

owing to the better prices secured for cases and the amounts received for telegraph poles from the Railway Department, and for dunnage for wheat stacking. The conservator says:—It is interesting to note that the revenue is the highest recorded for the last 29 years, and only on one previous occasion has it exceeded the present figure. The most significant feature about this is that the timber sold, which has been the main factor in securing this return, has all been grown by the department in the plantations it has established—a fact which augurs well for a steady advance in the revenue as the various plantations develop. The total amount spent on the vote "preparing forest produce for sale" is £3,822, resulting in a return to revenue of £7,451 for sale of fruit cases, rails, posts, dunnage for wheat, and poles for telegraph and electric light purposes. On June 30, 1917, the permanent improvements of the department, including buildings, fencing, stock, and implements, and plantations are valued at £110,956.

Register, 30.10.17

OUR FORESTS.

"There have been no alienations for perpetual leases during the year." This simple, but pleasingly significant, announcement appears as a footnote to the tabulated list of the State's forest reserves and plantations, with which the zealous and able Conservator (Mr. W. Gill) prefaces his report concerning forestry operations for 1916-17. The information encourages the hope that the "forestry conscience" or "consciousness" is growing and making its influence felt for the future practical benefit of the community. The Government must offer all reasonable inducements for the extension of agricultural settlement; but it is also bound to provide for the increasing demand for timber of all kinds. As that enthusiastic and competent forester, the Governor-General, has impressively reminded us, the world's timber supplies are fast being reduced (the destruction has been appalling during the war), and considerations of self-interest require the Australian States to conserve and extend their arboreal areas. It would be a disgrace if, despite the magnificent opportunities which our soil and climate offer for the growth of many kinds of valuable trees, in almost incalculable numbers, the Commonwealth should ever lack serviceable and choice woods for building, furnishing, and artistic purposes, or for use as railway sleepers and to provide boxes for the marketing of fruit and other produce. The tendency of statesmen and politicians is to gratify present insistent claims without troubling much about future necessities. A lesson may be learned from the old man whom a neighbour observed industriously planting fruit trees in his garden. When asked why he should do such work, when there was no likelihood of his living long enough to eat of the fruit of the trees, he replied that from his childhood he had received advantages from the forethought of others, and he liked to think that he was doing what he could for others who would come after him. Forest trees require a comparatively long time to mature, and South Australians give attention primarily to investments which bring quick returns. It therefore devolves upon the Government, as representing the enduring life of the State, to ensure that our forests shall be so extensive and well managed that they shall always amply satisfy local commercial wants, and be a source of pleasure as well as profit.

The total area of the public forest reserves on June 30 was 148,530 acres—Northern District, 53,429; Central, 25,389; Western, 4,269; Southern, 64,281; and Pinnaroo district, 1,162. Enclosed plantations on the same date aggregated 21,508 acres. During the year 372,870 trees were planted, and 337,722 of the number are now living. Difficulty in obtaining suitable labour hampered operations. The Conservator's report shows that the forests are becoming increasingly serviceable. A good demand has arisen for timber as dunnage for stacking wheat. The plantations at Wonilla Forest, especially, have proved a fine source of supply for stacking purposes at Port Lincoln; the trees, being regularly grown straight and fit for forming an even bed, which does not tear the bags. Improved prices ruled for fruit cases. The total number cut was 97,061, and of these 66,350 56-lb. cases, 15,400 28-lb. cases, and 12,725 orange cases, were supplied to Murray River fruitgrowers. Most of the wood for this purpose was cut at Mount McIntyre mill. Since 1903-4 inclusive 596,529 cases have been manufactured and sold, and the price obtained was £20,151. Experiments at Wirrabara, Bundaleer, Wonilla, and Kuitpo, extended over many years, have demonstrated that conditions in this State are not favourable to the production of jarrah. A fair approximation to the soil and rainfall of Western Australia exists in the sites selected for the trials; but humidity in the atmosphere, which is a feature of the climate in the West, is lacking here; and this fact, with the frequent severity of frosts in this State, makes the growing of jarrah commercially impracticable. Through the recommendation of Mr. D. E. Hutchins (late Conservator of Forests in South Africa and British East Africa) some seed of the fine variety of Maritime pine which he had seen during a tour in Portugal, was obtained, and a number of the trees reared from the seed were planted out during the year at Kuitpo, Carolina, and Mount Burr Forests. Mr. Gill and his staff have prudently given much attention to the important work of establishing fire breaks in the stringy bark forests in the South-East. At Carolina Forest, also, a steel watch tower 50 ft. high has been erected on the rising ground on which the foreman's residence stands, from which a commanding outlook is obtained over the whole forest, so that a fire may be promptly located. It is intended to erect similar towers in other forests. During the year 251,608 trees were given away to 2,022 persons. The largest number distributed from any one nursery was 69,026 from Belair (to 683 recipients). It is now 35 years since these free distributions began, and during that period 9,505,806 trees have been supplied to 50,220 applicants. Unfortunately, so far as the hills districts are concerned, either these gifts do not keep pace with the destruction wrought, or a large number of the beneficiaries fail to nurture the young trees into a strong and vigorous existence. In recent years an enormous number of stately trees have been cut down and sawn up for mining and other purposes. In the Mount Lofty ranges, for every valuable tree removed, two ought to be planted, and reasonable measures taken to ensure their survival.

