Chapter 17.
Adult Education
Adult Education.

Very early in its History the Senate showed an appreciation of the desirability of some measure of Adult Education. On the initiative of the first Chancellor (Hackett) one of the conditions of appointment of the first Professor was that they might be called upon to help with University Extension work without extra remuneration. So when in May 1913 a letter was received from the Registrar of the Melbourne University asking co-operation in inviting Mr. Albert Mansbridge M.A. founder of the English Workers Educational Association to visit Australia in order to arouse interest in a proposal to start a similar movement in Australia; the Melbourne proposal received unanimous support.

Soon after my selection to be a member of the University Senate I had written to Mr. Mansbridge, he was the best qualified of those I had access to to enable a Blacksmith to understand problems of University government. He replied as follows:

"I will write again, but, meanwhile, I answer at once the things which happen to be in my mind. I shall always be glad to give you any information I possibly can. The evidence which we presented to the University of London will not be without interest and I enclose a copy. A good many of your questions are answered in "Oxford & Working Class Education" which I am glad you are having. Now let me take them in detail:-

(1) "What faculties is it desirable to start with?" -- That is a question which cannot well be answered, but I hope very much that there will be a good strong Faculty of Political and Economic Science. A University should have that as its main faculty which the people around it most commonly demand and which they are best able to develop. Otherwise, there should, of course, be faculties for the chief higher branches of study.

(2) It is desirable that fees should be charged, but arrangements should be made so that the very poorest need not be prevented from attending. In our Tutorial Classes in England, we won't allow a fee higher than 2/6d for 24 lessons, and the spirit of movement is such that, if a man cannot pay, he is not pressed. The freeing of a University, however, depends largely upon the funds which it has as its disposal. I want to see, in the long run, everywhere, no fees charged other than those of brains and character, or, in other words, ability to do the work."
In regard to the steps that are necessary to make the University of real assistance in the every-day life of the people, beyond just at present mentioning that the people should be able to get from it what they ask with perfect freedom, that it should have representatives of all sections, and that it should have its governing body without bias, and that I cannot say more, but as I have said, I will write again and send you further information which I think will be useful to you.

It is a grand thing to be able to communicate with one who is so keen about things as you are, and I count it a high privilege.

I do hope you will start a W.E.A. in Australia.

Under separate cover I am sending you the Oxford Handbook and other papers which I hope may be useful to you.

Hoping to hear from you again,

Yours sincerely,

Albert Mansbridge (Signed)

To further the co-operation asked for by the Melbourne Registrar it was decided (30/5/1913) on the motion of Keenan - Greswyk to form an Extension Lecture Board to consist of the Chancellor with three members of Senate and three members of the Teaching Staff. The Chancellor and Messrs Greswyk and Somerville. The Pro-Fessorial Board appointed Professor Woolnough, Dakin and Murdoch.

In November 1913 the Senate decided (Andrews - Somerville) That the University summon a conference to consider the question of forming a branch of the Workers Educational Association, such conference to comprise representatives of the University, Trade Unions,
Literary and similar institutions and that arrangements be left in the hands of Messrs Andrews, Vice Chancellor (Whitfield) Shann and Somerville.

While it was easy for the Senate to appoint Committees and other machinery it was difficult to do anything constructive without money. The Senate was already feeling the crippling effect on all such activities of having appointed seven professors when the Parliamentary grant was only designed for five.

However the Senate did manage to squeeze out the small sum of £100 which was placed upon the 1914 estimates in March. The work done was, like the money grant, small. Effective co-operation from other bodies was not forthcoming, so after a few lectures were delivered the movement lapsed.

In March 1919 another Extension Lecture Board was appointed, its members were Chancellor (Riley) Andrews, Professors Dakin, Murdoch, Paterson (Vice Chancellor) Messrs James, Battye and Somerville.

This Board did some good work and the organisation it founded was sufficiently effective to ask the Senate in June of 1921 to support an appeal to the Government for a money grant of £1500. No reply was received from the Government so in September 1921 the Chancellor (Riley) and the Vice Chancellor (Paterson) waited on the Primary Producers Association and the Australian Labour Party asking them to support an application to the Government for an increased annual grant for Adult Education.

The Australian Labour Party assured them of support but the Primary Producers Association demurred in a long screed to the effect that as a free University benefited the residents of the Metropolitan area all the needs of the University should be met from fees.

No funds having been received from the Government the W.E.A. was reduced to very meagre activities. The utmost that could be done was to arrange for a few
lectures financed by the few pounds the hard pushed Finance Committee could find. The organisation seems to have collapsed for in March 1924 another strong Committee of which I was one was appointed. In this year the work done in the way of Extension Lectures in Perth and its suburbs as well as in a number of Country towns such as Albany, Katanning and Kalgoorlie was, in view of limited finance, considerable and a marked increase over 1923. Broadcasts were also given over W.A. pioneer wireless station run by Westralian Farmers.

For some reason it has never been possible to impress either the Liberal or Labour Governments of W.A. with the case for Adult Education. Other of the States made substantial grants for this purpose.

But help was at hand. About 1923 Mr D. Stewart the Secretary of the Workers Educational Association of N.S.W. visited W.A. While here he was the guest of Dr. and Mrs Wilsmore who gave a dinner at their home to enable those interested in Extension work to meet Mr Stewart.

In May 1927 Professor J. E. Russell, Dean Emiritus of Teachers College of Columbia visited Australia. Some time after his return to America he wrote to the W.A. University enclosing copies of his correspondence with the Carnegie Corporation of New York. From this correspondence it appeared that the Corporation hoped to make a study of the Educational needs of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and promising that when this was done W.A. would not be forgotten.

As the result of this letter the Senate decided to make an application to the Carnegie Corporation for assistance in founding a movement on the lines of the W.E.A.

In the meantime Mr Stewart, Secretary W.E. Association of N.S.W. in conjunction with Mr G.V. Portus
director of Tutorial class in that State, Professor Copland of Victoria and Professor Brigden of Tasmania, had been co-operating in a request to the Carnegie Corporation for assistance for W.E.A. purposes to all the Australian States. Mr. Portus was in New York in the vacation period 1927-28 and was able to make personal representation to the Carnegie Corporation. These efforts were unknown to us in W.A. They were so successful that early in 1928 a grant of 5000 dollars was made to W.A. as well as grants to other States. This was about six months before the first application on our behalf was made by Whitfield in his letter of 24/5/28.

The first intimation we in W.A. had of this grant was in a private letter to Professor Wilsmore from Mr Stewart (27/6/28). The Vice Chancellor immediately wired Stewart for further particulars, he replied 17/7/28 in a letter of which the following is Whitfield's summary.

