

Gradually a true idea is being formed of the usefulness of a course at the University. Generally it has been viewed as an institution for the culture of the mind, where those who have the means and leisure might become compendiums of knowledge. Progress has been made, however, especially in America, in commercial research work, which has shown that the University may be utilised not merely in the turning out of lawyers, doctors, and engineers, but that every phase of industrial life may be advanced and made more efficient by University training.

In any case, a trained mind must be better than an untrained one, but there is research work to be done in every industry. American technical schools and colleges are full of students who are combining a course with their ordinary avocations. Employers recognise the value of such education, and the students plan their activities on lines which will prove most advantageous to them in their future business.

There are thousands of such working students in America, and there is no reason why there should not be a great many of them in Australia. For the furtherance of this idea employment bureaux have been established in connection with the Sydney and Melbourne Universities, and a similar step is now being taken in Adelaide.

This forward movement deserves every commendation and encouragement. Employers of all kinds should have it impressed upon them that they are sure to be better served. Their business will receive a greater stimulus on more scientific lines by the employment of trained minds.

The University Employment Bureau will serve to bring together employers who require the best class of service and students who are filled with determination to advance themselves, but require employment to enable them to finance their course. In this way the floodgates of scientific education may be opened into every industry and the University come into its own.

Universities are not only institutions for producing men and women of culture. They are the imparters of knowledge suitable for securing the best results in the most economic way from every industry. These are the lines on which the most effective industrial advancement will be made. The idea must be instilled into the employer that the men he requires to advance his affairs are University students with their trained minds. This may prove the most difficult part of all, because employers are prone to regard themselves as experts in their own affairs, and may not see how the scientific attainments of the workers are to benefit them. It will come with experience.

The authorities are to be congratulated on the forward step they are taking. It must tend toward a wider appreciation of the possibilities of University training.

Continued... an important feature of many of the subjects, and was becoming increasingly so, and the training to express themselves lucidly must be of great advantage. One of the inevitable results of higher education of commercial men must surely be the creation of what might be called a true professional spirit—that sense of responsibility to the community over and above the immediate object of personal profit. That they must have profit was the basis of their calling—a business man who could not produce profit was a failure, but if in the making of that profit he was animated by a high sense of professional duty and pride, not only he, but the whole community would be the richer.

Room at Top.

If that was the case, they would no doubt think that employers should make particular opportunities for men with diplomas, and there had perhaps been some disappointment that a systematized preference had not been arranged. But those of them who were engaged in large offices—or small ones for that matter—must realize the many difficulties in the way of an employer desirous of doing something in that way. But he could assure them there was always plenty of room at the top. Well-educated men of character, vision, and energy were much in demand, and the young man who exhibited those qualities would not be allowed to "hide his light under a bushel." The old saying that "knowledge is power" was true to-day, as it could not be disputed that knowledge gave to its possessor a confidence which was invaluable in any walk of life and particularly so in commerce. That confidence gave the ability to recognise and grasp opportunity when it appeared, and very frequently to actually create opportunity itself. He was told by a returned soldier that during the war in a camp very remotely placed in the country, the company commanders at mess one evening decided to race their horses on the following day. When the camp gathered for the event, though the nearest settled life was miles away, there was seen in the midst of an eager group one of the diggers with a shining leather bag, and an equally shiny belltopper anxious to lay the odds, which illustrated his remark that knowledge and confidence created its own opportunity. Again he was reminded of that well-educated young man mentioned in the "Letters of a Self-made Merchant to His Son," who tried in succession practically every job that commerce had to offer and failed dismally. Eventually he turned to writing articles on "Why Young Men Failed," and did exceedingly well by it. He might have been a fool, but his education at least gave him the eye for seeing an opportunity in the most hopeless position. He (the speaker) suggested that they should not think because the commercial men of Adelaide had not been able to arrange a settled system of preference they were not unappreciative of the value of commercial education. It was up to the young graduate to demonstrate his superiority.

Chair of Commerce.

Mr. Bruce resumed that he had noticed that one of the objects of the association as expressed in the constitution, was to aim at the establishment of a chair of commerce in the University, and, as Adelaide was the University which pioneered commercial education in Australia, it was no doubt a matter of disappointment to them that the chair had not yet arrived. He took it that the establishment of a chair in any subject was a public recognition by the community that the subject was of sufficient educational and social importance to warrant special study, and that the practice of the subject was so highly developed and involved as to call for the advanced education of its practitioners. If that was so, then, he asked, who could dispute the claims of commerce to a chair? Their motto meant "Progress by exchange." The words had a wide application. Trade and commerce involving, as it did, the exchange of commodities between various communities and countries, resulted always in the exchange of more than commodities—the exchange of language, of politics, of education, of art, and all manner of cultures. That had always been realized. They found that the Jews of old were forbidden to purchase Greek oil, not because the Jewish authorities considered Greek oil inferior to that of Palestine, but because the religion and philosophy of the Greeks were objectionable to them. They knew the far-reaching effects of commerce. Surely a branch of human activity which was fraught with such far-reaching consequences deserved systematized and scientific study, and he hoped it would not be long before their hopes for the establishment of a degree in commerce would be realized.

True Professional Spirit.

To any community, Mr. Bruce continued, there was a great amount of public service to be rendered, if the life of the people was to be rich and virile, and there was always a difficulty in securing sufficient men who were at the same time ready and able to assume those responsibilities. It had been said in cynical strain that the people in this world who had the knowledge had not the power, while those who had the power had not the knowledge. However true that might be, he was sure nothing would prove of greater assistance in training men to adequately assume the responsibilities of public office than a high standard of commercial education supervised by the University. In one respect alone, the education which they were undertaking must help to train them to better express themselves. The composition of essays was

Study of Economics.

