

Mr. COPELEY moved the adjournment of the debate. Negatived.

Mr. HOMBURG was quite prepared to vote for the motion on the understanding that so far as the University was concerned no political influence was to be used against it in dealing with land that had been given to it by the Crown for educational purposes. He agreed with Mr. Peake that it was undesirable for large corporations to hold Crown lands in the colonies, but he would not put the University in the same category with Companies such as the South Australian Company, or compare it with the Queensland Mortgage Company. He appreciated the spirit of Mr. Peake in moving the motion, and the spirit in which he desired the Government to approach the University. If the two parties could come to terms on a fair basis no one would be better pleased than himself. The University would obtain a much larger rent by subdivision. He should have thought it did not require a motion for the Government to obtain the land if it was suitable. They had power to purchase private land. The motion was superfluous, and would not lead to anything if the University held its land under Act of Parliament for the express purpose of endowment until they passed another Act to make the purchase complete. If it was a preliminary resolution, and was to be treated as such, the hon. member would understand that whatever terms the Government might come to as between themselves and the University the motion did not dispose of the whole of the question, and at some later stage the Government would be compelled to ask Parliament to ratify the sale. The Senate of the University was not likely to do anything in contravention to the Act. Clause 16 of the Act of 1874 provided for endowment in land, and that absolutely precluded the possibility on the part of the Government to acquire the land otherwise than subject to Parliamentary approval. The hon. member for the Port had expressed his disapproval of the system of endowment, but he was not going to follow that hon. member as to whether the endowments were good or bad. Last year some agricultural lands were transferred to the Minister of Education expressly for educational purposes, and the revenue from such lands, he believed, was kept separate, and apart from the ordinary revenue, and devoted to educational purposes only. Those lands to which he specially referred had since been put under the control of the Commissioner of Crown Lands again, and he did not think that a separate account was kept, but that the whole of the rents from educational lands was taken into the ordinary revenue. Was there any doubt as to whether these educational lands were Crown lands or not? (The Commissioner of Crown Lands—"The question was asked to-day, and I asked the hon. member to give notice.") Then he would not further discuss that. Mr. Archibald had said that "we should not forget that the hand that can give can also take away again." What were they to understand from that? Was it that Parliament, having given the University by the Act of 1874 these lands, had also the power if it chose to deprive the University of the lands? He hoped that was not meant. He did not dispute that Parliament had the power to take compulsorily, without compensation, any man's land in the colony, and that the man would have no redress. The University was not an institution carried on for gain or for profit, but for the benefit of general mankind, and in that respect it resembled a charitable institution. What he wanted to point out was that they should not overlook the fact that there were other things given to the University in the faith that that which had been given by the Government would not be taken away. They had knowledge of some munificent gifts to the University, and of the fact that the donors had no possible chance of being benefited, or even their children or relatives. It was done in the faith that the Government had endowed the University, and he thought they had a right to expect that the Government would stand by its promise and gifts. The late Sir W. W. Hughes, one of the founders, and the late Sir Thomas Elder and others could not take away from their munificent gifts, and so far as that was concerned they could not pay any regard to the statement of Mr. Archibald "that the hand that gave can also take away again." He raised no objection to what Mr. Peake had said in his speech, and if the Government could come to terms with the University for it to sell any portion of the lands it held for subdivision he would be delighted to help the Government to give legislative effect to any such scheme, but he reserved the right to say that any arrangement which might be made must be in conformity with the Adelaide University Act, and that members of the House must have the absolute right to consider the details of any Bill that came before them.

The Hon. T. PLAYFORD only wished to say that if they were going to adopt the tactics of buying back educational or other lands for which people were paying a decently high rent and reletting it at ridiculously low rents he would oppose the whole thing. If it could not be clearly proved that any land which might be bought back from the University would be let at such a rent that the State would suffer no loss he would vigorously oppose it. He knew of cases in the same neighbourhood where the Crown Lands Department had taken over educational leases for which people were paying a shilling an acre and leased them again at threepence an acre. If that was going to be done in this instance he would be a most bitter opponent of such an absurd financial operation.

