REG 22-2-27

UNIVERSITY LIFE IN CANADA.

WITH AN EXCHANGE LECTURESHIP.

Miss Eileen Reed was a graduate of the University of Adelaide, but at the time when she was given an exchange lectureship at the Toronto University she was expounding the mysteries of botany to the students of Perth University. She found her new classes doing practically the same work as her former ones, and very much like the undergraduates all the world over.

During her stay in Adelaide on the way home to Perth she spent a few days or so in talk over her Toronto experiences.

"Toronto University has 8,000 students," said Miss Reed, "and yet it is contained within it a close social life. There is

MISS EILEEN REED, M.A.

most curious system. Before the provincial university was founded by the government there were two arts and theological colleges—Victoria, run by the Methodists, and Trinity, by the Anglicans. These were drawn into the new provincial university, and preserve their own unity within it, with their separate faculties. There is actually no Chancellor of Victoria as well as a Chancellor of the Toronto University itself. Victoria and Trinity have now waived their right to grant arts degrees, but each college has its own staff to theological and arts subjects, students taking science and other lectures at the other colleges. In addition there are new Presbyterian and Roman Catholic Colleges. All these are residential, practically all the students live in them, and the colleges are closely supervised by the university authorities.

"The university is beautifully built and equipped, and there seems no lack of anything money gives. A Mr. Massey, a Massey-Harris people, has given a wonderful building for the Men's Union. It has an underground theatre, swimming baths, billiard rooms, cafés, rooms, common room, a beautiful dining hall, decorated with the arms of universities all over the world—there are two such spaces, one for the ladies—and everything else that could conceivably add to the joys of college residence.

"Does the Toronto University," I asked, "lean to English or American traditions?"

"Its strikes a very happy medium, I think," said Miss Reed, "and students' work are fairly evenly balanced. There is not so much early specialization as in American universities. There are many points of difference from ours, but there are two chief points, at least, that I saw. Pure science, for instance, is part of the arts course. That is why I did my M.A. instead of the B.Sc., and many subjects not included in the arts course in Western Australia universities are one of the various specialising courses, or another the specialising degree.

"And was the social atmosphere like?"

"Very much like. Miss Reed. "There were branches, or chapters, as they are called, of all the great American fraternities, but many students lived independently, and there was no need to belong to them for men and women friendships. Dances, musical evenings, and the like were frequent, and the students also fished, played golf, and went boating. I would have liked to have played hockey, but I was always talk of hockey and skating, and I was told that the ice was not safe for students to venture on. I never would go, so I never found out."

EARNING A COURSE.

"The University year begins in October and ends in May, with a fortnight off at Christmas. During the rest of the year most of the students are busy earning the money for their fees. They do all kinds of things. During the Christmas vacation many of the girls go to the stores as assistants. In the summer vacation many of the girls open roadside tea rooms, refreshment rooms for excursion parties, and so forth. Both boys and girls work in restaurants. Those who are doing an engineering course usually get a job which will help them in their practical work. Nothing whatever is beneath them, and many of the boys and girls working at humble occupations come from well-to-do houses. Even the children who earn the money for their fees, they still reckon on paying back to their parents a good part of the money spent on their education, providing opportunities for many boys and girls who could not have a college education any other way, and easing the financial burden of parents. The experience of outside affairs is invaluable in itself, and keeps students from growing narrow.

SUMMER CAMPS.

"One favourite form of occupation for university girls is to take a post as leader in summer camp. This is an American idea, and a very delightful one. A typical camp was run by a woman author of my acquaintance who had an estate away in the woods, by the shore of a beautiful lake, and every summer she took two dozen girls, one junior and one for girls of 18 to 21 years of age. In little log cabins dotted about among the pine trees, looking rather without either doors or windows and furnished with camp stretchers. She had a woman doctor or a trained nurse always there for emergencies, and in addition she had modern college graduates to teach swimming, canoeing, Nature study, arts and crafts, and dramatics in the open-air theatre. These things did not have to be done; they were simply opportunities that would be taken by one or three days, taken in canoes up lakes and streams, with nights spent under the stars.

