

## EXTENSION OF UNIVERSITY.

### QUESTION OF BUILDINGS AND STAFF.

#### MINISTER'S SYMPATHETIC REPLY.

A request for a grant for additional buildings and staff at the Adelaide University was made to the Minister of Education (Hon. A. H. Peake) on Wednesday by a deputation representing the council of the institution. It is desired that the Government should give £20,000 a year instead of £11,200 at present. The requirements were set out in a memorandum as follows:—

#### —Additions to the Staff.—

Faculty of Arts.—The faculty has three needs—(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. Cost, £800. With the larger 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.

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. The council are reluctantly compelled to admit that the 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 studies. Total increase, £6,300.

#### —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, zoology, 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, say £1,500; (b) the equipment for pathology and for the recent 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, viz., £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 Walte, is established, as well as schools of dentistry and veterinary science, adequate staffs will be required. In the event of the Government taking action in accordance with the report of the Education Commission to establish free examinations for leaving certificates, it would be desirable for the University to give up, or considerably modify, its present system of public examinations and assist in the general scheme, though the net income of the University now benefits by the examination fees to the extent of about £1,000 a year.

#### —Summary.—

The total cost under the above six heads may be summarized as follows:—(a) New annual expenditure, additions to staff, £6,300; new annual equipment, £1,500; total, £7,800; (b) new buildings and equipment of laboratories, £24,400. The council would respectfully call the attention of the Government to page 28 of the final report of the commission, in which the incomes of the four Australian universities for 1912 are stated as follows:—Sydney, Government grant £40,956, £87,273 total receipts; Melbourne, £37,468 (including building grant of £20,200), £78,729; Adelaide, £11,203, £26,799; Brisbane, £12,500, £17,319. The recently established University of Brisbane, with no school of either medicine or law, and with but 176 students, is thus in receipt of a larger Government grant than the University

of Adelaide, with over 700 students, exclusive of those in the School of Music and with schools to maintain in arts, science, medicine, law, engineering, music, and commerce. The needs of a University are, however, determined not so much by the number of its students as by the standard of its degrees and by the courses of instruction which it should offer. The number of students at the University is relatively large compared with the population of the State, but the buildings, laboratories, and the numerical strength of the staff are not adequate to the work that is now undertaken, and still less to the work that is waiting. In the light of the foregoing figures, the council respectfully asks that the annual endowment of the University be increased from £11,200 (at which it stands at present) to £20,000.

Mr. Denny, M.P., who introduced the deputationists, referred in appreciative terms to the interest which the Minister and the Government have shown in the University and education generally.

Professor Stirling said the council of the University had for some time felt that the work had not been expanding as it should to keep it abreast of the times, and on a par with similar institutions in Melbourne and Sydney. The reason was because they were not able to keep up the efficiency of the departments. They recognised that there was a risk of the University becoming stagnant from want of progress. That carried with it also the risk that they would be in danger of being regarded by some people as a second-class institution if they did not advance without delay. That was not a position which the Government or the State would wish to see. In recent years there had been a great advance in knowledge, and to keep up to date there should be some increase in the teaching power of the University. Apart from botany, no new professor had been appointed there during the past 12 years. Another reason for their request was the great increase in the number of students in recent years. That was evidence that the institution was fulfilling the purpose of attracting students. One reason for the increase there was the very liberal way in which the Government had added to the number and value of bursaries which it had granted. It would be readily understood that buildings which had previously been adequate to meet requirements would not continue so with the much greater number of students. If the same efficiency were to be expected in the smaller univer-

sities as in the bigger ones, with the more up-to-date arrangements in every way, the small institutions must have the same ability and provision for teaching the learners. He had specially to refer to the need for what they had asked in connection with the faculty of medicine. They had for years recognised that such provision as they now desired should be made, but they had never seen their way clear to bring it about. He regarded the professorship as being of the greatest importance to the medical school. So far as the accommodation of the laboratory was concerned, the students there had had to be divided into two classes, with the result that it had meant double work for the staff, and some of the students had even had to go up for examination without having fulfilled the course. Since the medical school had been established 142 graduates had been turned out, and the number of medical students now was 78. Those were very considerable figures. There was new work which the council felt they would like to take up—such as agriculture, dentistry, and veterinary science—but there was no accommodation or provision to allow of that, and for the present they had not brought it forward. The Melbourne University had received £200,000 from the Victorian Government for building purposes, and the University in Sydney had been granted £400,000 in that connection. The Adelaide University had spent £85,000 in that way, of which the Government had contributed £30,000, and £12,000 of that in 1911. Between 1888 and 1911 no contributions whatever for buildings had been received from the Government, although the University had out of its limited funds spent £35,000, with a consequent cramping of its energies in other directions. Going on the Sydney grant, and reckoning on a population basis of one in four, the Government here should have given £100,000, instead of only £30,000. In Brisbane the university, which had been established five years, and had 176 students, and no chairs of medicine or law, received a larger grant than did the Adelaide institution with its 700 students and extra subjects. The council were grateful to the Government for assistance in the past, and still more so for their sympathy, and hoped that the present requests would be favorably considered.

