

Proposed Improvements.

Report by the Director.

Important recommendations are contained in the report by the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) of his observations and enquiries with regard to education during his official visit last year to Great Britain, the Continent of Europe, and America.

The document, which is dated December, 1927, and is somewhat voluminous, was released by the Government on Wednesday. Mr. McCoy at the outset acknowledges the courtesy and assistance rendered to him by the many educational officials with whom he conferred and the late Agent-General (Mr. J. L. Price) and the secretary of that department (Mr. J. B. Whiting). The various sections of the report deal with the Imperial Education Conference in England (which Mr. McCoy attended), agricultural education below college standard, vocational guidance and placement of children, the trade schools of the United States of America, central schools, and miscellaneous subjects concerned in the general investigation. The trip was made by the director for the purpose of "recommending such improvements as might with advantage be introduced into this State."

RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Mr. McCoy makes the following recommendations and suggestions, with the covering remark:— "It is clear that if new activities are to be successfully undertaken by the Education Department, it will in some cases be necessary to appoint special officers to organize them, to advise the teachers, and to inspect the work in the schools."

Agricultural Education.

That the Government consider the advisability of requesting the Federal Government to co-operate with the various States in advancing vocational education, by paying subsidy on the pound for pound basis, towards the cost of the salaries of teachers, supervisors, and superintendents of agricultural, trade, and industrial subjects and home economics, and towards the cost of training teachers for these subjects.

The University.

That, with a view to creating a supply of teachers qualified to teach agriculture in the high schools and offering further opportunities to those who wish to become research workers or officers in the Agricultural Department, the University Council be asked to establish a chair of agriculture and extend the courses in agriculture already offered. That for the next five years the Education Department endeavour to send not less than five qualified students annually to attend such courses. That the necessary funds for buildings, equipment, and maintenance, be provided.

Secondary Schools.

That an organizing inspector of agriculture for Secondary Schools be appointed under the Superintendent of Secondary Education, to direct, develop, and inspect agricultural teaching in secondary schools. (It would be of the greatest advantage to the scheme if this officer were given the opportunity of visiting the United States to study the details of the project method and supervised farm practice before taking up duty.)

That where 10 or more pupils in a high school offer for an agricultural course, and the director is satisfied that such a course can be maintained, a special department under a teacher with the proper qualifications be established in the school.

That teachers who are appointed to the charge of agricultural departments in a high school be paid ordinary assistants' rates, plus £20, provided that their qualifications are approved by the director. These teachers shall be eligible for promotion on the same terms as other assistants.

That the work of erecting a boarding school at Urrbrae, on land, most of which was generously donated by the late Mr. Peter Waite for the purpose of agricultural teaching, be commenced. Such a school should be organized to afford:—1. A broad general education for boys and girls up to the age of 16 years. 2. A course of study suitable as a preparation for entrance to the agricultural courses at the university. 3. Instruction suitable for boys about to enter upon work on the land, but whose parents cannot afford to keep them at school beyond the age of 15-16 years. The institution, besides affording city children such experience of country life as might determine them to settle on the land, would also form an admirable training ground for the students of the Teachers' College. Schools of instruction in various forms of agriculture could also be conducted here for the benefit of teachers engaged in rural schools.

Primary Schools.

That more variety be given to the teaching of elementary agriculture in primary schools:— 1. By increasing the number of simple projects carried out by the pupils, e.g., how to care for poultry, bees, pigs, and other small animals, and how to grow wheat, oats, &c., on the lines of the Boys' Club movement. 2. By cultivating shrubs, flowers, lawns, &c., where circumstances are favourable, in addition to the usual vegetable plots. 3. By organizing visits to well-managed farms in order to study some particular aspect of work for which previous preparation has been made in school. 4. By making the course in woodwork more practical. That the Supervisor of Elementary Agriculture be given the rank and status of Inspector

of Elementary Agriculture, and that his duties include the organization, direction, development, and inspection of agricultural teaching in the primary schools, and the training of teachers for this work. That the Inspector of Elementary Agriculture select from each Inspector's district two or three teachers who have shown aptitude for teaching agriculture and some qualifications for leadership, for a special course, after which they should return to their schools and act as assistant organizers, spending half a day per week in the surrounding schools, suitable provision being made for the performance of their school duties during absence.

Vocational Guidance and Placement.

