JUBILEE OF ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY

ROMANTIC INCEPTION AND RAPID GROWTH.

By Chas. R. Hodge (late Registrar).

The Act of Incorporation was passed in 1874, but academic work did not begin until 1876. The University began in a very modest way. It was a weak child and its parents, instead of being allowed to bring it up as they desired, were [illegible] by prescriptions from both press and public.

[illegible] 50 years of strenuous work in its [illegible] it be good to visualise the [illegible] beginnings in March, 1874, when [illegible] complete teaching staff of four pro[illegible] met their 15 students, four only [illegible] entered as undergraduates. The [illegible] accommodation was one room at the [illegible] college, lent by the Education [illegible] and equipped by the Univer[illegible]. The arts and science courses were [illegible] only ones open to prospective stu[illegible]. The question of division of the [illegible] candidates, so as to give each learned [illegible] something to do must have [illegible] a somewhat Gilbertian aspect. [illegible] there was but a very small trickle [illegible] the source of the University River, [illegible] it has flowed on steadily through five [illegible], gathering in volume until it has [illegible] the proportions of a noble stream, [illegible] much precious freight.

[illegible] career appeals to me as somewhat [illegible] when one looks back with a [illegible] full realisation of the ups and [illegible], and periods of elation and disap[illegible] during these 50 years, and con[illegible] what the University is to-day. For [illegible] of that period I had the privi[illegible] of serving the institution, of taking [illegible] small part in its development, and [illegible] sharing its periods of anxiety, success, [illegible] jubilation.

The Day of Small Things.

In its early days the University met [illegible] much criticism, particularly in the [illegible], from both press and public, the [illegible] being frequently taken to task. [illegible] small community, as a whole, did not [illegible] much interest in it, while those [illegible] did go became impatient at the [illegible] progress. Complaints were [illegible] in regard to the paucity of students [illegible] the small number of degrees con[illegible]. One newspaper, in commenting [illegible] the results of the examinations at the [illegible] of a year, and the few candidates [illegible] completed the course, remarked that [illegible] the work was badly done, or that [illegible] was not enough work to do," but [illegible] admitted, "that the first of [illegible] suppositions might be dismissed at [illegible].

[illegible] criticism, usually of a de[illegible] character from anonymous cor[illegible] also appeared in the press. [illegible] anonymous, it was naturally ignored [illegible] the council, whereas had such com[illegible] been sent to the council in [illegible] form of suggestions, something of a [illegible] nature may have eventuated. [illegible] of the writers would have had the satis[illegible] of knowing that they had assisted [illegible] executive, whose sole object in their [illegible] was the good of the community. [illegible] period of office as registrar [illegible] person came to me with a [illegible], real or imaginary, and could [illegible] be satisfied, I urged him to write [illegible] the council and state his case, assuring [illegible] that it would be considered and that [illegible] would receive a courteous reply.

Generous Founders and Competent Directors.

The University, however, was founded [illegible] a rich and generous by gentlemen [illegible] of education, wide experience, business [illegible], and high motives, who freely [illegible] their time and talents to the [illegible] up of this seat of learning. There [illegible] a noble ideal, and although at times [illegible] might have felt discouraged, they were [illegible] of vision and purpose, not to be de[illegible] from the path of what they con[illegible] to be their duty.

The University had its origin in remar[illegible] circumstances, as the possibility of its [illegible] came from the gift by Union Col[illegible] of college for training divinity [illegible] by Sir W. W. Hughes (then [illegible] Mr. Hughes). It is not safe to be a Mo[illegible] that one would hear of one institu[illegible] handing over such a large sum of [illegible] to another for the reason that it [illegible] really more than it needed. It was, [illegible], a magnanimous act, and results [illegible] clearly demonstrated that the [illegible] impulse which offered the gover[illegible] of Union College, was an eminently [illegible] one, and eventuated in the greatest [illegible] to the community. The names [illegible] these governors, particularly the Rev. [illegible] Lyall and Rev. Dr. Jeffreis, will ever [illegible] held in honour by the State in general [illegible] the University in particular. It is [illegible] matter for regret that not one of these [illegible] who so liberally and generously supported [illegible] foundation of the University has lived [illegible] to witness its jubilee.

After Union College handed the [illegible] over for University purposes, the late Sir Thomas Elder placed another £70,000 alongside of it. Steps were then taken to secure the necessary Act of incorporation and other legislative enactments.

Government Assistance.

