

Advertiser 21.8.18

A MUNIFICENT GIFT.

Once again Mr. Peter Waite has laid the whole community under an obligation by making a princely gift to the cause of higher education in this State. It is nearly five years since this public-spirited citizen presented the University of Adelaide with the buildings and grounds known as "Urrbrae" for the purposes of an Agricultural High School and a public park. Now he follows that splendid donation by securing to the same body after his death property in shares valued at over £60,000. The second gift is complementary to the first, as it will provide the University with the income necessary for the equipment and maintenance of the contemplated school and park. Mr. Waite's donation in 1913 had a twofold character. Subject to a life-interest for himself and Mrs. Waite, he gave buildings and grounds embracing an area of 134 acres, half of the land to be available for the University for agricultural and kindred studies, and the other half as a public park and sports ground under the control of the University authorities. Subsequently he offered for immediate acceptance the Claremont Estate of 53 acres and 112 acres of the Netherby Estate adjoining "Urrbrae" for the purposes of an Agricultural High School. The land is of excellent quality, and in convenient proximity to the city. The Education Commission had reported in favor of the establishment of such a school sufficiently near Adelaide to enable city lads to train for an agricultural career. An ideal site, within four miles of the General Post-Office, has been made available by the generosity of Mr. Waite, who is now furnishing the capital which makes complete the gift of land and buildings. The total value of his benefactions to the University amounts to about £100,000.

Mr. Waite's long connection with the producing industries of this State has imbued him with a sense of their great present value and, still more, their potential importance in the general development of the resources of our vast pastoral and agricultural territories. But none has more fully realised than Mr. Waite the necessity for thorough efficiency in the methods of development, and the essential part a liberal scheme of education must play in bringing this about. "Our State," he wrote in 1913, "has hitherto done notably in all branches of agriculture and the allied arts, and largely without scientific direction and education. In the future competition threatens to be so keen that we must equip our people in the best possible manner." What was true five years ago is even more obviously true to-day, when the world is about to enter on a new era of production to make good the terrible ravages caused by war on an unprecedented scale of destructiveness. If we are to hold our own in the struggle for wealth and trade we must have the educational equipment which will enable us as a community to employ the most advanced scientific processes in all our industrial pursuits. The alliance of science with agriculture has already justified itself by substantially increasing the area of profitable cultivation and augmenting the output per acre in long-settled districts. But we may regard ourselves as only at the outset of its triumphs if we are determined not to fall behind in the application of scientific discoveries to the utilisation of the land. The direction which Mr. Waite has given to his beneficence is no less an evidence of his practical sagacity than its magnitude is of his large-heartedness. His career exemplifies a type of useful citizenship which has had much to do with establishing the prosperity of the State. Few men in South Australia have done more than stands to his credit in opening up its back country, fostering pastoral occupation, and organising trade. The value of his pioneering work cannot easily be exaggerated, and the spirit of enterprise which has marked it furnishes

an example to the rising generation. Only a mean envy would grudge his fortune to a man who has acquired all he possesses by industry and intelligence, the exercise of which has contributed to the public weal as well as to his personal gain, and has been attended by unflinching devotion to his civic duties. If, as Bacon says, riches are for a man to "get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully, and leave contentedly." Mr. Waite has shown that he appreciates the responsibilities of a wealthy citizen. In his honored old age he is distributing not merely with cheerfulness but with gladness, and endowing the community with equal wisdom and munificence. Among the many benefactors of the University none will rank higher than Mr. Peter Waite, whose noble gifts have made the way plain for an extension of its educational activities from which the whole State may be expected to derive large and increasing advantage.

Register 21.8.18.

£60,000 FOR THE UNIVERSITY.

Mr. Peter Waite's Gift.

