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
greatly stimulated interest in Adult Education in our midst.

Yours faithfully,
(Sgd) H. Whitfield.

Vice-Chancellor.

This draft is a striking illustration of Whitfeld's character and of his conception of his duty as chief executive Officer. From the words "In my letter of May 24" to the end it is a weak man's stubborn reassertion of something which has been decided against him; it is also an illustration of his misrepresentation of the Senate decisions and the substitution of his own views thereon which led to such muddles as that over the plans for the Science buildings, the commitment of the Senate to permanent employment of the German refugee Kaula etc.

The University had not instructed him to ask for funds for the Publication of research work and for the creation of Travelling Fellowships. The University had in fact brushed these proposals aside as being foreign to Adult Education Work, and absurd to contemplate on a nonrecurring grant of 5000 dollars.

I refused to pass the report and it was altered as follows

University of Western Australia
PERTH 31st July, 1929.

REPORT on the UTILISATION of the GRANT made by the CARNEGIE CORPORATION for ADULT EDUCATION

In 1928 the Carnegie Corporation made a grant of 5000 dollars to assist the University of Western Australia in a cooperative programme in Adult Education. The matter was carefully considered and was discussed with representatives of organised labour. It was finally decided that the first step should be to initiate a scheme of Tutorial Classes for adults on lines similar to those adopted in connection with the Workers' Educational Association in the other States.
Before embarking on this scheme the University decided to invite Mr. G.V. Portus, who is Director of Tutorial Classes in Sydney University, to visit Western Australia. Mr. Portus recommended the establishment of a small scheme with a programme extending over 12 or 18 months under the charge of a Director. In order to conserve the money available for Adult Education and at the same time secure the services of a capable organiser, it was then arranged to combine the position of Director of Tutorial Classes with a vacant University Lectureship in English. Mr. F. Sinclair, M.A. was appointed.

Students were invited to enrol for five classes in the metropolitan area of Perth, and the response far exceeded our expectations. It is generally agreed that 30 students is the maximum number for a tutorial class, if satisfactory discussions, etc. are to take place. More than 600 applications for enrolment were, however, received, and the University was placed in the position that it must either exclude from the classes a great number of applicants, and give up the idea of starting classes in the country districts, or else must obtain more funds. The Government of Western Australia was approached for a special grant. Unfortunately, however, the recent drop in the price of wheat and wool, the two commodities on which the prosperity of the State largely depends made the time inopportune for obtaining a grant from the State Government. It was decided, therefore, to place the position before the Governing Body of the Carnegie Corporation. There appears to be little doubt that there is a considerable need for classes of this description in Western Australia, and if the scheme can be thoroughly tried in the Metropolitan area and the country, it will be found to meet an educational want in the community. At a more opportune time the State Government will doubtless be willing to make a special grant for Adult Education as has been done in all the
other Australian States.

W. Somerville.
Chairman of the Committee of Adult Education

31st July, 1929.

William Somerville, Esq.,
The Australian Hotel,
KALGOORLIE W.A.

Dear Somerville,

I enclose herewith draft report, which I thought might be sent to the Carnegie Corporation in connection with the request for more money for Adult Education. I thought that perhaps you might care to sign this.

The letter to the Carnegie Corporation I will, of course, sign. It includes the various requests in the order fixed by the Senate. I enclose also a rough draft of this letter.

Yours faithfully,
H.E. Whitfeld (Sgd)

Vice-Chancellor

In order to present a slightly different picture of the beginning of Adult Education in W.A. there is included here some extracts from an article written by Mr Bruce Newton and included in a Manuscript Journal which had a short life of two numbers in 1935. Mr. Foxcroft and Mr Stewart did valuable pioneer work, but in the interest of accuracy it must be pointed out that they were drawing on their 22 year old memories and I am afraid have mixed up what happened in 1913 with what happened in 1928. It is significant that they say that all their records have been lost.

Mr. Newton as a clerk in the employ of the Senate had access to the records and his account of the regulations and courses after 1929 are of interest.

A BRIEF SURVEY of ADULT EDUCATION in WESTERN AUSTRALIA

I have been asked to write for this Magazine
the history of the adult education movement in this State.

Adult Education began in this State a quarter of a century ago and was founded by Dr. Albert Mansbridge and a group of local enthusiasts. Few of that original band remain but by a fortunate chance I have been able to obtain from Mr. Gilbert Foxcroft and Mr. David Stewart a fairly accurate account of what took place in the early history of the movement. What follows is therefore a co-ordinated precis of their remarks and, before proceeding, I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to these two gentlemen for furnishing me with the early details of the Movement.

In order to put Adult Education into its proper perspective it should be divided into two periods; the first being the establishing of the W.E.A. in Western Australia before the War; the second the re-organisation under the main influence of the University after the War. Between these two stages of development there is an inter-regnum of some ten or more years.

1. Workers Educational Association

In 1907 Dr. Albert Mansbridge founded a system of adult education in England for working men and women. The new movement spread rapidly and in due course a centre was opened at Blackburn in Lancashire where Mr. Gilbert Foxcroft became interested in the movement. Soon afterwards Mr. Foxcroft came out to Australia to pursue his career as a teacher.

The scene now changes to Fremantle in the year 1913; the Australian Labour Party was holding its Conference at the port when Dr. Mansbridge passed through on his way to Sydney. He was met by his one-time Blackburn Secretary at the quay and the prospects of forming a W.E.A. in Western Australia were discussed. Mr. Foxcroft was to approach representative bodies here and have everything in readiness for Dr. Mansbridge when he passed through Fremantle on his return to England.

An energetic little committee at once got to work and canvassed organised bodies of working men, trades unions, the Perth co-operative society, Church men's societies, teachers, women's organisations, and so forth, and urged these groups to express their educational requirements. An initial meeting was called and delegates from all the canvassed organisations attended. The Perth Branch of the W.E.A. was formed. Archbishop Riley was the President, Mr. Hal Colebatch and Professor Shann were Vice-Presidents, and Mr. C. Foxcroft the secretary. The Committee included Cecil Andrews, Hon. Thos. Walker (then Minister for Education), Alex. McCullum, Mrs. Cowan, Dr. Jull, Professors Murdoch and Dakin, and Mr. E. Stubbs, the then member for Subiaco.

This executive duly met Dr. Mansbridge when he passed through Fremantle and final details were then settled. A constitution was drawn up providing for individual membership and the affiliation of organisations and a large number of bodies sent in subscriptions varying from one guinea upwards. There is no record of class fees being charged to W.E.A. students nor of any payment being made to lecturers for their services. Apparently the affiliation fees paid by various unions and other bodies provided the working funds.
The first class to be started was one in Economics which was conducted by Professor Shann in the old University buildings in Irwin Street. No rent was charged for the accommodation. This class consisted of 30 students and continued for the rest of the year 1913.