That each high school, higher primary school, and central school organize within itself a scheme of guidance and placement involving the appointment of one or more teachers as counsellors, with the head master as chief counsellor, whose duties shall be:—1. To inform and advise boys and girls regarding the content of the courses offered by the school, and the prospects of the various types of employment open to them. 2. To readjust courses after consultation with the parent, where it is shown to be necessary or desirable to do so in the interests of the student. 3. To secure and maintain relations with as many employers as possible, and to register vacancies notified by them or the employment officer. 4. To recommend applicants to employers for such vacancies. The first, second, and fourth duties should be carried out after consulting the wishes of both pupil and parents. The employment officer will assist in carrying out the third.

That a co-operating officer, to be called an employment officer, be appointed, whose duties shall include interviewing employers, recording and reporting vacancies to the appropriate head masters, the collection of reports as to character, suitability, &c., to those placed in employment, together with any follow-up work deemed necessary, inspection of all new places of employment, interviewing parents, attending conferences, and meetings when requested to do so by the head master, collecting statistics from the various schools. This officer should be placed under the joint control of the superintendents of secondary and technical education, and should at all times be available to give advice to boy, parent, or teacher in regard to all matters connected with employment.

Miscellaneous.

That 10 or more pupils in a high school offer for an industrial course, a special department be established under a teacher with the proper qualifications.

That where 10 or more girls in a high school offer for a full course in domestic arts, instruction in dressmaking and millinery be provided in addition to the cookery, laundry, &c., already provided.

That the status of the present organizing teacher of domestic arts be raised to inspector of domestic arts, and that, subject to the authority of the appropriate superintendent or inspector, her duties include the organization, direction, development, and inspection of the teaching of domestic arts in all schools and centres.

That, at the discretion of the director, arrangements be made for members of the college staff who are engaged in training teachers for small school work to spend a week every alternate year with a country inspector in small schools of his district for the purpose of studying the special problems and difficulties of the small school teacher, and that when considered necessary similar opportunities be afforded to teachers in charge of model one-teacher and two-teacher schools.

That the Architect-in-Chief be asked to consider the various points raised in this report in conjunction with the suggestions made in my 1923 report, with a view to incorporating the various ideas therein expressed in future plans and specifications for school buildings.

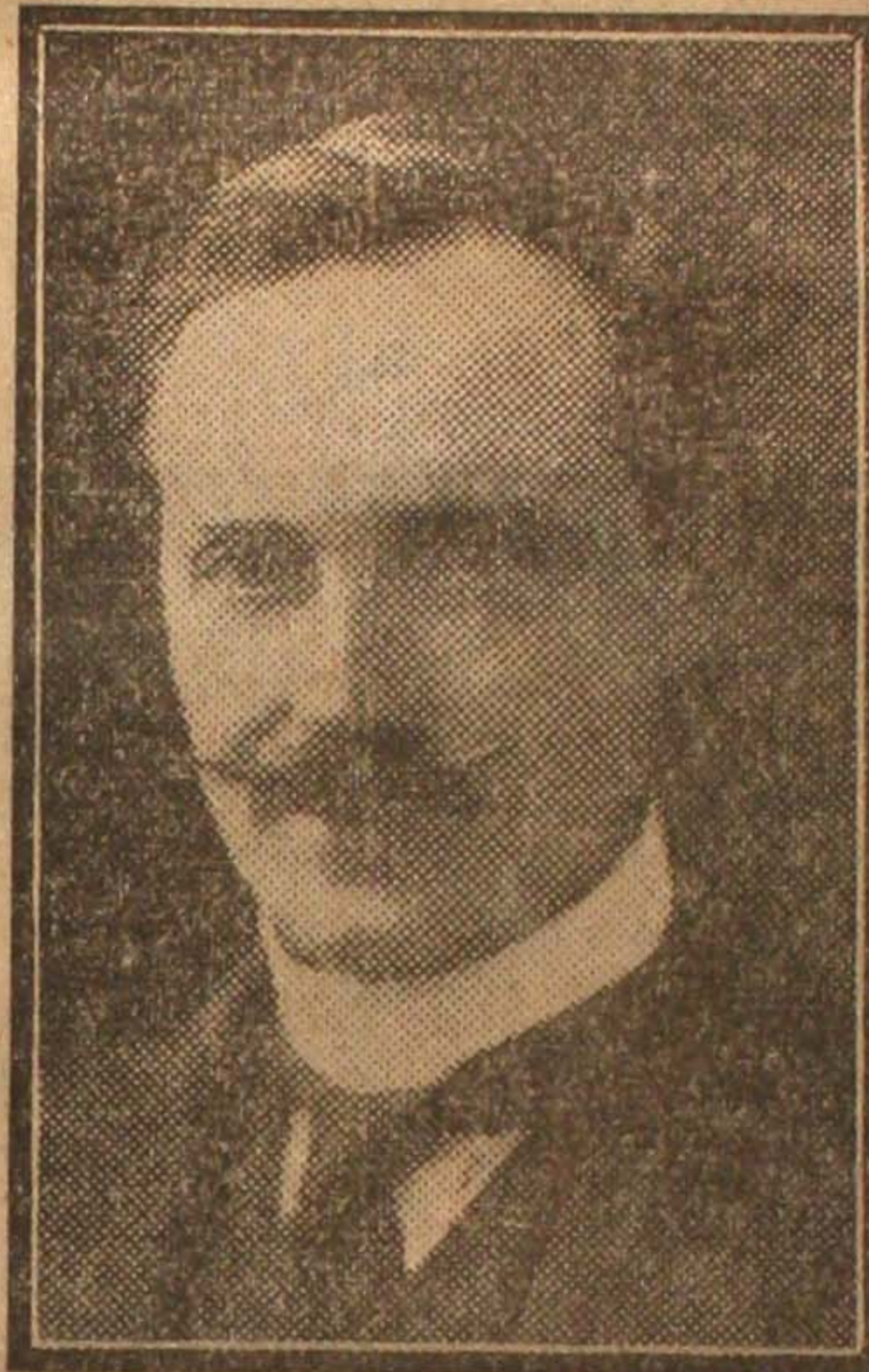
That an assembly hall be provided for all new schools built to accommodate more than 400 pupils.

