

The half-yearly luncheon of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce was held at the Grand Central Hotel on Friday. The President (Hon. D. J. Gordon, M.L.C.) occupied the chair. An address was delivered by the Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, M.A., M.C., who said he addressed such a gathering of business men with extreme diffidence. But public speakers must seek a point of contact, and he wanted to make one. The point of his speech was "Education," which at the present moment was on the crest of the wave. He had helped in Belgium to give the fighters opportunities to help themselves, and of all the talks he had given none had interested the soldiers so much as those about Australia. He had wished to help immigration to the Commonwealth, and with that object in view he wrote to Australia House for all possible information, and got no answer. He felt that there was a chance for a good business man. Six young fellows he knew who wanted to come to Australia had gone to Canada. It had been said that the public school system of Great Britain had paid too much attention to the athletic side. However, the great test came in August, 1914, and they knew what the result had been. British officers had gone to America to help train men for the war, and had formed the opinion that the Americans would yield good N.C.O.'s. The British N.C.O. had been a great power in the winning of the war, and he had been the outcome of the public school spirit. There was never that camaraderie in the German Army which existed between officers and men in the British Army. It had been a splendid spirit.

—System in Australia.—

The British public school system was firmly established in Australia. Was it going to help this democratic country, and was it going to help business men in conducting their businesses? Those who conducted the schools were out for two main objects, one of which was to train the boys for life, and to so equip them that they could follow all the possible walks both in peace and war. Life outside the school in the way of games and recreation was invaluable. There were seven things inculcated in their public schools. The first was initiative. Then the boys were taught to play for their side fairly and squarely. Third the boys were taught to take responsibility themselves. Fourthly they were trying to teach the lads to put forward their best work in every way, and to be dependable on themselves as much as possible. They must obey so that they could command. Then the boys' horizons were widened so as to give them a knowledge of art and music and poetry. These qualities were inculcated outside the classroom, and that was the kind of boys the community wanted. Again, fresh subjects were always being considered to ascertain whether they would mean a permanent stimulation of the intellect. (Applause.) At one time the classics (Latin and Greek) were alone the chief things taught. Fifty years ago there came a change, however, and eventually modern languages were introduced side by side with the classics. Then came other sides until the field tended to become crowded. At length certain subjects were chosen which a boy must master before he went on to other higher things.

—Needs of Commerce.—

Commerce needed young men whose minds were trained to think for themselves, and he claimed that the public schools were doing much in that direction. (Applause.) Sometimes a boy had to leave before he was thoroughly equipped, and he (the speaker) thought that often much good would be accomplished if business men consulted the schoolmaster as to a boy's equipment. British commerce had stood for honesty, thoroughness, and stability, and if those features were to stand in the future business men must help the schoolmaster to inculcate them. (Applause.) He felt the romance of commerce, and he wholeheartedly desired to so train those under his charge as to assist them to carry on that romance when they passed from the classroom to the counting house. He claimed that there was ample room here for the British public school spirit. That spirit was not confined to either St. Peter's or Prince Alfred College. It was much wider than that. (Applause.)

—Status of the Teacher.—

The schoolmaster was very anxious to establish his status as a professional man, and could commercial men throughout Australia sit comfortably when they knew well what schoolmasters and schoolmistresses were paid? The schoolmasters were paid abominably, and it was only by leading to a different regard for the position of the teacher that this would be altered. He was proud to be a schoolmaster. There were rewards. Teachers wanted to make the boys and girls worthy of the great heritage of the past. (Applause.)

—Half-yearly Report.—

The President, in moving the adoption of the report (a summary of which has already been published) introduced to the gathering Capt. Drysdale, who had come to Australia under the auspices of the Chambers of Commerce to show a series of moving pictures of big industries of Great Britain. Mr. W. Herbert Phillips seconded the proposal, which was carried.

Budget Check. Ref. 22.10.20. Adv. 29-10-20

VALUE OF THE UNIVERSITY.

THE GOVERNOR'S TRIBUTE.

"The value of the University to the Community" was the subject of an interesting address delivered by his Excellency the Governor on Thursday evening before the Graduates' Association. The president (Professor T. Brailsford Robertson) occupied the chair. The Chancellor (Sir George Murray) was present.

