

University Council was wholly in favour of accepting the additional areas referred to above, but if possible to also obtain the reversion of allotment of the areas occupied by the Jubilee Exhibition Building and Oval and Government House domain, the contention being that, while the greater areas would provide for extension sufficient for all time, and allow even for the establishment of one or two residential colleges, the smaller area would enable provision to be made for the next 50 years." The evidence given by witnesses in Sydney and Melbourne, including the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of Sydney University, the Vice-Chancellor of Melbourne University, registrars, and many members of the professorial staffs of those universities, was unanimously that (in view of the development taking place in the sphere and functions of universities) no area less than 100 acres in extent could be regarded as adequate for their purposes, and that any area up to 200 acres ought not to be regarded as excessive.

—Unanimous Report.—

The report is unanimous, and bears the signatures of Mr Smeaton (Chairman), the Hons. J. Carr and J. H. Cooke, and Messrs. Gunn, O'Connor, Green, and Laffer. The commission came to the conclusion that Government House could fulfil all its functions if it were removed to some other suitable site, and that the domain could be used to better advantage as a site for an important State or civic building, with public gardens attached. It was further of opinion that the walls forming the street and terrace boundaries of Government House domain and of the Botanic Garden were unsightly, and unsuitable, and recommended that they should be removed in whole or in part, but so treated that the pleasures of these might be shown to best advantage.

—The Recommendations.—

The main recommendations of the commission are as follow:—

That, when suitable arrangements can be made, the Governor's residence be located elsewhere.

That (a) the Military Parade Ground and buildings, (b) the lands occupied by the Destitute and Police buildings and compounds, and buildings used for military purposes, (c) the land marked Produce Depot, (d) the land occupied by the old Exhibition Buildings, and for storage purposes and workshops by the Department of the Superintendent of Public Buildings, and (e) the land and buildings known as the Old Lunatic Asylum, be resumed at the earliest possible date.

That any lands necessary for railway purposes be so allotted, but east of King William road be not used for any buildings necessary for railway requirements. That the Military Parade Ground and buildings be reacquired by the State from the Commonwealth, and that the whole area be devoted for purposes of public recreation.

That the lands occupied by the Destitute and Police Buildings and compounds, and buildings used for military purposes, shall be resumed, and an area of not less than three acres of it set apart for extension purposes for the Public Library, Art Gallery, and Museum, and the remainder be devoted for purposes of public recreation.

That the Jubilee Oval be retained for present purposes, and that the Jubilee Exhibition Building be kept intact until such time as provision of an adequate kind is made for the accommodation of public gatherings; but that that portion of the grounds, from a line drawn in continuation of the western boundary of the land on which the School of Mines stands to the southern boundary of the machinery hall, and carried thence to the Frome road, be allotted to the School of Mines.

That the whole area of land on which the Old Exhibition Building stands, and that portion of it which is occupied for storage purposes by the Department of the Superintendent of Public Buildings, and the whole area known as the Old Lunatic Asylum grounds, be allotted to the authorities controlling the Botanic Garden for extension purposes, but that until such time as provision is made for the Infectious Diseases Hospital elsewhere, that portion now devoted to the treatment of infectious diseases be retained under the control of the Adelaide Hospital Board.

In respect of the University, it is recommended:—1. That a new location be found for the University on a site as near to the city as possible, having an area of land sufficient to ensure it against any necessity of further removal. 2. That until such time as the University authorities deem it wise to transfer the whole of the activities of the University to buildings erected elsewhere, the present buildings be retained. 3. That no further expense be incurred in the provision of accommodation for University departments on the present site, and that all departments, with the exception of the law and medical schools and the Conservatorium of Music, be transferred to a new location as soon as possible.

Ryssen
19.8.16

THE BOTANIC GARDEN.

To the Editor.

