

Advertiser, Nov. 28/11

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GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

The Premier stated on Saturday that the applications for the position of Government Geologist would be finally dealt with to-day. The probable candidate was in Adelaide, and had interviewed him that morning, but he did not care to disclose names until the final selection had been made. Mr. Ward, Assistant Government Geologist of Tasmania, late of New South Wales, arrived by Saturday morning's express to confer with the Government in connection with the appointment.

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THE UNIVERSITY.

The Bill before the Assembly to amend the Adelaide University Act is based on recommendations of the Royal Commission now enquiring into matters relating to higher education. The measure had a remarkable easy run up to the committee stage, for its second reading was carried without opposition or debate after the Minister of Education had spoken. In committee, however, on Friday members required further information concerning a measure so important. The Bill provides for (1) adding to the Council of the University five more members, three to be elected by the Assembly, and two by the Legislative Council, all to be legislators; (2) empowering the University to confer the degree of Bachelor and Master of Engineering; and (3) increasing the annual Parliamentary grant by £4,000. Although the admission of legislators to the council stands as an antecedent to the increased vote, it is really a consequential step. Nothing would have been done regarding Parliamentary representation if the increased monetary vote had not been proposed.

For a long time Parliament concerned itself little with the chief seat of learning, which was looked upon as standing in solitary aloofness from the lives and affairs of the mass of ordinary people; but the cause of secondary education has been greatly advanced in recent years by the high school movement, which has carried numerous scholars of the public schools right up to the gates of the University, which is now seen in true perspective as a part of the national system of education. The time has passed by when the University can be considered to be the property of certain classes. In a broad way it must be reckoned with the great institutions which belong to the people and to the State. Professor Nicholas Murray Butler, of Columbia, has observed with much force that, in order to become great—indeed to exist at all—a university must represent the national life, and minister to it; and, further that when the universities of any country cease to be in close touch with the social life and institutions of the people, and fail to yield to the efforts of those who would readjust them, their days and influence are numbered. These words sum up the modern view, and they may be aptly applied to any system of educational organization. The chief hope of democracy lies in education in a broadminded, tolerant, and thinking people who will not be swayed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. Evidence taken by the royal commission proved that the University was not

able through lack of funds to extend its work in many desirable directions; that the professors and lecturers, compared with those in other States, were underpaid. To supply both those deficiencies the increased grant was recommended, but the commission wisely refrained from specifying the purposes to which the money is to be applied. The responsibility of that must be carried by the University authorities.

The additional annual grant of £4,000 secured by Act of Parliament, is equal to an endowment of £100,000. The Adelaide University was richly endowed by Sir Thomas Elder and Sir Walter Hughes; and, in addition to their magnificent bequests, other fine gifts have been made. The stream of private benefaction is, however, not flowing sufficiently in the direction of the institution to provide for its development and growing requirements. The individual withers, and "the State is more and more." With that condition it is only reasonable to suppose that in future the State must vote more money, not that bequests to the University will not always show a noble purpose and high appreciation of those things in life which are best; but the institution is too great in itself to have its fortunes left to the fluctuations of private munificence. With increased State aid will doubtless come increased State control. It has been reasonably questioned whether Parliamentary representation on the University Council is the best form; but at least there is precedent for it in the case of Melbourne. Ex officio appointments have been suggested; but, as a rule, these are not satisfactory. The provision under which the University will be empowered to confer degrees in engineering is highly necessary. The University and the School of Mines conjointly are training a capital body of students qualified to apply for degrees, which now they have to obtain elsewhere. The diplomas hitherto available are not equal to a university degree in the engineering world. The University Bill should be passed without delay.

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The board of examiners of the University of Adelaide have made the following recommendations for scholarships and prizes:—Recommended for the David Murray Scholarship in Classics, Barton, Felix Kingston; recommended for the Barr Smith prize in Greek, Bean, Edgar Layton; recommended for the Andrew Scott prize in Latin, Stewart, Colin Gore; Williams Francis Edgar (equal); proxime accessit, Bean, Edgar Layton; recommended for the David Murray scholarship in philosophy for an essay on teleology, Allen, Eleanor Alice; recommended for the Roby Fletcher prizes in psychology and logic, Giles, Harold; recommended for the Tinline scholarship in history, Jackson, Sarah Elizabeth; recommended for the John Howard Clark scholarship in English literature, Clare, Dorothy Cotgrave, and Bartlett, William John.

Jones, Louisa Lottie,
prop. acc.

NEW GOVERNMENT GEOLOGIST.

A TASMANIAN TO BE APPOINTED.

At a meeting of the State Cabinet on Monday afternoon the Government resolved to recommend to his Excellency the Governor Mr. L. K. Ward, B.A., B.E. for appointment as Government Geologist of South Australia, in succession to Mr. H. Y. L. Brown, who will retire from office on November 30. Mr. Ward, who is Assistant Government Geologist and Inspector of Mines in Tasmania, came to Adelaide at the request of the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. G. Vaughan) after careful consideration by the Government, the University, and the retiring Government Geologist of the many applications received. Apparently his interview with the Government has



Mr. L. K. Ward, B.A., B.E.

proved satisfactory. His application received the support of the University. He is a young man of fine physique and pleasing manners, and his credentials are said to be very good. The salary will be £800 a year, the same as Mr. Brown was in receipt of. It is understood, however, that Mr. Ward cannot take up the duties until early in January. He is in Adelaide now, but will to-day leave for the island State, where he has a wife and family.

Mr. Leonard Keith Ward is a son of Mr. E. W. Ward, editor of the Sydney "Daily Telegraph." He was born in Sydney in 1879, and was educated at the Sydney and Brisbane grammar schools. In 1897 he entered the Sydney University as the Government exhibitioner. He graduated in arts in 1900, and in engineering (in the department of mining and metallurgy) in 1903. Afterwards he proceeded to Broken Hill, and occupied a position with the Broken Hill Proprietary Company until October, 1903. He was engaged in the underground department, and obtained valuable experience, and added much to his knowledge of the conditions of mining on the Barrier. In 1903 he went to Western Australia, and occupied the position of lecturer in geology, mineralogy, petrology, and mining geology in the Western Australian School of Mines in Kalgoorlie, which position he held until August, 1907. Mr. Ward visited the principal mining fields in Western Australia, and made himself familiar with the conditions prevailing in that State. In 1907 he received the appointment in Tasmania which he now holds, and has since dealt successively with the silver-lead field of Mount Farrell, the tin-field of North Dundas, the Zeehan silver-lead field, and the Mount Balfour copper field. Mr. Ward was also engaged on the geological surveys that were made of the proposed route of the railway from Hobart and Mount Lyell. This important work occupied a considerable period, and embraced a geological exploration of the country from the standpoints of mining, agriculture, and forestry. He has contributed several papers to the Royal Society of Tasmania and the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. In the Sydney University Mr. Ward was a student under Professor David, who accompanied Sir Ernest Shackleton on his last Antarctic expedition, and was a fellow-student of Dr. Mawson, who has left for the Antarctic regions, and Drs. W. G. Woolnough and J. P. V. Madsen, who are also well known in Adelaide.