

*The Register*  
*March 19<sup>th</sup> 1915*

## EDUCATION MATTERS

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### A VALUABLE INNOVATION.

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### INSPECTORS AND TEACHERS.

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#### VISITING OTHER INSTITUTIONS.

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The Minister of Education (Hon. Angus Parsons) stated on Thursday that when in Melbourne a few weeks ago he discussed with the Victorian Director of Education (Mr. Tate) whether he would be willing to allow, from time to time, some of the inspectors and teachers in South Australian State schools to visit and report upon the method of education adopted in Victoria. Mr. Tate readily acquiesced, and the Minister has arranged that Inspectors McBride and Pavia will leave Adelaide for Melbourne on Monday, for the purpose of ascertaining if there are improvements in the Victorian educational system that could be usefully adopted here.

"By this means," Mr. Parsons said, "we shall get the opinions of men who are not educational theorists, but who have spent a lifetime in practical tuition. A little later I hope to be able to arrange to send some of the teachers to the other States upon a similar errand. A short while ago he communicated with Canon Girdlestone, M.A., headmaster of St. Peter's College, to ascertain if he had any objection to one of our High School masters spending a week at St. Peter's College, in order to inform us if our High Schools could learn anything from the school life of a great public school like St. Peter's. Canon Girdlestone has readily consented to facilitate these enquiries, and I hope arrangements can be made for Mr. Adey, the headmaster of the Adelaide High School, to take advantage of the facilities kindly afforded by St. Peter's College.

"I have also written to Mr. W. R. Bayly, B.A., B.Sc., headmaster of Prince Alfred College, and the Reverend Brother Blake, headmaster of Christian Brothers' College, to enquire if they are willing to assist our enquiries as to what improvements can be made in the High Schools of South Australia. The more I see of the public schools of South Australia the more convinced I am of the zeal and capacity of our teachers and the general efficiency of our schools. The department, however, is a very great one; we have about 820 primary schools, 530 male teachers, over 1,100 women and girl teachers, and about 56,000 children attending the schools. In addition, we have 27 High Schools, at which are taught about 2,500 children. There is always a danger of a great department like this getting into a groove, and it cannot but be an advantage for us to learn all we can, not only from the systems of education in other parts of the world, but particularly so far as regards our High Schools from the methods adopted in our great private colleges. The enquiries can in due course be extended similarly as regards private collegiate schools for girls."

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## TEACHING THE TEACHERS.

### An Educational Scheme.

The Minister of Education (Hon. Angas Parsons) stated that while in Melbourne a few weeks ago, he discussed with the Victorian Director of Education (Mr. Tate) the advisableness of inspectors and teachers in South Australian State schools visiting and reporting upon methods of education in Victoria. Mr. Tate readily acquiesced, and the Minister has arranged that Inspectors McBride and Pavia will leave Adelaide for Melbourne on Monday, for the purpose of ascertaining if there are improvements in the Victorian educational system which can be advantageously adopted here. "By this means," Mr. Parsons added, "we shall get the opinions of men who are not educational theorists, but who have spent a lifetime in practical tuition. A little later I hope to be able to arrange to send some of the teachers to the other States upon a similar errand.

#### —Learning at Home.—

"Recently I communicated with Canon Girdlestone (head master of St. Peter's College), to ascertain if he had any objection to one of our High School masters spending a week at St. Peter's College in order to inform us if our high schools could learn anything from the organization in a great public school like St. Peter's. Canon Girdlestone has readily consented to facilitate these enquiries, and I hope that arrangements can be made for Mr. Adey (head master of the Adelaide High School) to take advantage of the facilities kindly afforded by St. Peter's College. I have also written to Mr. W. R. Bayley (head master of Prince Alfred College) and the Rev. Brother Blake (head master of the Christian Brothers' College) to enquire if they are willing to assist our enquiries regarding what improvements can be made in the high schools of South Australia.

#### —A Huge Organization.—

"The more I see of the public schools of South Australia the more convinced I am of the zeal and capacity of our teachers and the general efficiency of our schools. The department, however, is a very great one, for we have about 820 primary schools, 530 male teachers, and more than 1,100 women and girl teachers, and about 56,000 children attending the schools. In addition, we have 27 high schools, at which are taught 2,500 children. There is always a danger of a great department like this getting into a groove, and it cannot but be an advantage for us to learn all we can, not only from the systems of education in other parts of the world, but particularly so far as regards our high schools from the methods adopted in our great private colleges. The enquiries can in due course be extended similarly as regards private collegiate schools for girls."

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## DOCTORS FOR THE FRONT.

### ACTION BY UNIVERSITY SENATE.

#### PERIOD FOR DEGREE SHORTENED.

Dr. E. O. Stirling, C.M.G. (Dean of the Faculty of Medicine), at the meeting of the Adelaide University Senate yesterday, moved—"That the following clause be added to chapter 25 of the statutes:—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in the statutes or regulations of the University, the council shall have power during the continuance of the present war (1) to shorten the period of study required to obtain any degree or diploma; (2) to alter the date prescribed for any examination." The members of the Senate were well aware, he said, of the constant calls on all parts of the Empire for men and more men for all the branches of the military service. The immediate or existing cause of the motion was a letter received in the first place by the Faculty of Medicine from the Defence Department, Melbourne. It was therein stated that 100 doctors were urgently wanted for the Royal Medical Service, in addition to the many medical men required for the Australian Military Service. The letter went on to say that the department hoped that the University—he supposed the same appeal had been made to other universities—would do all in its power to assist the military forces. It was suggested that they might somewhat shorten the period for the degree. The authorities stated that they had refused to accept fifth-year students for general military service. Their policy was not to accept any fifth-year students (and also, therefore, fourth-year), because it was considered that the students would be doing better in qualifying to serve as medical officers than as ambulance men. The men who had gone to the camp had come back with that explanation. They had received their discharges on condition that they offered their services after qualifying. The students had suggested that instead of holding the examinations in November, which was the statutory month, they should hold them as early as possible in September,

and they offered to continue their studies during the two short vacations in the meanwhile. (Cheers.) That proposition had been discussed by the Faculty of Medicine, and the teachers willingly and readily offered to continue their lectures. (Cheers.) There was absolute unanimity in the Faculty of Medicine that it was their duty to do what was asked of them in this great crisis. The Education Faculty were similarly unanimous, and that day the council had adopted the recommendation of the Faculties of Medicine and Education. What was asked really was not very much. The proper period was to be shortened about six or seven weeks, and three or four weeks would be made up during vacations. Even if the curtailment had been greater it would still have been their duty to do what they could, so long as they could send their students out respectably qualified medical men, as they always had done. (Cheers.) Other faculties could do the same. Some men had gone from the Law Faculty and the Arts Faculty. He moved the motion believing there would not be a single dissentient voice. (Cheers.)

Dr. W. T. Hayward seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously to the accompaniment of cheers.

### ELECTING THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

Professor Kerr Grant, M.Sc., at the meeting of the Senate of the University of Adelaide on Wednesday, moved that a sub-committee, consisting of the Warden of the Senate (Mr. F. Chapple, C.M.G.), Professor Jethro Brown, Mr. E. V. Clark, and the mover, be appointed to draft a schedule of rules for the guidance of the returning officer under the method of proportional voting for the University Council elections adopted by the Senate at the meeting on July 22 last, and to make such consequent alterations as might be necessary. The motion was carried.