Advent 31. 10. 14

A FREE UNIVERSITY.

THE PERTH PROJECT.

Perth, October 30.

The Perth University convocation last night considered a resolution requesting the Senate to rescind its decision to charge no fees at the University. The mover, Dr. Clements, said a free University was impracticable, and the seconder, Professor Shand, doubted whether a student in a free University was as serious in his studies as one who had to pay. Ultimately it was decided to refer the matter to a committee.

Melbourne Argus 6. 11. 17

STUDENTS AND THE WAR.

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL DEBATE.

CONSCRIPTION ADVOCATED.

At a meeting of the council of the University of Melbourne, which was held yesterday afternoon at the Town Hall, the chancellor (Sir John Madden) presiding, a discussion took place in regard to the number of men eligible for military service now attending University courses. A long motion, submitted by Dr. Leeper, was ultimately amended to read as follows, and was agreed to unanimously:—

"The University council has had its attention directed to the large number of men students of military age, and presumably of military capacity, now attending lectures, the council therefore, as the governing body of the University, deems it right to urge upon its men students the duty of rendering to the Empire all the personal service of which they may be capable. Those of military age and fitness should seriously consider whether they ought not as soon as possible to offer their services at the front. No considerations of commercial or professional advantage should be allowed to stand in the way of this plain duty."

The excised portions of the motion referred to the example shown by Oxford and Cambridge, the Scottish universities, and Dublin University in the matter of enlistment, and complained that the record of Melbourne University did not compare very favourably with those of the other seats of learning.

The following return was furnished to the council:—

Ages of men students in the first year of their arts and medical courses:—

Arts.—16 years, 3; 17 years, 8; 18 years, 12; 19 years, 13; 20 years, 8; 21 years, 4; 22 years, 4; 23 years, 3; 24 years and upwards, 11.

Medicine.—16 years, 3; 17 years, 20; 18 years, 35; 19 years, 31; 20 years, 16; 21 years, 11; 22 years, 5; 23 years, 5; 24 years and upwards, 14.

Of men students who entered the University this year the following were the ages at entrance of those entering all other courses:—

16 years, 3; 17 years, 10; 18 years, 20; 19 years, 6; 20 years, 5; 21 years, nil; 22 years, nil; 23 years, nil; 24 years and upwards, 2.

Dr. Leeper said that the fate of the Empire would shortly be decided in Northern Italy. The war situation was menacing, and alarming. The University ought to aspire to be both the brain and conscience of the nation, and the public was entitled to look to it for guidance in public matters when the Empire was in such grave peril. To many of them it was horrifying to read of a record attendance at the Derby race at a time like the present. It showed a state of affairs that was disgraceful to the community. It was a fact that many of the University class-rooms were crowded with men who were eligible for the front. Ormond College had set a fine example by refusing to accept any student of military age who could not give satisfactory reasons for not going to the war. He would like to see the University doing something similar.

Sir John Madden said that there was not one member present who did not feel as Dr. Leeper did in regard to the present peril, but the question was what could the University Council do? They were a non-political body, and were so not from choice, but by legislation. The question was one upon which the whole people must cry out, and ask the Government to adopt the system of conscription, which alone would properly settle the question of which students ought to go, and which ought not.

Professor Harrison Moore said that he would regard it as a breach of his duty to use his place in the lecture room to talk to students about the duty of enlisting. He was inclined to think it would be like shifting the burden from the shoulders of those to which it belonged on to others to which it did not belong. With all respect to the work of medical men and students, he thought that members of other professions, many of whom had gone in the ranks, made more sacrifice in going to the front than did doctors. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Fink thought that the fact that the council was only now discussing this matter after three years of war was a reflection upon the council. Rightly or wrongly, the council had created a bad impression by its reluctance to exclude teachers of enemy origin, who for many years had refused to become Australian citizens.

Sir Harry Allen said that only one thing could effectively furnish the necessary recruits, and that was universal service. (Hear, hear.) He did not think that any attempt on their part to stimulate recruiting would have much effect, but if other members thought that it might be of value he would support such a step. The medical classes in the Melbourne University were not anything like as congested as those in Sydney. If at the beginning of the war they had encouraged all their first year medical students to enlist, we should have been in a deplorable condition now. If the war were to last five years more they would need every medical student they could get hold of, but, as far as he could see now, he would gladly see 50 first year and 50 second year students enlist. The requirements of the army were being periodically considered by the Defence department and the faculty of medicine, and naturally they changed as the outlook in the war changed.

Revised 6.11.17

THEORY OF MUSIC.

S.A. SEPTEMBER EXAMINATION PASS LIST.