I was surprised to hear from the University of Tasmania and also from you that no notification had reached you regarding the grant from the Carnegie Corporation. There is no doubting the meaning of the paragraph in the report of the Association for Adult Education for 1927. It appears on page 23 as follows:-

"The Carnegie Corporation has consulted the Association with reference to adult education grants made in Canada and the British Colonies with the result that favourable action has been taken in regard to proposals from the Frontier College of Canada, the University of Tasmania and the University of Western Australia, each of which has received a $5000 grant in support of its adult education program."

Mr. Stewart also made it clear that the representation made by himself, Portus, Copland and Brigden to Carnegie Corporation promised active co-operation with the Trade Unions in shaping a policy upon which the grant was to be spent. When the matter was reported to the Senate (20th August 1928) the Vice Chancellor was instructed to notify the Trades Hall and ask for suggestions.
To the September 1928 meeting of the Senate it was reported that a conference with Trades Hall representatives had been held and it favoured Tutorial classes on the lines of the W.E.A.

The same meeting of the Senate authorised the expenditure of £100 on an experimental short Summer School.

Whitfield at first accepted this and sent me, whom he personally selected as a representative Trade Unionist, various long letters setting out his views as to how the money might be spent. He wrote to the Carnegie Corporation (September 7/28) inter alia 

"Cables had been interpreted to mean "That the University was to act in consultation "with organised Labour"

But to whitfield the fact that there was money to spend was as strong wine. The amount of money and the condition that organised labour was to have a say in its utilisation was a minor detail of small importance and he bombarded the Carnegie Corporation with cables and letters suggesting that it might be spent on such subjects as Publication of research work and Travelling Fellowships.

I objected to such proposals, in the first place they were entirely foreign to W.E.A. work and secondly it was preposterous to think of establishing such a thing as Travelling Fellowships on a single grant of 5,000 dollars, which the Donor very distinctly had said it was not their policy to repeat.

He and I soon got warmly at issue.

In December 1928 he actually recommended the G.P. Committee to limit the amount of the grant to be spent on W.E.A. work to one third of the 5,000 dollars.

About the same time his views and actions became affected by the appearance on the scene of a nephew (Wood) who wanted a job, and he wrote

*Note by Vice-Chancellor*

I do not consider that W.E.A. work can be undertaken without the employment of a full-time man at a salary of say £600. Such a man might in the early stages be employed partly on W.E.A. work and partly on
relieving the growing pressure in some of the Arts Departments. A proportionate part of his salary, therefore, would require to be paid from general revenue, which might, however, be relieved of the $100 voted by the Senate for the summer vacation courses.

H.E. Whitfield.

By this time (December 1928) the grant had been in our possession for about 6 months and nothing had been done except much discussion about Whitfield's vague generalities. So I informed him of my intention to move the Senate at its December meeting.

"To appoint a Committee of five to draw up a scheme for submission to the Senate for the establishment of Adult Education on lines similar to those in operation in the Eastern States."

This is the first occasion in which the term "Adult Education" was used in connection with our W.A. activities.

I had early taken exception to the term Workers Educational Association because of its implication that the "Workers" should be content with a different and inferior type of education to that provided for others. I had had correspondence with Stewart and Professor Brigden on the point.

Whitfield forestalled my proposal to move the Senate by introducing the subject at the December G.P.C. meeting when the following proposals without paragraph E or the proposed special meeting of the Senate in a weeks time. The reason for these two unauthorised clauses was that the nephew (Woods) was on a Mail Boat passing through Fremantle and it would by very convenient to get a decision to establish a position which he could fill.

CARNEGIE GRANT

PROPOSALS FOR SENATE 10/12/28

1. That the Senate appoint a Committee which shall prepare a scheme for administration of the grant, and report to a special meeting of the Senate to be held on Monday 17th instant at 5 p.m.
That the following suggestions be considered by the Committee:-

(a) That the scheme be administered by a University Extension and Adult Education Board, subject to the authority of the Senate.

(b) That the Board should contain representatives of the Senate, Teaching Staff and of Organised Labour.

(c) That the words "Adult Education" suit West Australian conditions better than "Workers Education".

(d) That the Extension and Adult Education Board should have power to try various types of adult education such as Tutorial Classes of W.E.A. Type, Short series of lectures in country and town, Summer Session Courses, Correspondence tuition, &c.

(e) That an officer be appointed as soon as possible, so that we may ascertain before next session what demand there is for various types of adult education.

To this same meeting in December 1928 Whitfield submitted his extracts from Carnegie Correspondence.

Letter received from Carnegie Corporation, dated 18th October, 1928.

Excerpt from letter.

"The wording of the resolution under which the grant was made is as follows:

RESOLVED, That, from the balance available for appropriation in the Special Fund (applicable elsewhere than in U.S.A.), the sum of five thousand dollars ($5,000) be, and it hereby is, appropriated to the University of Western Australia, for a co-operative program in adult education.

The wording "for a cooperative program in adult education" should be construed as meaning "for its extension education program including tutorial classes in the country and industrial centers and the provision of books therafor."

We are willing to leave to your judgment and that of your staff the best way in which to administer this fund in carrying out the purposes stated. The Corporation does not contemplate a continuation of this grant over a period of years."

On my motion a committee of Six, the Pro Chancellor Andrews, Batty, Dr. Jull, Professor Murdoch, Vice Chancellor Whitfield and Somerville was appointed and instructed to draw up a programme for Adult Education.

Having secured my committee I naturally assumed that the convening of the meeting and its time and place would be left to me and I was annoyed at repeated telephone calls and letters from Whitfield with the transparent objective of securing a favourable decision on his proposal to appoint a permanent salaried Officer.
before his nephew passed on his way to England.

As the result of some blunt statements by me Whitfield threatened to appeal to the Chancellor. My reply was to go ahead and that I would do the same. This I did in the following letter:

12th December, 1928.

Dear Dr. Saw,

I have had a few minutes heart to heart talk with the Vice Chancellor as to the correct procedure to be adopted in calling the Committee which was appointed on my motion.

The conversation concluded with the remark that he would refer the matter to you. I know I can rely upon your keeping an open mind upon the question until you have heard my side.

He even suggests that I desire to hang the matter up indefinitely; that is, of course, rubbish. I differ from him as to what is the most advantageous way of spending the money.

One thing should in my opinion be insisted upon, and in this I am sure I will have your support. There will be no hurried appointments from among the fortunate few who have friends at Court. Any appointments made will be after advertising, which will give a fair field and no favour to all qualified applicants.

Yours truly,

W. Somerville (Signed)

University of Western Australia

PERTH 13th December, 1928.

Tea at 4 p.m.

Dear Sir or Madam,

At the request of the Chancellor a meeting of the Committee appointed by the Senate to draw up a Programme for the establishment of a scheme of Adult Education will be held in the Senate Room of the University on Monday, 17th December, 1928 at 4.15 p.m.

BUSINESS:

1. To consider and bring into being a scheme of Adult Education in connection with the grant of £1023 which has been received from the Carnegie Corporation for this purpose. Attached is a copy of a statement by the Vice-Chancellor of his opinion as to the purposes for which the Grant was made.