Inspired by the munificence of Sir W. W. Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder, the Legislature emulated their example, and in passing the Act of Incorporation endowed the University with 30,000 acres of country lands, valued at £1 an acre, and a site of not quite 3 acres on North terrace, for a University building. While the Act was before the House the late Chancellor, Sir Samuel Way, made a strenuous effort to obtain the land from the North terrace frontage down to the river, but without success. It is interesting to know, after so many years, that a large portion of the area for which Sir Samuel Way pleaded has been granted for University purposes. The Act also providing for an annual subsidy of £ per annum on the £40,000 given by Sir W. W. Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder, and, on such other moneys as may from time to time be given to and invested by the said body corporate upon trusts for the purposes of the University. It was provided, however, that no such grant should exceed £10,000 in any one year. This limit has been extended by recent legislation.

The endowment by country lands was made with the purpose of affording the University a source of revenue from rents some years ago, however, the lands were repurchased by the Government for the sum of £45,000 for closer settlement purposes. The action of the University governing in parting with these lands was strongly criticised in the House of Assembly; but, as a matter of fact, it was a sound financial transaction on the part of the council. The ever-increasing population of as large an area was a difficult matter for the council; the University was compelled to pay the ordinary land tax and the progressive tax on all land above the value of £5,000, and the net income from rents was only from £300 to £1,000 a year. Bonds bearing interest of 4½ per cent. were accepted in lieu of cash for the lands, so that the income was practically doubled, while there were no costs of administration and collection, and no land tax to pay.

The provision for the payment of an annual subsidy of 5 per cent. on all permanent endowments was a farsighted and wise piece of legislation, and no doubt had the effect of influencing our wealthy citizens to give of bountiful handsome sums of money for specific purposes, as they had the assurance that such endowments would remain for all time.

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EDWARD HENRY RENNIE, M.A., D.Sc.,

Angas Professor of Chemistry. Appointed in 1904.

PROFESSOR WILLIAM MITCHELL, M.A., D.Sc.

Vice-Chancellor of the University. First elected in March, 1916, and re-elected in November, 1923. Hughes Professor of English Language and Literature and Mental and Moral Philosophy from 1894 to 1922. Appointed Professor Emeritus in 1922.

MR. FREDERICK WILLIAM EARDLEY, B.A., A.I.A.S.A.

First elected Clerk of the Senate in 1923, and re-elected in November, 1923. Appointed Accountant in 1906, Assistant Registrar in 1911, and Registrar in 1924.

ARNOLD EDWIN VICTOR RICHARDSON, M.A., D.Sc.

Waite Professor of Agriculture and Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. Appointed in 1921.

HENRY DARNLEY NAYLOR, M.A.,

appointed Hughes Professor of Classics and Comparative Philology and Literature in 1907.

KERR GRANT, M.Sc.

Appointed Acting Professor of Physics in 1909, and appointed Elder Professor in 1911.

NORMAN WILLIAM JOLLY, B.A., B.Sc.

This year appointed Professor of Forestry.

EDWARD HAROLD DAVIES, Mus. Doc.,

appointed Elder Professor in Music in 1919.