Professor Chapman (science) and Professor Darnley Naylor (art) emphasized the needs of the University, and made comparisons between it and the institutions in the other States in support of what the council were asking.

Mr. George Brookman, in behalf of the finance committee, said the receipts of the University were £27,000. The Govern-

ment was granting £11,000, and had done so since 1911. Compared with the £220,000 spent on primary education annually, he thought the request of the deputation was reasonable. Last year the institution had come out with a debit balance of £4. No money was wasted there. Everything was carefully considered, and the expenditure was purely for the benefit of the students.

#### —Application Justified.—

The Minister, in reply, stated that he recognised the importance of the subject in general. The University was not now regarded in the light that had been the case a few years ago. Then the view held by some people—and himself among them—was that the institution was an exclusive place of learning to be looked at from afar and open only to those who were wealthy or the children of rich parents. They regarded it to-day, however, as belonging to the State, to the people. (Applause.) Lately they had made great strides concerning the educational system of South Australia, and the University Council had acted quite rightly in saying that, seeing so much was done for the primary schools, they should properly equip and care for the crown or flower of that system—the University. (Hear, hear.) The council were justified in pointing out that in proportion to the growth of the education system in general the leading institution had not grown, and that was doubtless the reason they had put their case so strongly. There were certain arguments advanced that morning that could not be denied. It had to be admitted that the student of the Adelaide University must not be less well equipped than the student of any other similar institution in Australia. Further, stagnation could not be allowed there. It was of first importance that the University should be as fully equipped in every way as any in the other States. The Government had the greatest admiration for the work of the council and the institution, and the strongest desire to assist in it. (Hear, hear.) They knew the University was small compared with what it must become, and, having that in view, the Government had a little while ago practically settled that its borders should be enlarged by the reservation of grounds that would become vacant before very long, and provision be made for its growth. (Hear, hear.) Regarding its equipment, it would have been a reproach to the council had they, knowing the straits in which they found it, not taken steps to make them known and to tender the demand which they had submitted to him. They were the proper people to do that, and they should not wait to be pushed from outside before they acted. They had approached a Government and a Minister, who, he thought, would be sympathetic with their request. (Hear, hear.) He had received a letter on the subject from the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way), and would go into the memorandum very carefully. When he understood it, in connection with the evidence which had been placed before the Education Commission (which would help him considerably), he would place it strongly and sympathetically before his colleagues, and he thought they would find the Government very ready to come to their help. (Applause.)

Dr. Douglas Mawson, who is still busy in England with antarctic expedition matters, will not return to Australia until the earlier part of August. His lecture on the work achieved among southern snows will be one of the chief features of a distinguished series of scientific discourses. After that Dr. Mawson will tour Australia and give a descriptive account of his journeys at various centres. A deficit of several thousands of pounds in connection with the expedition remains, and plans for extinguishing it have not been disclosed. Dr. Mawson has leave of absence from the Adelaide University until the end of the year, and he will resume his duties at the beginning of 1915. During his stay in England the antarctic explorer has been devoting considerable time to the compilation of his book, which is well advanced. He has the advantage of the presence there of two members of the expedition—the Rhodes Scholar (Mr. Cecil Madigan) and Mr. A. H. Hodgeman, who is pursuing his architectural studies. Mr. Hodgeman was formerly in the draftsman's office of the department of the Superintendent of Public Buildings, and showed marked ability in his profession.

Professor Henderson, who is in England on 12 months' leave of absence from the Adelaide University, is having a holiday of great intellectual enjoyment. In recent letters to friends he stated that he had been devoting considerable time to the study of Shakespeare at Stratford-on-Avon. Professor Henderson had the privilege of attendance at the Shakespearean festival, and at the dinner he was entrusted with the toast of "The drama."