2. To consider whether it is advisable for the Committee to interview Mr. F.L.W. Wood, B.A., a Sydney graduate who is proceeding to England, and if he be considered suitable, to offer him a position in connection with the scheme. (Attached is a copy
of a testimonial from the Principal of St. Andrews's College, Sydney, which was recently given to Mr. Wood in connection with his candidature for the Chair of History in Sydney). Mr. Wood has been offered a position in an English school, but would prefer to remain in Australia.

Yours faithfully,

H.E. Whitfield (Signed)

Vice-Chancellor

This was the first knowledge I had of Wood passing through Fremantle although I had had three long talks with Whitfield at each of which he had brought the great attainments of Woods under my notice. Once I knew that he was passing through the strange urgency and insistence of Whitfield was understandable. 13/12/28.

It will be noticed that this meeting had been convened by the Chancellor. As soon as the meeting opened I asked the Chancellor (Saw) why he had so acted. His reply and the subsequent rather heated discussion showed that Whitfield had misrepresented my action as prompted by a desire to delay action unnecessarily and that Saw had up to the meeting been unaware of the Woods matter and the proposal in the second paragraph of the letter (13/12/28)

Mr. Woods did not leave the Mail boat but proceeded to his English job.

After these preliminaries I was voted to the Chair and the official report of the meeting is as follows:-

MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE SENATE TO DRAW UP A PROGRAMME FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHEME OF ADULT EDUCATION HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS, PERTH, MONDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1928, AT 4.15 P.M.

PRESENT:- The Chancellor (the Ecn. Dr. A.J.H. Saw), the Pro-Chancellor (Mr. Cecil Andrews), the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Whitfield), Dr. J.S. Battye, Dr. H.M. Jull, Professor Murdoch, and Mr. W. Somerville.

The Chancellor announced that the meeting had been convened at his request to carry into effect the following resolution of the Senate dealing with the receipt of a Grant of 5,000 dollars (£1023) from the Carnegie Corporation of New York:-
"That a Committee of six (6) be appointed to draw up a
programme for the establishment of a Scheme of Adult
Education, with power to act."

1. ELECTION of CHAIRMAN.

On the motion of Dr. Battye, seconded by the
Pro-Chancellor C. Andrews, Mr. W. Somerville was elected
Chairman.

2. PROGRAMME for SCHEME of ADULT EDUCATION.

Name and Constitution of Committee to Control Scheme.

It was decided to adopt the following name and
Constitution of the Committee to control the Scheme:-

There shall be a committee to be called the "Joint
Committee for Adult Education", to undertake under the
Senate the organisation, supervision and control of
Tutorial Classes, correspondence work and such other
activities as may be deemed advisable, for students not
proceeding to a degree or Diploma.

(a) The Committee shall consist of:-
The Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor
and Director of Tutorial Classes (ex officio.)

(b) Two members appointed by the Senate from its
own number.

(c) Three members of the Teaching Staff appointed
by the Senate on the nomination of the Prof-
essorial Board.

(d) Two members appointed by the Senate on the
nomination of the Australian Labour Federation.

(e) Two additional members may be appointed by the
Senate after consultation with the Joint
Committee.

3. REGULATIONS for CLASSES.

It was decided to adopt provisionally the constitution
and regulations for Tutorial Classes of the University of
Sydney, with such alterations in the wording of the clauses
as may be necessary as per copy attached.

4. QUESTION of APPOINTING a DIRECTOR of CLASSES.

Several proposals were considered, including an offer
from Mr. F. Alexender, M.A., to organise the classes, and
the question of offering Mr. F.L.W. Wood, B.A., who is
proceeding to England, a position in connection with the
Scheme.

After discussion, it was decided to telegraph to
Mr. G.V. Portus, Director of Tutorial Classes at the
University of Sydney, asking whether he would be prepared
to visit Western Australia for a period of about one
month, arriving as early in January, as possible, for
the purpose of investigating and reporting to the Committee
on the question of the establishment of a Scheme of Adult
Education, with the $5000 dollars granted by the Carnegie
Corporation, at a fee of £50 plus travelling expenses;
and that if he is unable to come, he should be asked if
he can suggest someone suitable.

It was understood that the fee will not include
hotel accommodation, and that travelling expenses will
include the following:-

(a) Railway fare and necessary expenses while on the Journey.

(b) Railway fare and necessary expenses excluding hotel accommodation for any travelling in Western Australia authorised by the Committee.

Confirmed

Chairman.

On the report of this meeting being presented to the Senate and consequently published Mr. Alexander offered his services inter alia

The Vice-Chancellor.
The University of Western Australia.
Perth. 14/12/28.

Dear Sir,

I read with interest in Tuesday morning's report of the last meeting of the Senate that a committee had been appointed to prepare a scheme for the administration of the Carnegie Corporation grant for Adult Education in this State.

While I do not know along what lines it is proposed that this work should be conducted during the year, I note the reported summary of your statement to the Senate suggesting "the appointment of an officer to ascertain what demand existed for the various types of adult education (tutorial, correspondence, etc.)" As the reported discussion in the Senate also seemed to suggest that no permanent appointment would be made, and that the office in question would thus, for the present at all events, be part-time only, I should like to place my services at the disposal of the Committee for such organising and tutorial work, or both, in connection with the new departure, as would be consistent with the retention of my present position as Lecturer in History within the University.

During the past eight or nine years, I have had, at different times, some little experience in Adult Education work. In Melbourne, after graduation, I conducted one or two classes occasionally in the Workers' Educational Association by way of relieving then Director of Tutorial Classes, Professor Meredith Atkinson. In Oxford, though I was not actually connected with any W.E.A. work, the organising secretary of the Oxford University Delegacy, for Extra-Mural Studies, Mr. E.S. Cartwright, was a close friend of mine, with whose work I was thus in fairly close touch. I also heard a little of the work of Mansbridge's World Association for Adult Education, of which I am a member. I still hear occasionally from the Secretary of that organisation, Miss Dorothy Jones. In Perth, I have done my share of ordinary University Extension Lecturing.
As the finance in sight was very limited my idea was to give the work of organising the Adult Education work to one of the younger members of the staff. Mr. Alexander seemed to me to be well qualified and I favoured his appointment. But Whitfield discounted his claims. He had not that mysterious thing "Professorial Status", he was fond of the lime light etc so it was decided to ask Mr. Portus to report.

Mr. G.V. Portus.
Director of Tutorial Classes.
University of Sydney.

Dear Sir,

I was in hope that I might meet you on your arrival in Perth to have a chat, but as I may be away I am writing.

The Senate appointed a committee to establish a scheme of Adult Education with power to act. At the only meeting it has held appointed me chairman.

The Committee on my initiative took as its model, for Constitution and regulation, that of Sydney. It adopted a constitution for our "Joint Committee for Adult Education" similar to the Sydney Committee for Tutorial Classes with the important addition of the members appointed by the Senate on the nomination of the Australian Labour Federation.

