

*Register* 21 JUN 1924

The University Council on Friday decided to establish two professorships on the foundation of the Waite Research Institute, with one of which the directorship of the institute is also to be held. The office of Director and Professor of Agriculture had been offered to Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, and a letter was received intimating his acceptance. Dr. Richardson is South Australian, and received his education at Roseworthy College and the Adelaide University, where he graduated M.A. and B.Sc. He carried on important work in the Department of Agriculture in this State. From South Australia he went to Victoria as Superintendent of Agriculture. There, in addition to administrative work, he has carried on researches in the laboratory and in the field, which are known throughout the Commonwealth, and which recently gained for him the degree of D.Sc. of the University of Melbourne. A few years ago Dr. Richardson was sent to America to study agricultural education there. He is at present Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture in the University of Melbourne.

*Bould*

23 JUN 1924

## WAITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

### A Popular Director.

The appointment of Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, at present Superintendent of Agriculture in Victoria, and previously of the South Australian Agricultural Department, to be Director and Professor of Agriculture at the Waite Research Institute, has been received with general appreciation in agricultural circles in South Australia.

Professor A. J. Perkins (Director of Agriculture) remarked on Saturday:—"The University Council has, certainly, chosen a very capable and competent man to take charge of the work. The late Mr. Waite had in view the technical progress of the agricultural industries. Dr. Richardson has had a very successful career. He is conversant with the requirements of



DR. A. E. V. RICHARDSON.

the country, and will be able to direct research in such a way as to secure results as early as circumstances will permit. He is well known locally, and will be acceptable to the farming community, so that the University will have no difficulty in keeping in touch with those whom it is seeking to help. The Department of Agriculture will do its utmost to help Dr. Richardson in his work, and it hopes also to benefit his research at Urrbrae."

#### Local Knowledge a Big Asset.

Mr. J. Wallace Sandford (ex-President of the Royal Agricultural Society, and a member of the Advisory Board of Agriculture) stated:—"I view with satisfaction the news that Dr. Richardson has been selected for this very important position. He has the reputation of being a most efficient officer, and I am particularly glad that one with his qualifications is to be the director of the institute. He is a South Australian, and local conditions, difficulties, and problems are, in my opinion, best understood by those who have had thorough experience in the State. I feel that the appointment will give great pleasure, and that the choice of the University Council will be amply justified by results."

*Bould*

**Date of Arrival Uncertain.**  
It is not yet known when Dr. Richardson will take up residence at the Glen Osmond estate, as he has to complete his engagement in Victoria before he will be able to assume his new duties.

**Agricultural Chemistry.**  
It is understood that an invitation has been issued for an appointment to the Chair of Agricultural chemistry in connection with the Research Institute, but no name has yet been divulged. The duties of this position will have relation mainly to chemistry involved in research work, such as the analysis of soils, manures, and crops. Other appointments to the staff will be made as the necessity arises. There will also be a Technical Board, which will be selected by the University Council.

## WAITE RESEARCH.

Continued from Page 7.

### Valued Work in Victoria.

### Great Achievements.

MELBOURNE, Sunday.

Owing to the absence of the Director of Agriculture (Dr. S. Cameron), who is on his way to America to complete arrangements for the delivery of machinery for the Maifra beet sugar factory it is unlikely that Dr. Richardson will sever his association with the Victorian Department before the end of the year. He is desirous of concluding certain work on which he is engaged at the Melbourne University.

In 1911 Dr. Richardson became superintendent of agriculture in Victoria. Established in this State, he immediately initiated field experiment at Werribee and Rutherglen, and at the Longerenong College to illustrate the various phases of cereal cultivation. Farmers' field days were organized to view the results, and in recent years the immense practical value of the work accomplished has been indicated by the large gatherings which have attended these outings. Dr. Richardson particularly directed the attention of farmers to the importance of improved methods of wheat production, emphasizing the benefits accruing from thorough cultivation, early fallowing, and liberal manuring of the wheat crops, the use of improved seed, and the necessity for systematic crop rotation. Under his supervision and instruction the average wheat yield to the acre in Victoria has increased from 10½ bushels to nearly 14 bushels. In the Wimmera districts the average yields have been actually nearly doubled. Last season a yield of more than 48 bushels of wheat to the acre was obtained from one experimental centre. Dr. Richardson bred a number of new wheats, of which Gallipoli is probably the most valuable and most widely known.

