

like task easier next year. An institution, however, which numbers 1,660 members may well rise superior to questions of sordid arithmetic. At any rate it should, in the nature of things, be very powerful for good. It is to be regretted that such an institution can also be either powerful for evil or mainly uninfluential. We should be sorry to think for a moment that any evil results, beyond a tendency to encourage the display of immature powers and to develop habits of unwarranted self-assertion on the part of some of the most prominent members, have followed from the inauguration of the Union. But we are bound to say that hitherto we have looked in vain for any evidence of the Union's possession of powers actively employed for the good of the community at large, or even of its own constituency. The chief public work of any utility, which is in any way connected with the Union, is the inauguration of the University evening classes. But unfortunately these classes are not well attended. The members and associates of the various Societies have not supported the movement with that energy and perseverance which was prophesied of them. They, assisted by other influences, have agitated and sent round subscription-lists; but all the agitation in the world, even joined with a plentiful supply of money, will not make lectures profitable when there are no students. Happily affairs have not yet come to the unhappy pass when classes consist only of lecturers, but we are concerned to learn that the attendance, instead of increasing, is woefully diminishing. If the Executive of the Union could instil more energy into the members of the different Societies, if they could persuade them that learning is a higher art than speaking, that the solution of a problem in mathematics is a greater achievement than the production or the recitation of verses, they will have done more to educate the tone of South Australian youth than they could ever hope to do by means of eloquent perorations and elaborate theories.

On the University Subsidy

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Legislative Council

The Hon. W. K. SIMMS, while he did not agree with all the particulars of the Bill, and to some extent sympathised with the Hon. Dr. Campbell, regretted that the hon. member had thought it necessary to move his amendment. He certainly objected to some of the items, especially those in which he was interested—(laughter)—and he was surprised that duties which would press so hard on the brewers, wine merchants, and licensed victuallers of the colony should have been imposed without consulting any of that class. They were heavily handicapped thereby in the business race in the colony. But he saw that, as money was required for revenue purposes, they would have to pay towards it, and he would therefore make no opposition to the duties. He considered that one of the principal causes of the present depression was the land speculation some four or four and a half years ago. Since then their products had fallen away year by year, and their population had been leaving them. He could see only one other way out of the difficulty, and that was to fund the present debt, which he believed would be the fairest and the most acceptable way of meeting their position. Certainly it might entail a portion of the payment upon posterity, but in his opinion that would be only fair that they should contribute, considering that so much of the money had been expended in works for their benefit. (Hear, hear.) As it was people were becoming afraid of the burden of taxation that was threatening them. Therefore it was their duty to help the Government. Probably they had all been too liberal in the past, and heavy expenses had heaped up our debt. But this could be avoided in the future. Take the large sums which had been given by various wealthy colonists to the University. They were generous and munificent gifts no doubt, but at the same time they entailed a big expenditure on the part of the Government. Sir W. W. Hughes gave £20,000, the interest on which was £1,200 a year; Sir Thomas Elder had given £30,000, the interest on which was £1,800 a year; the two amounts bringing in £3,000, all of which had to be subsidised by the Government. He hoped in future that any such gifts would not be supplemented, and he believed the taxpaying portion of the community would endorse that view. Even in the University there were eight professors with only 130 students under their control. He believed they were anxious to secure more students, but unfortunately these were not to be got. In saying this he urged nothing against the University, but he thought the question deserved the attention of the Government. It was said that a particular class would suffer unfairly under the tariff, but that class had said little on the subject themselves. The tariff would undoubtedly press heavily on some classes, but as revenue was required they must accept it. It might only be passed on probation—say for one year—in order to see how it worked. But if it were passed as an ordinary measure it would become fixed, and the Government would go on collecting the extra £140,000 a year to the detriment of the colony. He believed that all colonial industries should be encouraged in every way, because they would lead to the introduction of fresh capital and enterprise in the employment of many people now out of work. He trusted that no loss of time would take place, and that when it came into existence it would be the means of restoring confidence. The industries of wheat and copper had almost passed away, and wool was failing, and he hoped the effect of this tariff would be as expected.

The Hon. W. A. E. WEST-ERSKINE said that having sat upon the board of the University he had an opportunity of knowing that the Hon. Mr. Simms's statement was hardly correct. It did not rest with the Government to grant the subsidies on the gifts—that was provided for by Act of Parliament. The interest, too, was only 5 per cent. The hon. gentleman had named Sir W. W. Hughes's gift as £20,000, but it was only £10,000.

had named Sir W. W. Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder, but the University was also indebted to Mr. J. H. Angas, who had given £10 000 to the institution. Again, Sir Henry Ayers had done the University considerable service as Treasurer, connected with which there was a great deal of difficult work to be negotiated. He might mention that certain lands had been granted to the institution in various parts of the colony, but where formerly they obtained 3s. and 4s. per acre, they now only received 6d. and 9d. The Hon. Mr. Crozier had said we had turned the corner. He hoped so, and that it was the right corner. He thought it was, because within the last few moments he had in his hand two ingots of gold from the New Era Mine, each being worth £500. He was assured the mine was out of debt, and was paying dividends, and every encouragement ought to be given to such an industry. He would support the Bill, but objected to the imposition of a duty on works of art. (Hear, hear.) As an educational medium they ought to be admitted free, as was the case in almost every country in the world. Inasmuch as immigration was stopped; that we were not likely for many years to have large loans; and that if we wanted any additional railway iron we could not get it on worse terms or of more inferior quality than some supplied by the Agent-General, it occurred to him that thousands of pounds could be saved in that department. There were many large firms who could conduct our business as well as the Agent-General, and therefore why should we be compelled to keep up the expense of a heavy establishment in London? He hoped those who took an interest in putting the colony in a proper position would devote some attention to this department. A considerable reduction could also be made in the Marine Board department. He would have liked to have heard the annual cost of the Governor Musgrave. What was the use of that vessel except as a pleasure yacht, and she might either be dispensed with, or the expenses connected with her cut down. A great deal of money was wasted by one department undertaking to carry out the work of another, and the return which he would move for would show that. They should go in for restoring public confidence, because there was said to be plenty of capital in South Australia, and it seemed to him they should not delay this Bill, as the mercantile community were in suspense. Therefore he hoped the Hon. Dr. Campbell would withdraw his amendment. He agreed with the Hon. Mr. Rankine that a small duty on sheep and cattle would very much augment the revenue and encourage the growth of more meat in the colony. Every year we sent away £400,000 to the other colonies for meat supplies, and a good deal of this money could be kept in the colony.