

The Advertiser March 14<sup>th</sup> 1916



# NEEDS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

## EVIDENCE OF THE CHANCELLOR.

The North-terrace Reserves Commission took evidence at Parliament House on Monday morning. There were present, Messrs. Smeaton (chairman), Carr, Cooke, Laffer, Green, Gunn, and O'Connor.

His Honor the Chief Justice (Chancellor of the University) said, in reply to questions by the chairman, that for immediate requirements of the University something less than 125 acres of land would be sufficient. If that estimate had been made it must have been with a view to the whole future of the institution. A university such as that of Adelaide was a thing that would continue to grow. It need not necessarily be located in one spot. Different departments might be situated in different places, so long as they were conveniently near. The Oxford and Cambridge Universities were spread over comparatively wide areas. On the other hand, the Edinburgh and Leeds Universities, and several other English and Scottish institutions were each erected on one block. But each of those places had large grounds. In connection with the question whether or not the University should remain on its present site, he thought it was impracticable and undesirable to remove it. They had spent £85,000 on the present buildings, and they required about double the accommodation that they now possessed. If the institutions were removed they would require about £250,000 to compensate them. He did not know of any city site, and did not think there was any city site available which would be large and convenient enough for the University buildings and requirements. At present the University had no residential property, and it ought therefore to be centrally situated in some part of the city. If they had residential colleges they would be convenient for the students and would stimulate the competitive spirit. They could not expect students to go to Mitcham, Burnside, or Glen Osmond if the University were situated at one of those centres. Too much valuable time would be lost. It would probably take an hour or an hour and a half a day in travelling. Then there were a great many students attending night classes. It would be unreasonable to expect parents to allow their children to go out to these places to attend night lectures. Such an arrangement would greatly diminish the usefulness of the University. Students from Campbelltown, for instance, would find it very inconvenient if they had to go to any of the suburbs he had named to attend classes. So long as the University remained a non-residential institution he thought it should be situated centrally. He thought residential colleges must inevitably be established in the future. They had many advantages. They brought students into contact with each other and also brought them into closer contact with the professors and teachers. He hoped that the future development would be on residential lines, although he did not regard it as at all necessary that the residential colleges should be on the same site as the principal buildings. The tramway and railway systems centred in Adelaide and the colleges should not be too far away. In any case it would be necessary to have a meeting place in the city, where the students could get meals, and find opportunity for reading. He was thinking not merely of a meeting place, but of a refectory. It should be an ornamental building.

In reply to a question the witness said he did not think he would place residential rooms on the present site. They had about 1,000 students enrolled at present. They were not all studying for degrees. It was desirable that many of these should become resident students. He hoped that eventually they would have a number of colleges situated in different places. He was not favorable to denominational colleges, although financial considerations might have to be taken into account in that connection. The establishment of such residential colleges as he had suggested would create healthy rivalry.

The Chairman said they had denominational colleges at the Melbourne University. Trinity, for instance, was a Church of England institution, and Queen's was a Methodist College, but he believed the financial question had been the determining factor in the establishment of the colleges on a denominational basis.

In reply to Mr. Green, his Honor said he thought it was desirable that the University should have a considerable area of land for recreation purposes if they had residential colleges. The present was the critical moment for decision on that point. If the land were allotted permanently for other purposes, the University teaching buildings would have been distributed in the future. Even if the University were placed in the suburbs, it



would be necessary to have some classrooms in the city. The medical school and the law school, for instance, had teaching staffs of men who were practising their profession in the city, and could not be expected to go far away to give their lectures. Then, too, the medical school should be near the hospital. Good laboratories also would be required in the city. If they were given more land now the undesirable position of having to remove the teaching buildings to the suburbs would not be brought about. The University was the most important intellectual training ground in the State, and it should be encouraged. It should be maintained as an institution of which South Australia would be proud, and should be in the best available position. The buildings should be in good taste, and an ornament to the city. He did not know of any place in Adelaide which offered so many advantages as the North-terrace site. It would not become an inconvenient spot, nor would it spoil the beauty of the city. If its growth were checked now it would mean permanent inconvenience. He thought members of the Commission must have been struck by the lack of accommodation, both for lecture purposes and for the professorial staff. They had a growing library and they wanted more room. It was difficult to arrange for the lectures, because of the limited classroom accommodation. They badly wanted a room. They administered about £20,000 a year.

