

more land for the University than its present site was previously before the Government, certain sites had been marked out which, it was suggested, might be allotted to the University. These would probably be ample for this purpose. Before any great expenditure was incurred in building, however, the council desired to establish a definite claim to the land. Government assistance was also asked towards the cost of the buildings. The council desired to know whether the Government would meet the cost, either immediately or at a later date, of erecting the buildings most urgently needed, such as accommodation for the medical school. The whole of the University's income was absorbed by the present work. The University cost the State only about £12,000 a year, which was a very small amount compared to the cost of the universities in most of the other States. In view of the great importance of higher education in the economic struggle that must ensue after the declaration of peace, the council felt justified in applying for financial assistance.

Professor Mitchell said the council did not wish to meet the difficulties of the situation by increasing the amount of fees in order to raise money for additional accommodation, especially in view of the movement in the other States towards making such education free. They believed that the best line to take in education was to work from above, instead of spending all the available money in pushing from below. They did not wish to reduce the number of students as they might by increasing the fees. The pressure on space had been greatly increased by finding room for the Training College, the Workers' Educational Association, and for exhibition and laboratory work in connection with forestry. The council was pleased to have this work, which was supported by the Government, carried on at the University, but it increased the need for additional accommodation. The whole of North-terrace from the present site to Frome-road would not be too much to devote to the expanding needs of the University.

Mr. G. Brookman and Mr. Angus Parsons supported.

The Premier said he would be glad to have an estimate of the cost of the buildings. Though £10,000 did not seem very much to spend on such a purpose, in view of the importance of the work of the University, they had to bear in mind that both the State and Commonwealth were up against great financial difficulties, and he could not hold out hopes of the Government finding a very large sum of money. If the council would let him have an estimate of the whole scheme, and also, as a sub-heading, the absolutely essential part of it, he would submit the matter to Cabinet. With regard to the council's desire for the titles and right of possession to the land promised on North-terrace, steps would be taken in that direction.

Ref. 22.4.19.

The Medical Journal of Australia writes:—"It has been announced that the Council of the University of Adelaide has invited Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, professor of physiology at the University of Toronto, to succeed his father-in-law, the late Sir Edward Stirling, in the Chair of Physiology at the University of Adelaide. Professor Robertson has done excellent work in physical chemistry, and is a graduate in science, but not in medicine, of the University of Adelaide. While his scientific record is a brilliant one, we hold the opinion that chairs in the faculty of medicine should be given to medical graduates."

note 23.4.19.

#### A GROWING UNIVERSITY.

It is self-evident that education is becoming more general, and in order to meet the demands that are being made, there are an increasing number of requests for greater accommodation and more extensive facilities. Nor is this so only in the lower branches; it is seen from the most elementary schools up to the University. But it is not often that the University approaches the Government for aid in the work it is doing, and it never does so without good cause. Therefore, the more weight ought to be given to the considerations that must follow from the request made last week by the University authorities. It is not likely that such eminent men as the Chancellor of the University (the Chief Justice, Sir George Murray) and the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Mitchell) would approach the

Government unless they were satisfied that they were fully justified in doing so, and that for which they asked was absolutely necessary. For many years now the University has been growing out of its limited accommodation. Many suggestions have been made to overcome the difficulties, but owing to the fact that it is desired to keep the institution central, nothing really satisfactory has ever been put forward. However, certain lands on North Terrace have been promised to the University, and it is thought, with that, for the time being the needs of the community can be met. But at present there is urgent need of new buildings, and the Government have been asked to contribute towards the cost of them. With an anticipated deficit, the Government is not keen upon incurring new debts. But at the same time it must be remembered that the University perform an important function in the community, and is, to a great extent, self-supporting. Probably the day will come when our Universities will be free, and the responsibility of the Government will then be much greater; but the opportunity of the individual will be much more general. The position at present, however, is that a small contribution is asked for, which, if not granted, may mean that the University authorities will have to increase the fees of the students thereby carrying this higher branch of edu-

cation further away from the class which even now, is unable or barely able to have the privileges conferred by the institution. This is an alternative that the Government should bear in mind when considering this matter.

Ref. 28.4.19.

#### REQUEST TO THE UNIVERSITY.

At the meeting of the Council of the University of Adelaide on Friday it was announced that the late Miss Ellen Milne Bunday had bequeathed to the University a sum of approximately £1,200 for the purpose of founding a scholarship or scholarships at the University for the encouragement of original research in botany or forestry. Miss Bunday, who was herself a graduate of the University, always took a keen interest in its affairs, and in 1912 she gave a sum of £200 to found a prize for English verse in memory of her parents. The bequest which now takes effect under her will should be of much value in assisting advanced students to undertake research work after graduation, and thus advance human knowledge, which, rather than the mere imparting of information, should be the main aim of a university, and the funds bequeathed by Miss Bunday should materially help in this direction.