

The Adelaide University Dispute.

By the letters and newspapers received this week, it appears that the dispute connected with the last musical examination of the students has reached a further stage. On the meeting of Parliament the Labour Members, who have constituted themselves the champions of the rejected candidates for degrees in music, made a violent attack on the Minister of Education and the Government. Their complaint was, that owing to the existing friction between the University authorities and Professor Ives, the students had suffered; and, through the action of a Sydney musician who had set an impossible Paper, none had passed. Some members urged that though the University had been founded by private munificence, yet there was a State grant of £6,000 a year to it, and Government ought to be represented on the Senate and enjoy some control over the institution.

Mr. Price thought the Government should be represented on the boards of all institutions which they subsidised. Matters should be set right, and public confidence restored in the management of the University. The students should be given another chance, and their career should not be smashed up and themselves practically disgraced without an investigation. Too much power was given to one individual, and it was not right that his influence should interfere with the

We are informed that Professor Douglas, being desirous of returning to Europe, has resigned the chair of modern history and English language and literature in the University of Adelaide. The University council, at a meeting on Tuesday afternoon, accepted the professor's resignation from the end of the current term.

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A SCHOOL DIRECTOR ON TEACHING.

The keynote of the reform movement in the Victorian school system was struck by Mr. Frank Tate, the newly-appointed Director of Education, at the recent conference of the State School Teachers' Union. Mr. Tate explains as

career of others. The Government gave £6,000 to University annually, and they should see that its conduct be both straight and above-board, so that the students might be made to suffer because of the spleen of the Chancellor towards one of the professors or anyone else. There was an undercurrent of a very unsatisfactory character, and he urged that there should be another examination and another set of papers prepared by an unbiassed authority to show whether or not the students have been properly taught.

The Minister of Education said the Government intend to act on the line laid down in Victoria, and to say that the State should have representation on the University Council. Next Session he would introduce a Bill with this object.

Mr. Homburg said the highly honourable and respectable gentlemen on the University Senate would do justice without Parliamentary intervention. "Highly honourable and respectable gentlemen may have a bias like yourself," said Mr. Roberts, and Mr. Homburg protested that he had no bias whatever. The Minister had no right to "call" for a report. Mr. Homburg asserted, though he might "ask" for one. "I knew I had no power, but I wished to get over the trouble," said Mr. Brooker, and Mr. Homburg went on to declare that the Government had no control over the institution at all, although Parliament, of course, could do what it liked in respect to the charter or the moneys of the University. There was no appeal from the decisions of the Parliament, "no matter how unjust they may be," so long as they related only to South Australia. Still, it was contracted in 1874 that should not be political influence exercised towards the University. He was not averse to the Government having representation on its executive, but he was sure no intention of injustice or wrong had been done to the students. He regretted that this matter had been raised at a stage when unpleasant friction existed between the University and Professor Ives.

Mr. Giles asked the Premier to be careful in interfering with the University in view of the recent hospital trouble.

In the Report of the Registrar sent to Parliament, it was stated that the Education Committee had reported to the council as follows:—

(a.) That the council see no reason for departing from the result that the candidates have not passed.

(b.) To inform Professor Ives that the referee who was appointed at his request has reported unfavourably, and the council regret that all the students in the third year for the Mus. Bac. degree have failed.

The council further directed that Professor Ives be requested to at once forward the results of the examination for the first and second years. The students also were informed that another examination at an early date could not be granted as the council were of opinion that they would be better for another year's study.

In conclusion, the Registrar called attention to the following points:—

Firstly, none of the candidates could pass without satisfying both examiners. The co-examiner, Mr. Wale, was nominated with Professor Ives's acquiescence, and has acted with him on several previous occasions.

Secondly, it is unfortunate that Mr. Wale should have set and Professor Ives should have passed without objection a question in one of the four papers set which both Professor Ives and Professor Peterson now consider too difficult. No objection to this question, however, was made until the examination was over.

Thirdly, Professor Peterson, who was referred to for advice, agrees with Mr. Wale that none of the candidates were qualified to pass, and that even the best student needed another year's duty before being fit to be examined for the degree. In coming to this conclusion, Professor Peterson made every proper allowance for the disadvantages under which the candidates were placed by the question to which he objected.

Fourthly, the education committee and the council carefully considered the advisableness of having a fresh examination, and came to the conclusion, upon the evidence before them, that in the students' own interest it was better that they should

have the advantage of another year's teaching before being examined for the degree. The charter of the University requires the maintenance of a proper standard of knowledge as a condition for obtaining its degrees.

The Chancellor and Chief Justice, Sir S. J. Way, lost no time in replying to Professor Ives's extraordinary charges against him made in a speech after the Commemoration. In the course of a long letter to the *Adelaide Advertiser*, he says:—

Professor Ives's statement of what happened at our interview of December 7th, 1897, so far as it sets up a request by me that he should place my niece's exercise in the first class is a pure invention. The account I gave in your issue of Friday is borne out by Professor Ives's letter in to-day's *Advertiser*, and by the fac-simile at the end of it, which he calls a "pass-list," but which is really the report which went on from the board of musical studies to the council.