The movement gathered pace. In 1914 the original class in Economics continued as an advanced class under Professor Shann who also started an Elementary Economics class at Perth. Two of the senior members of the first economics class were selected as tutors and a class was started at Fremantle under Mr. Foxcroft, whilst a second class under Mr. A.W. Stewart was conducted on Sunday afternoons in the Subiaco State School. The Perth classes were held on Saturday nights. Serious work was done in those days and every member of the classes had to undertake prescribed reading and submit class essays and, on occasion, to get out in front of the class and lead the discussion.

By 1915 the scheme had become firmly established and the University was co-operating in the matter of framing studies and supplying lecturers. Courses were delivered in Botany by Professor Dakin, on Optics by Professor Ross and on Literature by Professor Murdoch. The war had started and funds were beginning to run low. The Government was approached through the Minister of Education and the Perth Branch of the W.E.A. was given the assurance that the matter of financial assistance would be placed on the next Estimates.

The war continued and by the time the estimator came before the House the cry for economy had become so insistent that such trifles as grants for educating the workers were given short shrift; war was all that mattered in those days. Economics were practised within the W.E.A. but the rift that was to rend the movement had started.

Thus one of the many, many unrecorded victims of the Great War was the Perth Branch of the Workers Educational Association, born in the unlucky year of 1913. With it died all its records for I think its founders were too sick at heart to keep those little mementoes of the infant they had cherished and lost. Among the names however should be recorded to remind us of the pioneers of adult education in Western Australia, are Dr. Albert Mansbridge, Professor E.O.G. Shann, Mr Gilbert Foxcroft, and his successor as secretary, Mr Dave Stewart.

2. The Joint Committee for Tutorial Classes.

The re-birth of adult education in 1928 was to have been on the tutorial class lines and thus we find the University in control of the Carnegie Grant. A conference was immediately called between University executives and representatives of the Trades Hall and it was decided to invite Mr. G.V. Portus to visit Perth and frame a scheme of adult education on the lines of the Sydney University Tutorial Classes, of which he was the Director. In the meantime there was set up within the University a "Joint Committee for Adult Education" the members of which were to be drawn from the University Senate and teaching staff and also from the Perth branch of the Australian Labour Party. Applications were called throughout Australia for a Director of Tutorial Classes and, following upon Mr. Portus's recommendation, Mr. F. Sinclaire was appointed Director on the 15th May, 1929.

The regulations which were framed in 1929
stated, inter alia, that: Tutorial classes were to consist of 24 weekly meetings for three successive years. Each class was to appoint a class secretary and a librarian. The subjects to be taught were to be those embraced by the Faculty of Arts, but pure-Science subjects such as Biology could be treated in a non-technical manner. Each class was to run for two hours, half the period being devoted to general classwork and half to open discussion and criticism of essays. The fee for lectures was to be 2s.6d. per course per annum. The minimum size of a class was fixed at ten students and the desired maximum at 25.

In March 1929 the starting of classes at Perth and Fremantle was advertised. The total enrolment for that year was 470. It was found that after making provision for the Director's salary for the term of his appointment and meeting the cost of lecturers' fees and administration little enough would remain of the 5000 dollars to provide for a library and further expansion. A deputation fruitlessly waited upon the Government for assistance, and then an appeal to the Carnegie people in America was made for a further 2500 dollars, which was given in 1931.

Class fees were raised in 1930 from a flat-rate of 2s.6d. per course to 10s. for a 24-lecture course and 5s. for a twelve-lecture course. Seven classes were held at Perth and one at Fremantle. The total enrolment for 1930 was 356. Classes continued in 1931 and the enrolment for that year was 331; courses were reduced from 24 to 20 lectures but the class fees remained the same. The effects of the economic depression were becoming more acute and lecturers' fees were cut by 20%. In December 1931 Mr. Sinclair resigned the Directorship to take the chair of Literature at the Canterbury College of the University of New Zealand.

The years 1932-1935 cover a period of financial difficulty. The Carnegie grants had been exhausted by 1933 and as a result of the depression class fees had to be reduced to 5s. per course. The scheme had no Director during those four years but enrolments had steadily grown and with them had also grown the resultant costs for lecturing. The Joint Committee had merged with the University Extension Board and the new Adult Education Board, with Mr. W. Somerville as its perennial chairman, was faced with the problem of administering an ever-growing scheme with ever-diminishing revenue. In 1934 the University came to the aid of the classes and commenced annual subsidies which have been continued ever since.

Perhaps there is something in the adage to the effect that the darkest hour is just before the dawn. By the end of 1935 the effects of the depression had lifted, 20% cuts had been restored and a New Director appointed in Professor A.G.B. Fisher who took the combined position of Professor of Economics and Director of Adult Education. A grant of 5000 dollars from that fairy godmother, the Carnegie Corporation, flashed over the cables for the creation of the Box Scheme which was to be used for the sole purpose of extending adult education to the country districts, and a full-time department of adult education created.

Early in 1936 yet another Carnegie Grant was made, this time for 8750 dollars for extending adult education to the individual in the city or the country who could not take advantage of either the city evening classes or the country box scheme. A Readers Counsellor was appointed to administer this new scheme which took
the form of a postal library of non-fictional books.

In 1937 adult education reached its peak. Evening classes had an aggregate enrolment of 1267, there were 587 people in the country box scheme, and 240 in the Readers Councillor Scheme. In all about 1700 individuals took adult education in some form or other in Western Australia last year.

Towards the end of 1937 Professor Fisher resigned his post as Director to accept an appointment as the Price Professor of Economics at Toynbee Hall, London, and Mr. C.R. Badger was appointed Director in his stead. A noteworthy forward move in the adult field was the creation of the Adult Education Students' Association and it should be with every confidence that we can look to the year 1938 as being the year that will set fresh records in the field of adult education activity.

While Mr. Portus was in W.A. on his mission of advice he wrote a long report to Professor Tawney of the London School of Economics describing what he had observed in W.A. and giving his views of the needs of all the Australian States and of the opportunity for the Carnegie Corporation to put some of its funds to good use. Professor Tawney had apparently advised the Carnegie Corporation on some of its grants to various British societies. Mr. Portus says inter alia

"When I was on your side of the World in 1927 I saw some of the Corporation officials in New York and found a state of confusion as to what was being done in Australia."

This report by Mr. Portus together with our report of what had been done with their 1928 grant up to June of 1929 and the joint application from Professors Brigden and Copland, Mr Portus and ourselves induced the Corporation to cable, on November 21, 1930, £500. This they confirmed by letter dated November 24th, 1930 in which they described their grant "an emergency grant of £500 for a cooperative adult education program with the W.E.A." The following April 1931 Mr. Keppel wrote to Whitfeld explaining that when in November 1931 they cabled £500 they had intended to send 2500 dollars. As we had lost 265 dollars by the exchange, that sum was then sent. Surely an admirable example of a punctilious fulfilment of an undertaking.
As the great depression of the nineteenthirties deepened, the University found itself hard pressed to maintain its staff and some retrenchment was found necessary. Mr. Sinclair could not see much hope of advancement and secured a position as Professor of English at Christchurch College. He resigned in December 1931.