That an additional inspector of infants' schools be appointed to organize the extension of infants' school methods in the lower sections of class IV and V schools, and to relieve the existing staff, which is at present overtaxed.

That a science inspector with high University qualifications be appointed to organize, supervise, and inspect the teaching of science in the high, higher, primary, and central schools, and in the seventh grades of the primary schools. This officer would render appropriate assistance to the superintendent of secondary education, who is unable to cope with the work of inspecting all the high schools in addition to his administrative work.

That opportunities be afforded the superintendents of primary, secondary, and technical education, the principal of the Teachers' College, and the officers charged with organizing the work in the infant and central schools to visit other countries in order to enrich their experience.

Mr. L. Laybourn-Smith, of Adelaide, a past-president of the Federal Council of the Australian Institute of Architects, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Mr. Laybourn-Smith began his architectural training with Mr. A. A. E. Dancker in Western Australia, and afterwards served his apprenticeship with Mr. Edward Davies at Adelaide. He studied engineering at the University and the South Australian School of Mines, and graduated B.E. and became a fellow of the school. For some years he was registrar of the School of Mines and organised a department of architecture, which has become an important part of the curriculum of the joint course of the University and school. In 1913 he acted as locum tenens for Mr. W. H. Bagot, who visited Europe, and upon Mr. Bagot's return joined the well-known firm of Woods, Bagot, Jory & Laybourn-Smith. He was honorary secretary of the Insti-



Mr. Laybourn-Smith.

tute of Architects for eight years and president for two years, and was president of the Federal Council of the Australian Institute of Architects from 1919 to 1922. It is in recognition of his services as president of the Federal council that the council of the Royal Institute of British Architects has nominated him as a Fellow. The election was unanimous and took place on June 4. Amongst buildings designed by Mr. Laybourn-Smith are St. Cuthbert's Church, Prospect; The Chapels at the Convent of Cabra and at the Hospice of the Little Sisters of the Poor; Messrs. Metters' new building, Walsh's Oriental Hotel, and Commerce House for the Commercial Travellers' Association. Buildings designed by him and in course of erection include the University Union and Lady Symon Building, the Animal Nutrition Laboratory for the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, the Waite laboratories at Urrbrae, the New Mission for the Deaf and Dumb at South-terrace, the new chapel at St. Paul's Retreat, and wool stores at Port Adelaide for Messrs. Elder, Smith & Co. Mr. Laybourn-Smith has been associated with Mr. Bagot in important designs, including the National War Memorial, which is now being erected under his supervision. He still finds time to give lectures at the Architectural School in architectural design, history, and construction.

America v. Adelaide.

The visit of the Bates University debating team, which has the reputation of being one of the most brilliant in the United States, should create considerable interest in Adelaide. The Bates University, which is regarded both in England and America as one of the foremost schools of public speaking in the United States, is represented by Messrs. Mervyn Amis, John Davis, and Charles Guptill, who are at present on a world debating tour. This team has had great debating success, as shown by the fact that it has won 85 per cent. of the debates in which it has taken part. The Adelaide team comprises Messrs. Sidney Pick, Frank Mitchell, Stanley Meyes, and Romilly Harry.

