

ADVANCING EDUCATION.

Teachers' Salaries Increased.

Scholarships and Evening Classes.

A batch of regulations were approved by Executive Council on Thursday morning, in reference to the Education Department. Although substantial advance has been made since the system was reorganized under the Director (Mr. A. Williams), the opportunities ahead will keep the authorities busy for many years yet. Both for his personal qualifications and for his official zeal and ability Mr. Williams has won considerable esteem, and all wish for him a return of good health.

—Provisional Teachers.—

The most important regulations passed are those referring to appointments for provisional teachers. Hitherto a provisional school has been one in which the average attendance has been from 12 to 20. Schools with a smaller average than this have been termed "assisted schools," and the payment made to the teachers has been on the scale of £7 per child in average attendance. It has long been recognised that a teacher in such a school is often placed in an invidious position. The attendance falls, perhaps, on account of sickness, bad weather, or from parents keeping the children at home to assist them, and the teacher's salary at once declines. Efforts have been made to meet the difficulty. In 1908 the amount paid for each child was raised from £5 to £6, and again in 1910 to £7, but still the teacher of the assisted school remained in an unsatisfactory position, and the Government consider that this is one reason why there are not more applicants for entrance to this branch of the service. They have felt, too, that the girl who teaches seven children in an out-of-the-way country district is under just as great expense for travelling, clothing, and maintenance as she who teaches, say, 13, and under the new regulations provision has been made for paying a fixed salary in any school where there is an average attendance of six children. For women the commencing salary will be £80, and for men £100. When their schools have been inspected and their work pronounced to be satisfactory, women will advance to £100, and men to £120. At the utmost they should not be lower than 12 months on the lower scales. It is hoped that under the new conditions the department will be able to get a greater number of young women to devote themselves to teaching country schools, and that the wants of settlers in outlying districts will be more amply met.

—Men Assistants.—

A new scale of salaries has been passed for male assistant teachers. The old scale began at £108 per annum; the new starts at £120, and reaches £160 in five years, where the old provided only for £150. Under the displaced scale a young man earned £648 in five years. Under the new he starts at a higher salary, and earns £700 in the same time.

—Women Assistants.—

In the allotment of the special vote of £15,000 for additions to teachers' salaries which were made from July 1, 1910, there was a certain number of women assistants who received only £2 addition to their salaries, taking them from £124 to £126. This arrangement was made because the £15,000 was allotted to those teachers whom it was considered had been underpaid in the past, and who most needed consideration. Under the new regulations provision is made to carry the salary to these teachers to £132 per annum.

—Scholarships.—

The Government has given consideration to the question of scholarships, and has revised the conditions which deal with senior exhibitions. Now the Minister of Education (Hon. F. W. Conybeer) is debating whether he will raise the value of the Government bursaries under the old regulation. The 10 senior exhibitions provided free tuition at the Adelaide High School, and maintenance to the value of £22 per annum for two years. Experience has shown that this amount is, in many cases, insufficient, and the regulations passed in Executive Council on Thursday provide that, where a scholarship winner is obliged to live away from home, to attend the Adelaide High School a maintenance allowance of £49 per annum shall be provided. The number of these exhibitions has been increased from 10 to 12—five worth £10 a year are open to competition

among country boys in attendance at the Adelaide High School, three of similar value are reserved for competition among boys and girls attending country District High Schools, while four of the value of £20 per annum, also tenable for two years, are open for competition annually among boys and girls attending the Adelaide High School and Suburban District High School.

—Evening Classes.—

The Minister has under consideration a number of regulations providing for the establishment of evening continuation classes, which he hopes to get through next week so that these may be established without delay in country towns all over the State.

Advertiser, June 9/11.

BRISBANE UNIVERSITY.

SHORT OF LAND.

Professor H. Darnley Naylor returned on Thursday from Brisbane, where he attended the opening ceremony of the Queensland University. There were 2,000 people present. He represented Adelaide, the master of Ormond College represented Melbourne, Professor Wilson Sydney, and Dr. Tetley Grant Tasmania. Western Australia was also represented. The Chancellor of the University is the Governor of Queensland, that being the only instance in Australia of a Governor being Chancellor. His Excellency, however, is a very learned scholar, being a doctor of medicine and especially interested in archeology. In his speech he traced the origin of Universities from the fourteenth century.

