

23 Daily Herald June 11th 1914 (contd)

Desire for Knowledge.

Canon Hornabrook stated that there was a tremendous seeking after knowledge at the present time. Children had this thirst for knowledge, and if they did not find out in the right way they sought for information in the wrong way, and often ruined their lives as a result. Men were much the same in their search for knowledge, and in the absence of proper guidance would almost make a sort of knowledge for themselves. The question was whether they were going to be taught by the State, and given the advantages which it was believed ought to belong to everybody. If the thirst for knowledge was directed in the right way they would get in time that national spirit which they felt would do such great things for Australia. It seemed to him that in that association they might see the beginning of a movement which would make for national unity and the development of this national spirit which they all desired.

Professor Portus, of Sydney, who is relieving Professor Henderson at present, emphasised the fact that the subjects with which it was proposed to deal were in no sense technical subjects. The education which the association sought to impart was not of the kind which would enable a man to turn to a new means of livelihood. The subjects were deliberative. It was not intended to make the classes into a sort of grown-up technical school in any way. They aimed at the higher education of men and women in those subjects which did not earn bread and butter, but which rather gave their students a point of

view in life. That was the great need in Australia. In the other States the Government had assisted the movement, and he desired to point out that any grant made by the South Australian Government would be spent by a committee of four members of the association and four representatives of the university, a committee, in short, of enthusiasts and experts, who would select the proper teachers and pay them.

Minister Seeks Information.

Mr. Peake, in reply, said he was pleased to see the keen interest that was being taken in this matter, and he was obliged to the members of the deputation for having told him of things connected with it of which he was formerly ignorant. He had no doubt that the association's object was most commendable, to encourage people to read and think on matters which were of great importance to the community. It was no doubt important the community should know a great deal more about the subjects which had been mentioned. The subject of economics would, of course, be pursued with great zeal. He knew something of its difficulties, and of its relation to politics, and he knew, too, that a number of people got on very well in politics without knowing anything about economics. (Mr. Ryan—Unfortunately.) There were one or two points on which he would like to be informed before he brought the association's request before Cabinet. He would like to know, for instance, something of the fees to be charged and the subjects to be taught.

Professor Portus—The charge will be 2/6 per quarter.

The Minister said he believed that people would not care to be educated entirely at the expense of the State. He thought he ought also to know how far they intended to push the movement into the country. It was a question for consideration whether the Government should be asked to subsidise an association of the kind for Adelaide alone.

Professor Portus explained that the object was to have a class wherever 30 students could be assembled.

Mr. Peake said it occurred to him it might be possible to work the classes in with the schools of mines throughout the State, or perhaps the institutes might be made to serve the same purpose. He desired to look into the question from the national rather than from the local standpoint. He would like to know if it was intended to tack the university on to their scheme.

Mr. Ryan—Rather to tack the university on to us.

Continuing, Mr. Peake said if it was to be a national question then they might get the sympathy and co-operation of the larger towns throughout the State. They had mentioned the sum they thought the Government might grant. He would make it his business to find out what had been done in this matter by the Governments in the other States, and what the Government of South Australia did would be in some measure governed by what was being done in other parts of the Commonwealth. When he had gone into these things he would put the matter before Cabinet, and it would receive full consideration.

The Advertiser.
June 11th 1914

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

"DANGER OF BECOMING STAGNANT."

LARGE GRANT WANTED.

THE GOVERNMENT SYMPATHETIC.

The growing need of the University of Adelaide and the limited funds at its disposal were responsible for an influential deputation which waited on the Treasurer (Hon. A. H. Peake) on Wednesday morning, and asked for £24,400 for the provision of new buildings and the equipment of laboratories, and new annual expenditure amounting to £7,300 for additions to the teaching staff and the annual equipment. The deputation comprised members of the council of the University, who were introduced by Mr. W. J. Denny, M.P., and whose requests were set out in the following statement, signed on behalf of the council by the Chancellor (Sir S. J. Way):—