Professor Whitfeld in August 1932 reported to Mr. Keppel as to what had been done with the 1928 and 1930 grants. The next month September 19, 1932 Mr Keppel replied that the Corporation had Mr. C.O.G. Dowie reporting on the W.E.A. activities in Australia and New Zealand and nothing would be done until his work had been completed.

Keppel to Whitfeld October 25th, 1933.

"As the result of Douie's report the Trustees now ready to make a comprehensive grant in the interest of Workers Education, which will terminate the contribution in this field. 5000 dollars has been noted to W.A. for an adult education Library."

Keppel to Whitfeld 3rd November, 1933.

"As I wrote to you on October 25th, the Corporation has made a grant of 5000 dollars to the University for the Adult Education Library. In this connection it may interest you personally to learn of some suggestions which Mr Douie made to us in his report. Since I have never been in Perth and knew nothing of the local situation I pass his recommendation on to you for your own eye.

(1) That the University appoint a man of University standing as Director of Adult Education.

(2) That the Box Scheme of Canterbury College N.Z. should be closely investigated with a view of ascertaining whether it can be adapted to the needs of W.A.

(3) That the grant be used for a Library to be housed at the University etc.

If Douie's second point appeals to you this Corporation will be glad to consider a small visitors grant to enable a representative to travel from Perth to Christchurch in order to investigate Professor Shelley's Box Scheme."

The information as to the grant of 5000 dollars (which was equal to £1209 Australian) together with the suggestion to investigate the New Zealand Box scheme were submitted to the Senate meeting in December 1933. I was away from Perth on the Goldfields at the time.
The Senate decided to thank the Corporation for its generous grant, to cable a request for £100 for travelling expenses and to ask me to undertake the investigation.

The Arbitration Court would finish its session on December 24th and if I started on my journey promptly I would have the long vacation in January and February 1934 for my investigations, so I left Perth by plane on Tuesday 26th December, 1933.

Early in January the Chancellor Sir Walter James suggested that a small function should be arranged to give me a send off and was surprised to learn that I was well on my way over the Tasman Ocean to New Zealand.

The plane by which I travelled to Adelaide was, judged by 1946 standards, a crazy and primitive bus, but, after landing and taking off from a Wheat field near Ceduna, carried me safely to Adelaide. From there to Sydney by Rail and thence to Auckland by S.S. Wanganella. After completing my investigations I went at my own expense across the Central range of the South Island by the Great Otira gorge and down the unforgettable Franz Joseph glacier, but that is another story. I arrived back in Perth on January 26th, 1934. I reported to the Senate March meeting. The report as presented contained much matter which while of great interest at the time is no longer so. The principal features are contained in the following extracts.

University of Western Australia
Crawley
26th February, 1934.

REPORT on the OPERATIONS of the BOX SYSTEM as OPERATED in NEW ZEALAND.

The Box System may be described in brief as a system by which the benefits of our Adult Education Courses may be extended to small country centres without the prohibitive expense of sending a lecturer.

It has been in operation in New Zealand for about seven years and they have accumulated a large quantity of
material which enables the system to be worked very cheaply.

The Box itself though simple in construction is in its present form the result of much experience of railway traffic and the effect of the rough handling on the box, its fastenings and contents. As it is difficult to convey by words an adequate idea of such an instrument, I secured by the favour of Professor Shelley and his assistant, Mr. Johnson, M.A., one of the boxes which have been in use, and also a considerable quantity of lecture material.

To give the Senate an idea of how the system operates in New Zealand I cannot do better than quote Professor Shelley.

"The scheme", the Professor explained "arose out of the tutorial class system and is the cheapest kind of W.E.A. work known. We used to send tutors travelling at great cost to centres which took several days to reach. One such centre which had started with a membership of over 40 rapidly dwindled to 6 or 8. I went up to investigate and the box system was evolved in my mind on the train journey home. That is seven years ago and it is to-day much as it was then. We have now 12 courses running, using about 80 boxes as well as a large number of cardboard cases which are used when only lecture material is sent. We supply the material and a guide as to how it is to be used and after that throw the responsibility of running the centre entirely upon the members. We first seek out some local person upon whom we can rely to receive the material to be distributed and afterwards collect it and forward it on to the centre next on the Roster and due to receive it. 16 copies of a lecture are enclosed in each box. If musical criticism or appreciation is the subject then some gramophone records are included to illustrate various aspects."

"In the case of the drama either 16 copies of the play are typed if it is short or if it is a long play then 10 clothe-bound copies are included."

"We do anything which occurs to us as tending to develop the individuality of each person in each group. When the local secretary receives the box the lectures if possible are distributed amongst the members some days before the meeting. This we encourage. Sometimes this is not possible but in any case at the meeting each one has a copy before him. They may appoint someone who they think is a good reader to read the lecture or they may divide it up amongst several readers. Some are timid of reading to others for fear of mis-pronouncing some word and particularly the names of foreigners, and we are careful to put in brackets after such name the proper pronunciation. The lecture is interspersed with musical items by gramophone records or the reading of poems or extracts from some author and at the completion there is a discussion. It is found that the absence of a lecturing expert tends to increase the responsibility of the members and encourage each to feel himself personally involved in the enterprise. Discussion is freer and more general for the timid cannot fear being crushed by the expert for some remark which such expert after a long days travel may think foolish; and moreover, each having a typed script before him can refer to it for support and to the extent of the script each one present is as good authority on the subject as the other."
"The Drama is popular.

Short plays are especially adapted to making all the members of each circle do something. They can either be read by someone person or parts can be allotted to different people and circles should be encouraged to produce the play even if only to the circle as an audience. It is wonderful how confidence grown in people formerly diffident, once they begin to do something.

I have spoken of circles and lectures but the real basis of the whole thing is round table or round fire side talks. Many of the most successful centres are held in private homes. When the numbers are sufficient a hall is engaged and the proceedings may wind up with a cup of tea or a biscuit or even a dance. No restriction is placed upon them. On the contrary they are encouraged to independent action."

"In addition to the cultural effect these country centres provide a nucleus for an increased and more gracious social life; and barriers otherwise insurmountable tend to disappear. This in itself is a very valuable work."