"I think it an admirable idea, and see no reason why it should not be adopted in Australia in some out-of-the-way mountain place, where there is a lake or river. Girls who have been at the high schools, and some of them the secondary schools, and some of them the absolute butterflies in town, for the most part, would find such a picture show of meet a boy, but lived a wholesome life in the bosom of the bush, and they also lately loved it."

Miss Reed said that the Canadian University was giving special attention to the less-than her Australian cousin.

"Girls were all very well though not elaborately dressed. The stores cater specially for the university girl—just that thing they would dream of doing here. Many girls did not care to be classed as part of the store to specialize in 'college girls' wardrobes. It is under the auspices of the Women's Union, and is well known just what is suitable, and makes a special point of drawing out liste lately from both. The girls are very much tailor-mades, and they have the advantage, which we have not, of getting the best out of that style, and distinctive looking ready-mades at very moderate prices.

"Girls in offices have taken to wearing smocks over their dresses while at work, and to adopt this fashion in the laboratory.

"Toronto women dress very well indeed. They are not quite so much on the lines of American importations. Fur coats are the rule, though many of them are Australian furs, dyed to look like other furs. In America. One wears the same clothes winter and summer, with the addition of a fur coat in winter, and a sweater in summer, and even the tram cars are kept at 70 deg. with the doors and windows shut. Consequently, I think, I never closed my window at night, even in the coldest weather, and most decidedly not.

"Toronto is a beautiful city, with the loveliest lake country round about. It is more British than American, but quite quite different to that of America, but manners, customs, and food are those of America. I learned to like many mixtures which seem queer to Australians, and undoubtedly their diet is better balanced. All the University colleges, the clubs, and the restaurants employ trained dietitians to draw up the menus.

"I met many interesting women at the Women's Canadian Club, which is the most representative. Toronto is not so wedded to clubs as the United States. Americans are very fond of having subjects which they would not dream of reading up for themselves, and of listening to lectures. The mental processes of the Canadians are probably deeper. We did have some wonderful lectures though. The University runs extension lectures all the winter. Toronto is only overnight from New York, and all the interesting people who visit that city seem to come on to Toronto rather than Montreal. It is the partly French population. One of the interesting speakers I heard was Dame Rachel Crowdy. Then we had wonderful symphony orchestras from New York and from Boston, from Chicago.

THE ARTS.

I asked Miss Reed of the arts in Canada. She was, she said, very interested in some of the folk lore tales of the French settlements, and also in Miss Carman's poems.

Miss Reed said that Canada was tightening her immigration laws. "It is probably a good thing, but one hears a great deal of criticism of the flood of immigration. It is pointed out that there is much unemployment at present, and if these new people come into it, they will make things harder. All the casual labour which is absorbed by the vast in harvest time simply has to flock into the city in winter to obtain shelter from the intense cold."

The great advantages of nearness to Europe, Miss Reed added, were thoroughly appreciated. In the summer there was almost a general exodus to Europe, and for £40 a Canadian could enjoy a conducted tour through England and part of the Continent.

Shipping companies set aside the whole of their third-class accommodation for such tours. Students' tours were even cheaper, and students who travelled in this way were usually entertained at overseas universities.

NEWS 21-2-27

CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY

MR. T. E. BARR SMITH

Progress of Elder, Smith & Co

Roots that reach to the virgin soil of South Australia have nourished Elder, Smith & Co. Limited through the years, so that the company has grown in size and prestige until it is one of the great business houses of the Commonwealth.

To the high principles set by those who first guided its destinies as well as to their enterprise and ability are its achievements due. Mr. T. E. Barr Smith, B.A., the present chairman of directors, and other leading officers the succession is assured.

Although its scope and activities extend all over Australia and to London, the business is essentially South Australian. It was born in Adelaide, developed by pioneers of the State, and has been nurtured by sons of the soil to whom its return is gave efficient service.

Romance of the great enterprise took place in 1839 when the late Mr. Alexander Lang Elder arrived in Adelaide. He was followed by his brother, Mr. (afterwards Sir) Thomas Elder (1851), and by Mr. Elder retired in 1854, and in 1855 the late Mr. Robert Barr Smith joined the firm.

In the same year Mr. George Elder retired and Mr. Thomas Elder (afterwards Sir Thomas) became head, retaining that position until his death. The business was limited company. In 1856 the late Messrs. Edward Stirling and John Taylor joined the firm. Mr. Stirling retired in 1858. They retired in 1861 and 1863 respectively.

