers of South Australia or of Western Australia, or to both. In any case, the learned speaker's enthusiasm over the prospective Western Australian University, need not have allowed him to be unfair to the teachers in either State, or to have assumed that (say) ministers and bankers are 'university men' any more than the teachers. Doctors, in nearly every case, are 'university men' from sheer necessity. So are the younger generation of lawyers also, but not the elder ones. South Australia has, at any rate, already a fair number of graduates and undergraduates in the service of the Education Department. Can the 'banker' or 'minister' classes say as much for themselves either here or in 'advanced' Western Australia?"

Register, June 12th

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

REDUCTIONS IN LECTURE FEES.

SYDNEY, June 11.

The Sydney University authorities have made an all-round reduction in the lecture fees. Every faculty except that of law will be affected, and the difference in the cost of the medical course will be considerable. The reductions in the aggregate will be about £3,000 a year. Students passing through the regular course will in future pay the regular fee per term. Fees for chemistry lectures have been reduced to £3 3/4 a year, and those for the introductory course to practical chemistry £6 6/8. Fees for the arts course have been reduced by about £7 10/8, and those in the faculty of medicine by about £8 16/8. There are also reductions in the faculty of science department, dentistry, and in the civil engineering and mechanical electrical engineering.

Register, June 16th

FREE UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.

PROPOSAL IN VICTORIA.

MELBOURNE, June 15.

A proposal to make University education free was again on the notice paper at the June session of the University Senate, held to-day. After considerable discussion attention was drawn to the fact that there was not a quorum present, therefore the business ceased for the sitting. It is understood that the motion will appear on the business paper at the next session of the Senate.