Now as to the possibility of establishing the box system in W.A. I have not the least doubt as to its suitability to our conditions and the great benefit it would be to many isolated communities at present denied by their surroundings many of the amenities enjoyed by city people. The great difficulty I see in the way of its establishment is the absence of any Government grant from which the money necessary for organisation can be got. Of course once established the course would run for a long time on a comparatively small annual cost. The small annual cost in New Zealand could not be reached by us for a number of years. It is only possible in New Zealand because the box system grew out of the W.E.A. organisation, which had been built up during the continuance of the annual grant from the New Zealand Government of £1200 per annum. This grant has not been made since 1931 and the whole of the New Zealand organisation is in difficulties. The continuance of the work is possible only because the University Colleges being convinced of its importance are doing their utmost to find from various sources sufficient money to keep it going. In addition the members of the staff of the colleges have for the past three years done most of the lecturing without fee; a splendid contribution and one which proves how highly they value the Adult Education movement.

All this organisation was in existence before the Box System began. In contrast to this in W.A. we have not present even the skeleton of an organisation outside of Perth and consequently we would have to find the money necessary for some organisation as from the beginning. We would require at least one full time man and he must be one having enthusiasm and energy and have a knowledge of the work to be gained only by experience. Professor Shelley is very emphatic as to the necessity for an energetic organiser. He very kindly offered to assist us to start by the loan of any material they have in Canterbury but quite naturally expressed a dislike to his material getting into the hands of those not equipped by experience to handle it. He felt that if a start were made without reasonable chance of success then his Box System and its material would be discredited. We are
not at all likely to get a man in W.A. who is qualified
and who out of the sketch I have been able to give could
start from scratch and built up in W.A. a replica of
what is working in New Zealand. I believe however that
a suitable man can be got on loan for a year and the
approximate cost would be -

Organiser for one year £400
Expenses and return fare £100
16 typed copies of each lecture,
fitting of a room with lockers,
20 boxes, 16 copies of plays,
and books and other incidentals. £600

In addition there would be the payment to the
members of the University staff for the writing of the
lectures and the preparation of other material necessary
to illustrate the lecture. This cost would, of course,
not be necessary in each succeeding year but the expend-
ture of a very considerable sum for equipment and organ-
ising is absolutely essential in the first year.

Whether the expenditure of the Carnegie grant
in the manner indicated is within the range of the dis-
cretion allowed by the terms of the grant is a question
for the Senate to decide.

I admire the Box System. It is excellently
adapted to our W.A. conditions and if established will
do a great work in extending to many small groups of
people some of the benefits which city people enjoy
through the existence of our University. The University
will also benefit by establishing contact with many who
would otherwise continue indifferent to its existence.
I am however convinced that to give the Box System a
chance of success there must be much preliminary organ-
isation.

Summer School

They manage their summer schools better than
we do and there are a number of features that we could,
I think, adopt with profit in W.A. Not that the lectures
delivered are any better but they combine the tutorial
with the social side making the school enjoyable as well
as instructive. As an example of what is done in a
number of places in New Zealand each vacation I quote
from the report of the 7th Summer School held at Wesley
College, Paerata from the 26/12/32 to 3/1/33. They were
three main lecture courses:-

- Germany, old and new
- New Spirit in literature
- Economic problems of increasing prosperity.
- Two full length plays - Pirandello's "Right
  you are" and "Once in a life time" a skit

The average attendance was 91. An effort is made to
secure some college or other building which is empty
owing to the school holidays and which has facilities
suitable for the provision of board and lodging. An
inclusive fee is charged for board and lodging and the
lecture courses. An effort is made to take all stiff-
ness and formality out of the proceedings, and by attend-
ing to the social amenities many are attracted, some of
whom are able to contribute considerably to the intelli-
lectual side and others who are willing to help with the
chores. The lectures are in the morning, leaving the
afternoon free for fishing swimming etc, and the even-
ings for dramatic reading.
In conclusion I desire to express my sincere thanks to all who assisted me in my enquiry. Everyone approached responded in a most kind and generous way. I am under a special debt to Dr. Hight, Professor Shelley and Mr. Johnson of Canterbury College. The list of sample material I have brought back indicates how generous they were in their efforts to make my investigations a success. To Professor Shelley in particular for his kindness to me in a direct and personal way I am deeply grateful.

(Signed) W. SOMERVILLE.

Carnegie Corporation of New York.
522 Fifth Avenue,
NEW YORK.
April 27th 1934.

Professor H.E. Whitfeld, Vice-Chancellor,
University of Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia.

Dear Professor Whitfeld:

Many thanks for your kind letter of March 23. We shall let you know as soon as possible about the college music set, and also as to your interesting suggestion regarding an extension of the existing plan of Study Leave.

We are very grateful for the detailed report on the operations of the Box System.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) F. Keppel.

After the resignation of Mr. Sinclair in December 1931. The programme of classes and general policy was decided upon by the Adult Education Board which had been formed as the result of a motion moved by myself in December 1928. The motion reads "that a committee of six be appointed to draw up a programme of Adult Education." The members appointed were the Pro Chancellor (Andrews) Battye, Dr. Jull, Professor Murdoch, Vice Chancellor (Whitfeld) and Somerville. Representatives of the Australian Labour Party Miss A. Holman and Mr. E.W. Barker were afterwards added.

I was selected by this Committee as Chairman
and I continued in that office until I resigned on 24th April, 1939.

From December 1931 to March 1936 when Professor Fisher was appointed, the Board's chief executive officer was Mr. Bruce Newton. He did the organising and secretarial work necessary to carry out the Board policy of Tutorial classes and Lecture courses. He also ran several very successful Summer Schools when the students were accommodated in hired tents pitched in the University grounds.

After my report about New Zealand activities in 1933 Mr. Newton also successfully inaugurated the Box scheme and also a summer school.

At the close of 1932 the University Extension Board decided to close down and amalgamate its activities with the Adult Education Board. They had announced their willingness as far back as 1928 to fall in with any system of reorganisation. But nothing was done until the University Extension Board again took the initiative in 1932.

The closing report prepared by its Chairman Professor Ross gives an interesting picture of the beginning of such work in W.A. and it is here inserted.

University of Western Australia

In view of the similarity in aims and methods of the University Extension Board and the more recently formed Joint Committee for Adult Education, it has been recommended that in future the activities of the Extension Board should be merged under the Adult Education Committee. This will therefore be the last separate report on Extension Lecture activities, and the time may be opportune to review the work of the Board since its inception.
The University Extension Lecture Board (as it was originally named) came into operation in 1914, in which year 57 lectures were given, 44 in country districts and 13 in the metropolitan area. Each year a syllabus has been issued of the lectures offered, and considerable demands have been made on the members of the Extension Lecture panel.

In 1915 and 1916 several courses, ranging from 5 to 20 lectures each, were arranged in the University in science subjects and were so largely attended that several of the classes had to be duplicated. Owing to diminished staff in the years of the Great War the holding of such courses had to be abandoned in 1917, but in later sessions arrangements were made for series of lectures in related subjects in certain country towns.