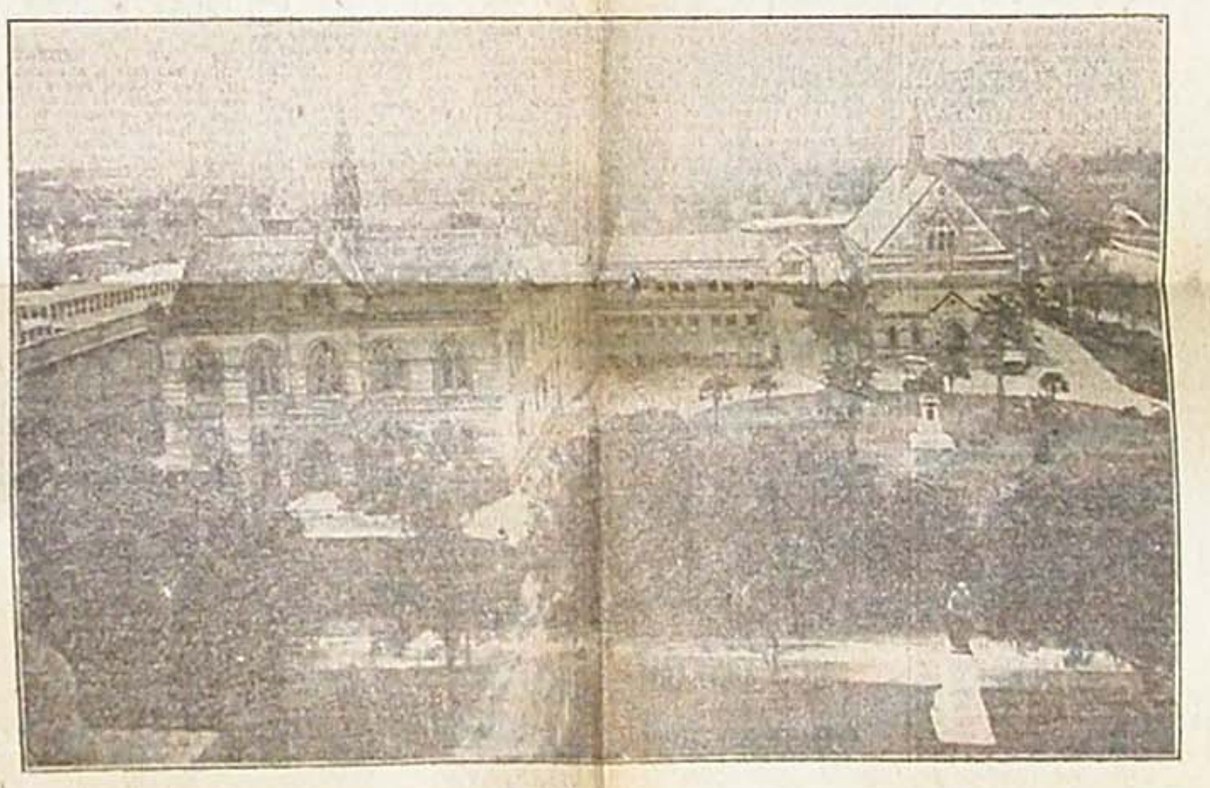
THOMAS HARVEY JOHNS, M.A., D.Sc.,

appointed Professor of Zoology in [illegible].

FREDERICK WOOD JONES, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.S.C., F.R.S.

Appointed Elder Professor of Anatomy in 1920

CITY'S HOME OF LEARNING.



A comprehensive view of the charmingly situated University buildings, showing the main front building on the left; the wing containing the department of botany in the centre; and the Elder Conservatorium on the right. Standing back in its own pleasant grounds, and fronted by the gardens of North terrace, the University occupies an ideal and picturesque situation.

JOHN BURTON CLELAND, D.

Appointed Professor of Pathology in 1926.

JAMES ARTHUR PRESCOTT, M.Sc.,

Waite Professor of Agricultural Chemistry. Appointed last year.

THORBURN BRAILSFORD ROBERTSON, Ph.D., D.Sc.

Appointed in 1919 Professor of Physiology and Bio-Chemistry.

SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON, O.B.E., B.E., B.Sc., D.Sc., F.R.S.

Lecturer in mineralogy and petrology 1905, and [illegible] Professor of Geology and Mineralogy in 1921.

JOHN McKELLAR STEWART, D.Phil.

Hughes Professor of Philosophy. Appointed in 1923.

ARTHUR LANG CAMPBELL, B.A.

Appointed Professor of Law early year.

ROBERT WILLIAM CHAPMAN, M.A., B.C.E.

Appointed Professor of Engineering in 1907, formerly lecturer from 1885.

THEODORE GEORGE BENTLEY ORBORN, D.Sc.,

Professor of Botany since 1912.

SIR ARCHIBALD THOMAS STRONG, M.A., Litt.D.

Jury Professor of English Language and Literature. Appointed 1922.

WILLIAM KEITH HANCOCK, B.A.,

appointed Professor of Modern History in 1926.

JOHN RAYMOND WILTON, M.A., D.Sc.

Appointed in 1920 Elder Professor of Pure and Applied Mathematics.

ROMANTIC INCEPTION AND RAPID GROWTH.

Continued from first column.

and that the income from the investment of such moneys would be devoted to the purpose for which the endowments were made, and to no other purpose whatever. This procedure has been strictly adhered to by the University authorities and the income from interest dealt with in the manner indicated. The Government subsidy on endowments goes into the general coffers and is used for the maintenance of the University, payment of salaries, &c., in accordance with the terms of the Act of Incorporation.

The Degree Courses.

Until 1892 arts and science were the only degree courses, but steps were then taken to establish a law school. Commenting on this, one section of the press said, inter alia, "Some surprise will no doubt be occasioned by the intelligence that immediate steps should be taken to establish a professorship of law, and appoint a number of lecturers in the same branch of study." It also remarked—"It will occur to many people that the proposed extension of its functions will not by any means lead to an increase of its usefulness, but will, notwithstanding, occasion much needless expenditure."

