

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY BILL.

Second reading.

The CHIEF SECRETARY, in moving the second reading, said the Bill to which he had to direct hon. members' attention was introduced for the purpose of giving effect to the recommendations of the Commissioners appointed in January 26 last to enquire into and report upon higher education and the University of Adelaide. (Hon. J. J. Duncan—"Is that report on our files?") Yes. A Select Committee of the House of Assembly, consisting of the members who subsequently represented that Chamber on the commission, was appointed last session; and during the recess, and since then, their work had been carried on by the commission, which included the Hons. J. Cowan and A. W. Styles, representing the Legislative Council. They had recently made a first progress report in order that the legislation which they recommended therein, and which was proposed by this Bill, might not be delayed. They reported to the following effect:—1. The committee had 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 1898 and 1903, and for a grant of £6,000 to assist the University in making building improvements and additions that were urgently required. The select committee recommended:—"That the Government immediately guarantee the cost of the proposed additions to the amount of £12,000, instead of £6,000 as requested, without prejudice to the future ad-

justment of the University's requests for £17,825 as a subsidy on sums expended in buildings already erected, and for £6,000, the estimated half-cost of proposed additions to the main building; the full payment of £12,000 instead of £6,000, as requested, to be taken into account in such adjustment." 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 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, they proceeded to Sydney, Brisbane, and Melbourne, where numerous authorities on educational 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. 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 them that the local institution was poorly equipped financially, and that its work at present was hampered, and its future endangered, by lack of sufficient funds; and it was in order that immediate action might be taken to afford the University the assistance so urgently required that the progress report was presented. 4. When the representatives of the University were before the select committee the question was raised whether, in view of the suggested financial assistance, the Parliament should not have some direct representation on the council of the University, and in response to an enquiry the University Council expressed themselves unanimously in favour of the proposal. 5. They therefore recommended:—(1) That section 15 of the Adelaide University Act, No. 20, of 1874, 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 Council of the University, three representatives to be chosen by the House of Assembly and two by the Legislative Council at the beginning of each Parliament, and to hold office during the life of that Parliament." 6. The recommendation with respect to increasing the grant to the University was made without prejudice to the request for a subsidy of £17,825 on buildings erected by the University between 1898 and 1903. 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 larger question of enabling deserving students to have the advantage of a University education, would be the subject of future reports. Since presenting that report the commission had further recommended that the University be given power to confer degrees in engineering, in addition to the degrees mentioned in the present Acts. The Bill consisted of only 10 clauses, and, after the usual formal provisions, it proceeded to carry out the recommendations of the commission, dealing with the various matters in the order in which similar matters were dealt with in the principal Act (No. 20, of 1874). First, the five additional members

of the University Council were provided for by clauses 3 to 8. Two were to be appointed by the Legislative Council by ballot, and three by the House of Assembly in the same manner. Under the provisions of clause 5, the prescribed number of Parliamentary members would be appointed at the beginning of each Parliament, and would hold office until the appointment of their respective successors. Any member ceasing to be a member of Parliament would also cease to be a member of the University Council. Second, power to confer the degrees of Bachelor and Master of Engineering was given by clause 9, which was similar to section 12 of the principal Act, and the Degrees in Surgery Act, 1888. Third, the additional grant of £4,000 per annum recommended by the commission was provided for by clause 10. Section 15 of the principal Act authorized the payment out of the general revenue of an annual grant equal to 5 per cent. per annum on the sum of £20,000 contributed by the late Sir Walter Watson Hughes, and on such other moneys as might be given to the University upon trust for the purposes thereof, and on the value of all property vested in the University (except lands given by the Act by way of endowment). Section 15 of the Act further provided that those grants were to be applied for maintaining the University, for defraying the stipends of the professors, lecturers, and other members of the staff, and the expenses of scholarships, prizes, and exhibitions, for providing a library, and for discharging the expenses of management. The Bill provided that the additional grants were to be applied to the same purposes as the grants under the principal Act. If hon. members had read the first progress report of the commission they would be in sympathy with the objects of the Bill. The commission had gone at great length into the matters, and members who had read the report would be cognizant of its conclusions. He drew attention especially to appendix F, the whole of which was of value, and had no doubt been already carefully read. It included a statement by the Council of the University regarding the needs of the institution, and the commission had practically endorsed that statement. He trusted the Council would recognize that the recommendations were entitled to the utmost consideration, and that the Bill would not be altered, but would meet with similar support to that which had been given it in the other Chamber.

