

A-2-14

MR. R. BARR SMITH.

All South Australians and many people beyond the borders of this State will be interested to learn that Mr. Robert Barr Smith completes his ninetyeth year to-day. The cordiality of the congratulations to a citizen who has been a pillar of the State for well nigh 60 years will be enhanced by the pleasing facts that his faculties are unimpaired, and he continues to devote keen attention to everyday affairs. For many years Mr. Barr Smith has exhibited a public spiritedness which is practically without limitations. As the owner of wealth earned from bold and sound enterprise, which has conduced to the State's welfare, he is known and beloved for his princely philanthropy and munificence. All classes and all institutions have benefited by his liberality, but he has always sought to avoid making the public acquainted with his good deeds. He has detested anything in the nature of personal parade, lest it should be thought he was desirous of popularity, and those familiar with his kindly nature and his love of Australia are aware that he would prefer that no notice should be taken even of the memorable natal anniversary he attains to-day. Their very nature, however, made it impossible to conceal from time to time his splendid gifts to State, Church, University, and other public institutions; but few of the public will ever know the extent of the private charity which Mr. and Mrs. Barr Smith have dispensed so generously. Like his famous countrymen, Mr. Carnegie and the late Lord Strathcona, Mr. Barr Smith has earned the gratitude of present and future generations for wise and discriminate distribution of wealth. Like them, he has recognised the personal obligations which the amassing of riches has entailed, and he has gladly and ably discharged his sacred trust.

The grand old gentleman was associated with his illustrious brother-in-law, the late Sir Thomas Elder, in laying the foundations and building of the house of Elder, Smith, & Co., Limited, which is widely known for its high traditions of commercial enterprise and progress. Mr. Barr Smith was a pioneer in Australian commerce, shipping, and pastoral development, a great Australian whose name will be honoured in history for having provided encouragement for our explorers to go out into the unknown to blaze the track for settlement and expansion. Public life has never attracted him. Still he has ever been a potent force in the community. Mercantile men, financiers, and politicians have turned to him often for counsel and assistance, which he has freely given. Mr. Barr Smith was born at Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire. His father was the Rev. Dr. Smith, of the Free Church of Scotland. He attended Glasgow University in the days of "Wally Thomson," who became Lord Kelvin, the "Napoleon of Natural Philosophy." As a young

man Mr. Barr Smith was engaged in commercial pursuits in Glasgow, where he laid a solid foundation for that business career which made him the Australian merchant prince he afterwards became. His fellow Australians to-day will in spirit fervently extend to Mr. Barr Smith congratulations upon becoming a nonagenarian, and cherish the wish that he will yet be spared for a long period of peaceful retirement, in which he may find satisfaction in further contributing to the State's social and educational advancement.

The Daily Herald
Feb 7th 1914

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

FAVORED BY EDUCATIONAL AUTHORITIES

THE SCHEME FULLY EXPLAINED.

"When residential colleges are established in connection with the Adelaide University, the greatest need in the education system of the State will be filled." The view thus expressed by Mr. T. Ryan, the chairman of the Education Commission, several days since, is finding general endorsement among educational authorities. Several, who were approached yesterday by a representative of "The Daily Herald" stated they were entirely in sympathy with the suggestion to establish residential college in connection with the Adelaide University.

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION'S VIEWS

RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE AN URGENT NEED.

"For some years the Education Department has been talking of the possibility of establishing a residential training college in connection with the Adelaide University," remarked Mr. M. M. Maughan (Director of Education) when interrogated on the subject. "Our students always take some university course, and those who stay for more than one year are especially in need of university instruction. We have always regarded it as an important point that the college should be in close proximity to the University, partly for the convenience of the students themselves, and partly from the fact that students should be actuated by what might be termed the "university spirit," that is, a spirit of intellectual and social friendship. Students, who live together for a year or two in an institution are bound to develop a spirit of comradeship and pride in their work, which will raise them above the more sordid aspects of life."

Would you favor pupil teachers in training being accommodated at such a college?

"The commission recommends that exhibitioners and scholarship holders should be provided for in such an institution. There is much to be said in favor of this, and particularly so far as maintenance is concerned. The cost of maintenance would not be greater than our present system of allowances. There are, however, great difficulties in the way of the establishment of such a college. The question of management is one of these. Still more important, perhaps, is the responsibility devolving upon those who would be in charge of such an institution for the lives of the young people and their well-being."

Still it would not be impossible to manage such an institution?

"Oh, no. I think it could be managed all right."

The establishment of a residential college would be welcomed by the Education Department?

"It would be of great advantage to junior teachers of the first three grades if they were provided with a home, instead of being left to find accommodation wherever they can as at present. Some of the teachers who come into the city from the country are, of course, able to find homes with friends but such instances are rare, and the accommodation the majority of them are compelled to put up with is by no means all that could be desired, as the student is rarely able to secure a room to himself or herself in which to carry on work in the quiet of the evening. At the present time there are between 80 and 80 girl junior teachers in Adelaide from the country, besides the ordinary High School girl students, of whom there are a good number. Country parents very frequently experience difficulty in securing accommodation for their boys and girls, who have to come to the city. The headmasters of the High Schools find that when a boy is living in a house where there are older boarders it some-

times happens that he deteriorates, and the influence of the school is more than neutralised. This is not because of any fault in the boardinghouse, but is due to the fact that the boy is compelled to associate with older people who have nothing in common with him. This is a strong argument for the establishment of such an institution as was recommended by the commission."

Would you favor an extension of the scholarships as suggested by the chairman of the Education Commission?

"The scholarships leading to the High Schools are rarely all availed of. This refers to those where the maximum age is 13. Parents are often unwilling to send their boys away from home until they are older than that. The scholarships open to those boys and girls, who are older, are always availed of. At present there are 40 exhibition scholarships open to children under 15, eight public exhibitions open to boys over that age, in addition to which 12 senior exhibitions and 12 Government bursaries, tenable at the university, worth up to £500, are awarded on the results of the senior examination."

FUTURE OF THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

A REPLY TO MR. RYAN.

The attention of Mr. Eardley (assistant registrar at the University) was called to the interview with Mr. Ryan. Mr. Eardley stated that the chancellor was not available. Unfortunately most of the professorial staff were out of town, and the registrar was absent on leave. He intimated, however, that attention had been drawn to the views expressed by Mr. Ryan in regard to the expansion of the university, and he was sufficiently informed in regard to the question to supply certain particulars.

"There can be no question about Mr. Ryan's friendliness to the institution and his desire to see it expand on right lines," said Mr. Eardley. "One may, however, offer some remarks on the programme he submits for the future development of the university."

Residential Colleges.

"The council has long realised the necessity of providing for the residence of students if the corporate life of the university is to be fully developed, and Mr. Ryan has dealt at some length with this question. Mr. Barr Smith's timely donation has made it possible for the council to move in the direction of supplying this pressing need. But before anything can be done the question of site has to be settled. At a recent interview at the university between the Premier, the Treasurer, and the Chancellor a promise was made on behalf of the Ministry to devote certain land adjoining the university block on the north and the west for the purposes of expansion. This, of course, will require an Act of Parliament. The area which it is proposed to grant at present will be sufficient for immediate needs, but will not be enough to meet the requirements of the university later on. No definite