It also decided to invite you to help us.

That in brief is what has been done up to the present.

I would like to submit for your consideration certain views of my own. I very much desire that whatever scheme for Adult Education is adopted should be such as will appeal to Trade Unionists. I do not mean that anything should be done hostile to non unionists. The number of wage earners in W.A. who are not Unionists is negligible. If the interest of Trade Unionists is aroused you have access to a compact organisation capable of influencing the actions of half the population of W.A.

Moreover all the documents confirm my opinion that when the Carnegie Trust made the grant they intended it should be used by the University and organised Labour acting conjointly.

I would like to suggest that you get in touch with Mr. E.A. Barker the General Secretary of the Australian Labour Federation and get his views on the matter.

The second idea I desire to submit for your consideration is this. I believe that some form of Correspondence Course is especially suited for the requirements of the Country dweller. I have been very much impressed by the splendid work our Education Dept. is doing, in the sphere of Primary Education for the children in isolated homes.
I feel sure that a similar response would come to a correspondence course for adults. Even slight supervision and direction over a course of reading with a definite objective is something which I am sure hundreds of miners, timber workers, farm workers etc are hungry for.

I would suggest if I may that you look into the machinery the Education Department here evolved and so if it can be adapted to suit Adult needs.

Our present task is to find a way to nourish a tentative Adult Education scheme on this grant for three years. If in that time we can show even modest results we will have a strong case to go to the Government for a permanent grant.

If I am away when you arrive it will be for a fortnight or three weeks and I will be back in time to meet you before you leave for home.

Yours truly,
W. Somerville. (Signed)

In the meantime the Senate (March 1929) decided

"to adopt provisionally the constitution and regulations for tutorial classes of the University of Sydney, with such alterations in the wording of the clauses as may be necessary." At the same meeting the following was considered

REPORT OF ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The report of the Committee was received and adopted as follows:-

(1) Election of Chairman.

The Committee reported that Mr. W. Somerville had been elected chairman.

(2) Name and Constitution of Committee to control Scheme.

It was decided to adopt the following name and Constitution of the Committee to control the Scheme:

There shall be a committee to be called the "Joint Committee for Adult Education" to undertake under the Senate the organisation, supervision and control of tutorial classes, correspondence work and such other activities as may be deemed advisable, for students not proceeding to a degree or Diploma.

The Committee shall consist of:-

(a) The Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Director of Tutorial Classes (ex officio)
(b) Two members appointed by the Senate from its own number.
(c) Three members of the Teaching Staff appointed by the Senate on the nomination of the Professorial Board.
(d) Two members appointed by the Senate on the nomination of the Australian Labour Federation.
(e) Two additional members may be appointed by the Senate after consultation with the Joint Committee.

(3) Question of Appointing a Director of Classes, and Scope of Scheme.
The Committee reported:

Several proposals were considered, and it was decided to invite Mr. G.V. Portus, Director of Tutorial Classes at the University of Sydney, to visit Western Australia for the purpose of investigating and reporting to the Committee on the question of the establishment of a Scheme of Adult Education, with the 5000 dollars granted by the Carnegie Corporation. The fee allowed was £50, plus travelling expenses.

Mr. Portus accepted the invitation and submitted a report as per copy attached.

After consideration of his report, it was decided to adopt a scheme for the expenditure of the Carnegie grant in one year on the following lines:

- Correspondence Work £100
- 8 Country Classes @ £30 240
- 8 City & Suburban Classes 240
- A Director at £500 per annum 500
- Total 1090

Less 6 of the above 16 classes taken by Director 180

Total £900

The question of the appointment of a Director of Classes was considered, and it was decided not to advertise the position, but to ask Mr. Portus to ascertain what suitable persons were available. The matter is still under consideration:

The report was adopted.

Next in order are the following correspondence and Senate minutes.

26th March, 1929.

W. Somerville, Esq.,
Chairman of Adult Education Committee,
Arbitration Court,
Perth

Dear Sir,

I have received this morning the following telegram from Portus:

"Interviewed Black who after week cogitation declines Stop Shall I offer job to Ball through Moulden of Melbourne reply by lettergram writing you tonight."

Mr. Parker's Minutes of the meeting read as follows:

"If Miss Hinder was not considered suitable, it was decided to place the other candidates in the following order, and to advise Mr. Portus, so that he could approach them in regard to the matter:

1. Mr. H. Black, B.Ec. (Sydney)
2. Mr. F. Sinclair, M.A. (Oxon) of Melbourne
3. Mr. Lloyd Ross
4. Mr. W.M. Ball of Melbourne.

According to these Minutes we should approach Mr. Sinclair next, while Mr. Ball was placed fourth on the list."
What do you wish to be done?

Yours faithfully,
H. Whitfield (Signed)
Vice-Chancellor.

University of Western Australia

MINUTES of MEETING of ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

HELD at the UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS PERTH

WEDNESDAY 3rd APRIL, 1929 at 4.15 p.m.

PRESENT:  Mr. W. Somerville (Chairman) the Pro-Chancellor
(Mr. Cecil Andrews) the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Whitfield)
Dr. J.S. Bettye and Professor Murdoch.

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed,
after the wording of one of the paragraphs had been
discussed.

2. QUESTION of APPOINTMENT of DIRECTOR of TUTORIAL CLASSES

The following telegram was received from Mr. G.V. Portus:-

"Interviewed Black and after week's cogitation de-
clines. Shall I offer job to Ball through Moulden
of Melbourne."

A further letter was also received from Mr Portus,
recommending Mr. Ball for the position.

After discussion it was decided:-

(1) To confine the offer of appointment to the
position of Director of Tutorial Classes to
First - Mr. F. Sinclaire of Melbourne
Second - Mr. W.M. Ball, of Melbourne

(2) It was decided that the Vice-Chancellor should
send a lettergram to Mr. Sinclaire, explaining
the circumstances, and asking if he is willing
to accept the position. If Mr. Sinclaire de-
clines the position, it was decided to offer the
position to Mr. Ball.

(3) Mr. Portus to be advised of the Committee's
decision, the offers to Sinclaire, and if nec-
essary to Mr. Ball, to be made both directly
by the University and also through Mr. Portus.

(4) The Committee decided not to include Miss Hinder
as a third choice for the position of Director,
and also decided to eliminate Mr. Lloyd Ross from
consideration owing to his present employment in
New Zealand.

(5) If both Sinclaire and Ball decline the position,
it was decided to call another meeting of the
Committee to consider the matter.
(6) A letter was received from Mr. G.C. Billing, Launceston, asking for information regarding the position of Director for which he would be a candidate if the position is advertised.

It was decided to reply that for the present it was not intended to advertise the position.

3. CONSTITUTION OF COMMITTEE

It was decided to recommend the senate to constitute the "Joint Committee for Adult Education" as early as possible, to take over the work of the present Committee, and that the nominations necessary should, if possible, be brought before the next meeting of the Senate. It was decided to write to the Australian Labour Federation asking them to nominate two members in time for the Senate Meeting.

