EDUCATION COMMISSION.

£24,000 MORE FOR THE UNIVERSITY.

FIRST PROGRESS REPORT.

The first progress report of the Royal Commission on Higher Education is as follows:

1. The work assigned to us was begun last year by a Select Committee of the House of Assembly, consisting of the same members as this Commission. That Committee reported to the council of the Adelaide University for a subsidy of £17,825, that being half the cost of buildings erected by the University between 1893 and 1905, and for a grant of £5,000 to assist the University in making building improvements and additions that were urgently required. The commission reported that this would enable the University to provide at the estimated half-cost of proposed additions to the amount of £2,000 instead of £5,000, with the promise of the future adjustment of the University's requests for £17,825 as a subsidy on sums expended in buildings above, and for £5,000, the full payment of £12,000 instead of £5,000, as requested, to be taken into account in such addition.

2. That recommendation was given effect to by the Government, and the immediate needs of the University having been met, the Commission proceeded to deal with the question of the best means of extending the facilities afforded by the State for higher education. After taking evidence from some of the many witnesses to be examined in Adelaide, we proceeded to Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne, where numerous authorities on education matters, including members of the governing bodies of the Universities, the University professors, and the principal officers of the Government Education Departments gave the Commission the benefit of their experience and advice. Altogether 40 meetings of the Commission have been held and 30 witnesses examined.

3. The visits to the Universities of the other States afforded the Commission many valuable object lessons, and a comparison of the Adelaide University with those of Sydney and Melbourne convinced us that the Adelaide University Institution is fairly equipped financially, and that its work at present is satisfactory, and its future endangered by lack of sufficient buildings only. As it is in order that immediate action may be taken to afford the University a subsistence if so urgently required that this progress report is presented.

Parliamentary Representation on the University.

4. When the representatives of the University were before the Select Committee the question was raised whether, in view of the suggested increased financial assistance, the Parliament should not have some voice in the administration of the University and, in response to an inquiry the University expressed themselves in favour of a joint University and Legislative Council to be chosen by the University and the House of Assembly, and to hold office during the life of that Parliament.

Recommendations.

5. We therefore recommend—(1) That section 15 of the Adelaide University Act, No. 20 of 1874, relating to the annual grant, be amended to provide for an addition of £4,000 to the annual grant of the University. (2) That the Adelaide University Act, No. 20 of 1874, be amended to provide for the addition of five Parliamentary representatives to the University, three representatives to be chosen by the House of Assembly and two by the Legislative Council, and for the better conduct of all Parliaments, and to hold office during the life of that Parliament.

6. The recommendation with respect to increasing the grant to the University is made without prejudice to the request for a subsidy of £17,825 on buildings erected by the University between 1893 and 1905. That request and the claims of the University for additional building accommodation (in connection with which a suggestion to use the western portion of the Exhibition Building for University purposes) is being considered, as well as the financial position of the University and the desire of the students to have the advantage of a University education, will be the subjects of future reports.

The Commission.

The report is signed by Messrs. Thomas Snowball, A. W. Lamprey, F. W. Cowebery, Thompson Green, A. H. Pake, and Fred W. Young.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION.


The first report of the Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon higher education and the University of Adelaide was read and referred to the Assembly on Tuesday. It stated:

1. The work assigned to us was begun last year by a Select Committee of the University Assembly, consisting of the same members as this Commission. Before it a request by the Council of the Adelaide University for a subsidy of £17,825, that being half the cost of buildings erected by the University between the years 1893 and 1905, and of £5,000 to assist the University in making building improvements and additions that we urgently required that the Committee recommended—that the Government immediately guarantee the cost of the proposed additions to the amount of £17,825 instead of £5,000, as requested, without prejudice to pay for the addition of five University's requests for £17,825 as a subsidy on sums expended in buildings above, and for £5,000, the full payment of £12,000 instead of £5,000, as requested, to be taken into account in such addition.

2. That recommendation was given effect to by the Government, and the immediate needs of the University having been met, the Commission proceeded to deal with the question of the best means of extending the facilities afforded by the State for higher education. After taking evidence from some of the many witnesses to be examined in Adelaide, we proceeded to Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne, where numerous authorities on education matters, including members of the governing bodies of the Universities, the University professors, and the principal officers of the Government Education Departments gave the Commission the benefit of their experience and advice. Altogether 40 meetings of the Commission have been held and 30 witnesses examined.

3. The visits to the Universities of the other States afforded the Commission many valuable object lessons, and a comparison of the Adelaide University with those of Sydney and Melbourne convinced us that the Adelaide University Institution is fairly equipped financially, and that its work at present is satisfactory, and its future endangered by lack of sufficient buildings only. As it is in order that immediate action may be taken to afford the University a subsistence if so urgently required that this progress report is presented.

Parliamentary Representation on the University.

4. When the representatives of the University were before the Select Committee the question was raised whether, in view of the suggested increased financial assistance, the Parliament should not have some voice in the administration of the University and, in response to an inquiry the University expressed themselves in favour of a joint University and Legislative Council to be chosen by the University and the House of Assembly, and to hold office during the life of that Parliament.

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