

## AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES LAW SCHOOLS' ASSOCIATION.

### *Fourteenth Annual Conference 1959.*

The fourteenth Annual Conference of the Australian Universities Law Schools' Association was held from 17th to 20th August 1959 at the Sydney Law School. The President, Professor K. O. Shatwell, was in the chair and the Conference was attended by forty-one members of staff from all the Australian Faculties of Law and representatives from the University of Auckland (New Zealand) and the University of New South Wales. Professor Stefan A. Riesenfeld from the University of California, Berkeley, attended as a visitor; the Association was honoured to have as its guests Associate Justice John M. Harlan, of the United States Supreme Court, and Dr. A. L. Goodhart, Master of University College, Oxford.

The President reported that a register of Australian law teachers prepared to exchange with English law teachers had been established and that it was hoped that similar English register would be established. During the year Dean Griswold of the Harvard Law School had visited most of the Australian Law Schools.

The reports by Deans of the faculties showed a marked development in the Law Schools in each State, particularly with respect to increases in the numbers of staff, new buildings or proposals for new buildings, and extensions to curricula. In Sydney two new chairs and three new appointments at lectureship or senior lectureship level had been created. A course in taxation had been offered to the profession and as nearly 200 applications for enrolment had to be refused the lectures will be repeated in a summer school. In Melbourne the Law School had moved into new premises and the question of accommodating the staff and some 1,098 students was considerably eased. The Queensland Faculty had been enlarged by the creation of a new chair, and Adelaide reported that the building of a new Law School was being commenced in 1960 but the School would not move into it until 1964. Western Australia was working towards a School completely staffed by a full-time faculty and to achieve this it was hoped during the next few years to increase the staff by an additional chair and four senior lectureships; accommodation, principally for the library, was a matter of concern and it was hoped to extend the present buildings. In Tasmania the library grant had been greatly increased and a new building was to be built in the next few years.

A long discussion took place on standards for the Australian Law Schools and a report prepared by a sub-committee was considered in detail. The sections of the report relating to staff, courses, and library materials were adopted, but time prevented the detailed examination of the remainder of the report, which was deferred until the next meeting. During the discussion on library standards Dr. Osborn, the librarian of Sydney University, addressed the meeting generally on law library standards, the size of collections which the Schools should aim to have, and the market for law materials.

Dr. A. L. Goodhart delivered an informal address concerning the meaning of "The rule of Law" and "Freedom under the law." Associate Justice Harlan delivered an informal address on the United States Supreme Court, its jurisdiction and its function on the hearing of appeals. Professor Stone delivered a paper on the "Rule of Law in the Relations of States." General discussion followed each of the addresses.

The following were elected office bearers for the year 1959-1960. President: Professor F. R. Beasley (University of Western Australia), Vice-President: Professor H. R. Anderson (University of Queensland), Executive Member: Professor N. Morris (University of Adelaide), Secretary: Mr. I. W. McCall (University of Western Australia).

It was planned to hold the next meeting in Perth in August 1960.

#### *Fifteenth Annual Conference 1960.*

The fifteenth Annual Conference of the Australian Universities Law Schools' Association was held from 15th to 18th August 1960 at the University of Western Australia, Perth. The President, Professor F. R. Beasley, was in the chair and the conference was attended by 29 members from all the Australian Law Schools. In addition Mr. T. B. Hogan (University of Nottingham) and Dr. B. D. Inglis (Victoria University of Wellington) attended as visitors.

The President reported that under the teachers' exchange scheme with the United Kingdom Mr. T. B. Hogan had been at the University of Adelaide during the year and an exchange had been arranged between Mr. R. W. Bentham of Sydney and Mr. Henderson of Edinburgh for 1961 or 1962. Forthcoming publications by members of the Association included a case book in Private International Law and a book on securities by Dr. E. I. Sykes; a book on agency by Dr. S. J. Stoljar; a work on the jurisdiction and recognition provisions of the Matrimonial Causes Act by Professor Z. Cowen and Mr. Mendes Da Costa. Also second editions of Fleming on Torts, Elsé-Mitchell on

Hire Purchase, and Essays on the Constitution were being published. An invitation had been extended to the Staff of the University of Malaya Law School to attend the conference but unfortunately it had not been possible for any of them to accept the invitation in 1960. It was agreed that a further invitation should be extended for the next conference.

