

6 *The federal university*

The University of South Africa quietly took over from its predecessor on the Tuesday after the Easter holiday in 1918. What celebration there was to mark the arrival of the appointed day was confined to the constituent colleges. There was little enough cause for rejoicing at that time. The first World War was well into its fourth year and peace seemed a distant prospect as the German spring offensive ground slowly to a halt on the western front in Europe.

The university's new administrative headquarters were somewhat less impressive than those of the old institution in Cape Town. Offices in Somerset House, Vermeulen Street, Pretoria had been rented from the businessman and public benefactor, Charles W. Maggs, and at least provided adequate accommodation for Registrar Thomson and his assistants – Charles Cameron Grant, Harold M. Harradine and Margaret R. Gordon. These four had come over from the Cape University and had migrated to the Transvaal to serve its successor. However, the first Vice-Chancellor, W. J. Viljoen, and his deputy J. E. Adamson, regarded the rented offices merely as a temporary expedient and expected to see the university speedily housed in a more suitable building, with a hall large enough to hold the annual graduation ceremonies. The University of South Africa was nevertheless destined to remain at Somerset House for more than a quarter of a century.

Although the university began life in a relatively insignificant home, its governing Council was, from the start, widely representative of national higher educational interests. Indeed, it re-

flected more than a national outlook, as Southern Rhodesia elected to take part in its deliberations when the first Council was constituted. Much later, in 1944, the mandated territory of South West Africa followed suit. The governing body was smaller than that which had administered the affairs of the Cape University in its last years. In addition to the nominees of the college Senates and Councils, eight members were appointed by the Governor-General and four were chosen by Convocation. The professorial element on Council was strong, for not only did the constituents send members of the teaching staffs to its meetings, but Convocation, still employing the competitive ticket system, usually gave preference to college professors as the representatives of its interests. Among the many who took their seats as college or Convocation nominees in the period to 1946 were R.B. Denison and the Orcadian botanist, J. W. Bews, from Natal, A. Stanley Kidd of Rhodes University College and D. F. Malherbe of Bloemfontein, South Africa's first Professor of Afrikaans.

It became the practice to appoint the heads of the provincial education departments in an *ex-officio* capacity on the Governor-General's list. This brought to the service of the University of South Africa a number of men with considerable administrative experience. They included Viljoen of the Free State and the Cape, Adamson and N. M. Hoogenhout of the Transvaal, Hugh Bryan and F. D. Hugo of Natal, S. H. Pellissier from Bloemfontein and the Cape Superintendent General of Education, W. de Vos Malan. In 1932, S. P. E. Boshoff began his association with the governing body as Director of Education in Pretoria, a post which he held until 1934.

Southern Rhodesia and South West Africa were also represented by the heads of their education departments. The Yorkshireman, L. M. Foggin, appointed in 1918, was for many years the Rhodesian member; W. Orban was South West Africa's first nominee. This extra-territorial representation lasted until 1954.

Many members of Council were long associated with the university. Two college Council delegates – the Catholic churchman from Natal, the Rev. Leo Sormany, and the Huguenot institu-

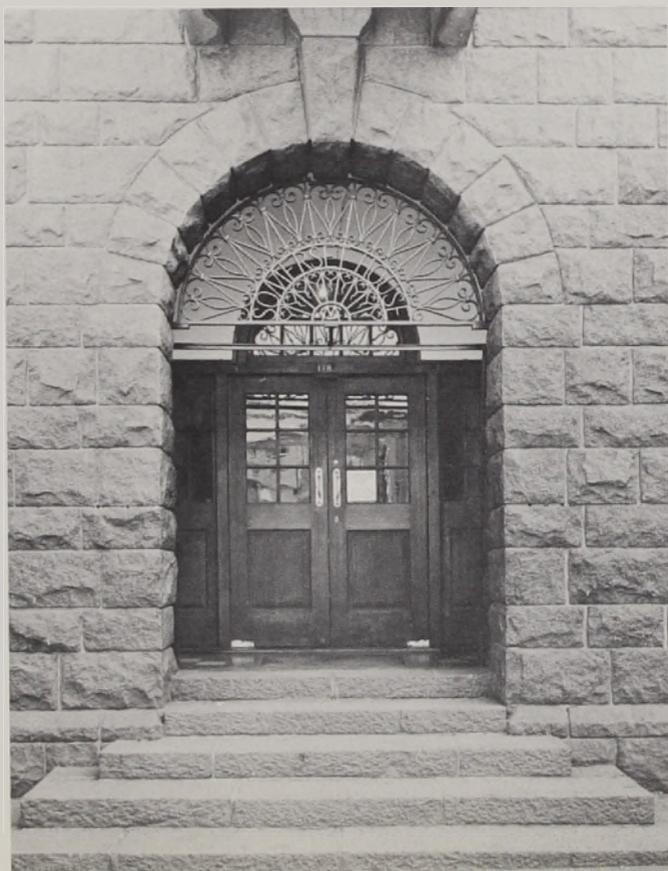
In 1918, the new University of South Africa moved into rented offices in SOMERSET HOUSE, Vermeulen Street, Pretoria. It was a pleasant enough building, although less impressive than the premises in Cape Town and lacking a hall suitable for graduation ceremonies.

More offices were rented in Somerset House as the work of the administration grew. Rapid expansion after 1946 compelled the university to seek other accommodation, however, and the building was vacated in 1949.

*Somerset House, which housed the first offices of the
University of South Africa*



Somerset House



*Main
entrance*

tion's representative, the Rev. William Flint – were among those who had earlier served the examining university in Cape Town. Two other college Council members – W. P. Bond of Grahams-town and the Rev. H. J. R. du Plessis of Potchefstroom – sat for many years in the federal Council; so, too, did the English-born future Supreme Court judge, Percival Carleton Gane, chosen on separate occasions by the Rhodes University College Council and by Convocation. Ferdinand Postma of Potchefstroom, a tower of strength throughout the federal period, became a member of Council in 1919.

William Thomson, who retired as Registrar in 1922 and subsequently became Principal of the University of the Witwatersrand, was chosen as a member of Council by the Governor-General in 1924. As Sir William, he was to serve until his death in 1947, thus maintaining an almost unbroken association with the University of the Cape of Good Hope and the University of South Africa for more than sixty years. A. J. R. van Rhijn of the Bloemfontein *Volksblad*, parliamentarian and future Union High Commissioner in London, was another member who gave long service to the Council; so, too, did his fellow-Afrikaner, the cultural leader, P. C. Schoonees. Both were appointed by the Governor-General, who also selected A. A. Roberts, later the Union's diplomatic representative in Canada. He, like M. C. Botha earlier, sat on Council while at the same time holding the office of Secretary for Education. This link with a government department was, however, exceptional. Botha, Roberts and Van Rhijn were all elected Vice-Chancellor, Van Rhijn being chosen for two successive terms in 1948 and 1950.

Two men who became the first Principals of independent universities were appointed to the Council of the University of South Africa in the federal period which ended in 1951. These were H. van der Merwe Scholtz of the Bloemfontein college and E. G. Malherbe of Natal. Scholtz joined Council in 1944 and Malherbe in the following year. Both were to retain a connection with a reconstructed University of South Africa. The architect of the legislation of 1916, F. S. Malan, was also a Council member for

some years. He sat briefly in 1932, when he acted as Director of Education for the Transvaal, and again from 1936 until 1940 as the representative of the Council of the Wellington college. He was chosen as Vice-Chancellor in 1936 in succession to F. D. Hugo.

The Chancellor of the University of the Cape of Good Hope, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, consented to serve the federal university. Following his death in 1942, the first South African Chancellor, Nicolaas Johannes de Wet, was appointed. Three Vice-Chancellors, in addition to Van Rhijn, served successive two-year terms of office. These were W. J. Viljoen, his successor in 1922, J. E. Adamson, and Ferdinand Postma, who was Vice-Chancellor from 1940 until 1944. The Vice-Chancellor from 1930 until 1932, N. M. Hoogenhout, died in office.