- Universities of Melbourne, Adelaide, Tasmania, Queensland, and Western Australia.—
- Grade I.—Honours—None. Pass—Edgell Mary Damborough (Convent of Mercy, Angas street), Evelyn Ward (private study).
- Grade II.—Honours—None. Pass—Ellen Grace Brindal, Jennie Pretoria Sarah Dunstone (Miss A. Davis, Mrs. Bac.).
- Grade III.—Honours.—Convent of Mercy, Angas street—Jean Casey, Nellie Kenny, Hilda Mary Manual, Clare Sparkes Harris. Convent of Mercy, Mount Barker—Rachel Weston. Private instruction—Evelyn Howes Gwynne, Nell Livermore Jamieson (Miss E. Willmore, L.A.S.), Eileen Lewis (Miss Kathleen Meegan), Kathleen Lois Mitchell, Dulcie Mary Virgo (Mr. E. E. Mitchell). Pass.—Convent of Mercy, Angas street—Eunice Lane. Do. High School, Brighton—Cathrine Tait. Dominican Convent, Cabr—Marie Buckley. Private instruction—Beda Charlton Kenny, Ada Lillian Crossley (Mr. E. E. Mitchell).
- Grade IV.—Honours—None. Pass.—Convents of Mercy—Angas street—Dorothy Mary Child, Kathleen Mavis Graham, Lizzie Griffin, Gerde Linda Quat, Hilda Mary Manual, Barbara Roxby Moore, Mary O'Callaghan, Dora Sherer. Parkside—Margaret Mary Cecilia Egar, Lillian Ross Higson. Mount Barker—Eileen Emery, Monica Flannagan, Queenie Kain, Jean Ker. Dominican Convents—Cabr—Annie De Sales Mahar, Agnes Power. Franklin street—Maggie McFaul. St. Dominic's Priory—Genevieve Breheny. Private instruction—Lillian Maud Arthur (Mrs. W. Cairns); Harold Langrick (Mr. E. E. Mitchell), Keith Polkinghorne (Miss A. G. Webb); Dorothy May Sly, Ivy Laura May Turner (Goodwood Park School of Music, Miss Rudemann, A.M.U.A.); Ruth Wauchope, Phyllis Jean Webb (Miss Damborough).
- Grade V.—Pass.—Convents of Mercy—Angas street—Dorothy Beck, Dorothy Bowden, Eileen Fahey, Nellie Gawley, Mary Hains, Rita Harcourt, Fanny Jacob, Kathleen Jones, Kathleen O'Grady, Kathleen O'Reilly, Kathleen Siebert. Mount Barker—Clarice Blight, Kathleen Winifred Brice, Eileen Mary Flannagan, Winifred Flannagan, Mary Nolan. Dominican Convents—Franklin street—Audrey May Drage, Reginald John Wheeler. Semaphore—Una Elwood, Elsie Pyrene Henderson, Doris Evelyn Rule. Glenelg—Reginald Hack, Sylvia Hilton. Cabr—Norah Northcott, Ellen Mary Weston. Loreto Convent, Norwood—Eubalia Camarina, Decima Hunt, Mary McDonald, Aileen McNamara, Jean Young. St. Joseph's School, Kingswood—Nora Mary Gleeson. Private instruction—Eva Ray Bampton, George Edward Mullins (Miss Adams), Edith Beadnell, Elsie May Doecke (Mrs. Singard, A.L.C.M.); Erid Loveday, Hler Besanko (Miss Gladys Taylor, A.M.U.A.); Gwendoline Ethel Cant (Mrs. Proctor); Veronica Cristy Merril Coombe, Dulcis Troughton (Miss Eileen M. Hogan), Lywella Alice Davies, Veronica Gillen, Lorna Irene Polkinghorne (Miss A. G. Webb); Phyllis Alanna Heggaton, Inez Clara Anne Elman (Goodwood Park School of Music, Miss Rudemann, A.M.U.A.); Kathleen Edithor Jeffa, Mavis Newman (Miss Doris Kemp, A.T.C.L.); Ethel Lillian Johns, Kathleen Petrie Patridge (Miss R. M. Hooper); John Horace Lovell (Mr. J. M. Durn); Freia Lillian Luxton, Beryl Meta Stanhouse (Lothian House School, Miss Stanhouse); Wilhelmine Margaret Marston (Mr. G. Truss, A.T.C.L.); Maureen O'Grady (Miss E. M. Whittington); Ellen Mary Smith (Miss F. Proctor); Ethel Lillian Johns, Kathleen Petrie Patridge (Miss O. M. Hooter).

Advertiser 7.11.17

STUDENTS AND THE WAR.

Melbourne, November 5.

The council of Melbourne University, after a long discussion, to-day resolved to urge the enlistment of all students of military age. Dr. Leeper referred to the number of eligibles in the first year of their courses. Sir Harry Allen said the only effective way to deal with the position was by the introduction of conscription. Reference was made by a member of the council to the "serious injustice for men who went to the front at the beginning of their courses to find their positions in the professions 'jumped' by co-drafted students."