The Hon. J. H. HOWE seconded the motion. On the motion of the Hon. J. J. DUNCAN, the debate was adjourned until December 5.

Advertiser, Dec. 2/11

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY BILL.

Second reading.

The CHIEF SECRETARY, in moving the second reading of the Adelaide University Act Amendment Bill, stated that the message was intended to give effect to the recommendations of the Education Commission. The work of the University was hampered and its future endangered by the lack of funds. The Bill provided for the addition of £4,000 to the annual grant to the University, and for the appointment of five members of Parliament—three from the House of Assembly and two from the Legislative Council—to sit on the University council. It also gave power to the University to issue degrees of engineering.

On the motion of the Hon. J. J. DUNCAN the debate was adjourned till Tuesday next.

Advertiser, Dec. 4/11

The examiner for the Robert Whinham prize in elocution at the Elder Conservatorium has recommended that the prize be awarded to Miss Idalia M. A. Morris and Mr. Sydney S. Mills, these competitors having been bracketed equal.

OFF TO THE ANTARCTIC.

Aurora Sailed.

From Hobart.

HOBART, December 3.

The steamer Aurora, with Dr. Mawson, Messrs. Wild, Hannam, Webb, Harrison, Kennedy, Thirley, Bickerton, Ninnis, Watson, Madigan, Ainsworth, Hadgman, and MacLean on board, left Hobart yesterday afternoon for the antarctic, via Macquarie Island. The vessel, which was low in the water and carried a heavy deckload of timber and miscellaneous articles, went out under steam. A large crowd assembled on the neighbouring wharfs to see the steamer sail, and vessels in the harbour were decorated. The Governor (Sir Harry Barron) and Lady Barron and the master warden of the Marine Board accompanied the Aurora for some distance in the Marine Board's launch, and the Marama, chartered by the Tourist Association, which had a number of relatives and friends of the explorers on board, went as far as Grown's River. A number of other craft and rowing and motor boats went a short distance with the Aurora. The vessel steamed slowly down the river and stopped off the quarantine station to pick up 36 Eskimo dogs. That operation took some time, since the dogs appeared to prefer their shore quarters, and one or two went so far as to jump overboard and swim ashore. They were chased and recaptured. After having gone a little further the Marama turned back, hearty cheers having been given by those on board for the expedition.

The Toroa is due to leave Hobart on Thursday. She will take the remaining members of the expedition, and the remainder of the stores and coal, and will meet the Aurora at Macquarie Island. A large number of telegrams wishing the expedition success were received to-day. The last message likely to come from the Aurora until she reaches Macquarie Island was received by Capt. Jones, of the Mount Nelson signal station, at 8.45 o'clock last night. The vessel was then off Lake Frederick heavy on North Bruni Island, and the following message was sent by the Morse lamp of the Aurora:—"Everything snug on board. Ready for anything. Goodby." Among those who went down on the Marama to see the Aurora off, was Count de Fleurieu, a member of the Paris Geographical Society, who has shown keen interest in the expedition.

Dr. Mawson, before sailing, gave the following message to the press:—"On leaving Australia to hoist the Australian flag in a land which geographically should belong to Australia, I wish to express my deep thanks for the assistance the Federal and several State Governments have given to me in forwarding this enterprise. The limit of our work will be the limit of our purse, and we hope to justify the generosity of the various Governments by doing useful work in an unknown sphere. I also wish to thank the public-spirited private subscribers to the funds, including Mr. Samuel Borden, of Sydney, whose large donation gave me courage to pursue the financial campaign. To Professors David and Orme Masson my thanks are due for the large amount of hard work voluntarily performed. I go from Australia to uphold the prestige of the British race in the antarctic, and every man with me is prepared to do his utmost to make this initial Australian effort a grand success."

The following cable message was sent to Queen Alexandra:—"Australia's first antarctic expedition, on leaving Hobart, thanks your Majesty for your gracious message. When striving to uphold the prestige of the British race in Adele Land, Sabrina Land, and Knoxland they will bless you for your kind remembrance."