From 1918, women began for the first time to take a part in the government of the university. Ethel M. Doidge of the Department of Agriculture was chosen as a member of the first Council by the Governor-General and in 1940, the Huguenot Council selected as its representative Marjorie A. Malan, the wife of the sitting Cape Superintendent General of Education. The Wellington institution was well served by its lady professors. Among those who became members of the Council of the federal university were the Americans, Bertha Stoneman and Florence M. Snell, and the Afrikaans-speaking Principal, Anna J. D. de Villiers.

The Registrar was also Secretary of the Joint Matriculation Board, the Joint Committee for Professional Examinations, and, later, of the Carnegie Corporation Visitors' Grants Committee and the Voortrekker Centenary Memorial Fund. He was also Secretary of Convocation. That body gradually became, so far as its annual meetings were concerned, a mere appendage of the professorial Senate and an ineffective advisory group. It continued to meet each year until 1930, choosing an annual President and occasionally voicing its opinions upon matters of interest to the university. Its first President was B. A. Tindall, destined for high legal office; subsequent holders of the title included Sir George Cory and H. T. Reinink, both of whom served for two



WILLEM JACOBUS VILJOEN was born on 5 October, 1869 at Richmond in the Cape, where he received his early education. He then went to Cape Town and Stellenbosch, matriculated in 1887 and obtained the B.A. degree at the Victoria College three years later. Further study abroad followed. He attended the Universities of Amsterdam and Leiden and gained a doctorate in philosophy at the University of Strasburg. He was admitted to the degree of M.A. (Cape) in 1903.

In 1894, he was appointed to the staff of the Victoria College as Professor of History and Modern Languages. There, for many years, he played a leading part in academic life.

Viljoen was chosen as Director of Education for the Orange Free State in 1910. An advocate of simplified written Dutch, rather than of Afrikaans, he encountered opposition from those who saw in the introduction of the younger language a means to hasten bilingualism.

In 1918, he became the first Afrikaner to hold the post of Superintendent General of Education at the Cape.

Viljoen wrote a number of books, among them a translation into Afrikaans of *Jock of the Bushveld*. In 1923, he received an honorary doctorate in civil law from the University of Oxford.

A member of Council from 1897 until his death, he was elected Vice-Chancellor of the new university in 1918, retaining this office until 1922.

Willem Jacobus Viljoen died at Sea Point, Cape Town on 19 July, 1929.

Professor Willem Jacobus Viljoen, M.A., Phil.D., D.C.L. (h.c.)

Member of Council 1897-1929

Pro and Deputy Vice-Chancellor 1916-1918; 1922-1926

Vice-Chancellor 1918-1922

(Photo: University of Stellenbosch)

successive years. After the election of S. H. Pellissier as President in 1930, a quorum was only once found for the annual meeting, when in 1936, Professor Emeritus Adriaan Francken of the Bloemfontein college was chosen to fill the vacant presidency for the coming year.

Convocation did, however, continue to elect members of Council by postal vote and could also be called upon to choose the university's Chancellor in similar fashion. In 1942, one of the most bitterly contested elections took place for the four seats on the fifth Council. During the second World War, as in the first, South Africa was a divided land and it was generally felt that the major contending tickets in this Convocation election were politically inspired. One, alleged to have the support of either the militant *Ossewa-Brandwag* organization or the exclusive Afrikaner *Broederbond*, included two sitting members of Council: Professor W. F. C. Arndt of Bloemfontein and the former Prime Minister's son, Dr Albert Hertzog. The other candidates on this ticket were Dr Nicolaas Diederichs, for some years on the staff of the Free State college, and Professor J. C. van Rooy of Potchefstroom. It was opposed by another ticket which would seem to have enjoyed United Party support. This consisted of a Transvaal candidate, T. P. C. Boezaart, Alexander Kerr of Fort Hare in the Cape and two former Rhodes Scholars: Leif Egeland of Natal and I. S. Fourie of the Orange Free State. Fourie had recently represented the Bloemfontein college as a member of the university Council. Arndt was subsequently chosen by the Senate of his college, but the ticket on which his name appeared as a Convocation candidate was decisively beaten by the opposing one. Egeland and Kerr received an equal number of votes to head the poll; they were closely followed by Fourie and Boezaart.

The passions aroused by this contest gave rise to fears that a similar struggle would mark the election, then pending, of a new Chancellor. Already, a special war measure of 1941 had done away with the Convocation meeting of that year in the interests of economy. Two years later, the statutes were amended to allow the Vice-Chancellor to act as President of Convocation and in

the same year, legislation was passed which gave Council the right to choose the Chancellor. In this way, Convocation's power was curbed and a possible crisis averted. Convocation retained the privilege of choosing Council members, however, although few made use of their postal votes. This, in a university whose governing body was entirely European, might cause difficulties in the future, for already in 1942, non-European members were coming forward as candidates for Council seats.

The establishment of a university Senate of college professors and heads of department represented a break with the old Cape University. Under Senate's direction, a faculty system came into being to co-ordinate the work of the colleges. The first Chairman of Senate was George Corstorphine of the School of Mines; among those who succeeded him were Paterson of the Transvaal University College, Bews of Natal, Postma of Potchefstroom, T. F. Dreyer of the Free State college and J. Smeath Thomas of Rhodes University College.

The Faculty of Veterinary Science, whose first Dean was Sir Arnold Theiler, and that of Agriculture, under J. M. Hector and J. C. Ross, were concerned with studies at the Pretoria college only. The Faculty of Medicine, founded in 1920 with E. P. Stibbe as Dean, was restricted to courses at the School of Mines, subsequently renamed University College, Johannesburg. The Faculty of Education did not come into existence until 1927, when Sir John Adamson, then Master of Rhodes, became Dean. One of his successors was the outstanding educationist, J. Chris. Coetzee of Potchefstroom. An active Faculty of Engineering existed, with one short gap, until 1949. The School of Mines provided the first Dean in John Orr, but for many years the only constituent giving instruction in this field was the Natal University College. Its professors, H. Clark and J. H. Neal, long alternated as Dean. A Faculty of Social Science was created in 1944 under J. de W. Keyter of Bloemfontein.

The present Faculties of Arts, Commerce and Administration, Law and Science date from the beginning of the University of South Africa's history. Reinink of the Transvaal University Col-

NICOLAAS MARAIS HOOGENHOUT was born on 9 January, 1876 at Wellington (Cape). He was the eldest son of C.P. Hoogenhout, one of the leaders of the first Afrikaans language movement and it was in his father's school at Groenberg that the boy received his primary education. He matriculated in 1894 at the high school in Wellington and attended the Victoria College, where he obtained the B.A. degree in 1897 and the M.A. two years later.

After teaching for some months at Gill College, he studied modern languages at the University of Strasburg, gaining a doctorate in philosophy in 1902.

On his return to South Africa, he lectured at the Victoria College and taught at Wellington. In 1904, he was appointed Headmaster of the Eendracht School in Pretoria. He became Vice-Principal of the Pretoria Normal College in 1908 and Principal in 1922. Dr Hoogenhout was also Professor of Education at the Transvaal University College from 1922 until 1928 and Principal there from 1925 to 1927. In June, 1928, he was appointed Director of Education for the Transvaal, a post which he held until his death.

He was a member of several educational and cultural organizations and published a number of books and articles.

Chairman of the Council of the Transvaal University College, later the University of Pretoria, from 1929 until 1932, he also served on the Council of the University of South Africa from 1925 to 1927 and again from 1928 until 1932. Chosen as Vice-Chancellor in 1930, he did not live to complete his term of office.

Nicolaas Marais Hoogenhout died in Pretoria on 9 February, 1932.

Dr Nicolaas Marais Hoogenhout, M.A., D.Phil.
Member of Council 1925-1927; 1928-1932
Vice-Chancellor 1930-1932
(Photo: University of Pretoria)



lege was the first Dean of the Faculty of Arts; others included Postma, Scholtz and the Potchefstroom historian, A. J. H. van der Walt. In the Faculty of Commerce, whose first Dean was J. Findlay of the School of Mines, J. E. Holloway and E. H. Brookes of the Transvaal University College played an important part in the early days. In 1927, Orlando Oldham of Natal became Dean, holding the office until 1937 and again from 1942 until 1944. The Faculty of Law was first presided over by W. Pittman of the Transvaal University College. F. B. Burchell of Natal and C. P. Brink of Bloemfontein gave long service as Deans at a later stage. Alexander Ogg of the School of Mines was the first Dean of the Faculty of Science in 1918; other incumbents included Bews of Natal, W. F. Barker of Rhodes and W. H. Logeman of the Bloemfontein college.