"In December, 1910, the council prepared a statement of the needs of the University for the information of the Select Committee of the House of Assembly on the University and Higher Education, afterwards formed into the Royal Commission on Education. It is now over three years since that statement was drawn up, and some of the wants have been met by the increased annual grant since provided by the Government, after an interim report of the Commission. It seems desirable, therefore, to prepare an amended statement of the present needs of the University for submission to the Government, which is now taking action on the final report of the Commission. With the help already received, the council has been able to increase the salaries of the staff, to appoint a professor of botany, to build and equip a botanical laboratory and to make considerable additions to the University buildings for the accommodation of the growing library. There still remain, however, a number of very pressing needs which must be met if the University is to maintain its efficiency under the increasing demands upon it, and even since the date of the late statement the increase in the number of students has, in some departments, outrun the laboratory accommodation that was at that time sufficient. In the final report of the Royal Commission it is stated:—

"We feel bound to say that South Australia has every reason to be proud of the excellent work which the University has accomplished. It has, however, practically reached the limit of its usefulness under present conditions, and if further

progress is to be made, and we are to keep pace with the other States, increased financial assistance must be given." And again—"The University, to all intents and purposes, is a national institution, and there is, we consider, an obligation on the Government to assist to extend its scope of usefulness, subject to Ministerial approval of what is proposed to be done." Accordingly the council submits the following amended statement of the immediate needs of the University in the hope that the Government will substantially support the efforts of the council and the professors to promote the usefulness and value of the institution. The needs are grouped under the following heads:—I. Additions to the staff. II. New buildings. III. Complete equipment of laboratories. IV. Additional annual grant for equipment.

Addition to the Staff.

"The Faculty has three needs, namely—(a) Three lecturers at £400 a year each, to assist the three present professors; (b) a professor of French and German, at £800; (c) a professor of economics, who might also be available to assist the Workers' Education Association, at £800. The annual cost of these requirements will amount to £2,800.

Faculty of Science.—Additional laboratory assistance is required in biology, physiology, physics, chemistry, botany, geology, mineralogy, and engineering, estimated at £1,000 a year. It is also very desirable that the present professorship of mathematics and mechanics should be divided into two, and a new professor of pure mathematics appointed at £800. The subject of astronomy could then be attached to that of mathematics. With the large classes in mathematics a tutor also is needed at £250 a year. The limitation of the teaching staff at present is conspicuously shown by the fact that we have one professor assisted by one lecturer to cover the whole field of mathematics and engineering (excluding electrical engineering). Some of the engineering teaching is done at the School of Mines, but, even so, it is quite impossible that two men can deal with the subjects embraced in the University courses with the thoroughness that is desirable. **Faculty of Law.**—For extended teaching in the law school £150 is required. **Faculty of Medicine.**—The essential needs are a professor of pathology at £800 a year, and a lecturer on physical and bio-chemistry at £500 a year, making a total of £6,300. The council is reluctantly compelled to admit that our medical students are no longer as well equipped for their life work as in Melbourne and Sydney. In medicine, perhaps, more than in any other subject, there has been an immense advance in knowledge, and the present staff, laboratories, and lecture rooms are quite insufficient to cover all the branches of study.

II. New Buildings.

"The following additional buildings are required:—(a) For geology and mineralogy, £5,000; (b) for physiology, biology, and bio-chemistry, inclusive of a small medical lecture theatre, £8,000; (c) lecture hall to hold 600 persons, £3,000; (d) caretaker's lodge, say, £1,000; (e) students' rooms, one for each sex, say, £2,000; (f) additions to workshops, £400; total, £19,400. As an illustration of the need for more laboratory space, it may be pointed out that this year there are 42 students taking practical physiology with working room for 22 only. In consequence the professor of physiology has to duplicate each demonstration, and to prepare for two laboratory classes on the same subject on the same days. Moreover, one and the same laboratory has to serve for the practical classes in physiology, biology, and physiological chemistry, which causes considerable inconvenience to the work in each subject.

Equipment of Laboratories.

"The following are required:—(a) More adequate equipment of existing laboratories at a cost, say, of £1,500; (b) the equipment for pathology and for the present pathological museum, say, £2,500 (this amount depends upon what arrangements may be made for the teaching of pathology at the Adelaide Hospital; the whole sum of £2,500 may not be required); (c) the equipment of laboratories for bio-chemistry, physiology, and biology, £1,000; total, £5,000.

Additional Annual Grant for Equipment.

"An additional equipment grant of £1,000 a year is required, namely, £400 for the library, £400 for the laboratories, and £200 for contingent expenses consequent on the establishment of new departments. The above statement represents the immediate requirements of the University, but when a School of Agriculture, the inception of which will be made possible by the generous gift of Mr. Peter Waite, is established, as well as schools