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UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.
Late on Friday afternoon the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) and the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow) attended at the University to witness the mastheading and subsequent hauling down of the flags which had been since May 7 at half-mast. A large gathering was also present, and included members of the University staff-council, and students. The ceremony was performed after the firing of the last minute gun, and the assembly then adjourned to the Elder Hall, where Professor Ennis played the "Dead March" in "Saul" and "God save the King."

UNIVERSITY TRAINING COLLEGE.

DISAFFECTED STUDENTS.

OFFICIAL STATEMENT.

The Minister of Education has handed to us the following statement by the Director of Education (Mr. A. Williams) concerning the University Training College:—

The cause of the disaffection among the students of the University Training College appears to be twofold:—(1) The refusal by the department to grant certain requests preferred by the students at different times since January; (2) the desire of the students to devote the whole of their time to University studies, and a consequent unwillingness to engage in any work which does not "count" towards a University degree.

—Demands for Holidays.—

1. Since January three requests have been made, to which, after due consideration, the department found it impossible to give a favourable reply. The first was an application for one day's leave for the whole of the students, for the purpose of having a picnic. It was urged that they were unable to arrange for this on a Saturday, owing to the sports engagements of some of the students. To such a request but one reply was possible. The regulations definitely and properly provide that special holidays are on no account to be given for the personal convenience of the teacher, and astonishment was expressed that young people, aspiring to educate our boys and girls, could propose to abandon a day's work for personal enjoyment, and give pleasure precedence to duty. The second request was made by the male students to the effect that half a day should be given up to cricket. In reply to this I expressed my willingness to recommend the Honourable the Minister to grant to Education Department students the privilege enjoyed by other students at the University, viz., that every Wednesday afternoon might be devoted to sport, provided the work not taken on that afternoon was done at some other time. These conditions were regarded as not sufficiently favourable, and were rejected except for one particular occasion.

—Exemption from Teaching.—

The third request was that the students should be excused from attendance at the schools for practical teaching on any morning during the week in which the University terminal examinations were to be held. The custom of the Training College during the present year has been for every student to devote one morning per week to this work of practical teaching in the schools, one third of the total number going out on Tuesday, one third on Wednesday, and the remainder on Thursday. In no case were students prevented from attending examinations through being required to teach. Had any examinations been arranged for the morning, the practical work for that day would have lapsed as a matter of course. The examinations on the afternoons of the three days during last week were:—(1) Tuesday—Education, 2 to 3 p.m., for which 62 students were to present themselves; (2) Wednesday—None; (3) Thursday—(a), 2 to 3 p.m., history (38 students); (b) 3 to 4 p.m., pure mathematics (9 students, 4 of whom sat for history also); (c) 4 to 5 p.m., English literature (3 students). Note.—No students, except the four mentioned under (b) were required to sit for more than one subject on any afternoon. These terminal examinations take the place of an ordinary lecture and occupy about the same time, viz., one hour. For years past head teachers and assistants at work in the city and suburban schools have attended afternoon lectures at the University after the completion of their day's work at school, and have sat for terminal examinations. These teachers have not asked that they should be excused from teaching during the day, on the ground that they wished to present themselves for examinations in the afternoons. Should it become necessary to grant leave to these teachers, the work in the schools could not be carried on. In considering the request made by the students, one of the reasons that led to the adverse decision was that if their request were granted it would scarcely be possible to refuse a similar application from these head teachers and assistants, who are striving under difficulties to improve their status in the department. In a short article upon the question, which appeared in The Register of

May 20, among other statements, the following appeared:—"It has been asserted that students who do badly in the first or May terminal examination of the year are liable to be put out of that subject for the rest of the year by the Professor, who, at any rate, has the right to take such a step in the case of a badly ploughed student." Such a case has occurred on only one occasion, when the Professor found, through his experience with the students, that some of them were not sufficiently advanced to profit by the lectures. Even then only in extreme cases were students refused permission to continue the subject. On the occasion referred to the maximum number of marks for the examination was 20, and two students received no marks; one student received ½ mark; two, 1; two, 1½; two, 2; three, 2½; one, 3; four, 4½. (It may be mentioned that there was little or no practical teaching at this time.) Such results appeared to justify the conclusion that these 17 students were not capable of following the course, and that their continuance of it involved waste of their time and of State money, and a simpler course in the same subject was provided for them.