Adelaide Men's Qualifications.

Mr. Pick, who will lead the Adelaide team, was educated at Rostrevor College, and is studying law at the Adelaide University. He has represented the University in Imperial and interstate debating teams, and has had considerable experience. Mr. Pick is a lover of English literature, and while at college won the Tennyson Medal in the leaving honours examination.

Mr. Harry, who is also studying law at the University, was educated for nine years at St. Peter's College, where he had a distinguished record both in the sport and academic fields. He has represented Adelaide in interstate debating teams. Mr. Harry is a lover of literature and music.

Mr. Mitchell, who has attained his B.A. degree, is a student at the Teachers' College, and has represented it in interstate debating. He also gained considerable experience in societies connected with the college. Mr. Mitchell was educated at St. Peter's College.

Mr. Meyes, who is a native of England, has not been long in this country; but has, since his arrival, shown considerable ability in the debating field. He debated with great success in England, and it is anticipated that his experience will stand him in good stead in the coming contests.

First Debate Saturday.

The subjects of the debates are:—"That efficiency has become a deplorable fetish in modern life," and "That the so-called emancipation of women has not been in the best interests of civilization." The former subject will be debated on Saturday, and the latter on Monday. In view of the distinction of our visitors, and the interesting and contentious nature of the subjects for discussion, it is anticipated that there will be a large attendance at the debates, which will be held at the Institute Building, North terrace.

CANCER RESEARCH COMMITTEE.

A meeting of members of the Adelaide Cancer Treatment and Research Committee was held at the University on Wednesday afternoon, when the following gentlemen were present:—The Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray, in the chair), the Acting Vice-Chancellor (Professor R. W. Chapman), Professor Brailsford Robertson and Drs. F. S. Hone, Helen Mayo, and W. Ray (members of the University Council), Professors Kerr Grant, J. B. Cleland and C. S. Hicks, Sir Henry Newland, Dr. C. T. C. de Crespigny, Dr. B. H. Morris (Inspector-General of Hospitals), Drs. T. G. Wilson, A. A. Lendon, J. Corbin (president S.A. branch of the British Medical Association), J. G. Sleeman, L. B. Bull, F. Ray Hone, Brian H. Swift, and J. Stanley Verco, H. H. Crompton, and F. W. Eardley (registrar). Sir George Murray was unanimously elected president of the committee, and Dr. A. A. Lendon was appointed chairman. It was resolved to add the name of Mr. R. T. Melrose to the committee. A discussion took place on the general objects of the committee, and the opinion appeared to be unanimous that as wide an outlook as possible should be maintained, attention being paid alike to treatment, research, and the education of the public. Following on the discussion it was decided to appoint the following committees:—1. Finance and organization; 2. research and treatment; 3. education and publicity. The personnel of these committees will be announced later.

CONSERVATORIUM ORGAN RECITAL.

Only two remain of the season of weekly organ recitals by Mr. John Horner. The attendance at the one given at lunch time yesterday in the Elder Hall was good, and an excellent programme was enjoyed. The compositions played by Mr. Horner were:—"Choral Song and Fugue" (Wesley), "Fantasia-Sonata in A Flat" (grave-allegro, adagio espressivo, and finale (fugue) (Rheinberger), "Noon" and "The Ride" (Martin Shaw), "Portlud in D Minor" (Stanford). The vocalist was Mr. Charles Gordon, who sang "Good Fellows be Merry" (from Bach's "Paganini" cantata). Next Thursday Mr. Horner will give a programme of modern English works, the composers being Alex. Rowley, Vaughan Williams, Geoffrey Shaw, Thalden Ball, and Frank Bridger.

Dr. H. J. Wilkinson, who graduated in arts at Adelaide University, and is now lecturer and demonstrator in anatomy at Sydney University, has been awarded a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in the division of medical education (states our Sydney correspondent). The fellowship provides all expenses for medical men who have conducted research of importance to medicine allowing them to travel abroad and work under the leading teachers of the world. They are pledged to return to their home universities. Dr. Wilkinson studied medicine at Sydney University.

UNIVERSITY ENROLMENTS.

Attendances at the University of Adelaide are very large, and provide an interesting study of the future recruitments for the various professions. More than 1,600 are attending, including 750 in the Faculty of Arts, 188 in the Faculty of Science, 125 in the Faculty of Medicine, 77 in the Faculty of Law, 179 are doing applied science, five music, 23 dentistry, and 381 are studying commercial subjects. The total number of students in the Elder Conservatorium is 605.