

# UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

## ANNUAL COMMEMORATION LUNCHEON.

### THE EARLY DAYS RECALLED.

The annual commemoration luncheon of the Graduates' Association of the University of Adelaide was held at Botanic Park on Friday. The head table was occupied by Mr. E. W. Holden (chairman), Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, Mr. Justice Richards, Professor J. A. Fitzherbert, Professor Brailsford Robertson, Professor A. Killen McBeth, Dr. Davidson, Mr. S. Talbot Smith, Mrs. J. C. McKail, and Miss N. Witham.

Mr. Holden, in welcoming the new graduates, said those in the "hurly-burly" felt that the least they could do was to wish them success in their future career. It was a new era for the new graduates. They were going to make a practical application of all that they had learnt. They should not entertain the idea that they had finished their learning. They were only beginning it. He trusted that wherever they went they would maintain the honor and dignity of their alma mater. Graduates owed a debt of gratitude to their University, and he felt sure the new graduates would feel the same and always strive to uphold its dignity.

The Warden of the Senate (Mr. Justice Angus Parsons) joined with the chairman in offering hearty congratulations to those who had emerged into the happy state of liberty. They would remember the idea they had entertained when they had first become undergraduates, as when they had just escaped the tyranny of school and gone into the academic life of the University. They had looked upon the professors, with their Madonna-like faces and benevolent outlook on life, as a refuge, at last, from the schoolmaster, and above all, the schoolmistress. They were soon disillusioned. The professors became their examiners, and instead of the look of benevolence there was a cold-blooded stare at the undergraduates' examination papers—things which should have been examined with the greatest possible respect, but which were held up to scrutiny and criticism. (Laughter.) It was strange, indeed, that highly-trained men could treat examination papers in the way in which they sometimes were treated. (Laughter.) Probably it was done in the interests of a proper standard of efficiency. They had now entered upon an existence in which there were no more perils, troubles, or anxieties, and he wished them success. Some of them might go further in the University. That showed great courage on their part. Presently they would consummate the height of their ambition by receiving their degrees in the Elder Hall. That ceremony now was not what it was in his time. When the students used to take charge of the programme, it was really something worth while and worth living for. (Laughter, and applause.) Jingles and choruses were learnt and sung at the ceremony. When a candidate went up to get his degree in the old days, there was no solemn shake of the hand by the Chancellor; the degrees were conferred upon them with music and with song. (Laughter.) One of the jingles composed to celebrate the arrival of Professor Salmon, from New Zealand, was:—

Swimming from New Zealand; fish-hooks in his jaw;  
Spouting jurisprudence; gurgling Roman law.  
Hodge went down to meet him; shook him by the fin;  
Put him in the Chair of Laws, instead of in a tin.  
(Laughter.)

His Honor said on another occasion a number of alarm clocks, separately timed, had been distributed around the hall, and had sounded in rapid succession in the middle of the Chancellor's speech. (Laughter.) That had led to the extinction of the undergraduates' revelries at the commemoration gathering. Some day there would be room for the students to return. However, it was still an attractive and multi-colored gathering. Not many were aware of a chapter in the University calendar on academic dress. The blue hoods worn by bachelors of laws were of that color, because law was as boundless and as unfathomed as the ocean. (Laughter.) The hood for science was yellow, because scientists owed most of what they knew to the Chinese. (Laughter.) The engineering hood was brown, because that was the color of crude oil used by engineers, and white could not be kept clean for a minute. (Laughter.) Doctors did not blurt out the truth, at least, not since Professor Watson's days. (Laughter.) They asserted that their hoods were rose-color when in fact they were blood-red. Dentists called their salmon-pink, but