It then went on to advocate the founding of a medical school in preference. To this, however, the regulations in regard to the LL.B. course were passed by the Senate in October, 1892, the same paper said—"The foundation of a Faculty of Law on the basis recommended by the council and now approved by the senate, should prove a means of greatly augmenting the usefulness of the Adelaide University. Every one must admit, whether he agrees with or differs from the programme submitted by the council that the establishment of a professional course to the curriculum of the University is the one chief thing necessary to impart to the institution increased vitality."

The Medical School.

In 1883 Sir Thomas Elder presented £10,000 as an endowment towards a medical school, and in 1884 the Hon. J. H. Angas gave £6,000 for the endowment of a Chair of Chemistry. Steps were at once taken to establish a school of medicine, but the council found it impossible to provide for more than the first two of the course of five years. The organisation of the school was such a prominent success that the council proceeded to consider ways and means of providing the complete curriculum. At this period there was a travelling scholarship provided by the Government, and known as the South Australian Scholarship. It was of the value of £200 per annum and tenable for four years, open to bachelors only, and the scholar was required to proceed to England and there pursue a further course of study. As the scholarship only benefited one individual every four years, and as the scholar generally accepted some appointment abroad or abroad, upon completion of his course instead of returning to South Australia, it occurred to the council that if the £800 per annum were transferred to the medical school it would enable them to provide the full course.

There had been some mention of the probable discontinuance of the scholarship, so the Government was approached and readily agreed to the proposal. Notice of the discontinuance of the scholarship was given, and it was agreed as each scholarship lapsed that the £200 so set free should be paid to the University, and subsequently the full £800 per annum.

Naturally there was jubilation when it became known that the medicals would not have to go elsewhere to graduate but would be able to do so at home.

The full five years curriculum was provided, a full staff of lecturers appointed, and all was well, but alas, before the period arrived on which the full amount of the scholarship fund accrued the council received an intimation that the per cent of these moneys would cease on a given date. This was a bombshell which almost shattered the school, but that munificent benefactor, Sir Thomas Elder, came to the rescue and assisted the council to meet its obligations for a time. Fortunately, with this help, the increase in fees in consequence of additional students, and other income, there was no setback and the school has prospered.

It is interesting to note that when the establishment of the school was mooted, that section of the press which had been quoted in connection with the Law School, made the following comment:—"The University has formally adopted the resolutions concerning the Medical School of the University. This means in other words, that there is now to be a regular school of medicine in Adelaide in connection with the University. We cannot but think that this is much to be regretted. Australia might well rest content with the schools of medicine at Melbourne and Sydney."

After further comment it continued—"On the whole the arguments in favour of the establishment of a school at this time are few and very far between. The school is not now required—that is the main point against it."

This was somewhat refreshing seeing that the same paper previously advocated a school of medicine in preference to law. One, however, accepts the comments in honest opinions at that time, for in 1892 the University had still but a small number of students and funds were not plentiful.

Another newspaper, fortunately long since dead, was spitefully unkind in its criticisms. It stated that "the University was born long before its due time. There was no necessity for it in the first place, and it has cost more money than it is worth, or ever will be worth. Now the authorities want to establish a third rate medical school." The writer of those lines would, were he here now, no doubt be prepared to eat his words and apologise to the council.

Music.

The school of music which was established prior to that of medicine met with approval from its inception and from time to time was very favourably commented upon by the press. An article giving the history of this school appeared in The Register of April 20—As the years passed endowments increased and rapid extensions followed. The Government, too, recognising the growing importance of the University and the aspect it was to the State, very generously came to its assistance with additional grants of money and land and help in regard to buildings. The splendid block recently completed, in which the departments of engineering and mining are housed, is an earnest of legislative recognition of the wonderful expansion of the University and the ever-increasing demands of the people for education.

Helps to Progress.

Two factors have undoubtedly had a very direct influence in regard to University extension, and full recognition of its value and potentialities, viz., the great union of the University with the School of Mines in connection with the engineering course, and legislative representation on the council. Forces have been coordinated, the effect of cooperation has been all to the good, and the community is reaping the benefit.

Like a small sum of money invested and allowed to accumulate at compound interest for many years until it has grown to a handsome sum, so the University from its modest beginning with its two teachers, 15 students, and staff of four teachers, has increased in value, demonstrated the soundness of the original investment, and justified the foresight and faith of its sponsors.

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