Mr. Peter Waite has given shares worth more than £60,000 to the Adelaide University for the advancement of agricultural education. The announcement was made on Tuesday night by the Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake), who said:—"The State has in the past had some splendid benefactions from a number of public spirited men by means of which many of our most useful institutions have profited immensely. In this connection the names of Sir Walter Hughes, Sir Thomas Elder, Mr. Barr Smith, and other gentlemen hold distinguished places. A few years ago Mr. Peter Waite made a fine gift to the State in respect to valuable properties for the endowment of agricultural education. He has now added munificently to what he had already done by a further noble gift. On behalf of the Government I have acknowledged the gift in terms of gratitude and high appreciation for Mr. Waite's public spirit and generosity. The only condition attached to the endowment, so far as the Government are concerned, is that, as in the case of Urrbrae, the Go-



MR. PETER WAITE.

vernment has undertaken that the gift shall be free from State succession duty. Mr. Waite has manifestly realized that the future prosperity of South Australia, with its growing burdens, can only be met by means of increased productiveness, and he has given emphasis to that view by applying a very practical stimulus to that end. The total value of his endowments will exceed £100,000.

—Agricultural College at Urrbrae.—

"In October, 1913, Mr. Peter Waite presented to the University of Adelaide his Urrbrae estate at Glen Osmond, comprising 134 acres of land to be applied after the death of Mrs. Waite and himself, as to one-half for a public park under the control of the University, and for a University sports ground, and as to the other half on which the Urrbrae House is situated, for the study of agriculture in its widest sense in the University. In 1915 Mr. Waite increased his benefaction by purchasing the Claremont Estate of 53 acres, and 112 acres of the Netherby estate, both of which properties adjoin the Urrbrae property, and transferring these also to the University. There was thus constituted a magnificent endowment of 230 acres of excellent land of varied character, with a good rainfall, close to the city, and with many substantial buildings, the Mansion House in particular being extremely well built, and suitable to accommodate the Agricultural School of the University. When Mr. Waite's first gift was made, it was realized by him, no less than by the University Council, that it would be many years before the land could be fully utilized for the purposes for which it was intended, unless the Government or other private benefactors came to the assistance of the University with funds for the equipment and maintenance of the school. Mr. Waite has now most generously supplied this want. The nature of the endowment is that Mr. Waite has transferred to trustees for the University 4,900 shares in Elder, Smith, and Co., Limited, to be held upon trust to pay the income to Mr. Waite during his life, and after his death upon trust to sell the shares and pay the proceeds to Elder's Executor and Trustee Company, Limited, who are to invest the money in trust securities and pay the income to the University in perpetuity for the advancement of agricultural education. A trust deed has been prepared and signed by Mr. Waite, and his generous gift was accepted by the University this afternoon at a special meeting of the council. The 4,900 shares will carry with them the benefit of the new issue of shares, which is about to be made by the company, to the number of 980 new shares, making in all a total of 5,880 shares, of which the present market value is upwards of £60,000.

—Mr. Waite's Hope.—

"In writing to the University to communicate his gift, Mr. Waite expressed a hope that when a Faculty of Agriculture is created in the University it would be possible to include two of the directors of Elder's Trustee Company, who, in all probability, will be persons in close touch with agriculture and other matters of a like nature, and in close touch, also, with the agricultural community, his idea being that this will lead to the probability that the problems with which the farmer is from time to time faced will be immediately brought to the notice of those competent to deal with them."

—A Generous Giver.—

Fifty-nine years ago Mr. Peter Waite arrived in South Australia from Scotland, in which land of the loch he was born near Kirkcaldy, Fifehire, in 1834. He became an ironmonger's apprentice, and was employed in Edinburgh and Aberdeen for some years. He first went to Melbourne in the ship *The British Trident*, in 1859, but he spent little time there, and proceeded to Pandappa sheep station, near Terowie, which was held by his brother, Mr. James Waite, in conjunction with Messrs. Elder, Stirling, & Co. Mr. Peter Waite ultimately joined forces with the late Sir Thomas Elder, and they purchased the Paratoo run, which adjoined Pandappa. The two properties were placed under the one management until the end of the leases in 1888, and that portion of the holding was given up. Meanwhile Mr. Waite had acquired very extensive interests in several other properties, including Cordillo Downs, Beltana, Murnpeowie, Mount Lyndhurst, Blanchewater, Kanawana, Lake Charles, Mulyunyarie, Mutooroo, Lilydale, and Momba. From its inception he has been a large shareholder in Elder, Smith, & Co., Limited. Mr. Waite ever devoted much personal attention to the management of his runs, and to that fact much of their success was undoubtedly due. From 1859 to 1874 he was an active worker, and in the latter year he took up his residence in Adelaide, and passed over his duties to 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 giver to charitable and other institutions. In amassing his money he has done very much to develop the outback lands of the State, for he was a far-seeing man, and never hesitated to spend huge sums in the development of his holdings. Mr. Waite married in 1864, the daughter of the late Mr. James Methuen, of Leith, Scotland.