The Westralian Farmers' Broadcasting Station was opened on 3rd June, 1924, and six days later the first educational talk was given from 6WF under the Extension Board's scheme. These talks were originally given at fortnightly intervals, but the number has been steadily increased as they found favour until about 150 broadcast lecturetteis have been given annually in the last few years. As in the case of ordinary lectures, the talks were at first on separate subjects as more likely to awaken widespread interest. When however the system had attracted the attention of many listeners-in, it was decided in the latter part of 1925 to vary the separate lectures with sets of lectures on a common subject. This innovation met with approval, and during the last two or three years the great majority of the broadcast talks have been in series of 4, 8, 12 or more lectures on one general theme.

While broadcasting undoubtedly enables the University to reach a wider country audience, there is still a fair demand for ordinary lectures, especially
those which are illustrated by lantern slides and experiments. The number of such country lectures, which was 44 in 1914, rose to a maximum of 46 in 1927, from which it declined to 39 last year, and 24 in the year now closing. There is no doubt that the cost of lectures in country towns has checked the call for these addresses. Fortunately some local governing bodies have undertaken responsibility for conducting and financing Extension Lectures in the areas under their control. This has proved very helpful. The University is also indebted to other committees, progress associations, parents' and citizens' associations, local branches of the R.S.L., and other bodies, who have undertaken similar work and carried it out with very considerable success.

In 1932 lectures were delivered in Collie, Coorow, Donnybrook, Fremantle, Geraldton, Harvey, Kalgoorlie, Kulin, Merredin, Pinjarra, Quairading and Wagin.

In 1925 arrangements were made for Lord Rutherford (then Sir Ernest Rutherford) to give an address under the auspices of the Extension Board of the University, and subsequently Sir John Adams, Sir John Russell, Professor Conway and Lord Clinton were engaged to deliver lectures. Unfortunately the financial position rendered it impossible for the Board to negotiate for Overseas Lecturers during the last two or three sessions.

In January 1929 the first Summer Vacation School was held in Albany, and further schools were arranged in Perth and Albany in 1930, and in Perth in 1932. In 1932 three courses were given -- in Education, History and Psychology -- with a total enrolment of about 72. A further series of short courses has been arranged for January 1933.

The Extension Board has also to record the large amount of work done in connection with Agriculture by Professor Paterson in country lectures and in courses on Rural Household Science, Dairying, etc. arranged by
the University independently and in conjunction with the State Department of Agriculture.

The Extension Board desires to thank all local secretaries and committees for invaluable help in arranging lectures, the Press for publicity given to the courses, and the Premier's Department and Commissioner of Railways for concessions in connection with the country Extension Lectures and Vacation Courses. Finally its thanks are tendered to the members of the panel of lecturers for the unselfish and ungrudging manner in which they have maintained this special phase of University Education when other duties have been onerous and exacting.

(A.D. ROSS)

Chairman, University Extension Board

In response to an invitation from the Conference of all Australian Vice Chancellors Dr. Keppel the head of the Carnegie Corporation visited W.A. in April 1935.

The Vice Chancellor Professor Whitfeld, Professor Cameron and I representing the Adult Education Board had a conference with him at his Hotel. The conference lasted some hours and he subjected us to a close examination as to how we had expended the various grants we had received. Apparently he was well satisfied for on the next distribution of his Corporation grants in 1936 W.A. received a larger grant that that given to any other Australian State.

Some idea of what we were able to tell Dr. Keppel can be obtained from the following extracts from a case prepared in 1924-5 to induce the Government to increase our grant from other State funds.

University of Western Australia

ADULT EDUCATION BOARD

THE CASE FOR INCREASED GOVERNMENT AID FOR ADULT EDUCATION
The Record of Achievement

The rapid progress made by the Adult Education movement in Western Australia is an index of the need for the service it provides and a happy augury for the future well-being of the State. In its present phase, under the control of the Adult Education Board of the University, the work began in 1928 and it has been carried on continuously since then with increasing success. The main work of the Board is the conducting of classes at the University, generally led by members of the University staff and open to all adult members of the public at very low fees. The figures below indicate the success of these classes, though numbers alone are not a true measure of their efficiency and value.

Class attendances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>1931</th>
<th>1932</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>1935</th>
<th>1936</th>
<th>1937</th>
<th>1938</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>470</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>331</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>746</td>
<td>656</td>
<td>1267</td>
<td>284</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1934, a gift from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, made possible an extension of Adult Education to the country districts through the Box Scheme. Under this plan, boxes of books, gramophone records and reproductions of famous paintings, arranged so as to form a continuous series of about 20 boxes, together with prepared notes, are sent fortnightly to country groups for their reading and discussion. This scheme has proved itself a remarkably valuable method of education and has done a great deal to stimulate interest in modern thought and in cultural subjects in the country. The accompanying table shows the number of groups formed and students enrolled. For this service a small fee of 5s. per member is made annually.

Table.

Box Scheme Groups established since inception of Scheme (including 1938) 198 groups, 2084 students.

Number of separate boxes sent out since scheme started in 1935 2814 boxes or 33768 books circulated.

Box Scheme Groups operating in 1938. 51 groups, 491 students.

The latest development in the Board's work was the foundation in 1936 of the Readers Counsellor Scheme, through which books of a serious character are supplied to readers all over the State and guidance in their use provided from the University. This Scheme was also financed by the Carnegie Corporation with a gift of $8750 dollars designed to spread over three years. Although the Scheme has not been widely advertised, it has been very successful in its two initial years. It has shown that there are many country people whose intellectual life is seriously stunted because they have been unable to obtain books of the type they need for self development. About 284 readers are now enrolled in the Readers Counsellor Scheme and they have undoubtedly benefited greatly from this service which is unique in Australia and peculiarly suited to Western Australian conditions.
Table.

Total number of people who have enrolled in the Readers Counsellor Scheme 284

Total number of books sent out 2017.

In addition to these activities, the Board has carried on a series of Summer Schools and Vacation Camps at the University. Men and women from all over the State spend a week or ten days at the University each January, and are thus enabled to carry on more intensively the work done through the year in the Box and Readers Counsellor Schemes. It is noteworthy that the Summer School and Camp which was originally supported in the main by the school teachers is becoming more and more a non-professional school and is now largely supported by farmers and others from the country. To many farmers, the School is now an annual event of considerable importance and interest, a time for study and for cultural progress.

Enrolments in Summer Schools and Camps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>1929</th>
<th>85</th>
<th>1930</th>
<th>49</th>
<th>1933</th>
<th>89</th>
<th>1934</th>
<th>204</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>January</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>1932</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1933</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>1934</td>
<td>234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1935</td>
<td>245</td>
<td>1936</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>251</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Board also provides a panel of lecturers who undertake country extension lectures at the request of local committees set up for the purpose. This service is much appreciated, though somewhat expensive. To some extent, the more continuous and effective work of the Box and Readers Counsellor Schemes has replaced it.

