

Offer Accepted.

The Premier said the University council immediately accepted the magnificent offer, and viewed Mr. Peter Waite's action as highly patriotic. The Government regarded the offer to it as equally important. All the members of Mr. Waite's family were agreed in the proposals. (Applause.) Mr. Waite had done a great deal in developing the important pastoral interests in the interior. No name was better known than was his in that respect. (Applause.) It was gratifying to know that he was still interested in its further development. The fact that the University School and the Agricultural High School would be side by side should conduce to the success of both as well as to economy in their working. The proposed Fullarton tramway terminus would extend to both properties, which were within four miles of the G.P.O. Members of that House would be able to appreciate the great value of the gift. The land altogether comprised close on 250 acres, and was in the County of Adelaide. In itself it was very valuable. Not only was there the land, but a mansion in addition. It was a joint gift to the State and the University. It would



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enable the Government to give effect to one of the recommendations of the Education Commission, which was that there should be an Agricultural High School near to the city, so that boys in Adelaide who had no other chance of getting out into the country could go there and learn the elements of farming, and possibly a good deal more. Then they would be better fitted to go into the country and exercise their faculties in their own interests as well as those of the State. It would away boys whose outlook now was nothing but a city life. Mr. Waite was a gentleman who, by a life's work, had done a great deal, chiefly in association with the late Sir Thomas Elder and other gentlemen, whom they were all proud to remember, in developing the important pastoral interests of the interior, and who had rendered great service by giving of their wealth to benefit their fellow-citizens. Mr. Waite's name would go down honourably associated with those gentlemen as one who had striven successfully to do good in the land of his adoption. (Applause.)

Mr. Denny said it would be difficult to express adequately their appreciation of the valuable gift. He noticed from the correspondence that it was subject to a life

interest for Mr. Waite and his wife. Were they to understand that, notwithstanding this condition, the property was to be immediately available?

The Premier said the hon. member was right regarding the condition. Mr. Waite was advanced in years, and Mrs. Waite was not young, but he was sure they would all join in wishing that both would long be spared. The part given for an Agricultural High School would be available at once. (Applause.)

CONSIDERATION BY THE UNIVERSITY.

At a meeting of the council of the University on October 9 the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) reported that Mr. Peter Waite had been in communication with the Premier, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, and Mr. Justice Murray regarding the donation for educational purposes of the Urrbrae Estate at Glen Osmond (134 acres). His proposals were outlined in a letter to the Premier and another to the University (both of which are published above).

The Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. F. W. Young) and Mr. Justice Murray reported that they had inspected the property, and had found it admirably adapted for the purposes to which Mr. Waite desired that it should be ultimately devoted. The council resolved unanimously to accept Mr. Waite's noble gift. The following letter expressing its appreciation of his generosity was subsequently written by the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor on behalf of the council:—

October 10, 1913.

Dear Sir—Your letter of the 3rd instant to the Chancellor, offering one-half of your Urrbrae Estate to the University for promoting the study of agriculture and allied subjects, and the other half for the purposes of a public park under the control of the University, was laid before a special meeting of the council on the 9th instant. The council unanimously decided to accept your magnificent offer, subject to the conditions set forth in your letter. They have no doubt that the object you have in view will be of immense value to the State of South Australia, and that Urrbrae is pre-eminently adapted for carrying out your plans. The prospect of founding a School of Agriculture under auspices so fortunate and conditions so favourable is viewed with very great satisfaction by the council. We are desirous to convey to you the council's most cordial thanks for your noble benefaction, and to assure you that your generosity will be gratefully remembered for all time by the public of South Australia, and in particular by the members of the University of Adelaide.—We are, dear sir, yours sincerely,

(Signed) S. J. WAY, Chancellor.
(Signed) WILLIAM BARLOW, Vice-Chancellor.
Peter Waite, Esq.,
Urrbrae, Glen Osmond.

MR. PETER WAITE.

It is 54 years since Mr. Peter Waite came to South Australia. Since then he has been closely associated with the pastoral industry, in connection with which few men here are better, or even so well known. He is not a son of the soil. He was born in 1834, near to the town of Kirkcaldy, in Fifeshire, Scotland, and the hardiness, thrift, and other sterling qualities of his nationality are outstanding traits in his character. His education was received there, and he was later apprenticed to the ironmongery business, and followed commercial employment in Edinburgh and Aberdeen for some years.

