

Ad & Reg. 12<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 1917

Professor W. H. Bragg, late of the Adelaide University, has been awarded by the Royal Society of Great Britain the Romford Medal for research work in physics. News of this distinction reached friends of the professor by the last mail (says the Melbourne "Age").

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Mr. Walter Howchin, F.G.S., who has been for 15 years lecturer in geology and palaeontology in the University of Adelaide, will to-day celebrate his 72nd birthday. Mr. Howchin was born at Norwich, England, on January 12, 1845, and is a son of the manse. His father was the Rev. Richard Howchin. Mr. Howchin was educated at the Academy, King's Lynn. At the age of 33 he was elected fellow of the Geological Society of London. He came to South Australia in 1881, and two years later was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of South Australia, and in 1884 became a member of the council. In 1895-6 he was president of this body. During the same period he was one of the National Park Commissioners. Since 1901 he has been a member of the Public Library Board, and has been the local secretary of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science since 1904. From 1886 to 1901 Mr. Howchin was secretary of the Adelaide Children's Hospital and lecturer on mineralogy in the Adelaide School of Mines from 1899 to 1904, and on geology at the Gawler School of Mines. He was awarded the Clarke Memorial Medal by the Royal Society of New South Wales in 1907 for "Researches in Natural Science," and the Ferdinand von Mueller Medal by the Asian Association for the Advancement of Science in 1913 for the same research work. He has been a prolific writer on geology and palaeontology, and his work dealing with glaciation in the Mount Lofty and Flinders Ranges is widely recognised.

MAIL 15.1.17

## DISPUTED BURSARY.

### Is Door Shut on Dawes?

#### Question for the University.

"The young man was tenth on the honours list, but a girl who came fifteenth was awarded the Government bursary," observed a gentleman interested in educational matters.

"Who is the candidate affected?" asked the "Mail" representative.

"He is E. H. Dawes, a son of Mr. E. J. Dawes, tailor, of Rundle street."

"How were the other bursaries distributed?"

"Eleven out of the first twelve pupils were given the bursaries, but young Dawes was skipped. It looks as though the door is to be shut on his chance for ever."

"Can you suggest a reason?"

"None at all."

"Is he over the age?"

"No; he is under 19. The age is all right."

"Are you doing anything in the matter?"

"I understand that some investigations are being made."

"Where was he educated?"

"At the Christian Brothers' College."

"Then that excellent school loses a big credit?"

"Yes, that is the case."

"How long has he attended there?"

"I believe it is about 11 years. He has done most creditably, too, for last year he got the eighteenth place in the same examination."

"Would there be any prejudice against him?"

"Nobody can understand the attitude of the authorities responsible for the action."

"What was the bursary?"

"It was for engineering, and was tenable for four years, and £40 a year was allowed."



MR. C. R. BAKER.

Mr. C. R. Baker, who is a candidate for the House of Representatives plebiscite, has been in the Labor movement since boyhood. He joined the Amalgamated Society of Engineers in Kalgoorlie (W.A.), and on coming to this State 10 years ago was elected president of the Adelaide branch, although only 21 years of age. He has represented his society on the Trades and Labor Council and the Labor Party Council for the 10 years he has been in the State. He is at present the president of the Trades and Labor Council. He was a delegate from Adelaide Trades and Labor Council to the Hobart Interstate Trade Union Conference, held last May. He was also a delegate to the recent Federal



MR. C. R. BAKER.

Conference of the Labor Party in Melbourne to deal with the position that had arisen in the political sphere. For over six years he has been the South Australian correspondent of the Sydney "Worker," the weekly article in that powerful Labor organ under the heading of "South Australia" coming from his pen. He is a member of the tutorial board of the Workers' Education Association, this board having the responsible work of providing the teachers and making the arrangements for carrying on classes. He is a member of the board of directors of the A.N.A. For nine years he was a member of the railway service, joining at the Glanville Works as a ~~carriage~~ and later on being a ~~carriage~~ in the interlocking department. He was responsible for the evidence given before the Royal Commission, bringing charges of incapacity against highly placed officials.

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TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

New Superintendent at Work.

It is confidently expected by the Education Department that a marked impetus in technical teaching will follow the appointment of Mr. Charles Fenner, M.Sc., the new Superintendent of Technical Education. Many people will be surprised to know that Mr. Fenner is already hard at work. He came to the State quietly during the latter end of last year, but it was not until Monday that the department definitely announced his arrival. Meanwhile the superintendent has seen much more of South Australia than freshly appointed officers usually do in a few weeks. He has been "spying out the land" of his new sphere of activities, and appears to be going about the business with systematic and tactful zeal.





