

ing might not secure a position at any other point, the announcement was made six weeks later, and without any reason whatever being given therefor. But he who runs may read the reason from the history of the controversy over the question of freedom of speech for teachers at this monopoly-controlled University. The victim's statements regarding the distribution of wealth had a tendency to reduce the incomes of some of the trustees. So they fired him. Some of their children who had imbibed the 'strange doctrines' of truth and justice that fell from the lips of Nearing, baited their elders at the breakfast and dinner table. Annoying questions were asked concerning the source of family income. Conditions had become intolerable. Something had to break. As a graduate of 14 years' standing, and for that same period secretary of the Class of 1901 College, I do not speak as an outsider or one without interest or knowledge. I am ashamed of my alma mater and publicly declare it because the trustees by publicly declaring that it is controlled by the public service corporations, who will henceforth exact from its teachers a quid pro quo, have made this necessary."

Another striking protest came from the son-in-law of the founder of the school and one of his executors. He said:—"As one of the executors of Joseph Wharton, founder of the Wharton School of the Pennsylvania University, I stand for freedom of speech. Assistant-Professor Scott Nearing, of the Wharton School, one of the best-loved and one of the best teachers of the University, has been dropped by the standpatters in the board of directors for expressing views opposite to those held by great trusts and by public service corporations which depend on corrupt politics for their profits. Scott Nearing is a noble fellow, who had seen the oppression by entrenched monopoly, and has spoken of it. He was the most readily punished of the group of useful young scholars of the Wharton School who have given it universal fame and drawn students from almost every country of the globe, because he was assistant-professor, and could be dropped without a trial by his peers as a full professor could not. His associates have been equally guilty of trying to better social and business conditions, but they are harder to get. They have been of vast use to the present mayor and his directors in showing up the wrongs done the city by corporations whose most powerful directors sit on the board of trustees of the University. They have checked the United Gas Improvement Company in its aggression against the citizens; the Reading Railway was brought to its knees in its excessive freight charges on coal by the service of one of these professors, and the talent and efficiency of the Wharton School have been used wherever possible by the present administration."

The Government of the State appropriated 1,000,000 dollars for the University, and the Governor has been requested to veto it unless the trustees explain. This they are not likely to do. The incident demonstrates how far-reaching is the influence of Big Business. Shall we allow that influence to become dominant in Australia? When the referenda are taken there will be an opportunity to say once for all that Big Business shall be the servant of Australians and not their master.



Register 11/8/15

### LECTURESHIP IN GERMAN.

From "Patriot":—"The advertisement in The Register of August 7 for a gentleman for the Melbourne University, competent to teach the rising generation the German language, at a salary of £400 per annum, will, I have no doubt, have caused surprise to many of your subscribers. The English language is quite tabooed in Germany—in fact, it has practically been declared illegal. Our legislators are rightly advocating a discontinuance of all trade with Germany, which, in the event of our proving victorious in the war, will probably flow into Russia. In any case, Great Britain's trade and colonial trade with her will largely increase, and a knowledge of Russian will prove a most valuable acquisition. However, setting aside this side of the question, it certainly does seem inconsistent (to put it mildly) that, considering the dreadful war into which we have been plunged by Germany, with all the accompanying atrocities, distress, and grief for which she is responsible, the continued teaching of the German language, at the public expense, in any school or university should be tolerated."

✓ Register  
13/8/15

### Demand for Medical Men.

MELBOURNE, August 12.

At a special session of the senate of the University of Melbourne to-day Professor Sir Harry Allen submitted for adoption the temporary regulation which had been agreed at a recent meeting of the University council—"That the curriculum for the degrees of bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery during the continuance of the war be modified and reduced in length from five calendar years to not less than four calendar years and one term." Sir Harry said he had received a letter from Mr George Reid, stating that there was still a urgent need for reinforcements of medical men, and that those already sent had been first-rate men. Besides the need at the front, there was also pressing local requirements. The hospitals were working under great stress and with small staffs. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

Register 13/8/15

### THE MONTESSORI SYSTEM.

The two South Australian teachers (Misses Longmore and Davidson) who went to Sydney to study the Montessori method of infant teaching, as adopted in the schools there, have completed a report for the Minister (Hon. C. Vaughan). It is understood that both ladies speak in terms of the warmest eulogy of the excellent results gained from the new system, which the Government propose to introduce in South Australia.



## ST. PETER'S COLLEGE.

Resignation of Canon  
Girdlestone.

In a young State like South Australia, a comparatively small number of men have had a guiding hand in helping to mould the characters of the younger generation, and incidentally in assisting to frame the destiny of the State. One of these is the Rev. Canon Girdlestone, M.A., who has just resigned his position as head master of St. Peter's College. His name is known throughout the length and breadth of the State, and further, the name of the school, which he has controlled for the past 22 years, has always stood for everything that is manly and clean. The secret of his success has been his wide and deep knowledge of youthful traits, and his skilful handling of the growing boy.

## —An Athlete and Scholar.—

The popular head master was a notable athlete, having pulled stroke for Oxford in the inter-university boat races in 1885 and 1886. His crew was successful in the former year, and was beaten by Cambridge by only two-thirds of a length on the latter occasion. It was only to be expected that an athlete of Canon Girdlestone's



THE REV. CANON GIRDLESTONE, M.A.  
Head Master of St. Peter's College.

ted that an athlete of Canon Girdlestone's calibre should take a deep interest in sports, as well as in intellectual training of the scholars under his charge. He has always urged them to "play the game," and that spirit has pervaded the class-rooms as well as the field of sport. Canon Girdlestone was appointed head master of St. Peter's College by Bishop Kennion in 1893. He graduated in arts at Magdalen College, Oxford, in 1886, and received his M.A. degree three years later. At the time of his appointment to the position, which he is now relinquishing, the Canon was assistant master at Bath College, where he had also been chaplain since his ordination as minister in the diocese of Bath and Wells, in 1890. Bath College was then a modern school, having been founded in 1878, and it still holds a leading position among the public schools in the west of England. It was also at this school that Canon Girdlestone received his earlier education, having remained there for 10 years, prior to his entering Oxford.

A representative of The Register visited St. Peter's College at Hackney on Friday, and saw the genial "Head" at his residence. Canon Girdlestone wears his years wonderfully well, and one feels constrained to ask what the college will do without him. Of course, it will go on, but it will be difficult to sustain adequately the influence of his 22 years' good work. But his name must always be associated with the school. Many men, occupying prominent positions in the army, navy, and the church, in the academic spheres, and in the commercial world, owe their progress to a great extent to their early training at St. Peter's College.