A limited company was formed in 1888, of which Mr. Thomas Elder was chairman of directors, a position he retained until 1921. He died in 1922, leaving an estate valued at over £1,000,000.

Of Mr. Waite. His foresight, business ability, and integrity largely influenced the great development which occurred under his direction.

Colleagues on Board

Mr. T. E. Barr Smith was appointed chairman of directors on the retirement of Mr. Waite. His colleagues on the board are Messrs. J. Fred Downer, Alick Murray, J. G. Samuel, and the Hon. R. Layfield, M.L.C. Mr. Walter James Young is general manager, and Messrs. Mr. Horsley Chapman as manager and secretary, and Mr. A. A. Corbin as assistant general manager.

Mr. Arnold A. Trinder and Sir William H. Leeser are members of the London committee. In 1888 the paid-up capital was £250,000. Today it is £1,250,000, while the subscribed capital is nearly £3,000,000. Three bonuses have been given, and the progress of the years is shown by a comparison of figures for 1919 and 1926. In June, 1919, paid-up capital was £1,000,000, and the sum has grown by more than £1,000,000 since then.

Reserves were £580,000 in 1919; now they exceed £2,000,000. In 1919 there were £5,000,000 liabilities. There are now £15,000,000. Especially important to South Australia are these figures. In 1919 100 cent sheep and 200 cattle were owned here. The staff in Australia and London comprises 700. To provide its members with pensions and gratuities a provident fund has been created which amounts to £200,000.

Few realize, perhaps, how important is the life of the capital city are the activities of this colossus of commerce. Although the principal services are in wool, produce, and stock, it is all-embracing. At the Fremantle store will make it the largest and best appointed in the Commonwealth. At Port Adelaide a large store is being erected of brick and concrete.

Elder, Smith, & Co. sell annually at auction in South Australia 70,000 bales of wool for an aggregate return to growers of about £5,000,000. Auctions are also conducted in meregalms, hides, furred skins, and tallow, of which large sales are made, while a large trade is done at the city branches of the company in South Australia, Western Australia, and New South Wales.

Shipping plays an important part in activities, for 12 different lines are represented in South Australia. General merchandise, especially drapery, and foodstuffs are imported in huge quantities and disposed of to farmers.

Extensive business is done throughout Australia in agricultural implements and metal. The company is purchasing agent for the British Mutual Corporation, for which it insures ships and ships' cargo concentrates from Broken Hill.

Banking dealings with pastoralists and other clients is a resulted in more than £4,000,000 being lent on fixed deposit, and fixed deposit and advances amount to nearly £3,000,000.

Almost traditional is the ownership of pastoral properties by members of the company, who have consistently identified themselves with philanthropic and educational movements. Hundreds of hundreds of pounds have been donated to various public bodies. The Elder Conservatorium of Music, particularly owes much to the munificence of those associated with Elder, Smith, & Co.

Gifts to University

One of the greatest and most recent gifts was that of Mr. Waite some years ago. He gave £250 shares in the company, the income from which is devoted to establishing a chair of agriculture, and also to former home, Urrbrae, Glen Osmond, for the same purpose, as an agricultural research institute.

Mr. Thomas Elder Barr Smith, besides being chairman of directors of Elder, Smith & Co. Limited, is president of many other important South Australian companies. Included among them are the South Australian Company, Limited, the South Australian Company, Beltana Pastoral Company, and Mutooroo Pastoral Company.

He is the eldest son of the late Mr. Robert Barr Smith, who died in 1919. Mr. Thomas Barr Smith was born at Adelaide on January 4, 1864, and is therefore 63 years of age. He was educated at St. Peter's College and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he became a Bachelor of Arts.

In his practical support of Adelaide University he follows the example of his father, Sir Thomas Elder and Mr. Robert Barr Smith, whose bequests to that institution have been so generous. Thomas Barr Smith recently gave £20,000 to the University.

NEWS 22-2-27

Mr. E. J. Bert, formerly engineer and manager of the Electric Supply Corporation, Ltd., has been appointed engineer to the British Electric Traction Company, and will leave to take up a position with that firm in Melbourne next week. He was welcomed by J. Harper (chairman) and councillors.