Two committees of Council were responsible for the school and music examinations of the federal university. Both these secondary functions caused problems enough. A movement away from university control of school examinations manifested itself at an early date. By 1933, only government or provincial schools in Natal, Swaziland and South West Africa still presented candidates for the university's Junior Certificate examination; the other provinces had by then instituted tests of their own. Many private schools, however, found the examination useful, among them those of the Catholic Church. There was a growing demand for the representation of groups of schools by assessor members on the Council committee and the university finally acceded to it, with certain qualifications, in 1934. In that year, R. F. Currey, Rector of Michaelhouse and representative of the "Conference" schools, and F. C. McManus of the Christian Brothers' College, Kimberley, the nominee of the Catholic group, were chosen as assessor members.

Music examinations caused many difficulties. The University of South Africa found itself in an uncomfortable position, seeking to satisfy not only the Associated Board in London, but also the musical profession and the South African public. The Music Committee of Council did not reflect the collective voice of the

profession. The lawyer and historian, Manfred Nathan, has spoken of the part he played in its deliberations between 1924 and 1930. "I was on the music committee", he wrote in his autobiography. "The others seem to have assumed, quite erroneously, that I was an authority . . . They might as well have put me on the finance committee"! When in 1923, Percival R. Kirby and Theophil Wendt attempted to assess the work of candidates with a severity unknown before, there was consternation in the musical world. It was the appointment of such local examiners in musical theory which marked the beginning of a split with the Associated Board. The English examiners had been under fire for their inability to cope when they visited Afrikaans-speaking areas; the Associated Board, however, would not have examiners chosen on any but musical and professional grounds. There was, too, a certain prejudice in some quarters in favour of the imported article. In the thirties, the university nevertheless began to use South Africans for practical examinations as well as for the theoretical papers. Relations with the Associated Board began to deteriorate and there was, even before the second World War, talk of a complete break with the English body. This at length took place in 1945.

There is no doubt that the work undertaken by the University of South Africa in these subsidiary areas was of great financial benefit to it. A later Registrar, Langham Murray, was to say on one occasion at least that it was the fees received from candidates for the university's various examinations which kept the institution going in times of crisis. And money problems long plagued the authorities. The government grant was generous enough in the first years. The university received over R8 000 a year between 1919 and 1923 and nearly R17 000 in 1925. In 1930, the sum allocated was approximately R6 000, but from that year, the contribution began to fall steadily through the period of world depression until in 1933, the state subsidy was a mere R500. This was little more than the University of South Africa obtained from the government of Southern Rhodesia and only a sixth of the amount the Cape government had given the examining university

JOHN ERNEST ADAMSON was born on 11 January, 1867 in Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. After attending a local school, he trained as a teacher at St Mark's College in London, completing his course in 1890. He began his career as a lecturer at the South Wales Training College in Carmarthen and, by studying privately, obtained the M.A. degree in philosophy of the University of London in 1901. Twenty years later, he gained a London doctorate.

In 1902, he became head of the Pretoria Normal College and three years later, was appointed Director of Education for the Transvaal, a post he held until 1924.

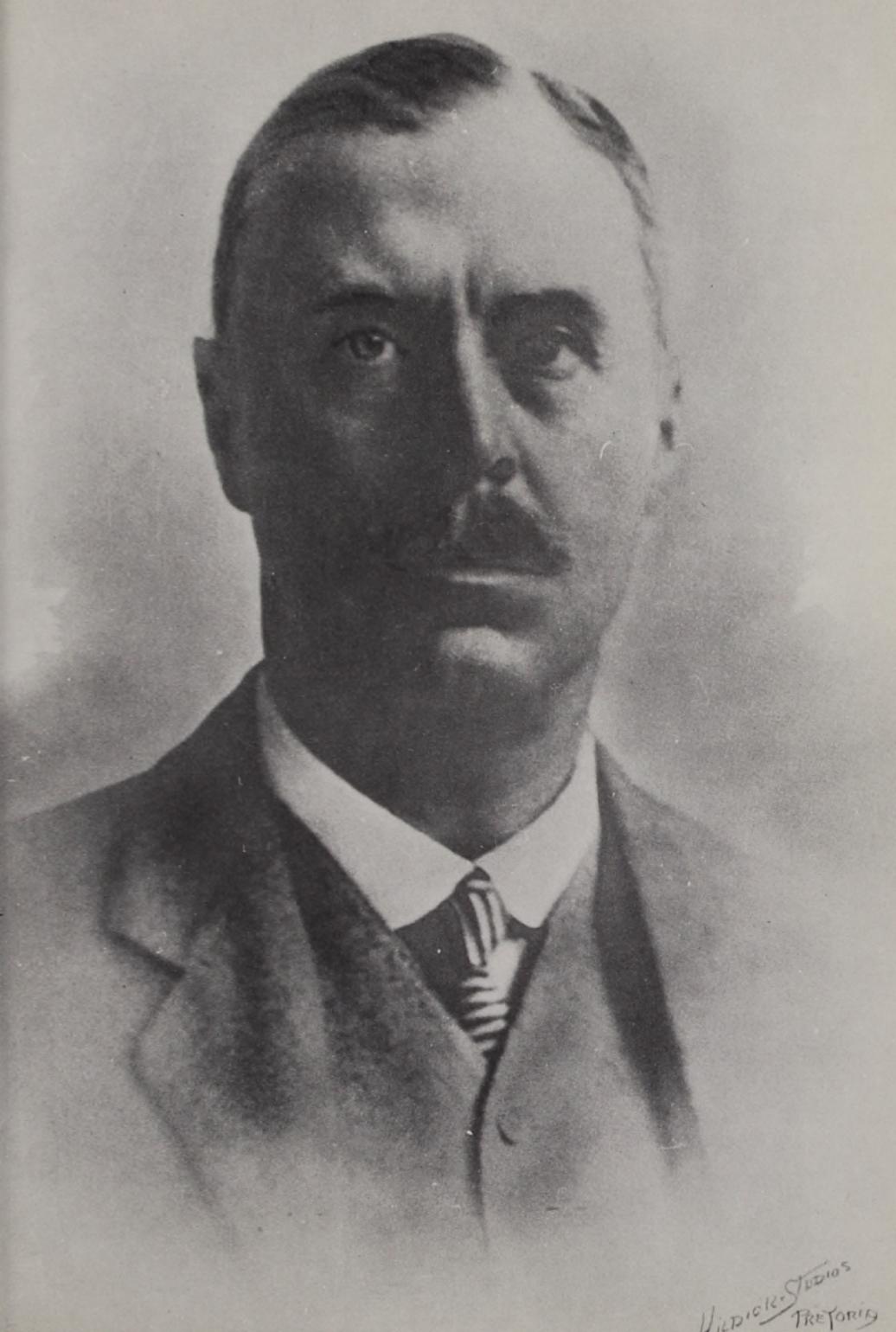
An outstanding educationist, he wrote much on the philosophy of his subject. His invaluable services earned him the C.M.G. in 1923 and a knighthood in the following year.

On his retirement in 1924, he became the first Master of Rhodes University College, where he continued to lecture in his field of study until 1930. For many years afterwards, he retained his interest in educational matters.

A member of Council, with one brief interlude, from 1906 until 1930, he succeeded W.J. Viljoen as Vice-Chancellor in 1922, serving in this capacity until 1926.

Sir John Adamson died at Muizenberg in the Cape on 26 April, 1950.