anyone could see they were exactly the same shade as dental plates—denture-pink. (Laughter.) Those who were getting their degrees were inheritors of the traditions of the University of Adelaide and were responsible for its maintenance and enhancement of those traditions. They were eligible to be members of the Graduates' Association and should do so. The University had been suffering under a disadvantage in being primarily a teaching college. It had been truly said that the number of graduates in the Education Department has steadily increased, and went out by the front door, and were rarely seen again. The Graduates' Association would maintain the link between the graduates and the University. The membership of the association was somewhere over 300, and they looked, that day, at a considerable accession to its ranks. The lack of a corporate interest in the University on the part of former graduates had been demonstrated in the failure of the appeal organised by the students at a public meeting in the Town Hall for funds to assist them in establishing a union building. The appeal had failed because the graduates had nothing to link them with the University. They had £14,500 in hand at present, and after finishing the new building and erecting the memorial cloister nothing would be left.

His Honor, in concluding, said that day was not only a great day for them, but their parents and friends, it was the day on which they went out into the world with the benefit of an education provided by the University, and if they fulfilled that which was demanded of them, they would remember with gratitude for the rest of their lives what the University had done for them and would determine what they would also do for it in the future. (Applause.)

#### Students and Political Life.

Mr. J. H. Reynolds, the Rhodes Scholar-elect, who responded on behalf of the male graduates, paid a tribute to the women students at the University. He said credit was due entirely to them that there had been any social life in the University at all. The women had led the way in all the social events so necessary for the good of University students. The students would welcome a more active interest in sport at the University by graduates, especially in rowing. Once they had their own union building they must go forward until they were a real university in the real sense of the word. University men and women here played a smaller part in the political life of the community than in any other part of the world. Since the last unfortunate industrial upheaval there had sprung up in the University a body of intelligent young people who were determined to see a better class of man in politics and in all social work. (Applause.)

Miss A. M. Cummins responded on behalf of the women graduates. Professor Fitzherbert, in acknowledging the welcome on behalf of the addendum graduates, said the University of Adelaide had been generous in conferring degrees upon those who held their equivalents in other universities. The degrees gained at the University of Adelaide had always stood in high repute, and the University exercised a big influence, although it had been in existence a comparatively short time. He recalled the names of Professors Bragg and Lamb, whose work was known throughout the world, and who had been connected with the University of Adelaide. As Mr. Justice Angus Parsons had pointed out, science was a yellow peril which threatened to engulf the whole University. (Laughter.) Those who had received the torch of learning inside the University should pass it on outside. (Applause.) Mr. Holden said the graduates had been impressed by Mr. Reynolds' reference to their lack of interest in University affairs. It was intended to take a deeper interest in the University, and it had been proposed that a graduates' week should be held, when it was hoped all graduates would join with the association in establishing some form of corporate life in connection with the University. (Applause.)

The eleventh annual meeting of the State Advisory Council of Science and Industry was held at the office of the Premier on Friday morning. The chairman (Hon. R. L. Butler) presided. Other members present were Dr. W. A. Hargreaves (vice-chairman), Dr. L. K. Ward, Messrs. W. L. Summers, E. H. Bakewell, S. J. Jacobs, F. Perry, W. J. Hill, D. Blyth, A. H. Dobbie, J. H. M. Hawkes, A. E. Hamilton, J. P. Burnside, E. A. Brooks, and the secretary (Mr. A. N. Roupell).

In opening proceedings Mr. Butler said that the Government had been somewhat lax in referring questions to the body in the past, but it was their intention to submit several matters in the near future.

The reports of the different committees were read and adopted.

#### Geophysical Survey.

The mineral committee reported that since the last report considerable advance had been made with regard to the application of geophysical methods to prospecting in Australia, and a strong executive committee had been appointed under the aegis of the council, in conjunction with the Development and Migration Commission, to control the experiments. Dr. Ward, the South Australian Government Geologist, was a representative of the State. The survey was in the hands of Mr. Broughton Edge, and it was probable that a trial of those methods would be made at Wallaroo and Moonta during the coming winter.