"I want to say that there is quite naturally a fear on the part of many business men that in the study of commerce theory may become divorced from practice, but I am sure that the members of the University staff responsible for its commercial studies are fully alive to this," added the speaker. For that reason he thought that the constitution of the board of commercial studies, consisting as it did of representatives of the University teaching staff and representatives of the most important commercial and industrial associations, was of great advantage.

That question led him to the subject of economics. As economics was the study of the material welfare of the people, it was inevitable that many of the matters with which it dealt were questions surrounded by an atmosphere of conflicting party political views, which made it very difficult for the lecturer to steer a course through his subject which did not flavour of partisan bias. The existence of a difficulty, however, was a challenge to overcome it, and the necessity of overcoming the particular difficulty he had mentioned was acute. He did not think anything could do greater harm to the reputation and prestige of a university than to create an impression that its teachings partook of political partisan views. Because of that inherent difficulty in the teaching of economics he had heard it suggested that the subject might well be dropped from the commercial course. Whether that was possible he did not know, but he would be sorry if a study of economics resulted in clouding their University in a murky haze of party politics. He was aware that the study of economics was a wide human subject containing all the elements of liberal education, and realized that teachers of economics had a difficult task in that respect. When recently requesting the Premier to speak on an important aspect of public affairs in a frank, non-partisan manner, he laughingly remarked that he would do as the University professor did—"State the case and leave you to draw your own conclusions;" and it was only by following that principle that subjects of a contentious nature could be kept above the sordid atmosphere of political strife. He was confident that was the spirit in which the University of Adelaide approached, and would always approach, such subjects. The community had much to gain by encouraging the commercial education provided by the University, and he also felt that the University had something to gain by close contact with the actual affairs of life. It was a partnership for the common good. (Applause.)

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UNIVERSITY FORESTRY SCHOOL
Mr. C. E. Lane Poole, Forestry Adviser to the Commonwealth Government, who has been visiting Western Australia to consult the Government of that State with regard to the proposed Commonwealth School of Forestry, will return to Adelaide on Sunday, and will again interview the Premier (Hon. J. Gunn), in regard to the question of the Commonwealth assuming the financial responsibilities of the Adelaide University School of Forestry and the Kuitpo Forest Reserve. It is understood that the Commonwealth Government desire to come to an arrangement with the Government and the University authorities in regard to the school, as it is believed that the Commonwealth recognises that the proposed Canberra school cannot be a practicable proposition for several years to come.

TEACHING OF ECONOMICS

Separated from Party Politics.

Advantages of University Course.

That he would be sorry if the study of economics resulted in the clouding of the Adelaide University in a murky haze of party politics, was a remark made by the President of the Chamber of Commerce (Mr. Wallace Bruce) at the annual dinner of the Adelaide University Commerce Students Association at the Grosvenor on Saturday night.

Mr. Bruce was proposing "The Commerce Students Association," and in the course of his remarks said:—That night's happy gathering afforded him an opportunity of congratulating the society and the University authorities upon the flourishing State of the Commerce School. He was surprised to learn that last year there were as many as 316 students enrolled for the various courses, and that the number this year exceeded that. He had been brought into close contact with many of the younger men of this city, who had had the advantage of these studies, and could speak from personal conviction of the great benefit that the diploma holders had received from the course. "The conditions of modern commerce with its wide ramifications and its enlistment of every known branch of science, have sounded the death knell of the rule of thumb men. The man of knowledge and alert mind is everywhere in demand," contended Mr. Bruce. "It must not be inferred that the value of experience is less

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COMMONWEALTH FORESTRY SCHOOL.

After a trip to Perth to confer with the Western Australian Government regarding the proposed Commonwealth School of Forestry, Mr. C. E. Lane Poole, Forestry Adviser to the Commonwealth Government, returned to Adelaide on Sunday, and left for Melbourne the same day. Mr. Poole stated that the Western Australian Government were favourably inclined to the proposal, and were prepared to nominate students to the school. The Premier (Hon. J. Gunn) was a passenger on the same train, and Mr. Poole said it was probable they could further confer on the journey in connection with the proposal that the Commonwealth should assume the financial responsibilities of the Adelaide University School of Forestry and the Kuitpo Forest Reserves.

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EDUCATION AND COMMERCE.

WORK OF ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

The community has much to gain by encouraging the commercial education provided by the University of Adelaide, and the University has something to gain by close contact with the affairs of life.

An address on the value of commercial education was delivered by Mr. Wallace Bruce (president of the Chamber of Commerce), at the annual dinner of the University Students' Association, on Saturday night. Mr. Kenneth H. Boycott presided.

In proposing the toast of "The Adelaide University Students' Association," Mr. Bruce said the happy gathering afforded him an opportunity of congratulating the society and the University authorities upon the flourishing state of the Commerce School. He admitted being surprised to learn that last year there were as many as 316 students enrolled for the various courses, and that the number this year exceeded that. He had been brought into close contact with many of the younger men of this city who had had the advantage of these studies, and could speak from personal conviction of the great benefit that the diploma holders had received from the course. The conditions of modern commerce, with its wide ramifications and its enlistment of every known branch of science, had sounded the death knell of the rule of thumb men. The man of knowledge and alert mind was everywhere in demand