His Excellency said in these times of rush and hurry, many people never thought. Life to-day rather tended to disorder. Half the present difficulties came from the fact that fundamentals and essentials were neglected. The University was a centre for thought. As the University should be the crown of the educational system it should be based on really deep thought. The University should also occupy itself with the highest forms of athletic exercises. It should be the centre for cleanness in thought and sport. (Applause.) The real difficulty was to bring the University into direct contact with the average man in the street. There was a danger of the intellectual life becoming stagnant. Providence had given the intellectual person a certain outlook that the man who was purely material did not possess, and vice versa. It was hard to bring them together, but the University should assist in that work of reconciliation. The agriculturist in England was a man of slow thought, but extremely patient and persistent, and he appreciated science when it meant money to him. There was a tendency for people to say, "Anything will do." Everything in Australia from an agricultural point of view was easy, and the tendency therefore was "Anything will do." The University had a tremendous opportunity as a corrective influence in that matter. It should screw up the attitude of the average man towards his obligations to the community, and also his individual attitude towards the industry in which he was engaged. Labor-saving devices in education might supplant thoroughness. Those connected with education should proclaim the elementary fact that something was not to be had for nothing. If a man had the God-given gifts of individuality and imagination, surely his first duty was to use them in the interests of the community. The University should instil that important lesson in this young country. No community could really progress unless it realised to the full the value of its University. (Applause.)

Register 1.11.20

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

At the meeting of the University Council, held on Friday, the question of the retirement of five members of the council, in accordance with the Act of Incorporation, was considered. Mr. W. G. T. Goodman and Mr. M. M. Maughan retired by effluxion of time. Of the remaining members Mr. T. A. Caterer, Mr. F. Chapple, Dr. Helen Mayo, Professor Mitchell, and Dr. B. Poulton had been next longest in office. A ballot was held, and Mr. Chapple, Dr. Mayo, and Dr. Poulton were declared to be the retiring members. The council re-elected Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., and Professor Henderson to be the representatives of the University on the Public Library Board. Dr. J. A. G. Hamilton resigned his position as lecturer in gynaecology as from December 31. As a mark of appreciation of the long service rendered by Dr. Hamilton, and by Dr. W. T. Hayward, who will vacate the position of lecturer in materia medica and therapeutics at the end of the current year, the council resolved to confer upon Dr. Hamilton the office of Lecturer in Gynaecology honoris causa, and upon Dr. Hayward the office of Lecturer in Materia Medica and Therapeutics honoris causa. On the recommendation of the examiners for the scholarships in connection with the public examinations in music, held by the Australian Music Examination Board, the scholarship for theory was awarded to Miss L. E. Taylor, and that for practice of music to Miss R. W. Naylor. The annual commemoration will be held on Wednesday, December 8.

An additional grant of £200,000 is made to corporations and district councils for the construction of and maintenance of main roads and bridges, the total estimated expenditure for this purpose being £200,000.

—Education.—

The vote in this department has been increased from £509,150 to £640,295. There are a number of increases of £50 in salary, and there is a new line of £600 for a superintendent of secondary education, and an inspector of secondary schools. The raising of status and pay in this department accounts for a very large increased expenditure. The vote to the Public Library, Museum, Art Gallery, and societies is at present £13,870, and the advances include £500 in grants to the various branches (including £200 to assist in cataloguing the Library), and £1,000 percentage increases to officers. The School of Mines is allotted £17,177, and the extra amount involved includes £5,850 for general expenses and £1,000 for the Technical High School. In connection with woods and forests, £1,500 more is allocated for general contingencies, and the total estimate is £45,908, against £34,899 last year. The figures for the Intelligence and Tourist Bureau have grown by about £1,000, £100 of which will be added to the £150 previously spent in advertising the State overseas and £300 (or £1,800 in all) to opening up and improving national pleasure resorts. In the miscellaneous section there appears a new grant of £20,550 for the University of Adelaide, £550 being for services of consulting forester and lecturer in forestry, and £20,000 towards the expenses of management. The Institutes Association will receive £8,400 compared with £8,150 previously.

Advertiser 23.10.20

MR. WAITE'S GIFT.

FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

A COMMITTEE FORMED.