Sir John Ernest Adamson, Kt, M.A., D.Litt., C.M.G.
Member of Council 1906-1909; 1909-1930
Dean of the Faculty of Education 1927-1929
Deputy Vice-Chancellor 1918-1920; 1921-1922
Vice-Chancellor 1922-1926



Victor Studios
The Bronx

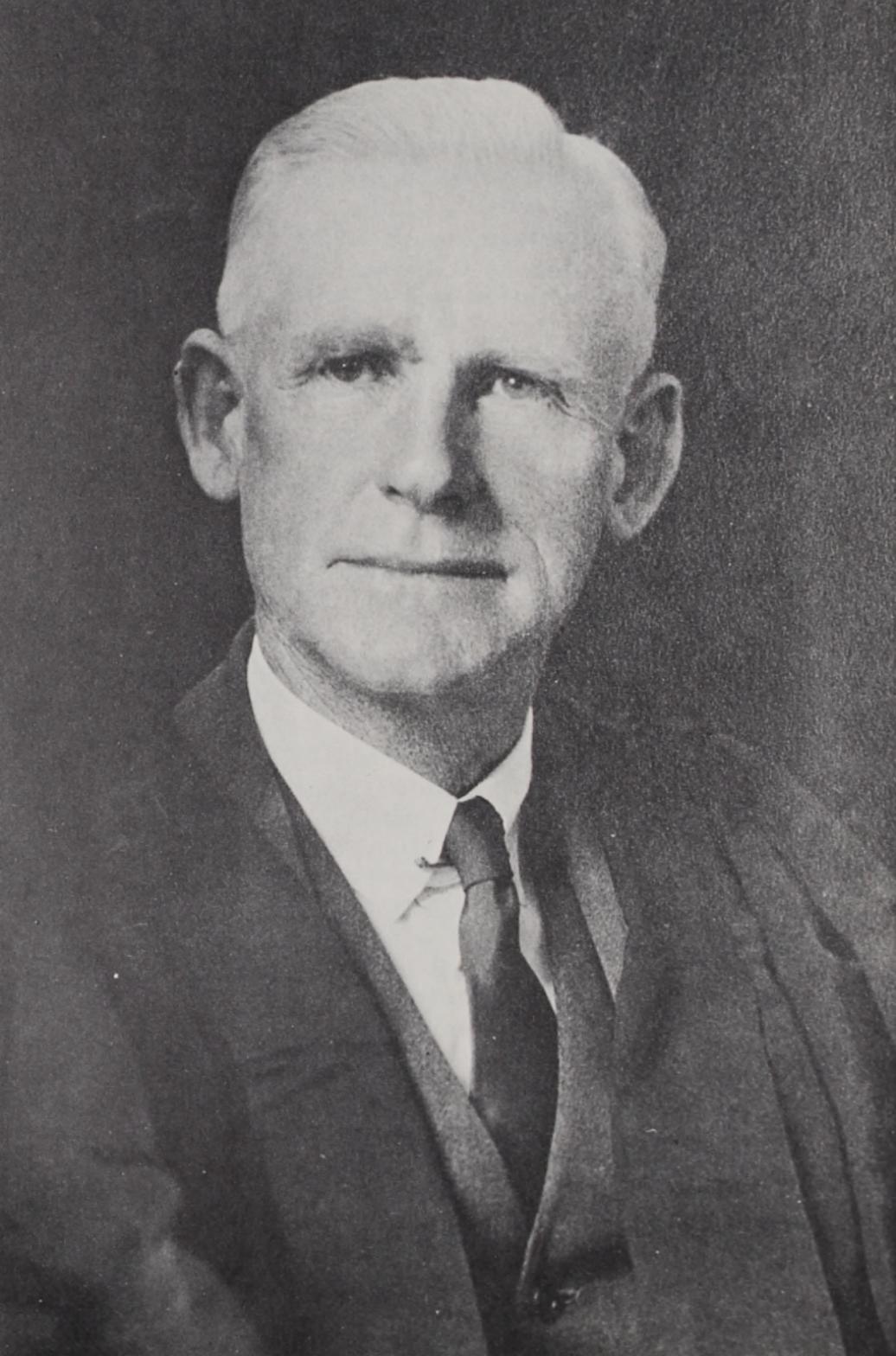
in 1873! Not surprisingly, an anxious delegation, consisting of Vice-Chancellor Pellissier, Charles C. Grant, Thomson's successor as Registrar, and the Chairman of Council's Finance Committee, A. A. Roberts, waited upon Jan Hofmeyr, the newly appointed Minister of Education! The situation improved a little with the implementation of the Adamson departmental committee recommendations. In 1934 and for some time thereafter, the University of South Africa received R2 000 a year, although there was another drop in 1937 to R1 000. In the last years of the second World War, however, the situation became less precarious, until by 1946, the university was in receipt of a government grant of over R7 000.

Some relief came, when the depression was at its height, through the sale of the university building in Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town. The appendage, Poplar Lodge, was in use as the headquarters of a local university representative and the main building for occasional conferences, but by the mid-twenties, when the University of Cape Town proposed to relinquish its lease, the property seemed destined to become a financial liability. In proposing any sale, the feelings of the original donors had to be considered and in Sir John Buchanan and H.W. Baumgarten they had redoubtable spokesmen. Moreover, in disposing of the property, the University of South Africa had to keep in mind a stipulation that it must be used solely for educational purposes. After much discussion, legislation was passed which enabled the university to sell the buildings concerned for R90 000. A commemorative Hiddingh-Currie Scholarship was instituted to satisfy the donors' representatives and from 1932, the property was taken over to house the Cape provincial archives. When all commitments had been met, the university received just over R70 000, a sum very considerably below the municipal valuation.

It was in its federal role that the University of South Africa was intended to play a significant part in the development of higher education. It began life as the mother of six small constituent colleges, too small at that stage, despite H. E. S. Fremantle's pleas for collegiate independence, to stand upon their own

feet. At the end of 1918, the Pretoria college was the biggest, with over 250 students, but the neighbouring School of Mines in Johannesburg was rapidly overhauling it, having then 179 students. Rhodes and Grey University Colleges had not reached an enrolment of 150, the Natal college had a mere 86 and the Huguenot institution only 56, of whom 8 were men. Federation sat lightly upon the colleges, for the administration of the federal institution had no control over internal collegiate affairs or even upon the appointment of staff.

The Johannesburg college moved rapidly towards independence under the guidance of Jan Hofmeyr, who became Principal after the death of Corstorphine in 1919. By 1921, it boasted nearly 900 students and was a university college serving a wide area of southern Africa. Although there were misgivings in University of South Africa circles that the loss of so healthy a constituent might jeopardize the stability of the federal structure, the University of the Witwatersrand was created by Act 15 of 1921 and severed its ties with the federal university in the following March. There were signs that other colleges would like to take the same course. However, it was only in Pretoria that practical effect was given to dreams of independence. There, after the rejection by the Transvaal University College in 1924 of a proposed amalgamation with the new university on the Rand, a campaign was launched which led to the passing of Act 13 of 1930, establishing the University of Pretoria on Kruger Day, 10 October. The federal university, shorn of yet another constituent, was in despondent mood. It regarded itself, as a recently elected Council member, Professor E. H. Brookes, put it, as "a gradually dissolving and obviously transitory body", destined to "break up into its component parts at a distant, but not indefinitely distant, date". Nor did it keep its despair to itself, for on Graduation Day in March, 1930 – some months before the Transvaal University College gained its independence – Vice-Chancellor Hugh Bryan confessed that the University of South Africa could no longer "pretend a passionate devotion to (its) continually dwindling federation".



CHARLES CAMERON GRANT was born on 15 July, 1873 at Glenlivet, Banffshire, Scotland. From Keith High School, he attended the University of Aberdeen, where he obtained the M.A. degree.

He came to South Africa to teach immediately after the Anglo-Boer War and in 1903, became head of the school at Winburg in the Orange River Colony. In view of the bitterness then existing between English speakers and Afrikaners, it says much for Grant that his transfer in 1904 to Bloemfontein evoked vehement local protest.

On the outbreak of the first World War, he was in charge of the office of the Department of Education in Bloemfontein. He joined the army and saw service in South West and East Africa, attaining the rank of Captain.

He was appointed Assistant Registrar in January, 1918 and succeeded Thomson as Registrar in 1923. It was the end of an era, for henceforth the Registrar no longer exercised the same influence over university policy as had been the case under Cameron and Thomson. There were other changes, too. Grant's rule was more benevolent than that of his predecessor, who had been something of a martinet in matters of dress, behaviour and smoking in the office!

Charles Cameron Grant retired in 1934 and died in Cape Town on 19 August, 1949.

