

Scholarships

University of the scholarships she would cut the head of the system of education she provided. The scholarships have a tendency to draw into the portals of the University the children of the poorer members of the community more than Higgote had been the case. No one wished the University to be maintained for the benefit of the rich only. All classes should have a fair and equal share in its advantages, and manifestly if some provision were not made to enable the children of persons who could not afford to pay the University fees to enter in the advantages of the higher education to be obtained, there would be restricted. That would be a cause for great regret, and he trusted funds would be forthcoming for the continuance of the scholarships.

Professor RENNIE emphasized the fact that great advantages were conferred by the scholarships. His experience in connection with evening classes convinced him that the scholarships were necessary, because the students could not afford to pay the fees. He knew of instances in which students who were unable to attend during the day attended the evening classes and passed through two years of their curriculum. Some of the best of the students had had to discontinue attending the evening classes because the fees were too high, and the £10 scholarships would about cover the fees.

Dean Murray (representing St. Peter's College), the Rev. R. Kelly (Prince Alfred College), Dr. W. G. Torr (Way College), Dr. Paxon, and Mr. G. Sutherland, M.A., supported the request.

The MINISTER, in reply, expressed his pleasure at meeting so many distinguished sons of Aime-mater. He was glad to know the council and senate of the University had agreed to a joint proposal, which had received the assent and co-operation of the representatives of secondary schools. He recognized

that there was a continuity at present through the whole educational system, and that the scholarships were really some of the links which preserved the continuity without which all connection between the highest institution and the no less important secondary schools would lose that bond which at present joined them. He also recognized, as had been pointed out, that the scholarships were an advantage to others than those who won them, because they were an incentive to young people to study. The proposal he understood was for the continuance of the scholarships and a better allocation of the money. The extension of the scholarships was a great boon to students who were unable to attend the University except during the evening. He would like, if possible, to see them free, but it would be an anomaly if such an idea were carried into effect while other branches of learning had to be paid for. The grant was twofold. One portion was for scholarships and the other for the medical school, and he would like to know what the comparison with the present sum would be. (The Chief Justice—"The expenditure will not be increased for the scholarships and it will be £200 less for the medical school.") Was he to understand that the proposal really meant that the total assistance to be granted would practically be reduced by £200. (The Chief Justice—"For the year.") He had of course to look at this matter from the point of view of the Estimates. It was the first time that the matter had been presented in the light in which it had been put by the deputation. He could not of course give them a definite reply that day, as he would have to consult the Treasurer. He assured them, however, that from the way in which it had been placed before him there was every chance of a successful issue to their proposal.

The CHIEF JUSTICE, in thanking the Minister for his courtesy, explained that they had not troubled to gain any assistance from the general public in organizing this deputation, but if they had very many more would have been present. They recognized how fully the Minister's time was occupied and had accordingly confined the deputation to its present character.

ANYTHING that will tend to popularise the University and increase its usefulness is worthy of serious consideration. Though higher education is not sought by and cannot be provided for the many it is an important factor in the development of our national character and life. The deputation which waited on the Minister of Education yesterday to bring under his notice certain matters connected with the University scholarships came with a carefully prepared scheme and made out a strong case. They had the advantage for such a deputation that their proposals did not involve any further drain on the national exchequer. All they desired was that the modest sum which has been devoted to encouraging students by the method of providing University scholarships should be continued and applied in a somewhat different way. The plan as unfolded by the Chief Justice in his capacity of Chancellor of the University has the merit of distributing the stimulus of competition more widely and of rendering a larger amount of assistance without any additional cost. It was described by his Honor with the ability of a practised advocate, and at the same time with a judicial perception of the various aspects of the case. Little, if anything, was left for succeeding speakers to add by way of explanation, but from the various points of view they clearly showed that the new method had very much in its favor. Though it involves a reduction in the value of the three prizes which have heretofore been awarded, they will still be of substantial usefulness to those who are so fortunate as to obtain them, and it is not likely that the diminution in the cash amount will materially lessen eagerness on the part of competitors. The graduation in the amount will have the effect by the application of a new kind of pressure of keeping scholars fully up to the mark during their University course. At the same time the establishment of six scholarships of £10 per annum for students at evening classes should have the double effect of increasing educational facilities and helping the University. The complaint is frequently made that young men who have passed through the secondary schools drop the work of education just when they are best fitted to go on with it. With some of them probably learning is not very highly valued for its own sake, but there are others who only need some slight inducement and suitable opportunity to continue their studies. Both of these will be provided by the arrangements that are recommended. The Chancellor may be somewhat sanguine in his estimate that the scheme will treble the usefulness of the University, but there can be little doubt that it will exert a powerful influence in the right direction. The willingness of the teaching staff of the University to render such assistance as may be required from them without any addition to their salaries deserves grateful recognition and proves that the scheme commends itself to their judgment. It is in fact an argument so strongly in favor of the views presented by the deputation as to be almost irresistible that well nigh all the parties directly affected are heartily agreed. With the exception of expectant scholars who have not been heard from there is no dissentient voice. A plan which has the approval of the Council, Senate, and tutorial staff of the University and the heads of the principal colleges must have very much to commend itself. The public generally will bring higher education within the reach of the children of non-wealthy parents. The Minister of Education could hardly be expected to go further than he did in his reply to the deputation, but the scheme is one to which both the Government and Parliament may very wisely give effect.