VALUABLE GIFT

MR. WAITE'S GENEROSITY

DONATION TO UNIVERSITY

VALUED AT UPWARDS OF £260,000.

Yesterday news was communicated to the press of another noble gift by Mr. Peter Waite to the Adelaide University. The Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake), who made the announcement to the press, said:—

"The State in the past has had some splendid benefactions from a number of public-spirited men by means of which many of our most useful institutions have profited immensely. In that connection the names of Sir Walter Hughes, Sir Thomas Elder, Mr. Barr Smith, and other gentlemen hold distinguished places. A few years ago Mr. Peter Waite made a fine gift to the State in respect to valuable properties for the endowment of agricultural education. He has added munificently to what he had done by a further noble gift, particulars with respect to which are appended. On behalf of the Government I have acknowledged the gift in terms of gratitude and high appreciation of Mr. Waite's public spirit and generosity. The only condition attached to the endowment, so far as the Government is concerned, is that, as in the case of Urrbrae, it has undertaken that the gift shall be free from State succession duty. Mr. Waite manifestly has realised that the future prosperity of South Australia, with its growing burdens, can be met only by means of increased productiveness, and he has given emphasis to that opinion by applying a practical stimulus to that end. The total value of his endowments will exceed £100,000.

—The First Gift.—

"In October, 1913, Mr. Peter Waite presented to the University his Urrbrae Estate, at Glen Osmond, comprising 134 acres of land, to be applied after the death of Mrs. Waite and himself, as to one half for a public park under the control of the University, and for a University sports ground, and as to the other half, on which the Urrbrae House is situated, for the study of agriculture in its widest sense in the University.

—The Second Gift.—

"In 1915 Mr. Waite increased his benefaction by purchasing the Claremont Estate, of 53 acres, and 112 acres of the Netherby estate, both of which adjoin the Urrbrae property and transferred them also to the University. Thus there was constituted a magnificent endowment of 230 acres of excellent land of varied character with a good rainfall, close to the city, and with many substantial buildings, the mansion house in particular being extremely well built, and suitable to accommodate the agricultural school of the University. When Mr. Waite's first gift was made it was realised by him, no less than by the University Council, that it would be many years before the land could be utilised fully for the purposes for which it was intended unless the Government or other private benefactors came to its assistance with funds for the equipment and maintenance of the school.

—The Third Gift.—

"Mr. Waite has most generously supplied that want now. The nature of the endowment is that Mr. Waite has transferred to trustees for the University 4900 shares in Elder, Smith, & Co., Limited, to be held upon trust to pay the income to Mr. Waite during his life, and, after his death, upon trust to sell the shares and to pay the proceeds to Elder's Executor and Trustee Company, Limited, which is to invest the money in trust securities and to pay the income to the University in perpetuity for the advancement of agricultural education. A trust deed has been prepared and signed by Mr. Waite and his generous gift was accepted by the University this afternoon at a special meeting of the council. The 4900 shares will carry with them the benefit of the new issue, which is about to be made by the company, to the number of 980 new shares, making a total of 5880 shares, of which the present market value is upwards of £260,000.

—A Hope Expressed.—

"In writing to the University to communicate his gift, Mr. Waite expressed a hope that when a faculty of agriculture is created it would be possible to include two of the directors of Elder's Trustee