

Register 2.3.23

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The undermentioned persons have been gazetted members of the Advisory Council of Education:—Appointed by the Governor—Messrs. W. T. McCoy, Director of Education; C. Charlton, Deputy Director of Education and Superintendent of Primary Education; W. J. Adey, Superintendent of Secondary Education; Dr. C. A. E. Fenner, Superintendent of Technical Education; Dr. G. M. Halley, Principal Medical Officer. Nominated by the Minister of Education—Mr. W. R. Bayly, the Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, Sir John Langdon Bonython, Professor E. H. Davies, Mr. H. L. Hancock, the Rev. J. Hanrahan, Miss Edith Agnes Hubbe. Nominated by the Council of the University of Adelaide—Professor Kerr Grant, Professor G. C. Henderson. Nominated by the South Australian Chamber of Manufactures—Mr. A. H. Dobbie. Nominated by the South Australian Employers' Federation—Mr. E. H. Bakewell. Nominated by the United Trades and Labour Council of South Australia—Messrs. T. P. Howard and W. C. Melbourne. Nominated by the Advisory Board of Agriculture—Mr. W. J. Colebatch. Nominated by the South Australian Public School Teachers' Union—Mr. C. Bronner.

when the establishment of another College on a smaller scale—say on the West Coast—may be desirable. At the same time, sympathetic consideration should be given to the proposal advanced and

supported by contributors to The Register that the Roseworthy institution should widen its already wide sphere of usefulness by conducting a correspondence school for the benefit of outback and other farmers who, for reasons readily understood, have been prevented from participating in the immense advantages which attach to a residential course of training in an institution which holds its own with any other centre of scientific agricultural instruction in the Commonwealth.

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ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE.

A Year of Progress.

A Second Institution Suggested.

In the peaceful rural precincts of Roseworthy Agricultural College on Thursday a large number of people attended the 38th annual speech day. The Minister of Agriculture (Hon. G. F. Jenkins) presided, and near him sat Sir Richard Butler (Speaker of the House of Assembly), Messrs. Robinson and Crosby, M.P.'s, Mr. G. Ritchie (ex-Treasurer), Professor A. J. Perkins (Director of Agriculture), Sir William Sowden, Mr. Robert Burns (Editor of The Register), Capt. S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., and Mr. F. Coleman (member of the Advisory Board of Agriculture), and Brig-Gen. S. Price Weir (Public Service Commissioner).

The Principal (Mr. W. J. Colebatch, B.V.Sc., M.R.C.V.S.), read the following annual report:—

Although this is the 30th Speech Day that has been held at Roseworthy College the present occasion is unique inasmuch as it is the first of these functions to be presided over by a Minister for Agriculture who is an old student of the college. (Applause.) In behalf of the college and its alumni, I tender him cordial congratulations on the distinctive honour he has achieved, and I venture to express the hope that under his administration the college may evolve along sound lines, and continue to merit the confidence and respect of the agricultural community.

It was in 1885 that Roseworthy College first opened its doors to students in agriculture, and it is pleasing to reflect that the first Principal—Professor Custance—who was chiefly responsible for the establishment of the institution, is close at hand to witness the continuous progress that has been made, and, further, to enjoy the prestige that rightly belongs to the founder of the system of agricultural education to which this State owes so much. (Applause.)

Monumental Pioneering Work.

It is somewhat difficult in these times to realize the stupendous nature of the difficulties that beset our pioneers in scientific agriculture. To be faced with the problem of instructing young men in rural science on a scrub block before the magic effects of superphosphate were even suspected was in itself sufficient to daunt the hopes of the most optimistic enthusiast. In addition, it must be remembered that in those days the State was not suffering from an embarrassment of riches, and consequently the head of the college was compelled to carry on at an almost overwhelming disadvantage with regard to trained assistants and equipment. In the light of these facts the work accomplished by Professor Custance and his successor—Professor William Lowrie—can only be appropriately described as monumental, and unstinted homage is due to them from every citizen of South Australia, since the interests of all are either directly or indirectly affected by the agricultural development of the State. Shortly after the present Director of Agriculture began his successful tenure of the office of Principal

the condition of the State finances became more buoyant, and the rate of progress at Roseworthy College was greatly accelerated. Laboratories were built, scientific apparatus purchased, the staff was strengthened, accommodation augmented, and farm buildings extended. The most important change effected at this period, however, was the establishment of the experimental work of the college on a permanent basis, and for this we are under a lasting debt of gratitude to Professor Perkins.

Much Yet to be Done.

Coming to more recent times some allowance must be made for the arresting influence of the Great War, but nevertheless, since the armistice was declared developmental work has been effected in our flocks and herds; the curriculum has been extended and strengthened, and in many other ways the value of the college as an educational institution has been enhanced.

However, while it is possible to reflect with a modicum of pleasure on the advancement made thus far, we should not disguise from ourselves the fact that much yet remains to be done. It would be a rare institution of the size of Roseworthy College that had no weak points, and those charged with public responsibility for agricultural education are rightly expected to examine critically the methods in vogue, both here and elsewhere, so that timely improvements may be effected, and the standard of the Roseworthy College diploma maintained at a high level.

