

The motion was granted.

Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C., referred to the case of Thomas Reginald Mellor, who had recently entered the service, and was now a second lieutenant. He had only five months to run to complete his articles. He thought in a case like that they might apply for admission to the bar. He was afraid there was no probability that Mr. Mellor would be back in five months. It was possible that he might desire to remain in England for experience. It would be of great service to him if he were already admitted. He asked for an adjournment to enable him to consider whether or not he would apply for Mr. Mellor's admission.

His Honor Mr. Justice Gordon said so far as he was immediately concerned, he could say that he would cordially agree to the application if it were made. Those who were volunteering for the front deserved every assistance and encouragement that could be given. They were making great sacrifice—sacrifice which it was their duty to make, but which no less called for the gratitude of their country. Even from the mere monetary point of view, a man who went to the war gave much. Laboring men getting 10/ a day, not only made an immediate sacrifice; but ran the risk of having to make one vastly greater. If such a man came back permanently incapacitated he got £1 a week. Thus for the rest of his life he gave in effect £2 a week to the war fund. This was more than most of them, even more than the very rich were giving. It stood to their honor for ever that so many gallant men in all ranks of life were making such sacrifices at the call of patriotism.

Mr. Justice Murray said he would hear what Mr. Piper had to say.

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EMPLOYMENT OF ENEMY ALIENS.

Melbourne, July 6.

The employment of enemy aliens on the staff of the University gave rise to a long discussion at last night's meeting of the University Council. Dr. Leeper moved—"That the services of unnaturalised citizens of any enemy country who may be in the employment of the University be dispensed with as soon as possible, provision being made for equitable compensation." He said it was not directed against any particular person. It would be a mark of loyalty and a symbol of the unity of the Empire to follow the example of Great Britain in dealing with enemy aliens. It was a measure of safety and a wise precaution. Professor Mason said the circumstances in Australia were different from those in England. It was not for the University Council to perform acts of State. If they had any suspicions of these persons they should give information to the Defence Department. The two men affected by the motion were the lecturer on German (Herr von Dechend) and the teacher of music at the Conservatorium (Herr Scharf). Both had been in Australia many years, and had married Australian wives. The Defence authorities had investigated both cases, had intercepted correspondence, and paid domiciliary visits, and were satisfied with both men. After much discussion, the motion was finally carried in the following form:—"That engagements of unnaturalised citizens of any enemy country who may be in the employment of the University be not renewed at the end of their present term of office."

Register, July 8/1915.

OUR FORESTS.

Government Action Promised.

Afforestation is a question which will soon engage the attention of the Vaughan Government. This much was promised by the Attorney-General (Hon. J. H. Vaughan), in reply to a deputation from the Forest League and the A.N.A., which waited upon him on Wednesday morning, and presented a number of motions adopted at the latest meeting of those bodies. The deputation, which was introduced by the Hon. F. S. Wallis, M.L.C., asked:—1. "That an increased annual sum be placed on the Estimates so as to admit of larger annual planting operations being carried on by the Forestry Department." 2. "That steps be taken to ensure that the catchment areas of the various water schemes of the State be afforested." 3. "That statistics be collected through the police and Crown lands rangers showing the areas and localities affected by sand drift, and enquiring the cause of and seeking suggestions for dealing with such drift." 4. "That a bulletin be prepared giving particulars of varieties of trees suited for planting in various districts of the State, with simple directions as to planting operations, and circulated throughout the State." 5. "That the treatise on tree culture in South Australia by the late Mr. J. E. Brown be revised and distributed gratis throughout the State." 6. "That the Crown take steps to see that no timber on miscellaneous leases in the hills areas be destroyed." 7. "That section 30 of the Crown Lands Act, 1912, be amended by substituting five acres for every 100 acres in the place of five acres for every 250 acres." 8. "That control of and property in timber on main and district roads be divested from district councils and vested in the Crown." 9. "That prosecutions in respect to removal of timber from main and district roads be undertaken by Crown lands rangers and the police."