The question of the nomination of two additional members to be appointed by the Senate after consultation with the Joint Committee - Section (e) of Constitution - was held over for the present.

Confirmed

Chairman.

The University of Melbourne
FACULTY OF COMMERCE
MELBOURNE, N.S.W.

3rd April, 1929.

Dear Fortus,

Sorry I could not send you the message yesterday. The University was closed and I was not able to get Ball’s record. I wired you this morning and am now amplifying this message. I am making an additional copy of this letter so that if you think it would be expedient for me to send a copy direct to Perth I can do so.

I have been making enquiries into Ball’s career with a view to nominating him for a Fellowship under the Rockefeller Foundation and only a few days ago I had decided to do so. I do not know how an offer from Perth would affect his plans.

Ball took a first-class Honours in the School of Philosophy. During his course he got a First Class in Psychology Logic and Ethics in the first year, a First Class in the History of Philosophy and Advanced Ethics in the second year, and a First Class and the Hastie Scholarship in Philosophy in his third year. He also divided the Dwight prize in Sociology in his third year. He has had considerable experience as a lecturer to Tutorial Classes and is very highly spoken of as a tutor. He has also been a tutor in Philosophy School and Professor Boyce Gibson has a high opinion of him. He undertook research into the "Psychology of Behaviourism" (I hope I have the title correct) and the nature of this work was such that Boyce Gibson recommended him to me as a person who might usefully go abroad.
In 1928, when a change was made in teaching Sociology in the University, Ball was appointed lecturer and he has at last lifted the subject on to a decent academic plane. He turned it from a flotsam and jetsam of everything into a well co-ordinated study of the History of Political Philosophy.

I have seen a good deal of Ball during the past three years, and have no doubt whatever that his personal qualities are such that would commend him to people with whom he should have to work in his W.E.A. activities.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

(rgd) D.B. Copland.

to Mr. G.V. Portus,
Dept. of Tutorial Classes,
University,
SYDNEY N.S.W.

9th April, 1929.

Professor D.B. Copland
The University of Melbourne,
MELEURNE, N.3. VICTORIA

Dear Professor Copland,

Many thanks for the copy of the letter addressed to Portus with reference to Ball, which has just come to hand.

I expect that Portus told you the position in which we are placed here. We have a certain grant from the Carnegie Foundation which will enable us to start Tutorial Classes, and we think that given a successful run for a year, they would not be allowed to drop. The disadvantage of such a position is that we cannot at present offer permanent employment. W.M. Ball was one of the men mentioned to us by Portus and my Committee is considering the position. Whether he will be likely to come or not we do not know, and we have not made any offer to him up to the present.

In any case I wish to thank you for the trouble which you have taken.

Yours faithfully,

H. Whitfield (rgd)
Vice-Chancellor

5th April, 1929.

Mr. F. Sinclaire.
C/o University of Melbourne.
CARLTON VICTORIA

Dear Mr. Sinclaire,

I have to-day telegraphed to you as follows:-

"University of Western Australia has received grant for one year from Carnegie Corporation for Adult Education and contemplates establishing Tutorial
Classes. We require Director of Classes and offer £500 for one year, plus first class fare. Good prospects of getting State grant next year, in which case work likely to be permanent. Would you accept position of Director for one year. Writing. Vice-Chancellor."

I might inform you that on receipt of this grant of 5000 dollars from the Carnegie Corporation for Adult Education, the University consulted Mr. G.V. Portus, of the University of Sydney, and decided to adopt a scheme on the following lines:-

(1) That a one year scheme should be adopted, it being thought that should this prove a success it is extremely unlikely that the State Government would fail to provide money so that it could be continued.

(2) That classes should be started if the demand warrants it in both City and Suburbs and also in Country.

(3) That instead of the usual 24 meetings of the classes the number should be cut down to 12 meetings, the cost of each class being estimated at about £30.

(4) That a Director should be appointed at a salary of £500 for the year's work, and that his duties, in addition to the work of organisation and supervision, might include the taking of anything up to 6 of these classes, that is a maximum of 72 lectures.

(5) That a tentative budget for the year should be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence Work</td>
<td>£100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Country Classes @ £30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8 City and Suburban Classes</td>
<td>£240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Director at £500 per annum</td>
<td>£500</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>£1080</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Less 6 of the above 16 classes taken by Director 180

£900

The scheme is to be controlled by a committee of Adult Education appointed by the University, and constituted as follows:-

(a) The Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Director of Tutorial Classes (ex officio).

(b) Two members appointed by the Senate from its own number.

(c) Three members of the Teaching Staff appointed by the Senate on the nomination of the Professorial Board.

(d) Two members appointed by the Senate on the nomination of the Australian Labour Federation.

(e) Two additional members may be appointed by the Senate after consultation with the Joint Committee.
Mr. Portus' idea was that the last two members should be nominated by some voluntary organisation such as the Workers' Educational Association or Association for Adult Education.

The University decided to ascertain whether you would be willing to undertake this work, and if so, when you could begin duty in Perth.

Yours faithfully,

H. Whitfield (Sgd)

Vice-Chancellor

LETTERGRAM RECEIVED FROM F. SINCLAIRE,
MELBOURNE, 10/4/29.

"Am awaiting your letter for details. Meanwhile disposed to accept offer but salary less than present income and permanence doubtful. Could English Lectureship recently advertised be combined with temporary Directorship leaving permanent arrangement till next year or could Lectureship be otherwise combined with Tutorial Classes and supervision."

SINCLAIRE."

54 Wattle Road,
Hawthorn.
Victoria.

April, 17th, 1929.

The Vice-Chancellor.

University of Western Australia.

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your letter of April 5th containing details of the proposal with which you favoured me by telegraph. I have delayed answering for fear that confusion might arise from the crossing of letters or telegrams. You will meanwhile have received my telegram of April 9th. Since sending it, I have communicated with Professor Murdoch, and on his advice am sending today an application for the lectureship in English. As I have explained in a letter to him this application is conditional on the adoption by your Council of some such proposal as I have made for combining the lectureship with some modified form of directorship. I have suggested that a part of the director's salary should be allocated to a secretary or assistant who would relieve the director of some of the routine work. I hope my suggestion will not be considered presumptuous, and that your Council will understand that I have made it because I appreciate the honour they have done me, and am anxious to find a way to accept it. At present I am prevented by two considerations - one monetary, and the other the doubt of permanence. If your Council, either along the lines of my suggestion or in any other way, can overcome these difficulties, I shall be glad to accept their offer.
In my letter to Professor Murdoch, I instanced cases here of men who combined University lectureships with a good deal of W.E.A. work. I believe that if your Council should be satisfied with my qualifications for the lectureship, I could undertake (with some help) both positions. If your Council approves, I am prepared to give the combined post a trial, leaving the permanent adjustment for future settlement.