In reply to further questions, his Honor said that if they had 11½ acres of land for the North-terrace buildings that would probably give them ample accommodation for the next 50 or 100 years.

The Chairman asked if Government House, the old police barracks, the Destitute Asylum, with the present establishment, making up, say, 35 acres altogether, would provide sufficient accommodation for the future.

His Honor said the area mentioned would be sufficient for all time, as the residential portions of the institution could be provided elsewhere. He did not include recreation purposes in that reply.

In reply to a question by the chairman, whether such an arrangement would be acceptable to the University authorities, his Honor said he thought it would be quite acceptable, and would be commensurate with the importance of the University. If they had the acre of land where Marshall's factory stood on the opposite side of North-terrace they could put up laboratories there and buildings, which would accommodate the whole of the medical school.

In reply to a question by Mr. Gunn, his Honor said the University had not asked, so far as he was aware, for the Jubilee Exhibition Oval. They had only requested that it should not be permanently allotted to any other purpose. He did not think that the Exhibition building was regarded as a permanent building. The oval might, at present, be necessary to the building, but that condition would not last for ever.

Mr. C. R. Hodge (Registrar of the University) stated that he agreed with the views expressed by the Chancellor, except in a few minor details.

Professor Osborn (Professor of Botany), who was asked for his views on the requirements of an up-to-date Botanic Garden, said he considered it emphatically necessary that the present gardens should be extended. They were too cramped. Botanic gardens should be pleasure resorts for the people. It would be impossible to develop the existing gardens as they should be developed, unless more ground were available. There was no possibility of showing scenic beauty such as was desirable. There should be provision for growing all kinds of trees found in the State. Owing to the shape of the site it was impossible to get scenic effects along the creeks, such as were found in many other gardens. There were no vistas such as the Melbourne Gardens presented. The extension of the gardens from the scenic point of view was necessary. The scientific aspect of the gardens was of great importance. A fairly large area of ground should be reserved for fodder and other plants. Native vegetation should be largely represented in the gardens, first because the native vegetation would, to a large extent, become extinct in the populated parts of the State, secondly the native fodder plants should be set out there, and there should also be specimens of the native noxious plants for demonstration purposes. The gardens should break the ground as a primary experimental block. They were not, no-



ought they to be, an adjunct to the Department of Agriculture. They should have full scope to experiment in the introduction of plants. They should also be regarded as a place of reference. Specimens of plants which could not be grown there should be on view in a herbarium and museum, and there should be a library for the consultation of people who might wish to identify specimens. In order to house the herbarium, the Botanic Gardens should put in a strong plea for some of the buildings in the isolation hospital. The main building would answer the purpose admirably, and the land of the old Exhibition Building site was very rich, and entirely suitable for garden purposes, and the stone building would make a suitable hall for exhibition purposes, which would be useful to the amateur gardeners round the city, and might serve as a meeting-hall.

By Mr. Laffer—The witness thought they should experiment with all the economic plants.

The Commission then adjourned.

*The Advertiser March 23. 1906*

## NORTH-TERRACE RESERVES.

A meeting of the North-terrace Reserves and Railway Centres Commission was held at Parliament House on Wednesday. Mr. Smeaton presided, and there were present Messrs. Carr, Cooke, Green, Laffer, Gunn, and O'Connor.