*Charles Cameron Grant, M.A., M.B.E.
Registrar 1923-1934*

The six CONSTITUENT COLLEGES originally incorporated in the University of South Africa were:

Grey University College, Bloemfontein

(from 1935, the University College of the Orange Free State);

Huguenot College, Wellington

(from 1920, Huguenot University College);

Natal University College, Pietermaritzburg

(from 1931, also in Durban);

Rhodes University College, Grahamstown;

South African School of Mines and Technology, Johannesburg

(from 1920, University College, Johannesburg);

Transvaal University College, Pretoria.

Potchefstroom University College joined the federation in 1921. Previously known as Potchefstroom University College for Christian Higher Education, it resumed this title in 1933.

Apart from Huguenot University College, which undertook a new function in 1951, these colleges all became independent universities.

Coats of Arms of the University and those of its Colleges which became independent Universities, with Dates of Independence



1916



1916



1922



1930



1949



1950



1951



1951

There had, however, been compensation for the loss of the Johannesburg college, when the Reformed (*Gereformeerde*) Church authorities at Potchefstroom sought admission as a constituent for a new college which had been created out of the Arts Department of the theological seminary. There was some hesitation in university circles about admitting a small and possibly weak newcomer; on the Potchefstroom side, there was disappointment that the secular nature of the federal university necessitated the removal of the words "for Christian Higher Education" from the title of the new institution. However, doubts on both sides were overcome and Act 25 of 1921 brought Potchefstroom University College into the federation. Twelve years later, the "verminkte vaandel", as Ferdinand Postma described it, was repaired and the title of the college again bore witness to the religious ideal which animated its leaders.

For a number of years there was always the possibility that other institutions might become constituents. There was initially considerable uncertainty about the scope of higher education in the Union. A definition was at length embodied in the Financial Relations Fourth Extension Act of 1922 which covered a wide field, placing even schools for the teaching of domestic science under the Department of Union Education. The Higher Education Act of the following year made specific regulations for the control of all schools, colleges and institutes which fell within the sphere of action of the Union government. Training colleges for teachers might one day seek higher status; of more immediate importance was the effect of the new outlook upon the technical colleges and the South African Native College.

The technical colleges, and particularly that at Durban, would greatly benefit if the gateway to university education were widened. The Natal foundation was not only providing full-time courses in engineering and commerce, but was also giving lectures in fine arts and tutorial classes in other university subjects. The result of the latest developments in the organization of higher education was to allow the Durban institution, now renamed the Natal Technical College, to establish Departments of Commerce,

Engineering and Fine Arts of full university standard, in collaboration with the Natal University College in Pietermaritzburg. Other technical colleges, united from 1926 in a national association, saw visions of similar future greatness.

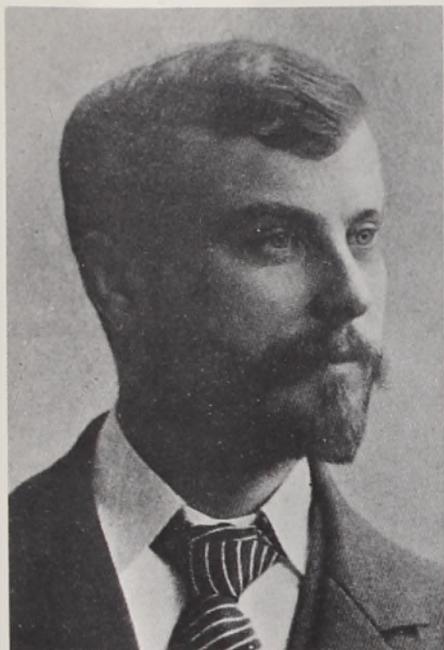
The South African Native College at Fort Hare, near Alice also stood on the threshold of significant advance at this period. In 1923, Zachariah K. Matthews, the future Botswana Ambassador to the United States, became the first student there to obtain a B.A. degree. Fort Hare was ready to join the ranks of the university colleges, however slender its resources and few its successes. Its students worked externally for University of South Africa degrees, although the federal institution had a connection with the college in the appointment of two members to its governing Council. One noted supporter of non-European education, Professor G. F. Dingemans of Rhodes, was to assist the college as a member of its Council for over a quarter of a century. The Higher Education Act of 1923 recognized the South African Native College as an institution of university college standing and, with courses largely determined by the syllabuses of the federal university, Fort Hare would inevitably be drawn closer to the federation.

In 1937, the University of South Africa made certain concessions to the college which gave lecturers there status as internal examiners and allowed the institution to draft its own syllabuses. The South African Native College did not, however, become a federal constituent and although Principal Kerr gained a university Council seat in the "political" election of 1942, this did not imply official recognition of a special relationship with the federal body.

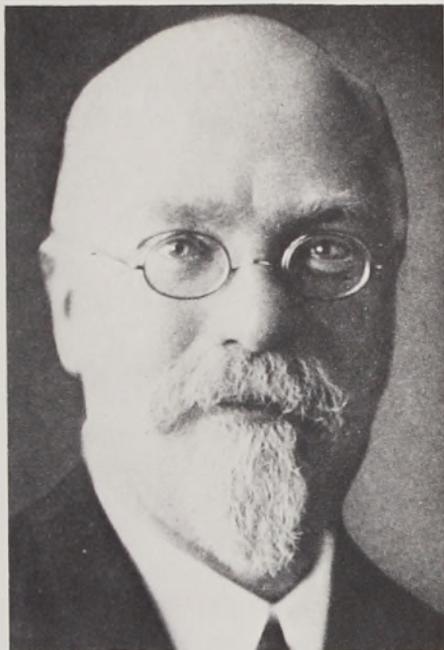
Although there was no reason to doubt the standing of the South African Native College as a higher educational institution, there were serious misgivings in many quarters about the claims of technical colleges to be so regarded. When, in 1927, a commission was appointed under J. G. van der Horst to investigate the university position in the country, the University of South Africa showed itself clearly hostile to the extension of

The first meeting of the university SENATE was held at Somerset House, Pretoria on 20 April, 1918, a week after the inaugural meeting of the new Council. Subsequent meetings were held at collegiate centres. The Chairman of Senate also took the chair at meetings of the Senate Executive Committee.

Chairmen of Senate, 1918-1928



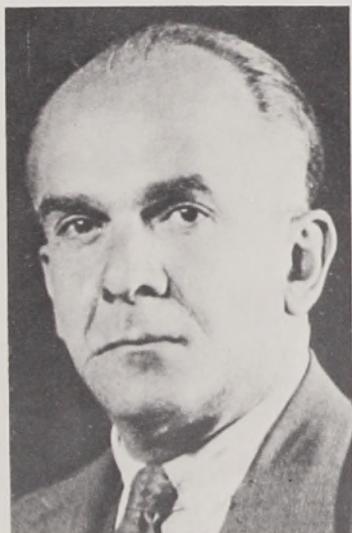
*Dr G.S. Corstorphine
(School of Mines), 1918*



*Prof. A.C. Paterson (Transvaal
University College), 1918-1922*



*Prof. J.W. Bews
(Natal University College),
1922-1924; 1934-1936*



*Prof. P.J. du Toit
(Transvaal University College),
1924-1926*



*Prof. F. Postma (Potchef-
stroom University College),
1926-1928; 1936-1938*

university college status to technical institutions. The report of the Van der Horst Commission in 1928 proposed an end to further encroachment and also to the link between the Natal Technical College and the Natal University College. No official line of demarcation was ever drawn between university work and other forms of advanced training, but it was made plain that government would no longer consider technical colleges as embryo technological universities. The federal university therefore gained no new constituents and students at all other institutions were treated as external candidates for its examinations.

The colleges of the University of South Africa were geographically remote from each other and, in local eyes, more important than the distant examining machine in Pretoria to which they were attached. In this role – so much like that of the old Cape University – the federal university was not without its critics. Results were sometimes delayed and the prestige of the university suffered in consequence. It was not always the fault of the administration in Somerset House, Pretoria. In 1929, for example, an examiner left for his honeymoon at an inconvenient moment, giving instructions that no scripts were to be submitted to him for marking while he was away!