I shall hope to hear your decision shortly. If appointed, I am prepared to leave Melbourne almost immediately, but I should be glad to know the latest date at which I might begin work in Perth.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Yours obediently,

(Sgd) F. Sinclair.

54 Wattle Road, Hawthorn, Victoria.

April 16th, 1929.

The Registrar,
University of Western Australia.

Dear Sir,

I beg to offer myself as a candidate for the post of lecturer in English Language and Literature.

I enclose copies of testimonials, and a brief statement of scholastic qualifications and of experience in the teaching of English.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) F. SINCLAIRE

Scholastic Career.

(a) University of New Zealand

Prize in English
Senior Scholarship in Latin
M.A. with first class honours in Classics.

I also read Honours English (including Old and Middle English) for two years.

(b) Manchester College, Oxford

Diploma, with first-class honours, for a post-graduate course of three years in theology (This Diploma was received in lieu of the Oxford
degree of B.D. which till recently was granted only
priests in Anglican Orders.

Martinese Prize in Hebrew.

At the end of my course I also gained the
Williams Scholarship, open to graduates of British
Universities, for proficiency in Hebrew and classical
languages.

Teaching Experience

I have been associated with the University
of Melbourne since 1915, acting for one year as day-
lector and for part of a year as substitute for
Professor Wallace on his appointment to Sydney, besides
giving occasional courses by invitation at other times.
During this time, I have also given several Extension
courses, and for the last five or six years I have been
in charge of several W.E.A. classes. I have also had
many years' experience as a private tutor. My teaching
has covered both the literary and the linguistic courses
in English up to the standard for final honours.

I may add that I am Vice-President of the
Melbourne branch of the English Association, and that
one of my published works has been used as a prescribed
text-book in Victoria.

THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Carlton.
5th December, 1924.

I do not know anyone in Australia who is better
fitted to occupy a Chair of English than Mr. F. Sinclair.
His early training at school and university was in classical
literature, which is, if I may say so, the best kind of
training that a student of English can have. He became
interested in our own literature in his undergraduate day,
and has read very widely in it since, carrying his researches
into all branches and periods of the subject from Old English
to the present day. To his reading he brings much independ-
ence of judgment; his criticism is always original and
informative; and no one writes more attractive prose.

I had the pleasure of having Mr. Sinclair as
my evening lecturer for a time, and later as a day lecturer.
He has also frequently been my co-examiner, both in univer-
sity and in school examinations. He is an excellent exam-
iner and an excellent lecturer. At the moment he is taking
a big part in the work of the W.E.A., and he is, to my know-
ledge, by far the best lecturer and tutor in literature that
the Association can command. Last term, at my suggestion,
the University Council asked Mr. Sinclair to deliver to
Honours Classes in English, six lectures on Dante's Divine
Comedy. I attended the lectures myself and can testify
how much they were appreciated by the students.

From what I have said it will be clear how wide
Mr. Sinclair's culture is. He is a scholar in the best
sense, intensely interested in literature himself, and
having the gift of rousing interest in others. In all
the positions he has held here, he has always won the
admiration and the affection of his pupils. If someone is
wanted who will make literature a living force in the
University, Mr. Sinclair is the man.
I should like to add that Mr. Sinclaire has the highest ideals, and is thoroughly sincere in all he does and says. I have always found him a most pleasant colleague and friend.

(Signed) R.S. Wallace, M.A.
(Former and Aberdeen)

Professor of English Language and Literature.
(Now Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney).

UNIVERSITY of MELBOURNE EXTENSION BOARD

University,
Carlton,
Victoria,
October 18, 1927.

Mr. F. Sinclaire, M.A., has been associated with the work of the University Extension Board under my direction for the last four years, and I understand that his active interest in this type of work goes back considerably beyond this. During this period, in addition to taking various University Extension Lectures in his subject of English literature, Mr Sinclaire has acted as tutor to a number of tutorial classes for members of the Workers' Educational Association. Last year he conducted four of these classes in Castlemaine, Ballarat, Brunswick, and the city. This year he has again had four classes, Ballarat, Brunswick and two in the city. Mr. Sinclaire has always shown himself a competent tutor and able to interest his students without sacrificing the academic requirements of teaching.

With regard to public lectures for the Extension Board Mr Sinclaire has given special lectures from time to time, for example, a course of several lectures on Dante, and at the second Vacation School he was responsible for the lectures in Literature. At the public Fortnight held this year Mr. Sinclaire gave a course of six lectures on "Great Modern Writers." This course was well attended (170 enrolled), and the lectures were much appreciated by those attending.

For the past 18 months Mr Sinclaire has acted as tutor in connection with the Board's correspondence course in English Literature and in this type of work, as in the conduct of his classes, has shown himself a conscientious and reliable teacher.

(Signed) J. ALEXANDER GUNN
(M.A. B.Sc. Ph.D.) Director of Tutorial Classes and Professor in the University of Melbourne.

10th April, 1929.

Secretary.
Australian Labour Federation,
Trades Hall,
PERTH

Dear Sir,

I have to inform you that at the last meeting
of the Senate it was decided to ask the Australian Labour Federation to nominate two members to a "Joint Committee for Adult Education" which has been constituted by the University.

In October last, the University received a grant of $5000 dollars from the Carnegie Corporation for Adult Education.

The University consulted Mr. O.V. Portus, of the University of Sydney, and decided to adopt a scheme on the following lines:-

1. That a one year scheme should be adopted, it being thought that should this prove a success it is extremely unlikely that the State Government would fail to provide money so that it could be continued.

2. That classes should be started if the demand warrants it in both City and Suburbs and also in Country.

3. That instead of the usual 2½ meetings of the classes the number should be cut down to 12 meetings, the cost of each class being estimated at about £30.

4. That a Director should be appointed at a salary of £500 for the year's work, and that his duties, in addition to the work of organisation and supervision, might include the taking of anything up to 6 of these classes, that is, a maximum of 72 lectures.

5. That a tentative budget for the year should be as follows:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Correspondence Work</td>
<td>£100</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 Country Classes @ £30</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 City and Suburban Classes</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Director at £500 per annum</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Less 6 of the above 16 classes taken by Director</strong></td>
<td><strong>180</strong></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>£980</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The scheme is to be controlled by a Committee of Adult Education appointed by the University, and constituted as follows:-

(a) The Chancellor, Pro-Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, and Director of Tutorial Classes (ex officio).

(b) Two members appointed by the Senate from its own number.

(c) Three members of the Teaching Staff appointed by the Senate on the nomination of the Professorial Board.

(d) Two members appointed by the Senate on the nomination of the Australian Labour Federation.
(e) Two additional members may be appointed by the Senate after consultation with the Joint Committee.

I shall be glad if you can let me know the names of your nominees, if possible in time for the meeting of the Senate on Monday evening, 15th April.

Yours faithfully,
H. Whitfield (Sgd)
Vice-Chancellor.

