THE UNIVERSITY

The Bill before the Assembly to amend the Adelaide University Act is based on recommendations of the Royal Commission now inquiring into matters relating to higher education. The measure has a considerable measure of urgency, for its second reading was carried without opposition or debate after the Minister of Education had spoken. In committee, however, on Friday members required further information concerning the new matter and on the whole the Bill is welcomed with considerable enthusiasm. The Bill provides for (1) adding to the Council of the University five more members, three to be elected by the Assembly and two by the Legislative Council, all to be legislators; (2) empowering the University to confer the degree of Bachelor and Master of Engineering; and (3) increasing the annual Parliamentary grant to £4,000. Although the admission of legislators to the council stands as an antecedent to the increased vote, it is truly a consequential step. Nothing would have been done regarding Parliamentary representation if the increased monetary vote had not been proposed.

For a long time Parliament concerned itself little with the chief seat of learning, which was looked upon as a county institute of secondary education. The lives and affairs of the mass of ordinary people; but the cause of secondary education has been greatly advanced in recent years by the high school movement, which has carried these scholars of the public schools right up to the gates of the University, which is now seen in true perspective as a part of the national system of education.

The time has passed when University can be considered to be the property of certain classes. In a broad way it must be reckoned with the great institutions of the people and to the State. Professor Symonds of Berlin, who has been much interested in the welfare of students and their interests, has used the centuries that when the universities of any country cease to be in close touch with the social life and interests of the people, and fail to yield to the efforts of the people, who, without funds, their days and influence are numbered. These words sum up the modern view, and they may be applied to all the governments in education. The chief hogs of democracy lies in education in a broadminded, tolerant, and thinking people who will not be swayed to and for the sake of the common law of evidence. Doctrine taken by the logical consideration proved that the University was able through lack of funds to extend its work in many desirable directions: that the professors and lecturers, compared with those in other States, were underpaid. To supply both those deficiencies would not be possible, but the commission wisely refrained from specifying the purpose to which the money is to be applied. The responsibility of that must be carried by the University authorities.

The additional annual grant of £4,000 secured by Act of Parliament, is equal to an endowment of £100,000. The Adelaide University was richly endowed by Sir Thomas Elder and Sir Walter Hughes; and, in addition to their magnificent bequests, other fine gifts have been made. The stream of private benefaction is, however, not flowing sufficiently in the direction of the institution to provide for its development and growing requirements. Individual wasters, and "the State is more and more." With that condition it is only reasonable to suppose that in future the State must vote more money, not that bequests to the University will always show a noble proportion of the appreciation of those things in life which are best; but the institution is too great in itself to have its fortunes left to the fluctuations of private munificence. With increased State aid will undoubtedly come increased State control. It has been reasonably questioned whether Parliamentary representation on the University Council is the best form; but at least there is a precedent for it in the case of Melbourne. Ex officio appointments have been suggested; but, as a rule, these are not satisfactory. The provision under which the University will be empowered to confer degrees in engineering is highly necessary. The University and the School of Mines are carrying on a capital body of students seeking degrees, which now they have the power of conferring.

The diploma hitherto available are not equal to a university degree in the engineering world. The University Bill should be passed without delay.

A TASMANIAN TO BE APPOINTED

At a meeting of the State Cabinet on Monday afternoon the Government resolved to recommend to his Excellency the Governor Mr. L. K. Ward, B.A., B.E., for appointment as Government Geologist in South Australia, in succession to Mr. H. F. L. Brown, who will retire from office when the new term begins next April. Mr. William W. Cook, Assistant Government Geologist and Inspector of Mines in South Australia, has already been recommended to the request of the Committee, and Messrs. Brown, Lands, Bony, and P. C. St. John have, with the advice of the Government, the University, and the retiring Geologist, assisted in many applications received. Apparently Mr. Ward is the only candidate who has described satisfactorily. His application received on February 26th, was followed by a short letter, as a young man of fine physique and pleasing manners, and his qualifications are said to be of the highest possible order. His name is of the same name as Mr. Brown was to receive. Altogether it is believed that Mr. Ward cannot take up the duties until early in January. He is in Adelaide but will reside for the rest of the year in Queensland, where he has a wife and family.

Mr. Leonard Keith Ward is a son of Mr. E. K. Ward, editor of the Sydney "Daily Telegraph." He was born in Sydney in 1875, and was educated at the Sydney and Brisbane grammar schools. In 1897 he entered the Sydney University as the Government exhibitor, graduated in arts in 1899, and in 1901 was engaged in the mining and geological school in 1902. Afterwards he proceeded to Broken Hill, and occupied a position with the Broken Hill Proprietary Company until October 1904. He was engaged in the underground department, and became chief geologist. In 1905 he added much to his knowledge of the conditions of the Broken Hill fields. He then went to Western Australia, and occupied the position of lecturer in geology, mining, metallurgy, and mineralogy in the Western Australian School of Mines at Kambalda, until his appointment held until August 1907. Mr. Ward visited the principal mining fields in Western Australia, and became familiar with the conditions prevailing in the State. He then proceeded to the thinly populated country in the north of the State, where he has been in charge of the field of North Dunsborough, the Zoological field, and the mining field, and his name has since been associated with the University. He is an assistant to the University, and has been engaged in the geological surveys that were the subject of the article in the "Advertiser" of February 9th. He is a fellow of the Institution of Mining Engineers, has been a fellow of the London Institute, and is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. He contributed several papers to the Royal Society of South Australia, and is an active member of the Geological Association of South Australia. Mr. Ward is the son of the late Mr. Leonard Ward, a student under Professor David, who accompanied his father on his travels in Australia, and is a fellow of the Institution of Mining Engineers. He was educated at the University of Adelaide, and was a fellow of the Royal Society of South Australia. He is also well known in Adelaide.