—Important Questions.—

Mr. H. W. Uffindell (President of the Forest League) stated that the time had arrived when the question of afforestation should be dealt with in a statesmanlike manner, and not in the hand-to-mouth way hitherto adopted. The matter was of special importance in South Australia, where Nature had been so niggardly in her forest wealth. The first and foremost questions of climatic influence and the conservation of moisture should claim attention. The work of afforestation was not unproductive, but would pay directly and indirectly. The unemployed problem might be perennially provided for in a progressive policy of forest extension.

—A Happy Accident.—

The Attorney-General, in reply, said he did not know whether it was pure accident that the arranging of the deputation was simultaneous with his taking over the Department of Forestry. If it were an accident it was a happy one. Although the transfer of the department had not even been gazetted, he had had impressions conveyed to him that would have their effect upon his work in that sphere, and, he hoped, practical results in future. It was pleasing that there were bodies of men and women in South Australia who had sufficient imagination to look a little beyond the immediate present. The work of the Forest League and the A.N.A. would undoubtedly be of great assistance to the Government in moving forward in the direction requested. He was impressed with many of the important matters mentioned by the deputation, and assured them that he would not be inactive in going into the various details to see whether they could be adopted so that the Government could do something more than had been done in regard to afforestation. They would realize the present financial difficulties, but he hoped the Ministry would move forward a step or two immediately, and when the financial position became normal it would be able to do much more. He would do all possible to put forestry in South Australia upon a more satisfactory footing.

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NATIONAL EDUCATION.

Gratifying and important facts recorded in the Education Report for 1914 are that, as compared with the preceding year, the number of pupils in attendance at the State's primary schools increased by 1,771, and the daily average attendance by 2,582. The number of children enrolled was fewer than in 1901—58,125 against 63,183—but the average attendance was better—44,110 against 43,789. The necessity of a good grounding in the elements of education was never before so widely and keenly appreciated, and prosperous material conditions were reflected in both Government and private schools and colleges. The expenditure of the department last year indicated the desire of the Legislature to improve the system, and to ensure satisfaction among the teaching staffs; but, in view of other heavy and accumulating burdens, the taxpayer will be inclined to urge that no additional outlay shall be incurred unless with the reasonable certainty that it will prove substantially remunerative. Nothing should be left undone to enhance the value of the rising generation to the State and Commonwealth, by equipping them for useful avocations; but for some time at least the taxpayers cannot approve of costly experiments in theoretical knowledge. The grand total State expenditure on education was £367,074, compared with £263,529 in 1910—an increase of £103,545 in four years! Under its main headings the outlay respectively for 1914 and 1910 was thus incurred:—Administration, £15,677, £12,535; primary education, £225,749, £163,672; secondary education, £26,192, £10,913; buildings, £56,840, £44,025; grants to educational institutions (University, Public Library, Schools of Mines, &c.), £40,201, £30,577; Observatory and miscellaneous, £1,758, £1,079; Minister's office, £657, £729. The cost to the State of each pupil instructed in all schools was £5 6/10½ in 1914, compared with £5 6/10½ in 1913 and £4 7/4 in 1910. An addition of £11,017 to the outlay for 1913 on primary schools is accounted for mainly by increases of salaries to public and provisional teachers, and the augmented cost of training owing to the extra number of junior teachers and the training college students.

The high schools, including the domestic science centres, are doing good work, and their usefulness ought to be extended. There are 27 of them, and during the year under review 2,605 pupils received instruction against 2,303 in 1913 and 1,592 in 1910. The schools have become a valuable source for the supply of junior teachers. Out of 749 pupils on the roll of the Adelaide High School 161 were junior teachers, 264 were improving their general education prior to beginning their careers in life, 209 were studying for the University Public Examinations, and 115 were taking a commercial course to prepare them for business pursuits. Owing to his regretted illness, from which he has happily recovered, the Director of Education (Mr. M. M. Maugan, B.A.) was unable to prepare the usual complete report on the work