Mr. SOLOMON said that Mr. Homburg had really voiced the opinion of most members on his side of the House, and in his concluding remarks said that it would be necessary that the House should have the fullest opportunity of revising the terms of any agreement entered into between the Government and the University. The necessity of doing nothing which would discourage gifts to the University by those who could afford them should recommend itself to every member. Anything which had the suspicion of interference with grants which had been made in past years would undoubtedly have a very detri-

mental effect upon wealthy colonists who might be desirous of encouraging education as others had done in the past. In passing the resolution they might, without interfering with Mr. Peake's object, safeguard to Parliament the power and right to review any bargaining entered into, and he moved to add the following words to the motion:—"Any such agreement to be subject to ratification by Parliament." (The Treasurer—"It cannot be done without.") They had had instances, not with dedicated lands perhaps, where the Government should have consulted Parliament, but with a majority behind their back had flouted Parliament. By adding the words he had moved the House would be taking the proper course to safeguard any agreement entered into between the University and the Government. (Hon. T. Playford—"They can't sell the land without a special Act.") But the terms which were to be made, and entered into,

by the Government might be such as would not be approved by the House, and he asked members to assist him in adding the words.

Mr. PRICE said that, with reference to the construction which Mr. Homburg had put on Mr. Archibald's statement, that the hand which gave could take away, he wished to say that the hon. member for the Port did not intend to convey the meaning that he had any desire by resolution or Act of Parliament to deprive people of rights which had been legally acquired. He defied Mr. Homburg or any one else to prove that Mr. Archibald or any member of his party had ever desired to break any contract which had been legally made. (Mr. Solomon—"But you support compulsory repurchase.") Mr. Archibald had said that it would be better if it were possible for the rich and benevolent members of the community to make their endowments to the University without being encouraged by a bonus of 5 per cent. from the Government. He agreed with that. It would add to the value of the endowment if it was given irrespective of anything in the way of a bonus of 5 per cent. Any one who knew anything about the matter knew that it would have to come before Parliament. His sympathies were not altogether with the motion. He wanted to make the matter of education secure as possible. He was in favour of endowment of land for educational purposes, and he had made a mistake in voting as he did when they took educational land and vested it in the Commissioner of Crown Lands. He had advocated purchasing land for working men's blocks, and that it should not be repurchased, but some of the blockers in his district had voted against him because he would not give them the right to purchase. His sympathies were against the motion, and with the endowment of educational institutions by gifts of land subject to the control of the Government in the proper way.

Mr. KINGSTON said, with regard to Mr. Solomon's amendment, he was inclined to think that it hardly improved the case. What Mr. Solomon desired to do was to retain the control of the contemplated arrangement in the hands of Parliament to the fullest extent. If the resolution were carried as proposed it would simply result in negotiations being entered into, and the matter would be reported to Parliament, and after consideration it would be embodied in an Act. That was the spirit of the resolution. But under the amendment the Government might enter into an agreement—even a provisional one—and come to the House merely to have it ratified, and Parliament would not have such a free hand. The University had no power to part with the land except on the authority of an Act, and the Government had no power to purchase. He was inclined to think that too much had been made of the expression that the "hand that gave could take away." He felt sure that the hon. member who had moved the resolution had not moved it in the sense of suggesting in the faintest degree compulsory taking of the land without compensation. It might be that greater revenue would be derived from the land at present than would be the case under such an arrangement; but, whereas on the one hand they had the direct receipts, on the other they would have closer settlement on the soil, and indirect benefits.

Mr. PAECH said he knew some land very well which was the same as that held by the University, and it would not pay the Government to repurchase it. If the University wanted to dispose of the land they should have power to do so.

Mr. CALDWELL thought they had better leave the matter alone, for there was no necessity for the motion. Nothing could be done without an Act, and even as it was there was nothing to prevent the Government from entering into a tentative agreement with the University. No good cause had been shown why the motion should be carried. They all knew that the colony had suffered from the want of land suitable for closer settlement, but he had yet to learn that the land held by the University was not put to its best uses. About 50,000 acres were dedicated to the University, and the total rent was £1,303, and reductions in rent and concessions had been made in consequence of bad seasons. That showed that the University were alive to the needs of their tenants. If the Government took the land they would only take the best, and that at a price at which they could profitably relet it, but the Government would be doing wrong if they interfered with it at all. The mover had said that Corporations made bad landlords, but the desire of the University had been to secure the occupation of their country, and regulated the rental by the capacity of the land. He was glad for once he could agree with Mr. Price, and he would oppose the motion.

