

The Registrar -41- 1916

THE DEAD-END PROBLEM.

North Terrace Institutions.

[II.—By our Special Reporter.]

The problem of the North terrace dead-end, if it is to be solved, demands a policy both destructive and constructive in its aspects. We shall have to pay rather dearly for our lack of vision! The future ideal conflicts with much that is now real. If it were merely a question of townplanning, with a free, unobstructed field for activity, there would be only the consideration of the large expenditure necessary to give the central railway station that splendour of site becoming to a progressive and graceful capital. It would, in fact, be no problem at all. What has made the problem has been neglect and expediency, and further delay will aggravate it. In its contemplation it is not a matter of what buildings ought to remain on North terrace, but what must go to ensure the happiest consummation of a big project. Major Smeaton, M.P., who is Chairman of the North Terrace Reserves Commission, to which Parliament has delegated the enquiry, says it is in that spirit he intends to proceed, and he believes he will have the support of his colleagues.

—Approaches to the Station.—

The problem has a wide horizon. A larger railway station is wanted, and it must be designed on the run-through principle. No modern city should tolerate a dead-end. Then, wrapped up in the

solution, is the planning of the approaches to the city from the west, south, and north, and, eventually, from the east. Some of the existing buildings on North terrace will have to go. That is inevitable. A nest of valuable interests has grown on that stretch of land bounded on the south by North terrace itself, on the north by the River Torrens, on the west by King William road, and on the east by Frome road. Roughly speaking, there is an area of 50 acres to deal with, and every institution requires more ground for future expansion. In an interview I had with Major Smeaton on Tuesday I asked him whether his ideal railway station would seriously affect the present disposition of North terrace.

"Undoubtedly it will," he replied. "It will mean scrapping some of the existing buildings, which should never have been erected there."

"But how about Parliament House?"

"Well, I confess, Parliament House is a difficulty. While the policy of scrapping may be economical, there should be no encouragement for the iconoclast. There must be no destruction for destruction's sake; and, although Parliament House might have been placed in a better position, yet its presence at one of the principal corners in the centre of the city that is to be will not be in any way incongruous. The idea itself is fine—the centre of the Government at the very heart of affairs."

—Expansion, but Where?—

"Supposing it should be decided to build a run-through station, could Parliament House remain where it is?"

"Yes, it could; and a very effective bit of townplanning could be put into effect. It would mean carrying the railway station buildings to the north of Parliament House, and possibly utilizing the Government Printing Office as part of the scheme.

A plaza of 100 ft. in width could be obtained at that point which, if taken around to North terrace, would bring the roadway out to about the same level as at the King William road end; and this would become, as it should for certainty, the central point of the Adelaide tramway system. That, however, is a matter of designing. I am merely laying down the principles. It would be no hardship either from utilitarian or picturesque considerations, to remove the City Baths, and, if need be, the Government Printing Office. When we come to deal with the other problem of the lands between King William and Frome roads, and North terrace and the River Torrens, we are confronted with the fact that on this block there are domiciled certain institutions which it will be difficult to remove, and yet which require additional ground, closely contiguous, for necessary expansion. Putting aside for the moment the question of the permanency of Government House as a residence for the State Governor, and dealing with the remaining portion, we have the School of Mines at the extreme end. It occupies a piece of land which gives little room for further building, and yet this institution must grow. It ought to grow with the development of the community. If the School of Mines fulfils its proper function, it will become more and more the industrial University of South Australia. There ought to be an area in the rear which should be granted for its future use. If this were done, it would put the question of room at rest for centuries."

"Then there is the University?"

"That is one of the greatest problems of all. I confess that I, and the other members of the royal commission, approach this matter with great diffidence. We know that the area of four and a half acres, according to the University grant, is a

mere fleabite to what will be required. When we remember that the universities of Melbourne and Sydney are domiciled on blocks of respectively 100 and 130 acres, we must come to the conclusion that either they are much over-provided for, or that we are much under-provided for. The former may not be a fact; the latter certainly is. Our enquiry, so far, has shown that we cannot attempt to give the University a further extension of land without dealing with the whole area within the boundaries I have mentioned. Remember that area is only about 50 acres, and a portion of it is lowlying and unsuited to University purposes. Remember, too, that the railway to the east, which must come, will bisect the land on the lower levels and, therefore, interfere with expansion in that direction."

