A GENEROUS CITIZEN

PROVISION FOR EDUCATION

SPLENDID GIFT FROM PETER WAITE

"URBRAK" FOR THE UNIVERSITY

The Premier made a pleasant and, to most members, surprising announcement in the House of Assembly yesterday. He said:

"Hon. members will be gratified to learn that one of our citizens has decided to make a gift in aid of agricultural education which can be truly described as munificent. The gift to the public is in his experience, one which the Government and the other to the University, but should be viewed as one proposition. It is particularly gratifying to me, as it consummates one of the aims which I have always sought to bring into its programme, and it, moreover, enables us to give effect to one of the recommendations of the Education Commission. Prior to the publication of the commission's report, and without a knowledge of its interests, the land of Crown Lands was in communication with Mr. Peter Waite, who decided to make the gift in question, our how possible purpose, and with the Commission's be visited the Agricultural High School at Ballarat, and was there confirmed in his desire to further agricultural education."

I am pleased to be able to announce that the council of the University unanimously accepted the offer made to that institution and view Mr. Waite's action as highly patriotic and far-seeing. The Government, who also offer as equally important, and has readily accepted same. I now beg to inform the House that Mr. Waite is a gentleman who, by a life's work, has done a great deal towards the (the late Sir Thomas Rider) in developing our important pastoral interests in the interior. No need is known in that respect. It is gratifying to find that Mr. Waite is so deeply interested in the development of this industry, and sees in scientific education a substantial element in the solution of the problems. The fact that the University Agricultural School and the Agricultural High School are now about to extend to both, properly, which are within four miles of the General Post Office, is an important and valuable property.

"The offer was contained in two letters, the first of which was dated October 3 and addressed to myself. It read as follows:—Following upon our conversation of August 31st, I have now arranged to hang over the University the title of "Urbrae." House and grounds, embracing an area of 13 acres, are to be made available for agricultural education. I formally offer to the Government of South Australia part section 25, Hundred of Adeline, containing 134 acres, for the purposes of an agricultural high school: this land is situated in close proximity to the University, and is thus a great addition to the property contained a very fine mansion. It was a joint gift to the town and to the University. If able the Government to adopt one of the recommendations of the Education Commission, which was that there should be an agricultural school established near the city, so that the town could be less than a mile from school; and that the teaching and physical exercises should be such as to make the greatest possible use of the facilities which the school would offer.

Mr. Denny said it was difficult to express the great value of the gift made by Mr. Peter Waite. He noticed that in the present circumstances the gift was to be placed in the land by some gentlemen whom he was sure to be proud to be able to have done great services to the State, and the part of the estate to be devoted to an agricultural high school would be available as soon.