Professor Chapman and Professor Henderson were examined, and both expressed the opinion that if the University were removed to a suburb its usefulness would be seriously interfered with, and the number of students would be smaller, because the advantages afforded by the central situation of the University at present enabled young people who were engaged in business to pursue their studies at the institution, whereas if the University were at, say, Fularton, the disadvantages would be so great that the roll of students would certainly diminish. The number of students per thousand of the metropolitan area was far greater in South Australia than in any of the other States, and they attributed that to the fact that the University was so conveniently located. Professor Chapman strongly urged that it would be far better to have the University on 20 acres on North-terrace than on 100 acres in one of the suburbs, because it would be nearer the business centre, and would attract students. The two witnesses also pointed out that at present the University was near both the hospital and the Public Library, which was a most important advantage. There was no vital necessity for placing residential colleges close to the University buildings. Professor Chapman thought such a college could be established in Lower North Adelaide, as near the University as possible. He submitted two plans showing what the majority of those engaged at the University thought would meet the requirements of the future. One embodied the Jubilee Oval, on which would be built the necessary science and other schools, and a block further west for the residential college. The other one took in most of the ground on the high level only, including the area on which Government House stands, and on which the schools would be erected. The latter would mean that educational institutions would then occupy the whole of the frontage from King William-road to Frome-road, with the exception of the Jubilee Exhibition Building. The other plan, however, was more favored, because it would be more compact. The scheme embracing the oval would give the University a total of 18½ acres, and the other would provide 22½ acres. As the sports ground on the northern side of the Torrens met all the needs of the students there would not be any necessity to provide for an oval on either of the sites mentioned. The possibility of a railway going across the lower level out to the east was an important matter to be remembered in connection with the first scheme, because it would seriously interfere with the northern portion of the oval land, and consequently with the efficiency of the schools. For that reason the land on the higher level only would be preferable. In each plan provision was made for a residential college, and both the witnesses advocated that such a college should be established.

Mr. G. Quinn, the Horticultural Expert, expressed the view that it would be cruel to ask the Botanic Gardens authorities to accept an extended area represented by the land occupied by the contagious diseases block, and another block, unless at the same time a substantial permanent increase was made to the Government grant. With the present grant they could do very little more than sweep the garden and keep it in order. Much additional and valuable work could be done if the board had more money at its command, and there were splendid opportunities for improving the scenic attractions of the gardens.



# N.Z. UNIVERSITY

## CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS TO SENATE

### BOARD OF STUDIES

#### THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS CRITICISED

#### LOCAL OR EXTERNAL EXAMINERS?

In his address to the University Senate yesterday, Sir Robert Stout, Chancellor of the University, dealt very fully with the recommendations of the lately-constituted Board of Studies, consisting of representatives of teaching staffs of the University colleges, and especially with the recommendation that examinations for degrees to be granted by the New Zealand University should be conducted by New Zealand University teachers. Following are extracts from the address:—

"The board has by a majority recommended that the Senate of the University should cease to perform its statutory function of appointing examiners, and that the duty of examining candidates for degrees and diplomas should vest in the teachers of the affiliated institutions. The Senate cannot delegate its function in the manner suggested by the Board of Studies. The only power of delegation in this matter is shown in Section 17 of the University Act, 1908, which states:—The Senate shall have full power from time to time to appoint and remove all examiners, officers, and servants of the University:

"Provided that such power may be delegated to the Chancellor or Vice-Chancellor by resolution of the Senate subject to or without restriction, and such delegation may in like manner be revoked."

and in Sub-section 3 of Section 12 of the University Act, 1914, it is stated:

"(3) The Senate may delegate to the board, either generally or for any specified time, and either subject to or without restriction, such powers of drawing up courses of study, of conducting examinations, and of appointing examiners as it thinks fit; and such powers, when exercised by the board, shall be deemed to have been as validly exercised as if they had been exercised by the Senate itself."

#### Part of a Propaganda?

"What the board has now recommended the Senate cannot lawfully do. Perhaps it is therefore unnecessary to waste the time of the Senate over the recommendations of the board so far as vesting the power of examining students in the teachers, or the special Boards, or the general board, mentioned in the board's resolutions, is concerned. It is surely to be regretted that the Board of Studies should at its first meeting have spent its time in formulating and passing recommendations which the Senate has no power to carry out. It may be, however, that these recommendations are meant for the Parliament of the Dominion, and that they are a part of that propaganda that has been carried on, in Wellington and Christchurch, to effect the abolition of external examiners. If so, it is not what I assume the creators of the Board of Studies understood the function of the board would be. The proposal of the board is that there should be two grades of examinations in all events, the B.A. and B.Sc. degrees. What is to happen in the Law, Medical, Musical, Engineering, and other technical degrees does not appear. There is to be first what is called an intermediate examination, the standard of which, it has been suggested by the Canterbury College Professors, shall not be so high as the present ordinary pass standard of B.A. and B.Sc."