22nd April, 1929.

Memo. for Mr. W. Somerville.

Minutes of Senate Meeting, 15th April, 1929.

Constitution of Adult Education Committee

The Chancellor called at the University Office this morning, and I mentioned to him that you considered that the Senate at its last meeting decided to accept the nominations from the Australian Labor Federation when they were forwarded, and the Chancellor decided to amend the Senate Minutes to read as follows:-

"It was decided to accept the two nominations from the Australian Labor Federation, when received, so that the "Joint Committee for Adult Education" could be fully constituted, and a meeting of the Committee held if necessary before the next Senate meeting."

The nominations received from the General Secretary of the Australian Labor Federation are as follows:-

Miss May Holman, M.L.A.
Mr. E.H. Barker.

(Sgd) R.E. Parker.

ACCOUNTANT

UNIVERSITY of WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MINUTES of MEETING of JOINT COMMITTEE for ADULT EDUCATION

HELD at the UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS, PERTH.

WEDNESDAY, 15th MAY, 1929 at 4.15 p.m.

PRESENT:— The Pro-Chancellor (Dr. Cecil Andrews), the Vice-Chancellor (Professor Whitfield), Mr. W. Somerville, Mr. E.H. Barker, and Professors Cameron, Murdoch and Ross.

Apologies were received from Dr. Jull and Miss May Holman, M.L.A.

1. FORMAL CONSTITUTION of COMMITTEE

Mr. W. Somerville stated that the Committee had been formed to take over the work of the temporary Adult Education Committee which had been constituted by
the Senate to control the expenditure of a grant of 5000 dollars received from the Carnegie Corporation.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. W. Somerville was unanimously elected Chairman of the Committee.

3. QUESTION OF APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR OF ADULT EDUCATION

A summary of the position regarding the question of the appointment of a Director of Adult Education was laid before the Committee, showing the negotiations with various people (copy attached to Minutes).

The Chairman reported that Mr. F. Sinclair M.A., of Melbourne was the next in order of the Committee's preference, but as it was found that the salary of £500 was not sufficient to attract him the suggestion had been made that the position of Director of Adult Education be combined with that of Lecturer in English in the following manner:

To be appointed Lecturer in English at £350 per annum and Director of Adult Education, also at £350, giving him a total salary of £700 per annum, and that £150 be allowed for secretarial assistance in the Adult Education Scheme.

The Chairman announced that the General Purposes Committee had decided that, if the Joint Committee for Adult Education is in favour of such a scheme, it would recommend its approval.

The financial arrangements had been referred to the Finance Committee for consideration.

It was decided to report to the Senate that the Committee was in favour of the appointment of Mr. F. Sinclair to the combined position of Lecturer in English and Director of Adult Education, and was prepared to agree to an expenditure up to £350 from the Carnegie Grant to secure Mr. Sinclair's services.

As the Senate had provided a salary of £450 for the Lecturer in English and the total sum available for Adult Education was small, it was decided to suggest that the full sum of £450 be used for the combined position of Lecturer in English and Director of Adult Education leaving £250 to come from the Adult Education Funds.

It was decided to ask the Vice-Chancellor to write to Mr. Sinclair explaining the position, so that he could come to a decision on receiving a telegram after the Senate Meeting.

Confirmed

Chairman

May 20, 1929.

Appointment of Lecturer in English and Director of Adult Education

21 applications for the position of Lecturer in English were received from Australia and 8 applications
SUCH ANS.

WHICH

ACCEPT OFFER I HAVE WELCOMED THURSDAY TRINITY

29th May, 1929.

SHOWN TO ME. 29th

At 6th May, 1929.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM SINGAPORE (English Text)

TO: MEDICAL UNIVERSITY,

SINGAPORE.

6th May, 1929.

Ph. Wattle Road.

CONTRIBUTION REPLY PAID.

SECOND TERM BEGINS JUNE TENTH BUT CONE EARLIER IF

ACCEPT AND IF SO WHEN YOU CAN ARRIVE PERHAPS STOP

LETTER OF SIXTEENTH MAY PLEASE REPLY WHETHER YOU

UNIVERSITY OFFERS JOINT POSITION FOLLOWING DROPPING INES MY

VICTORIA.

Ph. Wattle Road.

TO P. SHONULLER.

COPY OF TELEGRAM SENT 29TH MAY, 1929.

and addressed as follows:

The report of the Finance committee was received.

REPORT OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

If we would accept the combined position.

It was decided to telegraph to Mr. Shonulle, asking

the adult education scheme.

That £500 be allowed for secretarial assistance in

funds.

That the Senate be provided with a salary of £400

director of adult education.

combined position of lecturer in British and the

That we accept the combined position for adult education

Finance committee, it was decided:

Professor

From Great Britain.

696.
I am prepared to take up duties immediately on my arrival, and should like to meet my Committee as soon as possible. As we shall be making a late start, I shall be grateful for any preliminary arrangements they can make, and shall fall in with them, I shall have to rely a good deal on their knowledge of local conditions - suitable lectures and suitable places of meeting -- in arranging for this year's work. I am drawing up, and shall submit to them at our first meeting, suggested syllabuses for my own courses, and tentative proposals about other matters. It might save a little time if they could get some preliminary general announcements in the Press. I don't know who is the proper person to whom such a request should be made, and I hope you will forgive me for troubling you in the matter.

All this relates of course only to my work as Director of Tutorial Classes. With regard to the rest of my work I am expecting instructions from Professor Murdoch, and have written to him.

I am looking forward to my work and shall do my best to justify the confidence of your Senate.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) F. SINCLAIRE.

30th May, 1929.

Dear Mr. Somerville,

I enclose herewith a copy of a letter from Mr. F. Sinclair who is arriving on Monday next. He wishes to meet his Committee as soon as possible, but Professor Whitfield suggests that it would be better to talk things over with you rather than call a full Committee meeting before Mr. Sinclair has made his plans.

Will you please let me know what you wish.

Yours faithfully,

A.S. Prechaw (Sgd)

Clerk of Records.
THE UNIVERSITY,
7th May, 1929.

My Dear Vice-Chancellor,

I have gone carefully through the 21 Australasian applications for the Lectureship in English, and have come to the following conclusions.

I would place three candidates above all the rest, and I would place these three in the following order of preference:

1. Mr. F. Sinclair
2. Miss Vera Jennings
3. Miss Bertha Boughton.

If Mr. Sinclair's were a straight-out, unconditional application, I think we could scarcely hesitate to appoint him. The letter of Professor Wallace will give you an indication of why I speak so decidedly. What Professor Wallace says I have known for myself for a long time. For twenty years I have known Mr. Sinclair for a man of rare force and originality of mind, and have admired his wide scholarship and his exceptional courage and independence. I have heard him lecture several times and have recognised the stimulating and provocative quality of his discourse.