1850 he decided to come to South Australia. Mr. Waite sailed by the ship *The British Trident*, and disembarked at Port Melbourne in July of that year. He did not spend any time in the Victorian capital, but came to his destination, Pandappa, a sheep station near Terowie, which was then held by his brother, Mr. James Waite, in conjunction with Messrs. Elder, Stirling, and Co. After some years at Pandappa, during which he acquired a knowledge of all matters pastoral, he became associated with the late Sir Thomas Elder. The first venture entered into by the new firm was the purchase of the Paratoo run, which adjoined Pandappa (on the route of the Broken Hill Railway). The two stations were worked under one management until the expiry of the leases in 1888, when that portion of the holding was abandoned. During this period Mr. Waite acquired very extensive interests in a number of other properties, including Cordillo Downs, Beltana, Murnpeowie, Mount Lyndhurst, Blanchewater, Kanawana, Lake Charles, Mulyungarie, Mutooroo, Lilydale, and Momba, with the management of all of which Mr. Waite has been actively associated. He is a large shareholder, and has from its formation been Chairman of directors of that great pastoral, shipping, and financial business, Elder, Smith, and Co., Limited. When Sir Thomas Elder died in 1897 the firm of Elder & Waite was formed into the Mutooroo Pastoral Company, which still carries on the runs, with Mr. Waite as managing director. He holds a similar position in regard to the Beltana and Momba Pastoral Companies. Mr. Waite, a great believer in the value of personal supervision, resided on the stations with which he was associated from 1859 to 1874, when he removed to Adelaide, and the personal inspection of the properties belonging to the pastoral companies, of which he was managing director, devolved upon his son, the late Mr. David Waite. Mr. Waite has been connected with the boards of other companies. He is a wealthy man, and has been a generous supporter of charitable and other institutions. Like most really big men, Mr. Waite is genuinely modest. When first he became associated with the pastoral industry there were no fences, and this alone added immensely to the difficulties of efficient management. The first to grapple with the problem was Mr. Donald McLean, of North-west Bend, River Murray, who found by this means and the systematic wholesale poisoning of wild dogs, that the carrying capacity of the country could be very much increased, and great economy effected in its working. Mr. Waite was not slow to see the advantage of fenced paddocks, as against open country, and in 1868 commenced fencing. During 1870 and 1871 the enormous quantity of 265 tons of wire (imported from England) was erected. When Mr. Waite took charge of Beltana, Umberatana, and Murnpeowie in 1869 they were practically unimproved, but between that date and 1896

no less a sum than £24,000 was spent in fencing and watering. Since then a further large amount has been expended in additional subdivision in sinking wells and in making dams and tanks, and a similar development has taken place on all properties

in which Mr. Waite has been interested. Some idea of the expenditure in money and labour under one head alone may be gathered from the fact that Mutooroo, Lilydale, Mulyungarie, Lake Charles, Murnpeowie, and Mount Lyndhurst are all vermin fenced, the total mileage being 1,001 miles. The result of this extensive system of improvement is shown by the fact that the number of sheep on Paratoo rose to 260,000 in the year 1874, while on the Beltana properties there were at a later date 383,000. This was prior to the advent of the rabbit and the occurrence of the

big drought, which seriously reduced the numbers on these stations, as elsewhere in that part of the State. In the development of our northern country Mr. Waite has had reason to become a staunch supporter of the camel and the donkey for station and cartage purposes, both of which were introduced here by the late Sir Thomas Elder. It was from those herds that the first camels were sent to Western Australia. Donkeys, which also play an important part in the western State, were also imported in large numbers from this side. In his home life Mr. Waite's tastes

turn toward gardening, and evidence of his love for flowers is to be found in the large and beautiful gardens which surround Urrbrae, which is situated in a finely timbered park upon the rising ground between Mitcham and Glen Osmond. Urrbrae was originally owned by the late Mr. MacGeorge, who was drowned in the Royal Charter in 1860. Some years before his death it had been leased till 1864 by the late Mr. Edward Stirling, and it was thus the boyhood home of Professor E. C. Stirling and Sir Lancelot Stirling (President of the Legislative Council). Mr. Waite purchased the property in 1874, and built the present house in 1890 and 1891. He married, in 1864, the daughter of the late Mr. James Methuen, of Leith, Scotland, and his family consists of one son in England and three daughters.

ENDOWMENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

The University has been singularly fortunate in the number and extent of its private endowments. In proportion to its total capital it owes more to private munificence than any other Australian university, with the exception of that in Sydney. Although the aggregate of the endowments of that university amount to over £500,000, two bequests alone total £350,000—viz., the P. N. Russell bequest of £100,000, and the Challis bequest of £250,000. The founding of the University of Adelaide was made possible in the first place by gifts of £20,000 each by Sir Walter Watson Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder. Its subsequent expansion has resulted from further gifts by Sir Thomas Elder and other public-spirited citizens. In 1878 the Hon. J. H. Angus, by the gift of £4,000 for the purpose of founding scholarships in engineering, provided a permanent incentive to the preparation for higher studies in engineering. A few years later the gift of £6,000 from the same donor, resulted in the foundation of the Angus Professorship of Chemistry. Sir Thomas Elder's original gift of £20,000, in 1874, was only the beginning of a list of benefactions which have enabled the council to make the history of the University a striking record of progress. In 1883 he gave £10,000 for the establishment of a School of Medicine. On his death, in 1897, the University received under his will a bequest of £65,000, which he allocated as follows:—£20,000 to the Medical School, £20,000 to the School of Music, and £25,000 as an endowment for the general purposes of the University. Sir Thomas Elder's contributions to the funds amount to nearly £100,000. Mr. R. Barr Smith has also, by successive gifts, aggregating £9,000, enabled it to provide the nucleus of a valuable library. His interest in the expansion of the institution has also been manifested by gifts for the purchase of apparatus and for assistance in other directions. These donations are irrespective of his recent offer of £10,000 towards providing a students' hall, college, and so on. There have also been numerous gifts from time to time for the purpose of establishing scholarships, prizes, and medals, and some special donations for assisting in the establishment of a School of Botany. The total private endowments of the University aggregate £146,263, exclusive of various donations which amount to £5,937.