MR. CHARLES FENNER, M.Sc.,  
Superintendent of Technical Education.

Mr. Fenner has come to South Australia with high credentials, and important achievements are expected from his organization of the technical education of the State. The superintendent is only 32 years of age, but has had a remarkably interesting career. He is at present writing his thesis for the degree of Doctor of Science. Mr. Fenner, who was appointed last September, has been described by a leading educational authority in Victoria as "a grand organizer and teacher, with rousing and impressing power." He has a pleasing, alert personality and fine powers of lucid expression. He has the following university achievements:—(a) University Qualifications—Bachelor of Science, Melbourne University; Completed Master of Science Course, Melbourne University; First-class Honourman and Exhibitioner in Biology, Melbourne University; Second-class Honourman and Exhibitioner in Geology, Melbourne University; First-class Final Honourman, Geology and Mineralogy, Melbourne University, 1913; Final Honour Scholar in Geology and Mineralogy, Melbourne University, 1913; Professor Kernot Research Scholar, Melbourne University; first prize (1912 and 1913) for best practical field work (university); research work. He has had two original scientific papers published by the Royal Society of Victoria, and has two more completed—to be published by the Mines Department. He is at present working on a thesis with the object of applying for the degree of Doctor of Science. Mr. Fenner has been elected a Fellow of the Geological Society of London. He has had 15 years' practical experience as a teacher, and has been at various times assistant and head master of Victorian primary schools. He has been head master of the Mansfield Agricultural High School, and in 1913 was appointed Principal of the Ballarat School of Mines.

—An Enlarged Policy.—

The policy of the superintendent will aim at the establishment of junior technical schools throughout the State, and the shaping of the curriculum of the various institutions, over which he will have supervision, to the practices of the districts. For instance, the bias of the studies at Moonta would be in the direction of mining, and at Gawler of manufactures. After Mr. Fenner resigned from his Ballarat post he toured New South Wales and Victoria, on the instruction of the Minister of Education (Hon. C. Vaughan), to acquaint himself with the latest information regarding methods in those States. Since his arrival here he has been out of his office practically every day getting in touch with the wide scope of his duties. Subsequently, as the result of these investigations, he will sketch out a policy for presentation to the Minister. All the technical schools in South Australia, with one exception, are now under the jurisdiction of the Education Department, in accordance with the terms of the new Act. The exception is the Adelaide School of Mines, and its future, in relation to the enlarged policy, and the co-ordination of the whole system, will have to be determined.

—Visits by the Superintendent.—

The superintendent already has visited Port Pirie, Moonta and Wallaroo Mines, and Gawler, and next week will proceed to Mount Gambier to make enquiries on the spot. Mr. Fenner also has been to various factories in Adelaide and country centres, and on Monday was engaged in similar activities. He has given proof of a quality of persistent industry and of a determination linked to special gifts, to place the technical system of the State on an adequate and efficient footing.



## PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS.

### THEIR VALUE QUESTIONED.

Mr. Angas Parsons, K.C., in the State Arbitration Court on Tuesday, when a witness was giving evidence in the chemists' case on the question of examinations, remarked that it would be a wise thing to do away with the senior and higher public examinations. It was a great mistake that the students of the High Schools, Prince Alfred and St. Peter's Colleges, and other institutions, should from 13 or 14 years of age, be made to concentrate their attention on "mugging up" to pass examinations. It missed the whole principle of education. Probably it had been revenue-producing for the University, but the educational system would be better if they could do without the senior and higher public examinations. It should be enough for the school to give a certificate to show that the boy or girl was able to go on with University studies.

The Deputy-President (Mr. N. A. Webb) said a student might pass every examination, and his education be not begun. It was love of knowledge that helped education.

Mr. Parsons said it must be a perfect nightmare to a teacher who understood the real spirit of teaching, when he had to drive his little subjects, not for the purpose of acquiring knowledge, but for the purpose of passing examinations.

The Deputy-President—From the point of view that the child is not loving the work, but is hating the work.

Mr. Parsons—I would not go so far as that. I think it has a warping tendency on the child's mind. I do not believe in examination as a test, or as a qualification for entering the University.