Mr. Sinclair, however, only applies for the position I understand, with the stipulation that, if appointed, he be given a position also in connection with Adult Education. We could certainly not expect to get such a man to come here for £450. I suggest that Mr. Sinclair be appointed English Lecturer at £350 per annum, and Director of Tutorial Classes, also at £350, giving him a total salary of £700; that £100 be paid to a junior assistant in English, and £150 for secretarial assistance in the Adult Education Scheme. (That is, of course, if the Adult Education Committee thinks him a suitable person to be Director.)

If this plan does not appeal to the Senate, and it is decided that the English Lecturer should be a separate person from the Director of Adult Education, I recommend that Miss Jennings be appointed. She holds an Oxford honours degree, and before going to Oxford she was a distinguished Melbourne graduate, with 1st-class honours in English and 1st-class honours in Philosophy, as well as honours in French and German. She has had experience of University teaching, and her testimonials are excellent.

Miss Houghton is, I think, the best qualified of the nine applicants resident in Western Australia. She, too, won 1st-class honours in English and Philosophy, did good work (unfortunately cut short through lack of funds) at Cambridge under Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, and has had long experience of teaching (though not of University Teaching.)

I am quite confident that each of these three applicants has the necessary background of scholarship and that each of them is capable of giving our students sound and stimulating teaching.

Of course this statement must be provisional, since the applications from England have not yet arrived.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) WALTER MURDOCH
As will be gathered from the Vice Chancellors letter to the Premier of 8/7/29 the enrollment for classes was far beyond our expectations. It was evident that to continue even for three years, more financial help was necessary, so it was decided to approach the State Premier. The following correspondence will show our failure to enlist any help from that quarter.

Mr. Parkers letter is included as a matter of Historical curiosity.

C/- University,
Irwin Street,
PERTH
24th June, 1929.

Dear Mr. Somerville,

During my recent visit to the Eastern States, I called on the secretaries of the W.E.A. in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, and obtained copies of their Annual Reports, and the reports of the University Tutorial Class Committees, which I have handed to Mr. Sinclaire.

Mr. Portus also gave me his annual Report for 1928, a copy of which I enclose for your information.

In Queensland the University decided to treat the grant of 5000 dollars from the Carnegie Corporation as capital, and use the interest, about £55, to form another tutorial class.

Both in Queensland and Melbourne, the W.E.A. appeared to be at loggerheads with the University.

The Queensland Government treat the W.E.A. generously, giving them an annual grant of £1,000, free use of a suite of rooms, and an all-lines railway pass for an organiser to travel over the State.

In Sydney, the W.E.A. are allowed a grant of £500, and the free use of a room by the Education Dept.

Mr. Portus has been pressing for an increase in his grant but the University Council seem to be opposed to his grant being increased, and have not approved of any further request being made to the Government.

The Carnegie Corporation gave the Sydney W.E.A. 5000 dollars to establish a Library. The Secretary, (Mr. Stewart) seemed to think the Carnegie Corporation would always be sympathetic to a request for a book grant.

I had a long talk with Mr. Thompson (W.E.A. Secretary, Melbourne), and Mr. Stewart (W.E.A. Secretary, Sydney), and they gave me a good deal of information which I have passed on to Mr. Sinclaire.

I had a very interesting trip, calling at all the capitals, including Canberra, and coming back by aeroplane from Adelaide.

Yours sincerely,

R.E. Parker (Sgd)
8th July, 1929.

The Secretary to the Premier,
Premier's Department,
Perth

Dear Sir,

You may remember that towards the end of last year, the University received from the Carnegie Corporation, New York, U.S.A. an amount of about £1000 as a grant for the encouragement of Adult Education.

After making certain preliminary inquiries, the University recently appointed a Director of Adult Education and invited applications from those who wished to attend classes in the following subjects:

Psychology
English Literature
Economics
History
Astronomy

The entries far exceeded our anticipations and now reach the number of more than 600. The Joint Committee for Adult Education, which consists of members of the University Senate and Teaching Staff together with representatives of the Trades Hall, is faced with the problem of either turning away a number of students or else spending its grant more rapidly than it intended. By limiting our classes to five, centered in Perth, we could manage to finance our scheme to the end of 1930. On the other hand, this would mean that a large number of applicants would be turned away in Perth and practically nothing could be done in Fremantle or the country.

The Committee discussed the matter with the Hon. the Minister for Education and I understand that he consulted the Hon. the Premier, who stated that he was willing to receive a deputation.

(Sgd) H.E. Whitfeld.

Vice Chancellor
Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 8th July, having reference to the question of Adult Education, I have to advise you that the Premier has given consideration to the matter, but has decided that a deputation is unnecessary, as he regrets that there is no chance of a grant for this purpose being approved during the current year. It would, therefore, be advisable to conserve the resources upon which you are now depending to the greatest extent possible.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) L.E. Shapcott.
SECRETARY, PREMIER'S DEPARTMENT.

To The Vice-Chancellor,
University of Western Australia,
PERTH

As the State Premier had failed us and as money would soon be exhausted it was decided to secure the support of Portus and Wilson of N.S.W., Copland of Melbourne and Brigden of Tasmania in a joint approach to the Carnegie Corporation to secure a repetition of their grant. Before doing this it was thought advisable to report to the Corporation what we had done with their grant. To draft this was Whitfeld's job, and the following is how he did it.

31st July, 1929.

F.P. Keppel, Esq.,
President,
Carnegie Foundation,
522 Fifth Avenue,
New York City,
NEW YORK. U.S.A.

Dear Sir,

You will remember that in 1928 the Carnegie Corporation made a grant to the University of Western
Australia of 5000 dollars for a cooperative programme in Adult Education. I enclose herewith a report showing the work which has been undertaken with this grant. There has been an unexpectedly great demand for tutorial classes in Perth, and the money at our disposal will not enable us either to meet that demand or to extend our work into the country. We applied to the State Government for financial assistance, but unfortunately there has been a heavy fall in the prices of wheat and wool this year, and Western Australia is a country of primary production depending very largely on its pastoral and agricultural industries. The State Government is undoubtedly sympathetic, but has to economise at the present moment, and was unable to make a special grant. The University, therefore, decided to ask the Carnegie Corporation whether it would be willing to make a further grant for a few years until the scheme could be thoroughly proved, when we have no doubt that the Government will make a special grant for the purpose.

In my letter of May 24th, 1928 I also mentioned certain other proposals which the Corporation might think worthy of financial support. The University has instructed me to place before you the following list of ways in which the Carnegie Corporation could assist us in educational work in this State:—

(1) £1000 as an annual grant for Adult Education for general working expenses during the next four years.

(2) Library Books - £1000. £500 to be for general library and £500 for the Adult Education Library.

(3) Publication of research work - £500

(4) Experiment in Summer Session Courses - £200

(5) Travelling Fellowships.

Details with regard to these items were given in my letters of last year, and they were also discussed with Dr. James Russell during his visit.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Corporation for the grant which it has already made, and which has