

Parliamentary news
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UNIVERSITY LANDS.
Mr. PEAKE moved:—"That, in the opinion of this House, negotiations should be opened by the Government with the Adelaide University, with a view to the surrender by the University to the Government of the lands dedicated to the University, on terms to be agreed upon." He hoped that the motion would be of sufficient interest that they would give the matter careful consideration with a view to the motion being carried. The lands proposed to be dealt with were dedicated to the University of Adelaide under the authority of section 16 of the University Act of 1874. The provisions were as follows:—"The Governor in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty may alienate, grant, and convey in fee simple to such University, or may reserve and dedicate portions of the waste lands of the said province, not exceeding 50,000 acres, for the purposes of the University and the further endowment thereof; and the Governor may in like manner and on behalf of Her Majesty, alienate, grant, and convey in fee simple to such University or may reserve and dedicate a piece of land in Adelaide east of the gun-shed and facing North-terrace." The Act did not appear to create a very great deal of interest in the House at the time, and he found that although the measure was an important one, the second reading was carried on October 16, 1874, and on the same afternoon the fifteen out of the twenty clauses which included the short title, were also carried. There was a check at clause 16, which provided for the endowment of lands. Regarding the area of land to be inserted in the clause, whether 50,000 or 100,000 acres, the then Minister of Justice, Mr. Justice Bunder, said that the Government did not feel justified in granting a larger area than 50,000 acres, and a motion to that effect by him was carried. There did not seem to be any point raised at the time as to what might be the effect of alienating so large a portion of the public asset, or what might have been the effect to put the land in one corporation. Some speakers who were in favour of the larger area being granted to the University, and notably Mr. West-Erskine, who was then in the House, referred to the very great value of the assets which were held by some other Universities, notably Dublin. Mr. West-Erskine had said:—"That the Dublin University, Trinity College, was richer than any in England. They held very valuable estates in Ireland. He had shot over them, and knew that they were some of the very best. They also held valuable salmon fisheries. These estates and fisheries were held under the management of the Senate, and he thought if the lands given under this Bill were properly placed under the management of such bodies they might be made highly remunerative to the institution." He did not know what the people of Ireland might have to say with regard to the opinion expressed by Mr. West-Erskine, but possibly they might say that it would be better if the estates which the hon. gentleman then spoke of had not been entrusted to the University of Dublin, but held for the best purposes to which the people could put them. The Bill was taken up again on October 23 at clause 16, which had been reconsidered, the 50,000 acres of land having been inserted, and was carried. Then the question arose as to what the nature of the land dedicated to the University was likely to be, and Mr. Boncaut stated that in all probability the land would neither be the best nor the worst in the colony, but of average quality, and he (Mr. Peake) believed that it could fairly be described as such. The 50,000 acres was made up of 15,000 acres in the Hundred of Wirreanda, 15,000 acres in the Hundreds of Gumbowie and Parsons, 10,000 acres in the Hundred of Tatiara, and 10,000 in the Hundred of Brownlow. He had received through the courtesy of the University authorities a statement showing how the land was now held. The 10,000 acres in Tatiara was held, less a few acres resumed by the Government for railway purposes, by John Gall and the Queensland Land and Investment Company. The greater part was held by the Company. (Mr. Handyside—All except 2,000 acres). The Wirreanda lessees were Joseph Turner, Mrs. J. A. Box, and P. Gillick. James Heggie held 10,000 acres at Craigie's Plains, and 15,000 acres at Parnaroo was held by A. L. Geriecke, S. McLeish, R. McLeish, B. Gaffney, J. Gaffney, J. Dolan, F. W. J. Rabem, A. W. Hubner, A. Parkin, P. Whelan, B. Cockshell, A. Harding, W. B. Hill, C. O'Dea, Barnett & Steggall, H. C. Sims, J. Lyndon, and L. Janson. The dates on which the present leases expired were:—Tatiara—J. Gall, August 