During the winter months, lectures and recitals on Art and Music are given each Sunday afternoon at Crawley. These are free and have been well attended. Last year the Board began an experiment in taking Adult Education courses to the suburbs, instead of concentrating on the classes at Crawley. The success of this initial venture has led to a demand for similar classes in several suburbs, which at the moment it is impossible to meet.

On the whole, then, it will be seen that the Adult Education Movement is making a substantial contribution to the educational and cultural advancement of the State. There is a growing demand for the services the Board is able to provide and there are many opportunities to extend and deepen the movement, especially in country centres such as Kalgoorlie, Northam and Carnarvon, which the Board is unable to seize.

The Sinews of War.

The Board has had to depend for all its most progressive work upon the munificence of the Carnegie Corporation. The work was begun with a grant of 5000 dollars in 1928 and substantially aided in 1931 with a further grant of 2500 dollars. The Box Scheme was financed by a grant of 5000 dollars in 1933 and the Readers Counsellor Scheme by a grant of 8750 dollars in 1936. In addition, the Corporation provided the magnificent Art and Music sets which have proved invaluable adjuncts for the cultural work of the Board. As the funds provided by the Corporation have been exhausted, the University has been called upon to help in financing the scheme and grants from the Senate have risen from £130 in 1934 to £1000 in 1937. At present the main source of income is the Senate grant. Fees from students are not of great importance.
as the Board has deliberately made these as low as possible in order to attract those most likely to benefit from the work.

Another account of what had been done with Carnegie grants is a report prepared by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Whitfield, in March 1935 a week or two before Dr. Keppel arrived in Western Australia.

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA - INTERIM REPORT on the UTILISATION of the CARNEGIE CORPORATION GRANT of 5,000 DOLLARS for an ADULT EDUCATION LIBRARY - 11th March, 1935.

Introductory.

In December 1933 the Carnegie Corporation made a grant of 5,000 dollars (£1,209 Australian) for an "Adult Education Library". At the same time the Corporation suggested that the University should investigate the "Box System" which was instituted by Professor Shelley at Canterbury College, New Zealand, and which had favourably impressed Mr. Douie.

Investigation of the New Zealand "Box System".

As the University had only a vague general idea of the Canterbury College Box Scheme, the Corporation generously agreed to provide an additional £100 to enable Mr. W. Somerville, Chairman of the Adult Education Board, to go to New Zealand in the long vacation (January-February 1934) and investigate. Mr. Somerville was made welcome by the New Zealand colleges, and returned with full information about the working of the scheme and also samples of the boxes and of the talks, prints and other material supplied.

Adoption of "Box System" of working for the Adult Library in Western Australia.

Mr. Somerville was convinced that the Box system appropriately modified, would meet a long-felt want in Western Australia, especially in country centres. The Adult Education Board adopted his recommendation, and in April 1934 the University Senate authorised the expenditure of £400 (2,000 dollars) out of the grant for the purchase of books, pamphlets, prints, talks, boxes and other material necessary to initiate the system in Western Australia. It was at first suggested that the Western Australian scheme might arrange to use the actual "talks" which had been prepared in New Zealand, but it was decided that there is likely to be some difference between the outlook of the New Zealand small farmer or country town dweller and that of the Western Australian living in a much hotter, sunnier and drier climate, and scattered over the enormous areas of our wheatlands and goldfields. It was arranged that we should offer three courses on Modern Thought, Modern Drama and Art, or a composite course containing elements from two or more of these. The talks would be prepared by members of the University Staff. In New Zealand it was found that a study circle or discussion group rarely exceeded 16 members. So far we have based our calculations on having 12 active members of a group. In the Modern Drama section we have ordered 12 copies of each of nineteen plays, and in the other sections 12 copies of each of a number of suitable pamphlets and books. Single copies only have been ordered of the more cumbersome and expressive books. These will be primarily used by those
preparing the talks, but can also be sent out either to groups or individuals.

Decision to Postpone the issue of "Boxes" until the beginning of 1935

The most suitable time for the meeting of discussion groups or circles in Western Australia is during the autumn, winter and spring, i.e., March to November. During the hot months (December to February) it is sometimes unpleasantly hot for a meeting indoors, and it is during this period that most country people arranged to take their annual holiday. The books, pamphlets, prints, etc., which form part of the content of the boxes, are the basis of the Talks have had to be obtained from Europe or America, a matter of two months or more from the time of despatching the orders. After the arrival of the books, the Talks have then to be prepared by a teaching staff which has not much leisure except during vacations. The material ordered from Europe begun to arrive towards the end of 1934, and it was decided to invite discussion groups and study circles to apply for Boxes and thus to make a beginning of the operation of the scheme in February 1935.

Progress of the Box Scheme during February 1935

During the first month of the operation of the scheme, 9 study circles were established in country towns, and 114 members were enrolled in them. No objection was raised to the payment of a registration fee of five shillings per member per annum to cover petty expenses. The Commissioner for Railways has agreed to carry the boxes by passenger train at quarter rates. Enquiries have come in from other centres, and there seems little doubt that there will be an extensive demand for boxes as soon as the summer weather is over. There have also been enquiries for books, etc., from isolated individuals, and it is hoped that we may be able shortly to supply books in smaller boxes in such cases, as is done in New South Wales by the Public Library.

Money Expended to Date.

Some of the accounts for books obtained from Europe have not yet been received, as they are only forwarded at intervals by the Agent-General for Western Australia. The cost of materials etc., already ordered amounts to about £255, (1,200 dollars). The adult Education Board at a meeting held on March 8th was so impressed with the progress which had been made and the need for further supplies of books, that it decided to order copies of biographies of a number of famous men, and further books in Modern Drama, Modern Thought and Art; and to consider the inclusion of Music as well as plastic Art. It is probable that these orders will amount to another £250 (1,200 dollars), bringing the total expenditure to at least £500 (2,400 dollars) within the next two or three months.

General administration.

The cost of the Secretary's salary and other administrative expenses are being borne by the University, and not charged to the fund. Professor Alan B.C. Fisher, now at Otago University, New Zealand, was recently appointed Professor of Economics and Director of Adult Education to the University of Western Australia,
but will not assume his new position until the beginning of next year.

The books of the Adult Education Library are catalogued by the University Librarian, but kept in a separate room.

(Signed) H. WHITFELD,
Vice Chancellor.

The next forward move in Adult Education is closely linked with the Chair of Economics. After Shann's resignation in December 1934 there was manifest a general disinclination among members of the Senate to fill the Chair.