This report is signed, "For the examiners, J. Ives." He now claims that he was himself one of them. In his speech at the Elder Hall, the gravamen of what he alleged was that "the Chancellor asked me as one of the examiners for the degree of Mus. Bac. to place a relative of his in the first class division of the pass-list I had issued." In his letter he restates what he said in his speech as "the grave charge of seeking to tamper with an examiner." Now Professor Ives has definitely stated the occasion to which he referred, it is easy to show that on that occasion he was not an examiner at all.

In every case hitherto the musical exercise required for the degree has been sent to England to be "approved" by English examiners, and Professor Ives has never been appointed a co-examiner with them.

Professor Ives writes of his "co-examiner, Doctor Bridge," as if Doctor Bridge had been the only English examiner in 1897, and as if Professor Ives had been associated with him. In fact, the examiners who were appointed in July, 1897, to deal with the exercises in question were Sir Herbert Oakeley and Sir Frederick Bridge, and Professor Ives was not included in the appointment.

Sir Herbert Oakeley and Sir Frederick Bridge both reported; and not Sir Frederick only, as stated by Professor Ives. As to Miss Campbell's exercise, the report concluded:—"If this exercise be also corrected to the approval of the University professor at Adelaide this candidate's work would be considered as earning the Mus. Bac. degree."

Professor Ives therefore had no authority from the University to act as an examiner of these exercises, and the only duty with which he was entrusted by the examiners was to see that the condition that certain errors were corrected before the exercise was taken to be "approved." That condition complied with, his functions with respect to the exercises ceased.

Professor Ives replied saying:—

The Chief Justice's second letter is ingenious in its construction if not convincing in its arguments. It seeks to divert attention from the real point at issue by raising those quibbles that a legal mind of long experience and practice knows well how to raise.

One of the quibbles raised is that I was not an examiner on the occasion referred to. Clause 6, Chapter XI., of the University statutes reads:—"The council shall, when necessary, appoint a sufficient number of examiners, who, together WITH the Professor and Lecturers of the School of Music, shall constitute the Board of Examiners in Music."

The Adelaide University must not be allowed to become a place where its honours may be won more easily if one happens to be in favour with its officials. Its courts and classes and prizes must be open to all, irrespective of class or clique. Better an unpleasant inquiry now than that gross abuses shall be continued. The assumption of and wrong use of autocratic power is apt to become more and more dangerous if not checked.

The question is being continually asked when I intend to leave Adelaide. I do not intend to leave. I am making arrangements to start a Conservatorium of Music, and I purpose endeavouring to enter Parliament with a view to bringing about reforms called for by the revelations I have made as to the inner workings of the University. The University is for the people—not for the class alone.

Mr. W. H. Wale in his defence addressed a letter to the Registrar, in which he remarks:—

It is perhaps unnecessary for me to remind you that the "harmony" paper was forwarded by the writer to Professor Ives direct, but I think that, in justice to myself, the Council should be informed that (1) the paper, as originally set, was revised and altered—presumably by Professor Ives—before appearing in print, with his endorsement on the front page; and (2) that Question 4

is the home of the child and spreads gradually from that as a centre. This was the dominant idea with Mr. Hartley when he formulated the plan of teaching geography by starting with the street or road which led past the schoolhouse, and by inducing the thoughts to radiate outwards from that as a centre. Mr. Tate, in the same spirit, is preparing hints for lessons on nature study, regarding which great elasticity will be permitted, because the kind of nature learning which is stimulating to a boy living in the mallee country is different from that which is appropriate to pupils in a mining or manufacturing locality. Teachers will be materially helped in imparting reality to their lessons by occasional attendance at the "Summer School," which has for two successive years been highly successful in Melbourne, and which attracted 600 teachers during the last Christmas holidays.

South Australia has taken the lead in one movement of which Mr. Tate warmly approves. He remarks:—"It would be economical if we had our teachers trained by the University, as in Adelaide. It would pay us in every

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Dr. Bertram Dillon Steele, who on Saturday took out his degree of doctor of science in absentia, is the first student of the Melbourne University to attain to this distinction. The Melbourne "Argus" says that Dr. Steele had an exceptionally brilliant career, obtaining first-class honors throughout his course, and ending with a final honor scholarship in chemistry. In 1897 he obtained the Wyselaskie scholarship, while during 1899 he filled the position of acting professor of chemistry at the Adelaide University. At the end of that year he was awarded the commissioners' scholarship of £150 a year, which is conditional on doing original research at an English or a Continental university, and elected to go to the University of Breslau. Since then he has from time to time published papers on his work in the "Journal of the Chemical Society."