NEW ROLE FOR UNIVERSITY

If the keynote of national greatness be education, and there can be no reasonable doubt about it, there is abundant ground for gratification in the manner in which it was sounded at the recent conference of the Chambers of Commerce of Australia in Adelaide.

EVENTUALLY THAT MEANS THE ADOPTION OF WHAT IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE THE DOMINANT PRINCIPLE IN THE SYSTEM OF EDUCATING AND TRAINING THE YOUNG, AND THAT IS THAT THE SCHOOL PERIOD SHOULD NOT BE DEVOTED WHOLLY TO THE ABSORPTION OF THE DETAILS OF READING, WRITING, AND ARITHMETIC, BUT SHOULD BE ALLIED TO LESSONS IN THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF ALL KNOWLEDGE TO THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE AND THE WORKS-DAY WORLD.

No proper accomplishment of this aim can be secured unless there is a sympathetic collaboration between such bodies as the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Manufacturers, and the University, the former bodies indicating the avenues along which education, training, and research may develop or weaken, and the latter providing the necessary courses to obtain those objects.

In America the position has been recognised, and large sums have been spent by the commercial and manufacturing interests to promote education along such lines and for special industrial research.

This must make for the betterment of the people so equipped and finally lead to their supremacy in competition with other nations whose skilled and educational development have not reached so high a standard.

At the back of these advantages is the claim which was also voiced at the conference in the form of a promise of the school-going period. That this is not such a "babies" as it may seem was shown by the citing of the case of a boy who remained at school until he was 15, and then in one year outstriped a lad whose educational career had closed three years earlier.

The extension of the years devoted to education not only assist in the development of character, but also in teaching how to handle men, two of the greatest factors in success either in industrial or commercial life.

For the promotion of this higher attainment in the realm of commerce it was suggested that a central committee be formed in each State, representing the Chamber of Commerce and head masters of departmental and other schools, to decide upon the leaving age, the syllabus, and other kindred matters.

If representatives of the Chambers of Manufactures be added to the list the committee should have in it the elements for bringing the power and influence of the University to the commercial and manufacturing areas of Australia.

Scientific principles are just as applicable to the branches of the world's activities as to the professions of medicine, engineering, and law, and there are irresistible reasons for the invasion of this new field by the University.

EDUCATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

In 1924, the Government of South Australia, through the Hon. L. Fisher (then President of the Board of Education), appointed a Committee to inquire into the question of education. The Committee, after a careful and exhaustive investigation, recommended that the education of children should be placed on a more rational basis, and that the system should be made more flexible and adaptable to the needs of the community. The recommendations of the Committee were implemented, leading to the establishment of the South Australian Department of Education. The Department, under the leadership of Dr. Frederick Lander, became the driving force behind the transformation of the education system in South Australia.

THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY CREQ.