The University of South Africa was not, as its predecessor had been for so many years, confined to the chosen administrative seat. Meetings of Council and Senate took place at intervals at all the collegiate centres except Wellington. These were not, however, frequent visits and in the early twenties, an imaginative scheme was put forward by J. E. Holloway of the Transvaal University College, which would bring the colleges together at a central place as residential teaching institutions. Their assets were to be vested in the federal university, which would appoint the teaching staff. It was proposed that Council should be so constituted that it would reflect all the local interests which had hitherto played an important part in the history of the constituents. This dream of a South African Oxford or Cambridge never became a reality, however, although it remained a talking point for a couple of years. Regional pride was strongly against

the plan and there were some who saw in it nothing more than a way of enhancing the prestige of the Pretoria college, for it was generally felt that the capital city would be chosen as the central site.

Graduation Day long provided a meeting point for the students and staffs of the constituent colleges, although from time to time, local ceremonies were held. The first function took place in 1919 at the Raadzaal on Church Square, Pretoria. It was followed by an "At Home" in the somewhat incongruous surroundings of the zoological gardens in the city! Honorary degrees were conferred upon those stalwarts of the old university, Kolbe, Marais and Whitton, and a large number of mining diplomas were converted into B.Sc. degrees. More than a hundred degrees by examination were awarded on the results of the university's first examinations, delayed the previous year by the influenza epidemic which swept the world at the close of the first World War. One LL.B. capped on this occasion was the future State President of the Republic of South Africa, Charles Robberts Swart; several who would subsequently give much time to the affairs of the federal university also received degrees, among them the distinguished educationist, E. H. Brookes, a future Registrar, Petrus A. Taljaard, and the literary figure, P. C. Schoonees. The Graduation Day function was soon transferred to the Grand Theatre in Pretoria and the students of the local college undertook to organize the lively procession through the streets of the city with which the proceedings opened. The Varsity Ball became one of the social highlights of the season.

In August, 1929, an additional ceremony was held at the Transvaal University College to honour certain visiting members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, one of whom was the future United Kingdom Minister of Health, Major Walter Elliot. The time for retrenchment was, however, at hand and Graduation Day, like the research fellowship created at the beginning of the federal university's life, soon came to an end. After 1930, moreover, the new University of Pretoria began to hold its own ceremonies and the local *Pretoria News* felt that

THE FIRST GRADUATION CEREMONY of the University of South Africa was held in the Pretoria Raadzaal on the first anniversary of the university's inception, 2 April, 1919.

The names of 138 graduates appear in the programme, together with those of 99 former holders of mining diplomas who were now entitled to the degree of B.Sc. in engineering. Honorary doctorates were also conferred upon three members of the Council of the old university: F.C. Kolbe, J.I. Marais and J.R. Whitton.

Many who had made, or were later to make valuable contributions to public life were awarded degrees in 1919. Among them were E.X. Brain of the South African Railways, A.A. Coaton, General Manager of De Beers, the historians, I.D. Bosman and A.E. du Toit, the future State President, C.R. Swart, two leading judges, J.E. de Villiers and A.C. Malan, the cabinet minister, S.P. le Roux and four men who distinguished themselves in the world of letters: P.C. Schoonees, J.R.L. van Bruggen, R.M. Titlestad and Gerrit Dekker.

*Programme of the first Graduation Ceremony of the
University of South Africa, 1919*



Universiteit van Zuid-Africa.

PROMOTIEPLECHTIGHEID,

2 APRIL 1919.

KANSELIER :

Veldmaarschalk Z.K.H. De HERTOG VAN CONNAUGHT
en STRATHEARN, P.C., K.G., K.T., K.P.

VICE-KANSELIER :

Dr. W. J. VILJOEN, M.A., Phil. D.

PLAATSVERVANGEND VICE-KANSELIER :

JOHN E. ADAMSON, M.A.

Voorzitter van de Senaat - - - - Professor A. C. PATERSON, M.A.

DEKENS VAN DE FAKULTEITEN :

Letteren - - - - Professor R. A. LEHFELDT, B.A., D.Sc.

Wis-en Natuurkunde - - Professor A. OGC, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D.

Rechtsgeleerdheid - - Advokaat W. PITTMAN, B.A.

Technologie - - - - Professor J. ORR, B.Sc., M. Inst. C.E.

Landbouwkunde - - - - Professor J. M. HECTOR, B.Sc.

Handelswetenschappen - - Professor J. FINDLAY, C.A., F.S.A.A.

Registrateur - - - - Dr. W. THOMSON, M.A., B.Sc., LL.D.

the federal Graduation Day would certainly be robbed of much of its appeal with the loss of the largest constituent. A ceremony was held by the University of South Africa at the Grand Theatre in 1931, when Vice-Chancellor Hoogenhout kept his speech within the limits acceptable in a "day (which) regards long addresses with as little favour as long skirts and long sermons". The following year's function, held this time in the Plaza cinema, was the last corporate one for many a year.

These Pretoria gatherings did not always earn the uncritical acclaim of the general public. The editor of the *Pretoria News*, Vere Stent, once poured scorn on South Africa's university world, in which Deans of Faculty enjoyed good pay, light work and the not very onerous responsibility of introducing plain girls and bovine young men into academic society! However, this was a particularly jaundiced view and for many, the annual presentation of degrees by the federal university made it, for a few hours, something more than an examination factory. Once these functions began to be associated with the separate colleges, the division between the active teaching parts and the administrative headquarters became more marked. One corporate ceremony was arranged in 1946, but as the Director of Demobilisation refused to provide travel vouchers for the sixteen students concerned, only one put in a personal appearance!

Honorary degrees continued to be conferred throughout the life of the federal university. Between 1920 and 1934, several men who had served on the Council of the Cape University were thus rewarded for their contributions to national life. Doctorates in laws were bestowed upon Sir John Buchanan in 1925 and upon Sir John Wessels nine years later; doctorates in literature were awarded to the Rev. Adriaan Moorrees in 1920 and to William Ritchie in 1925. The Rev. J. D. Kestell was capped at Bloemfontein as a Doctor of Divinity in 1933. His connection with the Cape University was not of long duration, but he gave many years of useful service to its successor and became its third Vice-Chancellor in 1926. A later Vice-Chancellor, M. C. Botha, received an honorary doctorate in literature in 1936.

Doctorates were also awarded between 1933 and 1945 to four other members of the Council of the federal university: R. B. Denison of Natal (D.Sc.), G. F. Dingemans of Rhodes (D.Litt.), Jacob D. du Toit of Potchefstroom, better known as the poet "Totius" (D.Litt.), and Alexander Kerr of the South African Native College (LL.D.). Among Senate members, Gerrit Besse-laar of Natal (D.Litt.), Orlando Oldham of the same college (M.Com.) and Adriaan Francken of Bloemfontein (D.Litt.) obtained honorary degrees; so, too, did Sir Arnold Theiler of Onderstepoort, who had earlier received a similar distinction from the examining university. He became a Doctor of Veterinary Science of the University of South Africa in 1925. In keeping with tradition, these degrees *honoris causa* were not conferred while the recipients were attached to the university.

In 1920, a doctorate in laws was bestowed upon Prince Arthur of Connaught, the Governor-General and son of the Chancellor of the university at that time. Similar recognition was also accorded N. J. de Wet in 1943, when he succeeded the Duke of Connaught as titular head of the university. Other recipients of honorary degrees included the American educationist, Anna E. Bliss of Huguenot (D.Litt.), the geologist, Alexander Logie du Toit (D.Sc.), the politician and judge, Sir Thomas Graham (LL.D.) and the archivists and historians C. Graham Botha (M.A.) and Andries Dreyer (D.Phil.). The African teacher and founder of the Ohlange Institute, John Langalibalele Dube, was awarded a doctorate in philosophy in 1936. This was the first time that a non-European had been selected for such an honour in South Africa. It was, however, unfortunate that problems of race should have arisen in choosing the place where the degree was to be conferred. Dube wished to receive it in Natal, but the ceremony had to be held at the South African Native College in the Cape.

One subject which concerned both the federal administration and the colleges was the question of language. Here, the University of South Africa was committed to a policy of equality and, almost from the beginning of its career, was prepared to accept

JOHN DANIEL KESTELL was born on 15 December, 1854 in Pietermaritzburg, where he received his early education. In his youth, he accompanied his father to the diamond fields as a digger, before enrolling at the Stellenbosch Public School in 1873. After he had matriculated, he attended the local theological seminary and completed his training for the church at the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands.