The reports of the Deans showed that in 1960 in the majority of the Schools the student enrolment had increased considerably. The largest Schools were Melbourne which had a total of 1179 students of whom 746 were proceeding to the LL.B degree, while at Sydney there were 753 full-time students proceeding to the LL.B degree. The increasing numbers in all Schools continually created both staff and accommodation problems.

At Canberra a merger of the Australian National University and Canberra University College was taking place which would result in the former becoming the Institute of Advanced Studies and the latter the School of General Studies.

Staff changes during the year included the loss by Canberra University College of Professor J. G. Fleming and Dr. L. F. E. Goldie to the University of California and the appointment of Dr. H. A. J. Ford as Robert Garran Professor of Law and Mr. J. Richardson to a new post of Professor of Public Law. At Sydney two new chairs had been created which had been filled by Dr. D. G. Benjafield and Dr. W. L. Morison. It was hoped that a further chair (bringing the total to five) would be created shortly. Curriculum changes to come into force in 1961 included the institution of Studies in Criminology; Roman and Comparative Law would become optional subjects. Post-graduate courses in Taxation conducted during the year had been very successful.

In Melbourne it was hoped that a fourth chair would be created in the near future. The Law School had moved into new quarters which were a great improvement on its previous situation but the increasing numbers had required the introduction of a quota for first year student intake which had been fixed at 330 for 1961.

At Adelaide an increase in staff numbers was hoped for and in 1962 Dr. Rupert Cross would be coming to the Law School as a visiting Professor for two terms. The curriculum had been undergoing changes resulting in Taxation being introduced as a 5th year optional course; International Law being an alternative to Roman Law and Family Law an alternative to Private International Law. The Law

School had now commenced publishing the *Adelaide Law Review* in co-operation with the legal profession in Adelaide.

In Queensland the significant development was the decision of the University to establish a College at Townsville where nearly all first year degree courses, including Law, would be taught. The teaching of the two first year law subjects would probably be undertaken by a part-time teacher residing in Townsville and by Professor W. N. Harrison (Dean of the Faculty of Law) visiting the College for short periods during the academic year. At present the small number of possible students in law attending the College would not justify the appointment of a full-time teacher.

Professor N. C. H. Dunbar, the new Dean at the Tasmanian Law School expressed his appreciation and thanks to the Association for the welcome he had received on his arrival in Australia. There were a number of new appointments to his staff and when they had all arrived some curriculum changes would be made. The School would be moving to new premises shortly. In Western Australia a new appointment to the staff had been approved but the most pressing problem was that of accommodation. If extensions to the Law School were not made before 1961 it might become necessary to introduce a first-year quota.\*

Dr. B. D. Inglis reported that in the four New Zealand Law Schools the student enrolment was as follows: Victoria University of Wellington 415; Auckland University 300; Canterbury University 180; Otago University 101. The new curriculum (common to all the Law Schools) which had been outlined at the previous Conference had now come into operation and at present a re-organisation of the degree course to make it a course of 3 years' full-time study and two years of part-time study was under consideration.

The Conference then considered the remainder of the report of the Committee on Standards for Australian Law Schools which was adopted with a number of amendments. The Conference also considered the question of New Zealand membership of the Association and it was decided to alter the constitution to enable law teachers in New Zealand to become full members of the Association.

The following papers were delivered:—

“A Study of the Problems of Applying the White Man's Law to Aborigines”—being materials prepared by the late Mr. Justice Krie-

\*A quota system has fortunately been avoided as extensions to the buildings commenced in November 1960.

waldt and presented by Professor G. Sawyer (Australian National University).

“Some Problems Concerning Criminal Responsibility under the Queensland Criminal Code” by Mr. C. Howard (University of Adelaide).

“Five Years Separation and the Federal Divorce Act” by Mr. I. McCall (University of Western Australia).

“Trespass and Case in the Modern Law of Torts” by Mr. T. B. Hogan (Visiting University of Adelaide).

The following office bearers were elected for the forthcoming year:

President: Dr. E. I. Sykes (University of Queensland).

Vice-President: Professor N. C. H. Dunbar (University of Tasmania).

Executive Member: Professor H. A. J. Ford (Australian National University).

Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. K. Ryan (University of Queensland).

The next conference of the Association will be held in Brisbane in August 1961.