"The ceremony," continued the professor, "was a lengthy one, and the representatives of other Universities were only able to offer formal congratulations. I simply was able to express the congratulations of the Adelaide University, and regret the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) was prevented from attending the ceremony by the pressure of his duties as Chief Justice. Queensland University has retained under its charter the power to give honorary degrees—a power enjoyed by no other Australian Universities. The prerogative was exercised in giving the degree of doctor of laws to ex-Premier Kidston for the interest he had taken in the formation of the University. We were treated most kindly and courteously in Queensland. The Governor invited us to a river picnic and to the King's birthday luncheon at Government House.

"Queensland University has not sufficient land. On portion of the block allotted to it a technical college is to be built under separate control, but with common teaching in certain subjects. The difficulties that have arisen in Adelaide will probably occur in Queensland also. There is, however, some hope that the Government may decide to give the University a much larger site within the town. But this hope is only uttered by friends of the University, and it is doubtful whether it will have the approval of the Government. The Government previously gave £10,000 a year for the staff, and have increased the grant to £12,500. There are 4 professors, 9 lecturers giving full time—2 from Adelaide, Messrs. Mayo and Baxter—and one evening lecturer. Each professor has at least one full-time assistant lecturer in his subject. I was invited to give a course of extension lectures in Sydney, but time would not permit me to do so."

QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY.

Professor Darnley Naylor, who represented the University of Adelaide at the opening of the University of Queensland, returned from Brisbane by train on Thursday. The ceremony he remarked, was attended by 2,000 persons. The University of Melbourne was represented by the master of Ormond College, Sydney by Professor Wilson, and Tasmania by Dr. Tetley Grant. There was also a representative of education in Western Australia. The ceremony was long, and all that was possible after the inaugural addresses was for them to offer formal congratulations. Professor Naylor expressed the regret of the Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Sir Samuel Way) that his duties as Chief Justice prevented him from being present. The Chancellor of the Queensland University is Sir William MacGregor, and it is the only instance in Australia of a Governor being a Chancellor. "He is," remarked Professor Naylor, "an exceedingly learned scholar, and is a Doctor of Medicine. He is specially interested in archeology. In his speech he traced the origin of universities from the fourteenth century. The Queensland University has retained under its charter the power to grant honorary degrees, a right enjoyed by no other Australian university. It was exercised by giving the degree of Doctor of Laws to the ex-Premier (Mr. Kidston) in recognition of the interest he had taken in the establishment of the university. The Government originally provided an annual grant of £10,000 a year, which has been increased to £12,500. There are four professors, nine full-time lecturers, and one evening lecturer. Two of the lecturers—Messrs. Mayo and Baxter—are Adelaide men. Each professor has at least one full-time assistant lecturer in his subject. They have not sufficient land, and on a portion of that allotted a technical college is to be built, under separate control, but with common teaching in certain subjects. Thus difficulties that have arisen in Adelaide will probably arise in Queensland also. There is, however, hope that the Government may decide to give the university a much larger site within the town. This hope is uttered only by friends of the university, and it is doubtful whether it will have the approval of the Government. We were treated most kindly and courteously. The Governor of Queensland invited us to a river picnic, and also on the King's Birthday to a luncheon at Government House. I was invited in Sydney to give a course of extension lectures there, but time would not permit me to do so."

Advertiser June 9/11

GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

The Government have been giving consideration to the question of scholarships, and have revised the conditions governing the senior exhibitions. They are considering the question of raising the value of the Government bursaries. Under the old regulation the ten senior exhibitions provided free tuition at the Adelaide High School, and maintenance to the value of £22 per annum for two years. Experience has shown that this maintenance is in many cases insufficient, and the Executive Council on Thursday passed regulations providing that where a scholarship winner is obliged to live away from home to attend the Adelaide High School, a maintenance allowance of £49 per annum shall be given. The number of these exhibitions has been increased from ten to twelve. Five of the value of £40 per annum are open to competition among country boys in attendance at the Adelaide High School, three of the same value are reserved for competition among boys and girls attending country district high schools, and four of the value of £20 per annum, also tenable for two years, are open for competition annually among boys and girls attending the Adelaide High School and suburban district high school. The Minister of Education (Hon. F. W. Conybeer) has under consideration a number of regulations providing for the establishment of evening continuation classes, which he hopes to get through next week, so that such classes may be established without delay in country towns all over the State.