—Public Library Buildings.—

"That brings you to the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery. How do these buildings stand in relation to the future North terrace?"

"They occupy three and a quarter acres and (under a tentative arrangement entered into with the Peake Government) another three and a quarter acres has been guaranteed for extension. The President of the Board of Governors (Mr. W. J. Sowden) has given evidence to the effect that extra accommodation is needed in the immediate future, and that there is little doubt that the additional land which has been granted will not be more than enough even for almost pressing requirements. At this point we are met by two drawbacks to the problem. University extension must take place to the west as well as to the north of the present buildings. Over to the west, then, the University would occupy lands which are certain to be required within the next century for the proper accommodation of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery. One has only to look at the areas covered by

these institutions in the adjoining capital to realize how inadequate that three and a quarter acres will be for future purposes. Personally I feel that if the whole of the land now occupied by the Destitute Asylum and the Police Barracks were retained for the extension of the Public Library buildings, there would not be a foot too much."

"Those considerations make the future position of the University a serious matter?"

"Undoubtedly. Even if all the ground occupied by the Exhibition Building and the lands attached to it were put at the disposal of the University, a sufficient area could not then be obtained for the development which must take place within the next 50 years; and that to the exclusion of the School of Mines. I put this point to show the great difficulties which we have to face, and where their settlement may lead us. If I may sum it up, this is the position:—With the School of Mines wanting an additional six acres, the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery another eight acres, and the University requiring from 50 to 100 acres more—how can we find the necessary area, where the extent at our disposal, including the Government House domain and the military parade ground, is just about 50 acres?"

—Solving the Problem.—

"It certainly is a big problem. Do you think the royal commission will be able to solve it?"

"We are going to try."

"Then how long do you expect the commission to sit?"