Sir—The letter of to-day, signed by the professors of the University, calls for some comment. I had hoped, especially in view of the efforts made during the week to effect a settlement, that no further correspondence would be necessary on my part. I would like to say that so far as the Botanic Board is concerned no attempt to belittle Professor Osborn has taken place, and I much regret that anyone should have done so. On the contrary, when the scheme was placed before the board their desire was to use his scientific knowledge to the utmost, apart from other details of the scheme which they could not accept for reasons which have been published. To show this, the board recommended the Minister that Professor Osborn be appointed to the control of the Museum and herbarium, and that he have full use of the library; that he be responsible to the board and to the Minister. During the week that was added to, with a view of an early settlement, that if in his opinion he thought better work could be accomplished, subject to the consent of the Minister, the herbarium could be transferred to the University. This offer is still open. The board welcome the opportunity for the advance of science at the garden, at the same time do not wish to impair the efficiency of that part which is appreciated by the general public, who love it for its beautiful democratic nature. The professors have put the case somewhat unfairly when they use the term "mere pleasure grounds." That is not so; the management have provided a splendid class ground, with its fine collection of grasses and plants of an economic character, well indexed; a fine collection of native shrubs and plants, besides which Dr. Holtze has added many specimens to the Museum. Visiting directors have said that the class ground is second to none in Australia. Why the professors have ignored this is difficult to understand. A comparison of finance is also made, why I cannot understand. I am not aware of the amount received by the University in the way of annual vote, but I am hoping some day it will be greatly increased, so that the brainy children of the workers may avail themselves of its education. The Botanic Board has to depend upon the vote of Parliament, and having no fees to collect, it fluctuates according to the finances. It has increased at times when things are good, and greater provision had to be made on account of increases in wages and leave of absence. The figures for the past 25 years for Botanic Garden and park, including the annual supply of water, averages £6,019 per annum. Special votes for water mains, roads, deep drainage, &c., during those 25 years, amounted to £5,835, the wild statements of £8,000 to £10,000 to the contrary. If the board had accepted the scheme submitted it would, in their opinion, have not taken long to come up to the £10,000. Seeing we are such close neighbors and have ideas much in common, the better policy would have been to consult one another as to suggested ideas and recommendations for the advancement of our organisations free from hampering conditions, and in that spirit on behalf of the board I trust that our differences shall soon be settled.—I am, &c.,

THOS. H. BROOKER,

Chairman.

Advertiser
11.9.16.

THE LATE SERGEANT R. G. MCKAIL.

Mrs. E. L. McKail, of North Adelaide, has been notified that her son, Sergeant Ronald G. McKail, was killed in action in France on August 6. Sergeant McKail was born in Western Australia, but at an early age came to South Australia. He was educated at St. Peter's College, and after leaving that institution joined the staff of the Eastern Extension Cable Co., where he served for several years. When the Government instituted a Forestry Department at the University, he was one of three successful applicants chosen for the course, which he completed in three years, at the same time gaining his B.Sc. degree. At the time of his enlistment he was assistant forester at the Mount Burr Forest Reserve, Millicent. While at college Sergeant McKail took a prominent part in all sports. He was captain of St. Peter's football and cricket teams in the intercollegiate matches. He will be remembered by many as a member of the North Adelaide football team, of which he was captain during his last season before leaving the city. In connection with his University success it is said that, apart from being the first South Australian to secure the bachelor of science degree in forestry, he was the first in Australia to gain that distinction in the forestry course.

Advertiser
Register 24.8.16.

TUTORIAL CLASSES.

Professor Meredith Atkinson, Director of Tutorial Classes for the University of Sydney, who passed through Adelaide on his way to Broken Hill on Wednesday, on being interviewed, said:—"Australia has an excellent system of primary education, and is building up an equally good system of secondary schools and universities, but it is not too much to say that the adult citizen occupied in his daily work is left practically uncared for by any of these systems. The Workers' Educational Association seeks to supply that want by offering the average citizen opportunities for higher education, chiefly through tutorial classes. Such a class consists of about thirty men and women who choose their own subject, be it economics, history, literature, philosophy, or the problems of the present war, and the University supplies a tutor who has specialised in his subject. As most of the classes last over three winter sessions, and the lectures are followed by questions and discussion, our students acquire a thorough knowledge of their subject. In England there are hundreds of such classes which are having a profound effect upon public life and thought. In New South Wales within two years we have established 40 classes with a membership of nearly 1,000 students. South Australia is the only State in Australasia that has not so far made a real start. But within the next few weeks arrangements are to be made for co-operation between the University and the Workers' Educational Society for the appointment of a director of tutorial classes, and we fully anticipate that the movement here will be just as successful as it has been in other parts of the Empire. An educated democracy is a splendid objective, and worthy of the interest of all thinking people."

