

# The School of Mines, Ballarat.

Special Meeting of the Council } Tuesday 5 pm.  
July 8<sup>th</sup> 1890.

Present - The Vice-President in the chair, Councillors  
J. Bath, J.P., J. M. Bickett, S. E. Figgis, J. J. Jones, J.P.,  
M. Lindsay, J. Lurie, J. J. Martell, R. G. Middleton,  
J. C. Molloy, D. Pimmett, E. J. Roseabloom, R. L. Vale,  
and Theo Williams, J.P.

An apology for unavoidable absence was received from  
the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Ballarat.

Business:- To consider the whole question in  
regard to the erection of the proposed new buildings,  
including Site, and what portion of the buildings shall  
be proceeded with.

A letter referring to the insertion of paragraphs in the newspapers  
received from His Lordship the Bishop was read.

The following Reports were then read:-

**VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT.**—After careful consideration of the different arguments used at the last council meeting, and consultation with the professors and others, and with a view as far as possible of reconciling conflicting views, and in the best interests of the school, I beg to recommend that the architects be instructed to prepare a pencil sketch of a new elevation covering the whole frontage to Lydiard street, with instructions that the portion to be erected at present should occupy the whole or a portion of the vacant space between the museum and the old courthouse, and that the elevation of the building to be erected should be of a plain and inexpensive character; also, that the contour of the ground be taken advantage of in providing an underground story to be used as workshops, and furnished with simple tools. Mr Lecturer Horwood has repeatedly reported on the necessity of giving the engine-drivers' class instruction in elementary fitting, as it would be invaluable to men stationed in isolated localities. The rooms should be large, lofty, well-ventilated, and light, with ample corridors and means of egress. The large class-room where mechanical drawing and applied mechanics are now taught is situated over the laboratory, where a large number of students are always at work. No sooner was this room occupied than it was found a great mistake had been made, though only half the present number of students might be present on any evening; but especially in the summer months the room is stifling, and though everything possible has been done to mitigate the nuisance it is still very bad. This room should be handed over to the laboratories department altogether, and a large fine room provided in the new building. The whole of the southern portion of the site would then be occupied with the chemical, metallurgical, and the practical work relating to mining. Professor Smith has now for his office the house formerly occupied by the registrar, and his quarters are now palatial in contrast with his former wretched quarters. The only further accommodation he would require would be a bullion balance room. It is of great importance that the council should be unanimous in this matter to strengthen their hands in appealing to the public for support. The alterations recently made in the museum are a pronounced success. The lighting is now perfect, and will

answer its purpose for generations to come. **PROFESSORS' REPORTS.**—"Your proposal to devote the present drawing class room to the uses of the laboratory department, if carried out, would probably meet the requirements of that department for a considerable time to come, and if there is any danger of sufficient funds not being available to provide new buildings for immediate needs, then the proposal to leave the present buildings intact and let all new buildings represent additional accommodation seems to me the best for the school. At the same time, in view of recent developments and the general assurance that the school will receive very liberal Government support and have an important future, I cannot but think that the most important point is to have a well-arranged plan on a comprehensive scale, and that the present buildings should not be allowed to interfere with the carrying out of this plan, as although they are still useful buildings they are not very well designed for the purposes to which they are applied, and the material, including fittings, can, I understand, be used in the construction of the new rooms.—**ALF. MICA SMITH.**" "The designs submitted by the council provide for a new museum, which I consider at once unnecessary and unsuitable. Unnecessary because the present building affords ample space for the requirements of to-day, and probably a considerable time to come. It is unsuitable because it is divided, haphazard fashion, into two unconnected rooms, without regard to light, convenience, or the requirements of classification of the exhibits. In modern days the building of museums, particularly those designed for the housing of mineral and geological exhibits is admitted to require the utmost skill and discrimination; in the present case the allocation of the space for museum purposes seems to have been completely subordinated to other demands. 2. In the designs submitted space is allotted to workshops on the basement floor of the main building, and a similar proposition is made in the vice-president's report of to-day. I would strongly urge the re-consideration of this point. The unavoidable noise of the workshop does not tend to advance the labor of the brain worker, be he student, clerk, lecturer, or councillor; and there appears to be no reason

whatever why a smithy or carpenter's bench should be located within the walls of an £8000 building. The iron structures now on the ground will presently yield plenty of material for the erection of most suitable workshops at the bottom end of the allotment. 3. I agree with the V.P.'s proposal to convert the upstairs hall, at present in the occupation of students and masters of drawing, into a second laboratory, for which there appears to be an urgent demand. Its situation at once suggests its proper use. At present it is undoubtedly a source of some danger which it behoves the council to remove at the earliest opportunity.—**F. M. KRAUSE.**" "Since receiving instructions from the registrar to give an opinion as to where the new buildings should be commenced, I have read the report of the vice-president, suggesting that the architects be instructed to prepare a pencil sketch of another elevation, to extend from the museum to the present buildings. This portion of the structure it is proposed shall contain all the accommodation I require, including a drawing class room. This will place the whole of my department at one end of the building, instead of separating the rooms, as shown upon the present plan. The position of my drawing class room directly above the present laboratories is very objectionable, not only causing great personal inconvenience to students on account of the fumes and disagreeable odors, but also on account of the injury done to the surveying and mathematical instruments used in the room. Considering that the miners who constitute the bulk of my classes have to work underground in noxious fumes all day, and have also to study in noxious fumes in my classes at night, it is, therefore, not surprising that I have many complaints from this cause. I may mention, also that my drawing students frequently leave the room before the class is over, because, as they say, they "can't stand the smoke any longer." It seems to me that some scheme which will obviate the necessity of pulling down the cottage only recently fitted up for Professor Smith, and the old courthouse—which, I think, should at any rate be used as temporary accommodation, and which will alter the present position of the drawing class room—should be adopted, and for this reason I concur with the vice-president's proposal.—**J. H. HORWOOD, M.C.E.**"

On the motion of Cr Vale seconded by Cr Bath the following resolution was carried, vizt:-

That the architects be instructed to prepare a pencil sketch of a new elevation covering the whole frontage to Lydiard Street, with instructions that the portion to be erected at present should occupy the whole or a portion of the vacant space between the museum and the old courthouse; and that the elevation of the building to be erected should be of a plain and inexpensive character; and that such plans provide all accommodation required in the opinion of the Professors and Lecturers for the proper conduct of the work of The School at a cost not to exceed £8000.