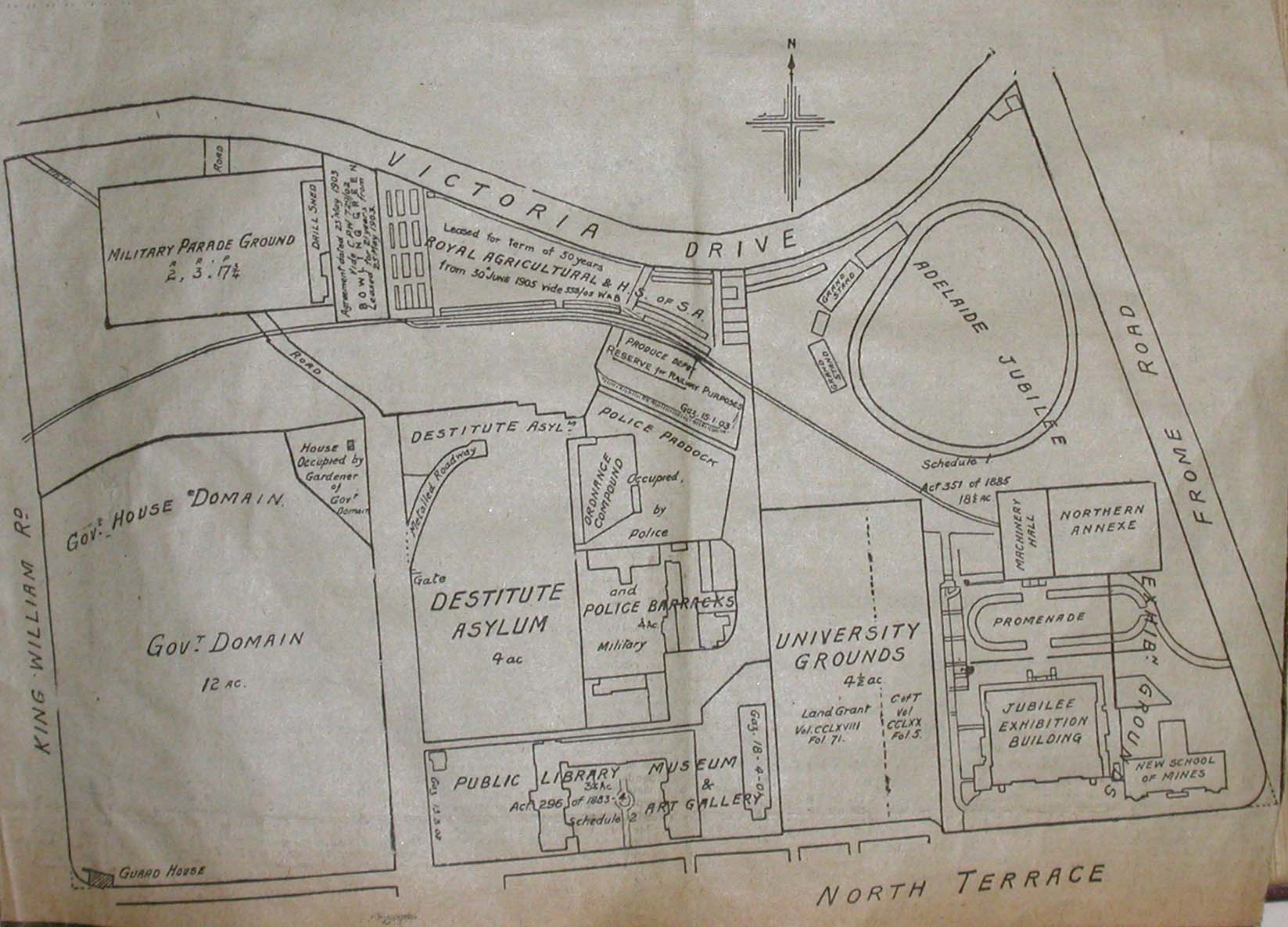
"Until we have solved it, I hope. That will be the only way in which we shall justify our existence. The solution of the problem in its practical application will cost hundreds of thousands of pounds; but what is that in the life of a State. It is for us to plan for the future which Providence designed we should enjoy."

June 3/16

Professor E. C. Stirling, C.M.G., was on Friday elected president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in succession to the late Sir Samuel Way. The new president, a son of the late Hon. E. Stirling, was born at Strathalbyn. He attended St. Peter's College and graduated in arts, medicine, and science at Trinity College, Cambridge. He has been admitted to the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons and of the Royal Society. For a period he held the post of house surgeon, assistant surgeon, and lecturer on physiology at St. George's Hospital, London. He returned to Adelaide in 1881. He has been professor of physiology at the Adelaide University for many years, and for some time he devoted much of his extensive knowledge to the work of Museum Director. In 1883 he was elected to the House of Assembly, and he introduced the first Bill aiming at the extension of the Parliamentary franchise to women. He presided over the Australasian Medical Conference in Adelaide in 1905. Dr. Stirling has attained a world-wide reputation as a scientist and has made many valued contributions to scientific journals. He is a member of the University Council.

June 3/16

The president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Professor E. C. Stirling), at the annual meeting on Friday, referred to the death of his predecessor in office, Sir Samuel Way. He had played, said Professor Stirling, many parts with conspicuous ability. He had a great love for animals, and that quality, together with his geniality and innate sense of justice, had made him an ideal president. At his death they had sustained a great loss. They also regretted the death of another old member, Mr. R. Barr Smith, who had taken a great interest in the work of the society. Mr. O'Reilly, Mrs. R. M. Stow, and Mr. W. Woodroffe were other members now lost to them. Mr. Angus Parsons, K.C., said he desired to associate himself with the president's expressions. The society had also lost, by death, its veterinary surgeon, Major Desmond. He had done splendid service. Mr. W. B. Blue, one of the honorary inspectors, had died in Egypt, and Mr. J. L. Gordon, who had accomplished excellent work in advising the secretary and in conducting police court proceedings, had also been lost to them, and Lieutenant H. F. Brock, who had acted as an honorary inspector, had died on the