He began his career as a minister in the Dutch Reformed (*Nederduitse Gereformeerde*) Church at Dutoitspan in 1881, moved to Kimberley in the following year and to Harrismith in 1894.

Kestell served as an army chaplain during the Anglo-Boer War and was one of the secretaries at the peace negotiations. He then travelled with the Boer generals, De Wet, De la Rey and Botha, to Europe and on his return, became minister at Ficksburg. In 1919, he was appointed editor of the *Kerkbode* and in the following year was chosen as Principal of Grey University College, where he remained until 1927.

His great work as a church leader and Bible translator earned him wide recognition. He also inspired the *Reddingsdaad* and *Helpmekaar* movements. Three honorary doctorates were conferred upon him: the D.D. of the University of South Africa in 1933, the D.Litt. of the University of Pretoria in 1934 and in the same year, the LL.D. of the University of Cape Town. In addition, Kestell was Chancellor of the University of Stellenbosch from 1939 until his death. His books include a biography of Christiaan de Wet.

Vice-Chancellor of the University of South Africa from 1926 to 1928, he served that university and its predecessor as a Council member for three periods between 1911 and 1930.

He died in Bloemfontein on 9 February, 1941 and was buried at the foot of the *Vrouemonument*.

*The Rev. John Daniel Kestell, D.D. (h.c.),
D.Litt. (h.c.), LL.D. (h.c.)*

Member of Council 1911–1913; 1918–1919; 1920–1930

Dean of the Faculty of Arts 1923–1924

Vice-Chancellor 1926–1928

(Photo: Government Archives)



Afrikaans as an alternative to Dutch. The university was also more truly representative of the two language groups in the country than it had ever been under its former designation, or, indeed, than it was to become at a later stage in its history. Although English, both as a medium of instruction and at meetings of the various administrative bodies, enjoyed a marked superiority in the earliest years, Afrikaans came to be used more and more frequently. Moreover, the principle that minutes and agendas should be published in both official languages had been accepted as early as 1921. Two members did much to foster the use of Afrikaans in university circles: Ferdinand Postma of Potchefstroom and S. P. Barnard of the Bloemfontein college.

The Registrar, William Thomson, was regarded in some circles as a determined opponent of Dutch and Afrikaans. He was given a few words of advice by the Pretoria *Volkstem* soon after the opening of the university's offices in Somerset House: "'n Teënstander van gelijke regte . . . is 'n anakronisme . . . Die Noorde-like Universiteit word 'n beslis tweetalige Universiteit, of gladniks; en ons wou die Registrateur van die begin af goed laat verstaan, dat ons hier g'n nonsens op daardie stuk gaan verdraag nie"!

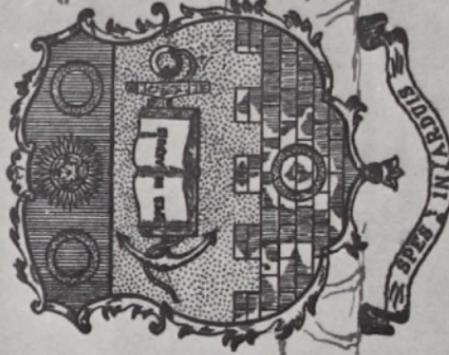
Thomson, however, was the subject of further attacks. When, for example, Theophilus Scheepers of the Middelburg (Transvaal) High School received his M.A. diploma in English, he wrote a bitter letter of complaint to the university in October, 1919, asking whether Dutch was felt to be "te onbeschaafd voor 't fijne gevoel van de Universiteitsraad"! Again, in 1921, the Registrar came under fire, when a correspondent in the *Volkstem* asked whether Thomson was "zulk 'n gebrekkig opgevoed man, dat hij alleen Engels kent". The writer offered to send his "huisbooi" to help the Registrar, for he was "'n flukse ou kaffer" who could speak three languages fluently! The matter was brought to the attention of Prime Minister Smuts in a less provocative manner by A. D. R. Bisschop, one of a Pretoria family much to the fore in the current fight for language rights. Bisschop pointed out that the neglect of Dutch in official notices, such as the one from

the university which had occasioned the *Volkstem* letter, caused great offence in South Africa. It was, he said, "plagerijen zoals deze, welke ons verbitteren, en welke bijdragen tot een slechte verhouding tusschen de rassen in deze Unie". With evident relief, Patrick Duncan, the Minister of Education of the day, welcomed the satisfactory disposal of the issue in an exchange of letters between the Registrar and G. S. Preller, historian and assistant editor of the newspaper in question. Preller's role in the language struggle was a considerable one.

With Thomson's retirement, the language problem in administration appears to have been solved. It was, however, to remain a live issue in the teaching sphere. Potchefstroom had, from the beginning, been an institution for Afrikaners, but the colleges in such Afrikaans-speaking areas as Pretoria, Wellington and Bloemfontein continued to reflect the dominance of English which had for so long characterized South African higher education. The Transvaal University College had always tried to maintain a bilingual approach and was proud to proclaim in 1923 that it was "less provincial or sectional in character" than any other college in the country. It needed, in any case, the financial support of Pretoria's many English speakers and fought hard in the twenties to maintain its policy against increasing pressure from Afrikaans speakers for the wider use of their language in lecture rooms. Similar tensions were in evidence at Grey University College in Bloemfontein, where Senate in 1929 opposed the permanent appointment of D. F. Malherbe as Principal because he championed the cause of an Afrikaans-medium university college. Many on Senate felt that the institution should try at all costs to appeal to both sections of the European community.

When the new University of Pretoria came into being in 1930, it was confidently asserted that, so far as language was concerned, the foundation would continue to reflect the desires of both sections. Two years later, however, the phased elimination of English as the general medium of instruction began. This gave encouragement to those who wished to see the same thing happen at Grey University College in Bloemfontein. One step

Universiteit van Zuid-Afrika.



1858

Voortrekker Eusebes - Jaar

1958

GRAAD VAN BACCALAUREUS ARTIUM.

Hiermee verklaar ons dat

Special degree certificates with an appropriate design were issued by the university in 1938 to commemorate the VOORTREKKER CENTENARY.

A Voortrekker Centenary Memorial Fund was also established to provide awards for writers on the Great Trek period, or on the general development of South Africa to 1875. Initially, an annual prize of £60 (R120) was offered for an essay on a set subject.

The fund is still in existence and offers bursaries for masters' and doctoral examinations (R120 and R500 respectively). Dissertations and theses may now deal with South African themes to 1900.

taken there in 1935 – a change of title to the University College of the Orange Free State – served to strengthen the bonds linking the institution with a predominantly Afrikaans-speaking province. By 1942, H. van der Merwe Scholtz was advocating that the future policy at Bloemfontein should be to create an Afrikaans-medium college, but that a high degree of bilingualism should be encouraged. At this period, too, the selection of Anna de Villiers as Principal of the Huguenot University College heralded a greater emphasis upon Afrikaans, although there was some opposition to this in the college Senate.

The appointment of bilingual teaching staffs at universities and university colleges had been regarded by the Minister of Education in 1930, D. F. Malan, as the best way of ensuring fair treatment; his attempt at that time to speed the pace of this change through government control over appointments was regarded with suspicion in some circles, however. English speakers in particular feared that the supply of able lecturers and professors would dry up if bilingualism were insisted upon. As in the last days of the Cape University, they protested that South Africa would be denied the services of highly qualified men and women from the British Isles and elsewhere if newcomers were to be compelled to learn Afrikaans.

The opening of a teaching university in Pretoria raised the question of the best place for the federal administrative headquarters. When the future of the Cape Town building had been under discussion, Baumgarten had suggested that the University of South Africa should return there. This, however, would have placed the federal university on the periphery of its group of constituent colleges. A change of seat was, however, envisaged and a clause was inserted in the University of Pretoria Act to give effect to it. A move to Bloemfontein was canvassed by many, but there was no unanimity on the subject within the university. Although the question was debated at intervals over a long period, Council came to no firm conclusion. Grant's successor as Registrar, Langham Murray, was not in favour of leaving the capital and, as a counter to Bloemfontein's offer of a site, sought

without success to wring a similar concession from the City Council of Pretoria. The municipal authorities did, however, provide an annual contribution of R300 to the university's funds from 1940. The move to Bloemfontein was successfully resisted.

