

The Register  
24.11.13

### JOHN CRESWELL SCHOLARSHIP.

At a meeting of the members of the senate of the University of Adelaide on Wednesday several formal resolutions submitted by members and endorsed by the council were approved. Among them were the scholarships which are to be established in memory of the late Mr. John Creswell. The sum of £1,300 has been subscribed for the purpose, and four scholarships have been determined upon. One is to be given by the South Australian Cricket Association, one by the Royal Agricultural Society, and two by the council of the university.

### SENIOR PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

At a meeting of the senate of the University of Adelaide on Wednesday an amendment in the regulations was sought so as to make it clear that the senior public examination should be restricted to undergraduates or candidates who intended to enter forthwith upon a course for a degree. The alteration provided that the examination in question should be held annually in November or December, and that a special examination should be held annually in March, at which only those candidates should be allowed to present themselves who (1) desired to comply with the requirements for matriculation in a faculty in which they intended to proceed forthwith and in which they intended to graduate; or (2) intended to enter forthwith upon the course of study prescribed for a final certificate in law; or were undergraduates desiring to take subjects necessary to complete the requirements for matriculation or for a course for a degree. Opposition was shown to the proposed new regulation, emphasis being urged against the wording of the last clause. It was pointed out that a student who had matriculated was already an undergraduate, and therefore he need not present himself to "complete requirements." The amendments were put to the vote, and were rejected. Therefore present regulations hold good.

The Daily Herald  
24.11.13

## THE EDUCATION COMMISSION

### MR. CONEYBEER'S FORCEFUL SPEECH

#### IN SUPPORT OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

There does not seem much possibility of the Education Commission's report being adopted this session. The Government has not given hon. members a fair chance to deal with the matter, for, though Mr. Coneybeer started his speech in support of his motion for adoption some weeks ago, he was subjected to frequent adjournments, and it was only yesterday that he was enabled to conclude his remarks.

Resuming his speech yesterday, Mr. Coneybeer said that a class of children whose education was considered by the commission were the inmates of reformatories. Their attention was first directed to the Magill Reformatory, and then to the private institutions which take charge of reformatory boys, and to the other institutions under the control of the State Children's Council. So far as the Magill Reformatory was concerned, he ventured to say that the revelations made by the commission came as an unpleasant surprise to the public, to the Government, and to the State Children's Council, which was directly responsible for the good management of the institution. The commission found that at Mount Barker and Brooklyn Park, where homes for some of the reformatory boys were excellently conducted by the Salvation Army and Roman Catholic authorities, at much less cost per head than at the Magill Reformatory, an attempt was made to educate the boys; but at the Magill institution practically no

### THE MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

"Another unfortunate class of children into the question of whose education the commission enquired," said Mr. Coneybeer, "was those who are mentally defective. In visiting the schools we noticed that some of the children seemed mentally dull or silly, and we learned that this State of things was not confined to the schools that we visited. The commission felt strongly that in the interests of the teachers and the other children other provision should be made for the education of mental defectives.

### EXPENSIVE SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

"The cost of school buildings was a subject to which very great consideration was given in all the States because it was in this direction that the commission hoped to effect economies, and the recommendations of the commission with regard to school buildings were framed with that object in view. The general opinion of the commission was that too much expense was incurred as a rule in erecting new buildings, and that a great part of the expenditure in remodelling old buildings ought to have been avoided. The commission came to this conclusion after inspecting schools in South Australia, Queensland, Victoria, and New South Wales, and in its recommendation it suggests that experiments be made in the erection of a cheaper class of building."

### SECONDARY EDUCATION.

"I come now," said the speaker, "to the question of secondary education, with respect to which we have reason to be proud of what has already been accomplished. This was the first State to establish free high schools, and at present we have the Adelaide High School and 22 district high schools with a maximum attendance of about 3000 boys and girls. The growth of the Adelaide High School, which has now nearly 700 students, has been wonderful, and it has a very creditable record so far as the University examinations are concerned. The members of the commission were very pleased with the expansion of the high-school movement, and they have made recommendations with the object of putting the State system of secondary education on a more satisfactory basis. It is proposed to place this branch of the Education Department under the direct control of the superintendent of secondary education, who would be responsible to the director."

### TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Referring to the question of technical education he said it was important not only to the individual, but in a most direct and practical way to the nation. A country became great only by the expansion of its trade and commerce, which were dependent on its natural resources and its manufactures, and the extent to which those are developed was governed largely by the technical education of the people. The hope of Australia lay in securing the best possible system of technical training. The members of the commission realised that too many youths were growing up without technical training of any kind, and that if they were asked to state their occupations they could only describe themselves as unskilled laborers. The commission's remedy for this condition of affairs was greater opportunities for technical training and more direct Government control. The report of the commission shows that technical education at present, so far as the Government is concerned, is provided only at the Adelaide School of Mines and five small country schools of mines, to which a total sum of £9,838 is voted annually.

The commission was confirmed in its conclusions respecting technical education by the receipt shortly before it concluded its labors of a paper on "Technical Education in Australia" by Mr. C. A. Sussmilch, which was read before the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science. The commission decided that there must be a uniform system of technical training for all Schools of Mines in the State, and that all of them, including the Adelaide School of Mines, must be under direct Government control. In this decision it was supported by Mr. Sussmilch.

### COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE OF APPRENTICES.

"The recommendations for the compulsory attendance of apprentices at technical colleges, may appear somewhat drastic," said Mr. Coneybeer, "but if we are to have properly trained mechanics and artisans, they must be given effect to. It is well known that the system of apprenticeship has broken down under the changed industrial conditions, and that very few apprentices are now taught a complete trade. The only remedy is to make the attendance of apprentices compulsory at technical colleges in their employers' time, as well as in their own, and at their employers' expense so far as the fees are concerned.

### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

"Another branch of technical education to which little attention is paid in South Australia is that relating to agriculture. The teaching of a few boys at the Roseworthy Agricultural College is practically all that is being done, and yet South Australia is more dependent on the development of her agricultural resources than any other State in the Commonwealth. The wonder is that we have done so well in agriculture. The credit is probably due to the excellent officers we have had in the Agricultural Department, to the agricultural bureaus, and to the enterprise and intelligence of our farmers." The commission suggested that the Magill Reformatory and the land connected therewith might be used for the establishment of an agricultural high school, but owing to the magnificent gift by Mr. Peter Waite of land for the purpose at "Urrbrae," this course need not be followed, at any rate for the present. "The evidence we took in the other States," continued Mr. Coneybeer, "confirmed us in the opinion that it is most desirable to have such a school near the city, with the object of attracting city boys to a country life." The commission also suggests that another agricultural high school should be established at Swanport, near Murray Bridge, where there would be an opportunity of instructing boys in methods of irrigation, which it is likely will play an important part in the development of the State.

### THE UNIVERSITY.

So far as University education was concerned the members of the commission confined its attention to ascertaining in what manner the Adelaide University might be helped financially. The needs of the University were set before the commission in a statement which was printed as an appendix to the first progress report. This showed that it would require an outlay of £59,800 to meet the University's requests, part of which would be annually recurring expenditure. In addition the University asked for £17,825 as subsidy on expenditure on buildings which had been erected between 1898 and 1903, when, owing to bad times, the claims of the University were not pressed; and the University made a further request for a special grant of £6000 to carry out much-needed improvements to the main building. The select

committee approved of the special grant and made the amount £12,000 instead of £6000, as asked for.

Another important decision of the commission was with respect to the constitution of the University. At the suggestion of the commission, and with the approval of the council, Parliament in 1911, passed an Act by which five representatives of Parliament were elected to the governing body of the University, and after taking evidence in the other States it was considered that the time had come for the University Council to be more widely representative. The commission therefore made this recommendation:—

79. "That the University Act be amended to provide for the appointment of one representative each of the Chamber of Manufactures, the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades and Labor Council, the Adelaide Hospital Board, and the Education Department on the University Council."