Mr. LIVINGSTON said there were 10,000 acres of University land in Tatiara, for which the Queensland Company paid £505 a year rent. It must be fair land to pay that rent, and it would be more valuable in smaller blocks. Five hundred acres would keep a family, and the land could be put to a better use than at present. The Government would be doing right to take the land away.

On the motion of Mr. GILES the debate was adjourned until Wednesday, October 25.

PUBLIC TEACHERS' UNION ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The fourth annual Conference in connection with the South Australian Public Teachers' Union will be held in Adelaide next week. Among the visitors to the conference are Messrs. Carter, Burston, Miller, and Smith, who are delegates from the Victorian Teachers' Union. The sessions will begin on Monday morning with the presentation of the officers' reports and the reception of delegates from the Victorian Union. At 11 o'clock His Excellency the Governor will publicly open the Conference, and afterwards addresses will be given by the Minister of Education (Hon. R. Butler) and Professor Bragg. In the afternoon the members of the Union will be the guests of Sir Langdon Bonython, President of the Adelaide Teachers' Association, at a garden party in Victoria Park, and the evening will be spent at the University at the invitation of the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Council. On Tuesday Sir Langdon Bonython will preside over the Conference, and addresses will be delivered by Mr. T. Burgan, of the Board of Inspectors, and by Victorian delegates. In the evening Dr. Borthwick will lecture on "The South Australian Health Act," with lantern illustrations. Wednesday's agenda-paper includes an address by the Premier (Right Hon. C. C. Kingston) and the holding of the annual meeting of the Teachers' Superannuation Fund. On Thursday morning there will be an excursion to the National Park, and in the evening the School of Mines and Industries will be visited. The business sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons should be very interesting to members. No less than nineteen notices of motion appear on the programme. These deal with many subjects, including the formation of a Teachers' Sick Fund, a Teachers' Loan Fund, a Spelling Reform Committee, the revision and simplification of the system of arithmetic, the appointment of a teacher of sewing in schools where no adult lady teacher is employed, recompense for expenditure upon materials for manual work, and the promotion of provisional teachers to public schools of class 12. The Board of Inspectors are to be requested to place provisional teachers on an equal footing with pupil teachers by giving them twelve months in a city school, and then admitting them to the Training College; and the attention of the Board is to be drawn "to the want of uniformity in examination-papers in arithmetic." Another notice of motion affirms the desirableness of limiting the granting of the compulsory certificate to those scholars only who are under thirteen upon the written application of the parents.

Advertiser 28th Sept. 1899.

Mr. R. W. Chapman, M.A., lecturer on mathematics and physics at the Adelaide University, and formerly lecturer on applied mechanics at the School of Mines, leaves Adelaide this afternoon for Sydney, where he will join the steamer Moana, which leaves for San Francisco on Wednesday next. The trip is being taken partly as a holiday, and partly for the purpose of acquiring knowledge likely to be valuable in connection with the new course of mining engineering to be established by the University and the School of Mines, acting in conjunction. Although born beyond the seas Mr. Chapman received all his education in Australia, beginning in a Melbourne State school, and he had a most distinguished career at the Melbourne University, where he annexed quite a number of scholarships before graduating as Master of Arts and Bachelor of Civil Engineering in 1886, at the same time taking first-class honors in mathematics and physics. Accepting office under railway contractors carrying out work for the Victorian Government, Mr. Chapman was for a time engaged in superintending railway and bridge construction, but in 1889 he received his present appointment at the Adelaide University, subsequently taking up duty at the School of Mines. Mr. Chapman has shown great aptitude in the art of teaching, and during the recent absence of Professor Bragg in Europe he filled with complete success the chair of the Elder professor in mathematics and physics. He is an enthusiast in his work, and he has rendered considerable service to science by his original researches in the wide realm of mathematics. Mr. Chapman is a valued member of the Astronomical Society of South Australia, and, apart from his particular specialty, he possesses a very wide fund of general information.