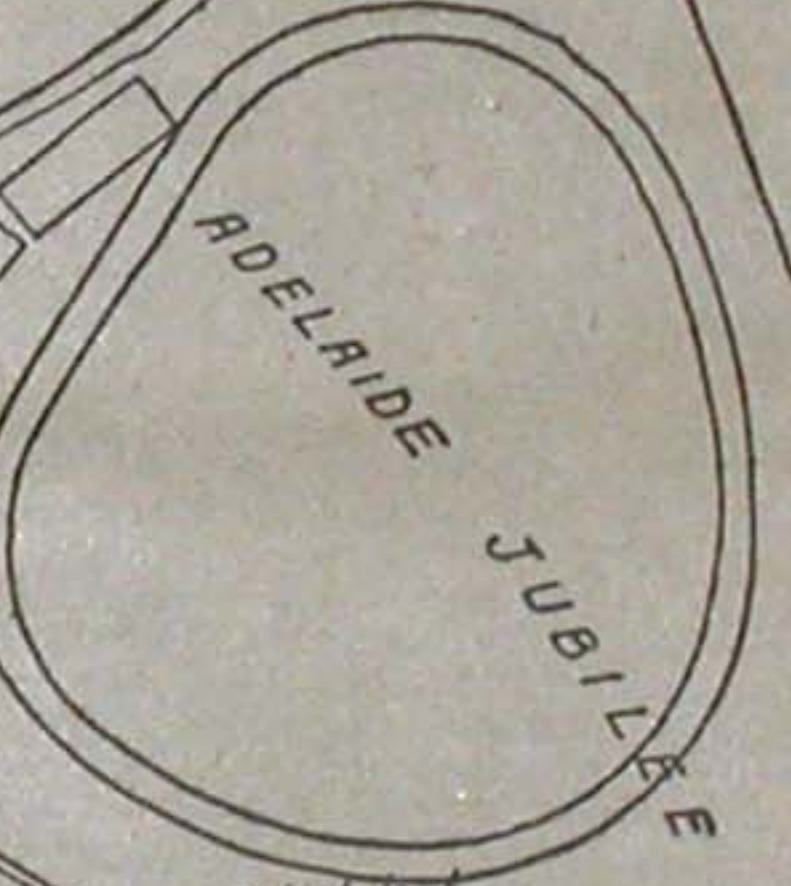
VICTORIA DRIVE

MILITARY PARADE GROUND
R.P. 2, 3.17 1/4

DRILL SHED
Agreement dated 25 May 1903
vide C.M. 722/02
B.O.W. & N.G. & R.E. & N.
Leased for 21 years from
25 May 1903.

Leased for term of 50 years
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL & H.S. OF S.A.
from 30 June 1905 vide 559/05 W.A.D.

GREEN STADIUM
DUNES GROUND



Schedule 1
Act 351 of 1885
18 1/2 ac

ROAD
FROME ROAD

Govt HOUSE DOMAIN

House Occupied by Gardener of Govt Domain

Govt DOMAIN
12 ac.

DESTITUTE ASYLUM



DESTITUTE ASYLUM
4 ac

PRODUCES DEPT RESERVE for RAILWAY PURPOSES
G.O.S. 15-1-03

POLICE Paddock
ORDNANCE COMPOUND
Occupied by Police

and POLICE BARRACKS
Military

UNIVERSITY GROUNDS
4 1/2 ac

Land Grant Vol. CCLXVIII Fol. 71.
C.M.T. Vol. CCLXX Fol. 5.

MACHINERY HALL
NORTHERN ANNEXE



JUBILEE EXHIBITION BUILDING

EXHIBITION GROUNDS
NEW SCHOOL OF MINES

PUBLIC LIBRARY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY
3 1/2 ac
Act 296 of 1883
Schedule 2
G.O.S. 18-4-01

GUARD HOUSE

NORTH TERRACE

KING WILLIAM RD