21, 1903; Queensland Company, September 27, 1903; Wirreanda, J. Turner, May 13, 1900, Mrs. Box, May 13, 1900, P. Gillick, August 21, 1900; Craigie's Plains, March 27, 1903; Parnaroo, October 4, 1914. The annual revenue derived from the lands was:—Tatiara, £505 4s.; Wirreanda, £245 10s. 6d.; Craigie's Plains, £283 6s. 8d.; Parnaroo, £379 9s. 8d.; total, £1,303 10s. 10d. These amounts were the rent payable, but for many years nothing like the full amount had been received, while rebates and concessions had frequently been made in consequence of bad seasons, &c. He did not pretend to have a thorough knowledge of the whole of the land, but he happened to know that in the Hundred of Tatiara, and he was prepared to say that it must be regarded as very valuable, and might be put to better account than it was at the present time. With the exception of a comparatively small portion, the Queensland Mortgage Co. used the whole of it for sheep grazing purposes. As to the land as a whole he was officially informed that about two-thirds of it was arable, although some of it was outside Goyder's line of rainfall. In his opinion it was a mistake to have parted with so large a portion of the public estate to any Corporation. A Corporation made the very worst of landlords, and could not possibly have the same humane interest in its tenants as an ordinary landlord, let him be of the worst character, because its sole idea must be to get as much revenue as it could. He did not move the motion out of any ill-feeling towards the University. The carrying of the motion would not deprive the institution of anything it now possessed without giving it compensation fully equivalent to that which might be taken away. It was proposed that negotiations should be opened up with the Council of the Uni-

versity with a view of arriving at, if possible some friendly, peaceable agreement, by which the land had been transferred to the Government, who in turn would endeavour to arrive at a fair value of the estate at the present time and in the future, and give its equivalent in Government stocks or in some other way. They knew the difficulties with which the Government were met in endeavouring to get land to settle the people on. Unfortunately the results of the passing of the Closer Settlement Act of 1897 had not come up to expectations. They had been able to acquire only some comparatively small estates, and the difficulty was especially great in the South-East, which district always had a strong recommendation owing to its climate and almost certain rainfall. There was no doubt that the colony was suffering for the want of suitable land for closer settlement. The sons of some of the best settlers had been driven to Western Australia and the other colonies to obtain land, although it was the wish of themselves and their parents that they should remain here, and this entailed a great loss to the colony. The Government had been so impressed with the necessity of obtaining land for closer settlement that their policy this session included a Compulsory Repurchase Bill. That showed the difficulties that were in their way, but before the Government should attempt to force such a policy, which must be considered obnoxious, through the House, they should exhaust all the possibilities that lay before them of acquiring land, and for that reason he invited them to aid him in carrying the motion. (Hon. T. Playford—"Would you take all the land?") That was for the Government to decide. (Hon. T. Playford—"If it is for closer settlement the South-Eastern land is the only suitable portion of the University holdings.") He would give the Government a free hand, and they could negotiate for that portion which was suitable for their requirements. The question of tenancies would also come in. Many of them did not expire for many years to come, but the land he had most in his mind was in the Hundred of Tatiara. There was about 10,000 acres, and it was admirably suited for closer settlement. The leases of that expired in 1903. It was undoubtedly a pity that the land dedicated to the University should have been allowed to get into the hands of a foreign Company. The Queensland Company had not the interests of South Australia in its keeping. It simply existed to pay dividends to its shareholders, and it was a pity when the Government were in difficulties, through not having land to settle the people that that land should be held in the interests of certain monied men in England.
On the motion of the COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS, the debate was adjourned until Wednesday, September 20.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.