—Concessions Granted.—

Although for the reason just stated the full request of the students could not be granted, the circumstances of the case were carefully considered, and various concessions were made. In the first place, the three departmental examinations were, in accordance with the wishes of the students, postponed until after the vacation. Secondly, in order that the students might have fully two hours' respite before the commencement of the examinations, permission was granted them to leave the schools at which they were teaching half an hour before the usual time. In addition four training college lectures were cancelled, and in other ways, work was re-arranged for the convenience of the students.

—Question of University Degrees.—

2. The chief cause of disaffection among the students seems to be that they are not permitted to devote the whole of their time to studies leading to a University degree. A sentence contained in a paragraph which appeared in The Register on May 17, under the heading of "University Training College," may be taken as a statement of their position—"It is pointed out that the new departure is unfair to the students, the majority of whom entered the University on the understanding that they would be enabled to devote practically their whole time to University studies." Neither in the agreement, signed by students upon entering the University Training College, nor in the regulations, is there anything to justify such a claim. The first clause of the agreement states—"That the Minister agrees with the student and the guarantor to admit the student into the University Training College, and if, after probation, it shall appear to the Minister that the student is worthy of further training, to provide free instruction for the term of two years;" and regulation 237 states—"During the attendance at the college students will be instructed in the methods of teaching such subjects as are comprised in the course of instruction for pupils. They will follow such branches of study as may be prescribed." It is true that in the past students have been permitted to devote practically the whole time to University studies, and the result has been very unsatisfactory in a great number of cases. Such an arrangement was not contemplated when the Training College scheme was inaugurated. In the original plan, formulated in 1900, it was intended to make provision for instruction in those special subjects which are included in the syllabus of every modern teachers' training college as well as for practical teaching under adequate and capable supervision. Unfortunately for the students themselves and for the State, it has not been possible to put the full scheme into operation until this year. The method of the past has been seriously defective, in that it has involved loss of efficiency and waste of State money. The department fully recognises the great value of University studies, particularly for those teachers who will be engaged in the high schools when their training college course is completed. Proof of this is found in the fact that provision has been made for affording to specially able students, who have given evidence of their skill as teachers, the opportunity to pursue their studies at the University for a third year. At the same time the department sees no justification for the assumption that a full University course is necessary or desirable for those whose teaching days will be spent among very young children or for those whose abilities are not of a sufficiently high order to enable them to profit by it. The course followed in the most advanced countries is to insist on training in essentials. In both Germany and Switzerland, the foremost countries of Europe in educational progress, it is only teachers of secondary schools who receive a university training, while in England those teach-

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UNIVERSITY TRAINING COLLEGE.
The Register recently recorded that a number of students of the University Training College refused to undertake practical teaching on the morning of the day on which they were required to undergo a terminal examination at the University. The Minister of Education has authorized in this issue the publication of a statement by the Director of Education explaining the cause of the disaffection among the students relative to demands for holidays and other concessions, which have been refused, and the attitude of the department in insisting upon a practical training of teachers. The Minister has directed that a letter shall be sent to the parents and guardians of all the students who during last week absented themselves from duty without permission, in effect requiring such students to retire, unless they shall send a declaration notifying that for the future they will faithfully obey the instructions issued to them.

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TRAINING STATE TEACHERS.
From "Practical":—"There seems to be frequently recurring difficulties as regards the hours and work of pupil teachers. Would it not be wise to raise the teaching profession to the level of the medical and legal profession? We are never short of doctors nor lawyers, and they have to submit to severe courses of study. If all teachers were prepared at their own expense for their profession, and positions allocated so soon as they had attained a certain fitness, all these minor difficulties would be swept away. A large number of the candidates offering are those whose parents have not been educated, and being the first generation of students, they find the work very heavy. This really seems the crux of the friction that so constantly arises. A position at the end of a course of study would draw just as many students as the present system, be far less expensive, and probably more efficient."