Some difficulty was likely to occur through the salinity of the underground water, which might increase the difficulty of interpreting the results obtained, but this was a trouble that had to be faced on other Australian mining fields, and the solution of the problem might be found by careful investigation in South Australia. The methods tried up to date had been electrical and gravitational, and a start would shortly be made with seismic

methods also. In view of the increased price for copper, particular interest would attach to work done in the chief copper mining districts, and it was hoped that work would be carried on also on the graphite deposits on Eyre Peninsula. Moreover, work was to be done in Australia with the object of testing the application of electrical geophysical methods to problems of underground water supply, and those tests would be watched closely for any possible application to this State.

The committee had had under review the tentative Australian standard specifications for inert fillers—barytes, blanc fixe, calcite, whiting, kaolin, and talc, as drawn up by the Australian Commonwealth Engineering Standards Association. The committee took considerable exception to the fixing of the methods of preparation, and the proposed specification for barytes.

#### Revival of Copper Industry.

One of the most encouraging developments of recent date had been a steady rise in the price of copper on the world's market. This was a most important movement for South Australia, which had produced more copper than any other State of the Commonwealth, and which had many mines in the more remote districts that might prove workable with enhanced prices. Where transportation costs were high on account of geographical position, the grade of ore that could be worked was correspondingly high. If modern transport equipment could not reduce freight charges appreciably, the only inducement to prospecting and mining was a steady and favorable market. Already there were signs of renewed interest in prospecting for copper, and in the attempts that were being made to recover the copper from the heaps of tallings at mines that had been worked in the past. There was good reason to believe that the better price would be maintained for some time.

To South Australia belonged the distinction of possessing the first mine to produce refined flake graphite on a commercial scale in Australasia. The deposit, which was situated 14 miles to the south of Port Lincoln, was systematically tested by prospecting work and core drilling sampling until tonnage and grade sufficient to justify a mill were proved. After experimental work at the Bonython Metallurgical Laboratory of the School of Mines, the manager of the company designed and erected a mill of a capacity of eight tons of ore per hour. This plant, embodying the most modern milling practice, commenced operations on September 14, and was capable of producing refined flake graphite to meet all market conditions.

While there had been no commercial development in the matter of lignite mining, all possibilities of the exploitation of the State's resources had been kept continuously under review. It was recognised that, if this fuel was to be used for the generation of electrical power, the energy developed must be produced cheaply and delivered at the chief centre of consumption in Adelaide at a cost that would enable it to compete with the power generated by the efficient stations now working with imported coal.

#### Manufacturers' Committee.

The Manufacture Committee recorded with regret the death of Mr. E. M. Mathias during the year. Dr. A. Killen Macbeth had been appointed to the vacancy on the committee caused by the death of Professor Rennie. Mr. Frank Perry, who was recommended for appointment last year, had given valuable assistance. As Mr. R. A. Duncan retired from the South Australian State committee of the council, and did not desire reappointment, Mr. Perry was nominated to represent the committee for three years.

#### Wharfage Handicaps.

There was a variation in the wharfage in the various States, and a variation in the principle of collecting wharfage rates, which acted adversely against South Australia. In South Australia the Harbors Board charged for all services rendered, both inwards and outwards, whereas in Melbourne and Sydney, and also in Western Australia, wharfage was levied almost entirely inwards, excepting insofar as primary products were concerned. All manufactured products went over the wharfs outward free. This meant that, as contrasted with the manufacturer shipping from Melbourne, South Australia paid an outwards rate and also a loaded inwards rate in Victoria, so that goods going from South Australia to Victoria would pay about two or three times the South Australian rate, whereas goods shipped from Victoria would only pay the actual South Australian inwards rate, the difference between the two being 100 to 200 per cent. This was an unfair tax on South Australian manufacturers, and was one of the reasons which prevented the establishment of industry in South Australia. Sir George Buchanan, the Harbors Expert in South Australia, advocated a charge being levied for all services rendered, and, from his point of view, there was no doubt that the South Australian method was the correct one. An attempt had already been made by the Premier at the last Premiers' Conference, to induce the other States to base their charges on the same principle, but they had refused to do so, and the only way in which the South Australian Government could place manufacturers

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