The Minister of Agriculture (Hon. T. Pascoe) stated on Friday that the following gentlemen had been appointed members of the committee to enquire into and submit to the Government proposals for the promotion of agricultural education:—The Director of Agriculture (Professor Perkins), the principal of the Roseworthy Agricultural College (Mr. W. J. Colebatch), the Director of Irrigation (Mr. S. McIntosh), the Horticultural Instructor (Mr. G. Quinn), the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy), Professor W. R. Chapman, Professor Lowrie, the Hons. J. Lewis and W. G. Duncan, and Messrs. J. Wallace Sandford and R. T. Melrose (nominated by the Royal Agricultural Society), Professor Mitchell (nominated by the University), Messrs. G. F. Jenkins, M.P., T. Butterfield, M.P., H. D. Young, M.P., A. J. Murray, Fred. Coleman, and F. W. Reid (Registrar School of Mines). Mr. Peter Waite would nominate a direct representative. Two other gentlemen had been asked to accept seats on the committee, but had not yet indicated whether they would be able to do so.

The Minister said Mr. Waite's munificent gift to the University for research work in respect to agriculture, botany, forestry, and kindred subjects, and his gift of over 100 acres of land at Fularton for agricultural high school purposes, afforded an opportunity for the adoption of a definite scheme of agricultural education constituting a complete chain of the highest forms of scientific and practical instruction from the State and technical schools to the Agricultural College, and in the case of those desirous of continuing their studies, to the University. He felt sure that when the University developed the proposals in respect to the utilisation of Mr. Waite's gift for research work, care would be taken to co-ordinate the work of the Agricultural College and Agricultural High School. The committee appointed represented not only the different aspects of practical agriculture, but also the various educational sections. He felt confident that much good would result from the work. The first meeting would, by the invitation of his Excellency the Governor, be held at Government House on Monday next.

Advertiser 29-10-20

A RHODES SCHOLAR. ALLOWANCE INSUFFICIENT.

Sydney, October 28. The New South Wales Rhodes scholar for 1920, Mr. Vernon Treatt, B.A., M.M., has resigned his scholarship on the ground of the inadequacy of the allowance made by the trustees.

riors upon their return home. Patriotic funds have benefited greatly by his contributions. Sir George presided at the Repatriation Conference held in Adelaide last year. The eldest son of Sir George and Lady Brookman (Gnr. Norman Brookman) returned home some time ago after having seen active service in France. Mr. George Brookman, jun., of Glenelg, is another son.

Advertiser 15/10/20

The Mus. Bac. scholarship, tenable for three years, awarded annually by the Adelaide University to the most successful honors candidate at the September examinations in the theory of music, has fallen to Miss Laurel Evelyn Taylor, a daughter of Mr. J. E. Taylor, of Virginia, and a student of Mr. E. E. Mitchell.

Advertiser 21/10/20

POST-PRIMARY EDUCATION.

DISCUSSION BY THE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Advisory Council of Education was held on Tuesday. There were present the Director of Education, the Superintendent of Primary Education, the Superintendent of Technical Education, the Superintendent of Secondary Education, Dr. Halley, Professor Henderson, Professor Kerr Grant, the Revs. K. J. F. Bickersteth and James Hanrahan, Miss Jacob, and Messrs. W. R. Bayly, A. H. Dobbie, W. C. Melbourne, and E. E. Wholohan. Mr. W. J. Adey was welcomed as a member of the council by the Director.

The following resolution was proposed by Dr. Fenner, and seconded by Mr. Melbourne:—"That the council agrees that for post-primary students an all-round education, providing for both mental and moral development, may be given by a systematic course of work in subjects having a utilitarian and vocational value."

Dr. Fenner put forward the following points as being among the most direct advantages of vocational education:—It provides active instead of passive education; it develops the co-operative faculty of the students; it increases their adaptability and manual dexterity; it gives a strong impetus to the feeling of pride in work well done; it cultivates independence; it develops and encourages rapidity of thought and action; it increases the powers of observation; it cultivates that portion of the mind whereby thoughts tend to be strongly followed by action, cultivating doers as well as thinkers; it develops a regulated and orderly imagination; and through the history of their craft, it develops a respect for, and knowledge of, the past.

After a discussion, in which all the members took an active part, Professor Henderson moved an amendment:—"That this council recognises that under present industrial conditions it may be expedient for post-primary students to concentrate on utilitarian and vocational subjects, and that, in any course of training the acquisition of knowledge should be regarded as preliminary to the application and use of it. But it is also of the opinion that an all-round development of the mind cannot be provided for without a systematic training in the humanities."

This was seconded by Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, and discussed by the members. It was decided that Dr. Fenner should take into consideration the views of the members, and recast his motion, to be presented at the next meeting, in the second week of March, 1921.