The University of South Africa, although not a shining light in the higher educational firmament, played its part in intellectual movements at home and abroad. It was represented at the quinquennial congresses of the imperial universities and on the Universities Bureau in Britain; its delegates attended such world conferences as that on higher education held in Paris in 1937. It was also touched by the activities of certain organizations which flourished in the inter-war years, when the League of Nations seemed to guarantee friendship and understanding among peoples. The University of South Africa gave its support to the conferences of the New Education Fellowship organized in South Africa by E. G. Malherbe; it played its part, too, in fostering good international relations through the work of the South African Universities Lectureship Committee and the Carnegie Corporation Visitors' Grants Committee. The South African Institute of Race Relations also had a university representative on its governing body. Frank Buchman's Oxford Group made its impact upon student life in those years. On more than one occasion a conscience was stirred by the realization of moral guilt and the federal university received a penitent, if belated apology for cheating in examinations!

As a federation of constituent colleges, however, the future looked bleak after the loss of the Pretoria institution. Although the Huguenot University College remained small, the other four grew steadily in size and influence. In 1930, both the Natal and Rhodes University Colleges had enrolments of over 400, while Grey University College had more than 300 and that at Potchefstroom nearly 250. Natal, the largest, took the first steps towards independence and much of the credit is due to the pioneering work undertaken by J. W. Bews, who became Principal at this time. He had first contemplated a federal university for Natal, including colleges for African and Indian students and with

HUGH BRYAN was born on 21 August, 1871 at Lyddington, Rutland, England. He was educated at Oundle School and Queen's College, Cambridge, graduating in classics.

He taught for a number of years in England and was at Dover College in 1902, when he decided to emigrate to Natal. He was on the staff of Maritzburg College until 1904, when he joined the inspectorate. Chief Inspector in 1917, he was appointed Superintendent of Education for Natal in 1923, a post he held until 1930.

Between 1934 and 1937, he acted as Registrar at the Natal University College and, after the outbreak of the second World War, returned to teaching at Hilton College. A good sportsman, he was also prominent in the Rotary movement.

A member of Council from 1923 until 1930, he served as Vice-Chancellor for the last two years of this period.

Hugh Bryan died on 9 July, 1955 at his son's house in Kloof, near Durban. His funeral took place at Pietermaritzburg, which had long been his home.

Hugh Bryan, M.A.
Member of Council 1923-1930
Vice-Chancellor 1928-1930



facilities for Europeans in both Durban and Pietermaritzburg. Although the first part of his dream was never realized, the second came to pass. The link with the Natal Technical College was broken in 1931 and the recently completed Howard Memorial College in Durban was taken over by the present university, together with the technical institution's university departments there. The School of Art continued to serve both colleges until 1935.

The coming of the second World War in 1939 prevented any further collegiate defections for some years. Although, once again, there were serious differences of opinion on the role the nation should play in the conflict, the University of South Africa maintained the tradition of neutrality it had inherited from its predecessor. The armed forces of the Union gained study concessions and those in internment and prisoner-of-war camps in South Africa had reason to be grateful for opportunities provided to further their education. The wide distribution of the country's military forces also greatly extended the university's work.

Apart from the disputed Convocation election of 1942, there were few incidents which brought the university into the political arena in those troubled years. There was, however, some student unrest at Potchefstroom and Senate anxiety at the Huguenot University College in Wellington about the possible effect of pro-German propaganda there. The complaint of a parent whose child had failed a music examination took on a new and topical note: "Ons as ouers moet erken dat die dogter miskien gefouteer het om Duits te sing wat moontlik onwenslik was in hierdie tyd van groot bitterheid"! One last echo of wartime animosities was heard in the first days of peace, when an examination paper in political science included questions on national socialism which would, perhaps, have been better omitted. The matter caused ill-feeling and questions were asked about it in parliament.

The war also caused administrative problems, made no easier by financial starvation. Annual Senate meetings were abandoned and the Senate Executive Committee enjoyed greatly enhanced powers. It was found that the statutory provisions for university administration were inadequate for efficient government and

Council and Senate discussed the problem at some length in committee. Reconstruction, however, had to await the coming of peace. Then, too, the financial position of the nation's universities was investigated by a committee of enquiry under the chairmanship of P. J. du Toit, the Director of Veterinary Services.

However, by 1945, the special problems of the University of South Africa went far beyond the financial. The colleges had grown enormously and, with the exception of little Huguenot, which had 120 students in that year, were ready to assume full independence. The enrolments for 1946 made this abundantly clear, for returning servicemen greatly increased the numbers studying at the big four. At Natal, there were almost 2 000 students, a figure not far short of the enrolment at the University of Stellenbosch. Both Rhodes University College and the University College of the Orange Free State had more than 1 000 students, while about 800 were enrolled at Potchefstroom. The South African Native College, too, with some 300 students in 1945, had made rapid strides. It was not yet ready for university status, but it was now pressing for admission to the federal fold. Some were prepared to accept it as a constituent without question; others were as strongly opposed to such a move, for the race problem would certainly arise over the admission of its representatives on Senate and Council.

Early in 1946, the Natal University College gave notice of its intention to seek independent status. This development led to the appointment of a commission under the chairmanship of E. H. Brookes to report on the future of the University of South Africa. Brookes and his fellow Commissioners – K. Bremer, P. J. du Toit and Eliza B. Hawkins, with J. E. S. van Zyl as Secretary – announced their findings in May, 1947. They recommended independence for all the constituents, with the exception of the Huguenot University College. They considered that the Wellington institution should discuss the possibility of affiliation with the University of Stellenbosch. However, if that proved impossible, they were prepared to give it a period of grace, during which it would have to prove itself. For the South African Native College,

SENATE lost many valuable members when the Transvaal University College became the independent University of Pretoria in 1930.

Fears were expressed that the loss of this constituent college would inevitably lead to the dissolution of the federal university. This did, in fact, occur at a later stage. In the intervening years, however, the remaining colleges continued to work harmoniously in the academic life of the University of South Africa.

Chairmen of Senate, 1928-1944
(For the period 1934-1938,
see *Chairmen of Senate, 1918-1928*)



*Prof. A.E. du Toit
(Transvaal University College),
1928-1930*



*Prof. T.F. Dreyer
(Grey University College/
University College of the
Orange Free State),
1930-1932; 1938-1940
(Photo: U.O.F.S.)*



*Prof. G.F. Dingemans
(Rhodes University College),
1932-1934
Photo: Rhodes University)*



*Prof. J. Smeath Thomas
(Rhodes University College),
1940-1942*



*Prof. J. McKinnell
(Natal University College)
1942-1944*

affiliation with Rhodes in Grahamstown was suggested, since there, the report stated, "no hostility on racial grounds" existed.

These recommendations were implemented, step by step. The college at Fort Hare joined its Grahamstown neighbour, an arrangement which lasted for almost a decade. The Huguenot University College neither succeeded in affiliating with Stellenbosch, nor in recapturing past glories. It ceased to exist in its old form from the end of 1950, being transformed into a training college for the social workers of the Dutch Reformed (*Nederduitse Gereformeerde*) Church which had originally sponsored its inauguration. One by one, the other colleges left the federation. Act 4 of 1948 established a University of Natal which began operations in March of the following year; Act 21 of 1949 created the University of the Orange Free State from March, 1950; Rhodes University came into being on 10 March, 1951, in terms of Act 15 of 1949; a week later, Act 19 of 1950 was implemented, when Potchefstroom University for Christian Higher Education gained its independence.

The federal university thus ceased to be; the University of South Africa, however, lived on. That it was able to do so stems from the fact that it was compelled to provide examinations not only for its college students, but also for private, or external candidates. This side of its work was of minor importance in 1918; by 1945, however, there was immense pressure from unattached students of all races to obtain qualifications without attendance at a university or college. In 1918 and for many years thereafter, the external student was regarded with little favour and many hoped to see his eventual disappearance from the university scene. By 1945, his needs could no longer be ignored. The satisfaction of this demand laid the foundations for the University of South Africa of today.