Advertiser
11.9.16

Lieutenant A. S. Blackburn, who has been awarded the Victoria Cross, is well known in South Australia. He is a son of the late Canon Blackburn, who for some years labored at Woodville. He began his education at St. Peter's College, after which he graduated in law at the University. He served his articles with Messrs. Fenn & Hardy, solicitors, of King William-street.

Register 5.9.16

CHEMISTRY RESEARCH DEPARTMENT.

The Chemistry Research Department established by the Government has already proved its value. Recently experiments were undertaken with a substance hitherto regarded as useless. This was the fat skimmed from the water after the scouring of wool, really the refuse from the scouring, which has hitherto been allowed to run to waste. The result of the tests has been most satisfactory. "At the last meeting of the Advisory Committee in connection with the Research Department, Mr. Hargreaves (director of the department) submitted the results of his experiments," stated the Minister of Industry (Hon. R. P. Blundell) on Monday. "The result was the discovery that there has been a great waste in the treatment of our wool. Arrangements were made with certain manufacturers to save a portion of this waste substance, and the experiments conducted by Mr. Hargreaves proved that it is of great value indeed. Four samples have been submitted to me which show that it is possible to secure valuable commercial fats from this by-product, which may, if necessary, be converted into the article known as lanoline. The process of recovery is simple, and the total cost of marketing the product will not be more than £15 a ton. The pre-war price for adeps lane, or purified wool wax, was £80 a ton, and for lanoline £75 a ton. The prices for those articles are now in the region of £500 a ton. The department invites any person sufficiently interested to apply, and it will be only too pleased to submit details and to explain the methods employed in perfecting the material. In addition fatty acids have been recovered from the wool, but investigations have not proceeded far enough with them for any definite statement. Thus it has been demonstrated that the people engaged in the wool industry have been wasting thousands and thousands of pounds in the past, when by a simple process the material thrown away might have been utilized to great advantage."

Advertiser 12.9.16

CAPTAIN BLACKBURN, V.C.

"A MODEST, RETIRING YOUNG MAN."

The news published in "The Advertiser" on Monday that Lieutenant—he is now Captain—A. S. Blackburn, an old St. Peter's College pupil, had been granted the Victoria Cross for conspicuous bravery was received with the utmost pleasure, not merely by his old college and other friends, but by the public generally. Captain Blackburn is the first South Australian-born soldier to win the distinction. Lieutenant Throssel, who was similarly honored a few months ago, was educated at Prince Alfred College, but he is a native of Western Australia, where his home is. Captain Blackburn is about 25 years of age and is a son of the late Canon Blackburn, of Woodville, who was one of the leading members of the Royal Society and a great authority on beetles. The new wearer of the highest honor a soldier can win is described as "a modest, retiring young man." He served his articles in the office of Mr. C. B. Hardy, solicitor, and was admitted to the bar on December 13, 1913. Mr. Burton Hardy, referring to Mr. Blackburn's achievement on Monday, said the young soldier was one of the first to enlist in South Australia. "He was most enthusiastic about going, even so early in the war," Mr. Hardy said, "and was determined to go if he could, although we thought he had no chance of passing, because he had no great physical strength to back him. I don't think he ever did much in the way of athletics, but I do know he started lacrosse and had to give it up on the doctor's orders, because he was considered too delicate. However, he was accepted for service, and a few weeks after going into camp he began to show the good effects of the training. Later on he developed into a splendid soldier, and one would hardly have recognised him as the modest, unassuming, slim young man we had in our office a few months before. He went away with the 10th, and was at Gallipoli throughout the campaign. He enlisted here as a private, and it was at Gallipoli that he was promoted to lieutenant. The so-called unlucky number 13 has not brought him bad luck so far. He was admitted on December 13, 1913, and up to the present has not been wounded or sick.



Captain Blackburn, V.C.

as far as we have been able to hear. I am not altogether surprised to hear the news, because when he set himself a task he was not satisfied until he had done his best to carry it out, although in details I frequently had to remind him of the necessity of being more careful. The life of the soldier seems to have developed remarkable courage and features in his character that possibly were dormant before he went into the trenches. After he was admitted to the bar he went into Mr. Nesbit's office, as managing clerk, I think, for a time. My father received a letter from my brother by the last mail, in which he said:—"I met your late articled clerk, Blackburn, in the trenches yesterday, and all that I can say about him is that he is a perfect hero." We imagine, therefore, that the act for which he has been rewarded with the great distinction was performed about the time my brother met him."