The view commonly held was expressed by Sir Walter James when he said—

"The views held by leading economists were so divergent that it would be wise to wait awhile before filling the Chair until they had evolved some approach to agreement among themselves."

This reluctance was also expressed by the Vice Chancellor Whitfeld. From a University students point of view the University had been without a Professor of Economics for practically three years while Shann (with the full consent of the Senate) worked for the Bank of N.S.W. for the Premier’s plan and other political activities. Shann's resignation was received in June, 1934 and if it had been intended to fill the Chair immediate steps would have been taken to advertise for his successor.

Professor Whitfeld was, I think, influenced to a degree by the Financial position. The affects of the great depression were still prominent and while Shann was away his salary had been used for other purposes and if a Professor had been reappointed immediately these other obligations could only be met by adding to the deficit. The position of Director of Adult Education vacated by Mr. Sinclair in December 1931 had also not been filled.
To the Senate meeting in June 1934 Professor Whitfield reported on the question of filling the Chair of Economics. The greater part of the report is a moan about reduced salaries, his own of course included, though not mentioned. These reductions were in accordance with the Financial Emergency Legislation by which all salaries and wages, including the Basic wage, were reduced by 20%. The Professor particularly mentions the sad position of Associate Professors. In private conversation with me about this time, Whitfield expressed much concern about the heavy family responsibilities of Associate Professor Fox who was as usual worrying Whitfield about more salary. The report proceeds -

"I do not think we should generally speaking bring in outsiders at professorial salaries until we have made better provision for men who have served the University well for many years .........I recommend that we do not appoint a Professor but a lecturer in charge of the Department which would remain independant."

Again in 1937 after Fisher had resigned the Chair of Economics Whitfield reported -

"He was not sure whether it would be advisable to appoint immediately another Professor of Economics or to hold over the appointment for the present."

The general position in Economics was shifting and there were some arguments in favour of appointing a younger man who had grown up in the modern ideas and could come for a Lectureship.

About August or September 1934 I was approached by Associate Professor Alexander, head of the Department of History and also much interested in Adult Education work.

He was concerned about that work's progress as there had been no director for some years. He mentioned the name of Mr. A.G.B. Fisher of Otago University, New Zealand as one who as well as being a sound Economist was keenly interested in Adult Education work and had done much
lecturing in connection therewith in New Zealand. I informed Mr. Alexander that in my view Adult Education work was of more importance at the moment than that of a Professor of Economics, but as the funds for Adult Education were not sufficient to carry a full time Director it might be possible to finance a Director, provided he combined that work with the Professorship of Economics, and I suggested if you (Mr. Alexander) can get Mr. Fisher to agree to put the Adult Education work first in his scheme of work if appointed, I will endeavour to persuade the Senate to reopen the question of appointing a Director of Adult Education and Professor of Economics. Mr. Alexander wrote to Mr. Fisher and Fisher wrote to me expressing his willingness to accept appointment to the Dual position with the Director of Adult Education first and with first call on his energies.

I put the matter to the Senate with candour. I explained that to offer a position to a specified person was contrary to my usual practice, I had always insisted on advertising, but the circumstances were peculiar and exceptional. We wanted a man with qualifications in two distinct subjects, the job we had to offer was a dual position and Mr. Fisher seemed to be just the man we wanted.

The matter was referred to the Professorial Board. In its report the Board stated -

"the practice of offering Chairs to specific persons was in accord with University practice elsewhere" and it recommended that the vacant Chair be offered to Mr. G.B. Fisher.

So Mr. Fisher was appointed and took up his duties in March 1936.

To the March 1936 meeting of the A.D. Board, a letter from M.R. Munn of Can Corporations to the Vice was read informing us that 8750 dollars had been granted to establish a scheme of supplying individuals with courses in reading.
This was the second recommendation by Mr. Douie. The previous grant of 5000 dollars at the end of 1935 having been devoted to the establishment and running of the Box Scheme at the suggestion of Mr. Douie and to the complete satisfaction of Dr. Keppel this sum of 8750 dollars was to buy books and pay the salary of a Readers Counsellor. This course, the A.D. Board recommended to the Senate. The Senate (18th May, 1936) approved of the appointment of a Readers Counsellor who may be employed in other Adult Education Work at a salary of £375 for a period of three years.

3rd July, 1936, for some months prior to and after this date the Board meetings were held in my room in the Arbitration Court quarters, Supreme Court.

A full meeting of 12 members met to consider 45 applications which had been received for the position of Readers Counsellor. A sub-committee of Barker and Cameron were appointed to reduce these to 3 most suitable. I took the rather unusual course of indicating to this sub-committee that I had gone carefully through the applications and gave a list of six of those I thought worthy of consideration, at the head of this list I placed Mr. Badger. I had been impressed with how Mr. Badger got his education. Beginning in the Adelaide University Library as a junior, his ability and ambitions had impressed Mr. Hancock the W.A. graduate who afterwards reached distinction as an Historian. With Mr. Hancock's help Badger had worked his way to a B.A. degree with Honours in History without having matriculated.

(27th July, 1936) The Sub-committee recommended three names, Mr. C. Badger, P. Curtin and A. Nicholls. By preferential Ballot the Adult Education Board selected Mr. C. Badger who was appointed and began his duties as Readers Counsellor the same day (27/7/36).

At the same meeting the estimates for 1937 were considered and it was decided to ask the Senate for an allocation from its revenue of £1000 towards Adult Education Board expenditure. A return was presented showing how the
Carnegie grant of 5000 dollars in 1935 had been used.

Income 5000 dollars = £1210 pounds Australian/

Expenditure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box material purchased and</td>
<td>£795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box material purchase authorized</td>
<td>195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Womens Course</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Boxes, shelving etc.</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unallotted Balance</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>£1210</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As Chairman I pointed out that owing to the great success of the Box Scheme money was required to continue extension to avoid stagnation. The material on hand would circulate for a time but it would become increasingly stale. When we had met Dr. Keppel his attitude led me to believe that if after a time we could point to good results further money would be forthcoming.

The Board appointed Whitfield and Fisher to draw up an account of what had been done and an appeal for more money.

An event of some possible importance in July 1937 was the appointment of a Students' Council from among the Adult Education Board's Students to advise the Board from the Students angle.

The Senate (July 1937) received a letter from Professor Fisher announcing that he had received an invitation from the Secretary of the Royal Institute of International Affairs to become Price Professor/International Economics and he desired to be released as soon as possible.

Whatever may be Professor Fisher's merits as an Economist he was, to all interested in Adult Education in Western Australia a great disappointment. At the first meeting of the Board he attended and during a discussion as to the courses and who would take them he announced that he "was not anxious to deliver a course this year as he did not yet know how he was placed with regard to his other work, and he suggested his assistant in the Economics Department be asked to give the first course".