Professor Ives delivered his sixth lecture on the theory and practice of harmony in the music-room of the University on Monday evening before a good audience. The subject of suspensions was resumed. The chord of the 4 to 3, and its inversions, were first explained and illustrated with examples on the blackboard and piano. Professor Ives then treated on the suspension of full chords, giving the full rules for their treatment as regards preparation and resolution. Various ornamental resolutions were also described, and the lecturer proceeded to discuss that important group of harmonic combinations known as diatonic discords. Their probable origin, figuring, and use by the old masters and modern writers were all touched upon and illustrated in the happiest fashion, and the lecturer retained the close attention of his auditors throughout his discourse.
Professor Mitchell continued his course on "Hamlet" on Monday evening, and has now enlisted the interest of his audience in studying the various characters. Speaking of the difference between Shakespeare's characters and those of the modern drama, he pointed out that, while the one held up the mirror to Nature in all the complexities which go to make up a tragic character, the modern playwright presented only some peculiar characteristic of a man, and made that the distinguishing feature. Hamlet was one of these complex characters. Polonius was also a character which showed to advantage the art of the dramatist in dealing with a complex disposition of wisdom and foolishness playing at cross-purposes. Referring to the question why Shakespeare made his characters speak in such poetic and fine language, he explained that the thoughts and feelings of the players could only thus be understood. Their own language would not convey in any sense what the dramatist intended his audience to understand. By such explanations, and literal translations of the text, Professor Mitchell's lectures are instructive as well as interesting to the student of English literature.

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"Register" 1st Aug 1899
Dr. G. A. Fischer, of Adelaide, is a graduate of the University of Adelaide. After completing his studies here, he took a position on the staff of the Adelaide Hospital. Subsequently he went to Europe, and made a special study of the eye, ear, and throat in the hospitals of London, Birmingham, Göttingen, Berlin, Paris, and other Continental cities. Dr. Fischer returned to this colony two years ago, and joined Dr. T. K. Hamilton. To-day he begins practice on his own account in Flinders-street.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.
On Friday evening, before a good attendance, Mr. E. G. Blackmore gave the second of his lectures on the "Nineteenth Century." The period under review was that from 1820 to 1837, coincident with the reigns of George IV. and William IV. The story of the relations between the former and his wife, which so nearly wrecked the throne, and the character of probably the most worthless monarch who ever sat on the throne of England; of the repeal of the Corporation and Test Acts, and of the struggle which ended at last in Catholic emancipation, were set forth with sufficient detail. The Reform Act is undoubtedly the most memorable incident in the reign of William IV., and the history of the stages through which it passed before it ultimately became law was fully told. As the lecturer said, the importance of these two reigns to the student of constitutional and political history can hardly be exaggerated. But the ordinary reader would do well to study the journals, correspondence, diaries, and biographies of the leading actors, which would give a far better idea of men and manners than any formal history, and would make the political story more intelligible and interesting.

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Mr. Peake moved that the Government should attempt to resume control of 30,000 acres of university lands, three-fourths of which in the Hundred of Tatiara are arable. Mr. O'Loughlin secured the adjournment of the debate. Mr. McKenzie in a short speech asked for a Select Committee to revise the main roads schedule in the interest of the recently-settled districts. Messrs. McKenzie and Pasch supported the motion, and the latter pressed also for an amendment of the Width of Tires Act. The Treasurer, on behalf of the Government, acceded to the request, but expressed the hope that, out of consideration for the finances, if few roads are put on the schedule, others will be taken off. Mr. Price complained that Start roads are worn down to the bed rock, which is red loamy soil. He protested against adding the names of Messrs. Handyside and Playford to the committee, as they are prejudiced in favor of the present schedule. Messrs. Handyside, Gilbert, McGilivray, Castine, Giles, Miller, Conybeer, and Batchelor all favored the motion, for everyone can talk on the subject of main roads. Then Mr. Playford rose to resent the remarks of Mr. Price, who, he said, measures other people's corn by his own miserable bushel. If Mr. Price were on the committee, he added, he would look after Start roads to the exclusion of all other arteries of traffic. Mr. Playford obtained leave to talk again next month.