The Assistant Director of Agriculture has been also an enthusiastic advocate of the better treatment of pasture land. In recent years marked improvement in the quantity of herbage on plots of native pastures has been effected by topdressing with artificial manures. The value of this work in increasing the stock-carrying capacity of the land was discussed and recognized by delegates who attended the last Convention of Agriculture held at Benalla in 1918. Dr. Richardson visited America as the representative of the Victorian department. Later he issued a report on agricultural education. This visit was of considerable importance to the State, for in 1920 the Agricultural Education Act was passed, and Dr. Richardson was appointed Director of Schools of Agriculture. At the Melbourne University the number of students now taking the course in agriculture is 35.

Among other achievements in a brilliant and nationally valuable career Dr. Richardson obtained the unique distinction of being the first recipient of the degree of Doctor of Science at Melbourne University for purely agricultural work. His themes were highly commended by Sir Daniel Hall, chief scientific adviser to the British Board of Agriculture.

*Adventurer*

24 JUN 1924

There was a well attended gathering at Burnside on Thursday evening, when the officers and employees of the District Council of Burnside met to bid farewell to the engineer and surveyor (Mr. E. J. Bert, B.E.), who has accepted an appointment with the British Imperial Oil Company. The district clerk (Mr. R. H. Steele), who presided, expressed great regret concerning Mr. Bert's departure, and his pleasure that Mr. Bert would be improving his position. He spoke in the highest terms of his engineering ability and the manner in which he had raised the standard of work in road construction in the Burnside district. He looked forward to his rapid advancement.

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# THE WAITE GIFTS.

## Provision for Research Work

### Initiation of the Scheme.

The appointment by the University Council of Dr. A. E. V. Richardson as Director and Professor of Agriculture of the Waite Research Institute at Urrbrae, Glen Osmond, marks a most important step forward in connection with the utilization of the magnificent gifts of the late Mr. Peter Waite to the University and the Government in the cause of the development of agricultural science in South Australia.

The first announcement regarding the offer of the picturesque Urrbrae homestead (134 acres) to the University of Adelaide for research work in agriculture and allied sciences and of a block of 114 acres of land on the opposite side of the Fullarton road to the Government as a site for an agricultural high school was made in the House of Assembly by the then Premier (the late Hon. A. H. Peake) on October 14, 1913. He then said that although the gift was in two parts, the object in view could be regarded as one complete proposal. The property was situated within four miles of the Adelaide G.P.O., comprised some of the best land in the metropolitan area, and was valued at between £40,000 and £50,000. The portion offered to the University was ready for immediate occupation, but possession could not be obtained until after the death of Mr. and Mrs. Waite, and the only condition of the gift was that the University should not be held liable for succession duties by the State. The generous donor had a conversation with the Premier on August 30, and, following upon personal investigations regarding the work done by agricultural institutions elsewhere, the determination as stated above was reached. Mr. Waite wrote:—"In coming to the decision to make this offer I have been much influenced by the wonderful work our agriculturists and pastoralists have accomplished hitherto in face of the very heavy difficulties they have had to meet. With comparatively little scientific training, they have gained for our wheat, wool, and fruits the world's highest estimation. . . . We have now reached a point when it behoves us to call science to our aid to a greater extent than hitherto has been done, otherwise we cannot hope to keep in the forefront. . . . It seems to me that our manufacture must soon overtake the requirements of the Commonwealth, and that it is to the land we must look to occupy the coming generations." In his communication to the University Mr. Waite remarked:—"In the belief that such sections of the University work as agriculture, botany, entomology, horticulture, and forestry can better be dealt with upon such a property as Urrbrae than at North terrace, I now desire to offer as a gift to the University the Urrbrae Estate of 134 acres." He specified that 67 acres—or half of the Urrbrae area—should be used for scientific purposes, and that the other 67 acres should be made a public park under the control of the University, and 10 or 15 acres of that portion to be utilized for a students' sports ground. The offers were gratefully accepted by the Government and the University respectively. Urrbrae is located on the corner of Fullarton road and Cross roads, and the Mansion House is so situated on rising ground as to afford from it a fascinating view of its gum-studded park-like surroundings and a pleasing panorama of city environs. The Government block is on the opposite (or western) side of Fullarton road, and the corner of it facing Urrbrae Lodge is covered by 20 acres of orchard (purchased by the Government to make the 134 acres there, which balances the size of the University original holding).

### Benefaction Enlarged.

In 1915 Mr. Waite increased his benefaction to the University Council by purchasing and transferring to it from the Claremont Estate at the rear, 53 acres of rising land, with a residence, and 112 acres of the adjoining Netherby Estate, with a fine spring of water and a hilly background. Those places abut on each other, and are separated from Urrbrae only by a road. That constituted in all an endowment of 299 acres of excellent land of varied character, with a splendid rainfall, close to the city, and with substantial buildings.