By this statement he repudiated the unofficial
promise he had given to place the duties of Director of Adult Education first. He was a difficult man to work with and through the short 15 months he was with us (March 1936 to July 1937) he made small attempt to hide his opinion that Adult Education work was a bore and derogatory to his Professorship. Having attained the magic prefix Professor, he would not let it be forgotten. All who were active in Adult Education work were glad to see the last of him.

The closing episode of his W.A. career was characteristic. To bring him and his family from New Zealand had cost the University something over £100. As he had accepted an appointment for seven years and had only served a little over one year the Finance Committee thought it reasonable that he should refund some of this passage money. Fisher's reply was an angry and brusque refusal. He did not discuss the justness of the request but relied on the fact that it was not in the bond (his appointment) and he would refund nothing. As it was unfortunately not in the bond the Senate had to accept the refusal. As a result of our experience with Fisher it is now in all the conditions of appointment that if passage money is paid and a reasonable length of service not given some refund can be demanded.

Mr. Badger was appointed (September, 1937) to succeed Fisher as Director and also to retain his position as Readers Counsellor at a joint salary of £500.

He did good work until January 1939 when he resigned to take up the position of Director of Tutorial Classes in Melbourne.

I was in Sydney when this occurred and to a meeting of Adult Education Board on 26th January 1939 the Vice Chancellor reported that he had wired me - "Suggest H. Roberts be offered the position.......Roberts would prefer position to that of his present Academic Secretary". He had been as a fact appointed Students adviser. Whitfeld then enlarged upon Roberts qualifications I replied "Would prefer to advertise vacancy but as our finances forbid 3 years contract
I agree offer Roberts position for balance of Badger's term."

The appointment was approved by the Senate in the same month to be for two years ending December 1940 as Director and Readers Counsellor at £500 p.a.

24th April, 1939. This was the last meeting at which I presided and it was marked by several matters of more than usual importance.

We had the sad duty of recording our appreciation of her work for Adult Education over many years by Miss May Holman M.L.A. who had died as the result of a motor accident.

The second matter was our decision to request the Senate's permission to the Board making a separate approach to the Government for funds, independent of any application the Senate might make for general University purposes. We thought our case was sufficiently strong to make our own appeal. On the other hand the Senate or those members of it not enthusiastic supporters of Adult Education were reluctant to encourage a rival for Government favours.

The result was that we got a parsimonious sum of £200 p.a. A sum quite worthy of the narrow and petty Wilcock, Premier and Treasurer.

The third matter and it was of very great importance was the receipt of a grant, a generous grant from the Carnegie Corporation, the message was —

"Resolved, that, from the balance available for appropriation in the British Dominions and Colonies Fund the sum of 10,000 dollars be, and hereby is appropriated to the University of Western Australia for development of its Adult Education Library, payment to be authorised on receipt of a plan of operation satisfactory to the Executive Committee."

Signed R.M. Lester, Secretary.

The next matter was my resignation. The minute recording the matters is as follows —

"Mr. W. Somerville stated that at the March meeting of the Senate he had tendered his resignation as a member of the Adult Education Board and it had been accepted with regret. Since then he had learned that under the Consti-
ution of the Board he remained an ex offici member in his capacity as Pro Chancellor. Increased duties outside the Adult Education Board and lack of time induced him to tender his resignation and, although he automatically remained a member he wished to resign his position as Chairman in order that he would be freer to attend or not as other circumstances dictated.

At the next meeting (6/6/39) Professor Cameron was appointed my successor and it was moved and carried:

"That this Board place on Record its appreciation of the very long and to the University the very profitable services of Mr. W. Somerville as Chairman of the Adult Education Board."

I had been Chairman of the Adult Education Board for 11 years. I had prior to that been a member of every Committee and Board dealing with Extension Lectures and the Workers Education Association back to 1913. In that year Mr. Cecil Andrews and I secured the appointment of a Committee to consider the forming of a Branch of the Workers Educational Association in Perth in conjunction with Trade Unions, Literary Associations and other similar bodies.

This seems an appropriate time to close my chronicle. I regretted to have to sever my connection with the Adult Education Board, but I had a heavy full time job as Member of the Arbitration Court, I had many other activities and moreover I was 70 years old.

The movement had begun in a very small way and notwithstanding the constant struggle with limited funds had done much. I had felt for a long period a feeling amounting almost to shame that our work had only been made possible by gifts from the Carnegie Corporation. My gratitude to that body was not weakened by a feeling of resentment at the State Government for its refusal to recognize the importance of the work we were doing.

Under the Chairmanship of Professor Cameron and his successors and the drive of Director Alexander, the movement continues to grow. When I am invited to attend one of their crowded functions such as an opening Dinner to a Summer School, a performance in the Somerville Aud-
itorium or gaze at such an inspiring spectacle as Folk Dancing on the Whitfeld Court, I feel like a pioneer who having planted a small Jarrah Seedling has had the good fortune to see it grow to a stately Sapling. May it continue to grow to a great tree.

CARNegie Grants.

As I have had some trouble myself in extracting from our confused University records exactly how much the University got from the Carnegie Corporation, the dates when the grants were made and the purpose for which they were made, a list is here given.

The exchange rate of Dollars into Pounds varied over the years. The amount in pounds is that noted on the side of various documents by the Accountant at the time the various cheques reached Perth.

The purpose for which the grant was made, is, where possible, the actual language used by the Corporation.

1928-5000 dollars = £1,023 For a co-operative program in Adult Education.
1930- 21 November 2,500 = £570 an emergency grant for a co-operative Adult Education program with the W.E.A.
1933 October 25 - 5000 = £1209 "As the result of Douie report the Trustees now ready to make a comprehensive grant in the interest of Workers Education which will terminate the contributions in this field .... 5000 dollars has been voted to W.A. for an Adult Education Library". This money was spent in establishing the Box Scheme. This Keppel tacitly approved.
1933 December £100 - a small visitors grant to enable a representative to travel from Perth to Christ-Church N.Z. in order to investigate Professor Shelley's Box Scheme.
1936 March 8750 = £2200 "To establish a scheme of supplying individuals with courses of reading."

This was also a Douie recommendation and established the Readers Counsellor and purchased books for his purpose.
1939 April 10,000 Dollars For development of the Adult Education Library.
£2,603

These amounts total 31,250 dollars of a value in Pounds Australian £7,605.

In addition to the grants for Adult Education it may be mentioned here that in March 1936 The Carnegie Corporation made a grant of 8000 dollars for a Vice-Chancellor's fund to assist the Universities Scheme of Study Leave.

The Vice Chancellor (Whitfeld) recommended that the fund be used to assist men who have not yet reached professorial rank and who are not yet middle aged and that grants be made to cover steamer fares for married men and their wives.

The Senate decided to place the distribution of grants from this fund in the hands of a Committee.