### Improvements.

The Mansion House, in particular, is extremely well constructed, contains about 35 rooms, and is suitable to accommodate the Agricultural School of the University. Adjacent to it are substantial stables, garage, and other necessary outbuildings. There is an auxiliary electric lighting plant. The lodge is at the main entrance. The structures and the orchard and flower garden have been kept in order since the

death of Mr. and Mrs. Waite. The retainers are three long-service employees of the place, the caretaker (Mr. R. Haldean) having worked there for about 21 years, the gardener (Mr. F. Couzens) for 24 years, and their assistant (Mr. J. Bradley) for 22 years. At present the estate is being utilized for grazing purposes. On Claremont there are substantial residence and other buildings.

### An Endowment Fund.

In August, 1918, the late Mr. Waite presented for the University Council shares in Elder, Smith, & Co., Limited, worth about £60,000. His object was to provide funds for the equipment and maintenance of its agricultural school. He transferred to trustees for the University 4,900 shares in Elder, Smith, & Co., Limited, to be held upon trust to pay the income to him during his life, and after his death upon trust to sell the shares and pay the proceeds to Elder's Executor and Trustee Company, Limited, who were to invest the money in trust securities and pay the income to the University in perpetuity for the advancement of agricultural education. The shares carried the benefit of the new issue to the number of 980, making in all a gift of 5,880 shares, of which the market value then was upwards of £60,000.

### The Government Block.

So far the valuable site presented to the Government has not been utilized for the purpose intended. The intervention of the war and the lack of funds with which to erect the costly buildings that would be required under the agricultural education scheme have, in part, been causes of the delay. At present it is a grazing area. At the time of its acceptance, Mr. Peake remarked in Parliament that it would enable the Government to give effect to one of the recommendations of the Education Commission—that there should be an Agricultural High School for all the State. The recently-elected Government will in due course consider the matter.

### Waite Research Institute.

Agricultural research at Urrbrae will be divided into two great divisions. Dr. Richardson (Superintendent of Agriculture in Victoria) has been appointed Director and Professor of Agriculture at the Waite Research Institute, and he will take up his residence there as soon as he can complete his engagement in the sister State. Reference was made in The Register on June 23 to his appointment and work. The other division will have relation to agricultural chemistry in connection with the research institute, and an invitation has been issued for an appointment in that regard. The institution, thanks to the princely generosity of the late Mr. Peter Waite, will have an assured income. The starting of the operations is awaited with keen interest, and it is confidently expected that the benefits to the State will be singularly astounding.

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## CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION.

### ATHENIAN LAW.

At a meeting of the Classical Association on Friday evening, Mr. E. L. Bean, read a paper relative to some aspects of Athenian law. He dealt first of all with some of the salient characteristics of the law, and said the Athenians always stressed the importance and the rights of the State as against those of the individual. Law invaded the private life of the citizen to a much greater degree than in modern States. The causes of this were to be found in the religious origin of the Greek City State. The early conception of the State was that of a community of gods and men dwelling together within the holy ground which constituted the city territory. Public and private life were both subordinated to the end of providing the sacrifices and worship which the gods demanded. Religious precept and civil law were not distinguished, and even in the days of mature democracy the law, in the name of religion, regulated the intimate details of the citizens' lives. Although characterized by the absence of respect for individual liberty, Athenian law was marked by elaborate precautions for securing political equality. This was due to the early struggles which the masses at Athens had waged against the old priestly oligarchs which, when in power, had denied both citizenship and participation in religion to all but a comparatively few old families. A further characteristic of Athenian law was that the constitution of Athens was subject to be changed like any other law by ordinary legislative process and was, in fact, very often so changed. Mr. Bean then dealt with the relative importance of custom, precedent, and legislation as sources of law in Athens. Custom was in disfavour with the Athenian democracy as a source of law on account of the association of customary law with the old oligarchic Government. The Legislature at Athens in 403 B.C. made an unsuccessful attempt to provide that only written laws were to be of effect. Judicial precedents, the decisions of the popular Courts of the Heliasts at Athens, were not formally binding; but the views taken by the Heliasts of cases before them effected considerable changes in Greek law. Legislation was the chief source of law at Athens, and in the days of democracy an elaborate process of legislating was introduced which required the concurrence both of the popular assembly (a body consisting of all male citizens over 18 years of age), and of a specially chosen legislative commission consisting of men over 30 years of age, who were eligible for the office of Heliastic Judge. With the growth of the power of the rabble at Athens, however, means were found of depriving the older body of its legislative functions, and laws were passed by the popular assembly alone. The laws were enacted by the assembly according to the caprice of the moment, and legislation was thrown into great confusion. The history of legislation at Athens was the story of the loss of self-control on the part of the people.