There is, if anything, greater need for alertness in this regard now than there was a few years ago. We are on the eve of important changes in connection with agricultural education. The University is now in a position to establish, organize, and equip the Waite agricultural research station. The Education Department is authorized to found the Waite Agricultural High School, and the Murray Bridge Agricultural High School, from which we have already drawn several successful students, is developing into an important local centre of agricultural education. It is not necessary to be entirely in sympathy with the aims and ambitions underlying these various projects to appreciate their significance as indications of a revival of interest in agricultural education. They are the natural corollary to a proper appreciation of the fact that agriculture is the basis of the State's prosperity. Education in Agriculture, however, may be viewed from several different aspects. In general the system adopted in any State should be designed to suit the conditions and demands of the country concerned.

In Australia the conditions are such that the usefulness of its agricultural colleges may be fairly gauged by their capacity to turn out graduates fitted by training and education to develop our virgin lands into improved agricultural holdings with profit to themselves, and benefit to the State. True, there will always be room for a few graduates who have continued their studies up to the B.Sc. degree standard, but for many years to come the demand for such will be almost negligible, in comparison with the pressing need of the State for land settlers. In Australian agricultural colleges, therefore, greater prominence is given to training in the art of agriculture than in corresponding European institutions. "Practice with science," the motto chosen by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, tersely expresses the same ideal, and notwithstanding the world-wide advances made in sciences relatively to agriculture during the last decade, there is no justification for departing from the present system which has been adapted to meet that State's requirements. Our endeavour is to maintain a fairly even balance between the art and science of agriculture, and upon the success which attends our efforts in this direction depends the usefulness of the college in effecting improvement in our farming methods.

Dangers to be Guarded Against.

Contemplation of the needs of the State in agricultural education and the facilities offering usually leads enquirers to the conclusion that a link is required to join the college up to the primary schools. We owe the Agricultural High Schools to this train of thought, and in so far as they fulfil this function without imposing hardships on those who decide eventually not to undertake the study of agriculture, I am in full accord with them. There are two important dangers to be guarded against at agricultural high schools. First, the error of sacrificing general education in the interests of elementary science, and secondly the blunder of attempting to teach agriculture, as such, without the land, staff, stock, and plant requisite to the purpose. Regarding the first point, I find myself entirely out of sympathy with the idea of segregating lads between 12 and 13 years of age, who are assumed to have leanings towards agriculture with the idea of diverting them from the broad stream of general education into a backwash of technical training in agriculture. To begin with, boys at that age are incapable of mapping out their future careers, and it would be equally futile for the parents to attempt to do so. No

doubt if the decision is left to the lad himself it will turn largely on his estimate of the extent to which he will benefit, and in consequence the classrooms of the agricultural branches of our secondary education system will become havens of refuge for those who seek to escape from public examinations and the strenuous labour of preparing for them. This is obviously not good for the child or the State, and I am firmly of the opinion that harm will result if every boy

enrolled as an agricultural student is not encouraged to continue his general education up to the leaving certificate, or, at any rate, the intermediate standard.

Successful Old Scholars.

In a report on the events of the year it is fitting that we should express our pleasure over the successes achieved by former students. Among those resident in South Australia who have been honoured by public appointments may be mentioned:—1. Mr. Wallace Sandford, who has been reappointed President of the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society of South Australia for the third year; he was also recently appointed a member of the Advisory Board of Agriculture and also of the Hospital Board of Management. (Applause.) 2. Mr. Leslie T. Cowan, B.Sc., who is President of the South Australian Jersey Herd Society, and secured both championships and most of the prizes in the Jersey classes at the Adelaide Royal Show, has also joined the Advisory Board of Agriculture. 3. Mr. L. N. Salter occupies the position of President of the Federal Council of the Australian Vinegrowers' Association. He is also President of the Roseworthy Old Collegians' Association. 4. Mr. Oscar Symon has been selected as the first President of the newly constituted Berkshire and Yorkshire Pig-breeders' Society. We also note with satisfaction the appointment of Mr. C. G. Savage as Deputy Horticultural Instructor, Mr. W. J. H. James as Phylloxera Inspector, Mr. S. S. Jones to the staff of the Murray Bridge Agricultural High School, and Mr. A. C. Goddard as assistant instructor in wool-classing. At the Adelaide University we were ably represented by the Ridley Scholar (Mr. H. K. Lewcock), who gained a first-class pass in economics, second-class passes in geology and biochemistry. He also passed in organic chemistry and carried off the medal and John Bagot Scholarship in Botany. (Applause.)

Going beyond our own State we find Mr. A. E. V. Richardson, M.A., B.Sc., presiding over the agricultural section of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. At the University of California Mr. E. E. West, B.Sc. (first Lowrie Scholar), was successful in obtaining the B.Sc. degree, and since graduating he has toured and inspected the chief agricultural centres in America, Canada and Great Britain. He is now nearing the shores of Australia, and it is to be hoped that in the reorganization consequent upon the appointment of the Murray River Commission the services of a highly qualified South Australian, who in his sojourn abroad has directly interested himself in irrigation from the agricultural standpoint, will not be overlooked. Two other Roseworthy graduates, R. H. Haselgrove and J. M. Gunnard, are about to proceed to Montpellier College in France to continue their studies in viticulture and oenology, and they carry with them our best wishes for their future success. (Applause.)

During the year we have had to part very reluctantly with a member of our staff—Mr. E. G. Stephens, B.Sc. He left us to take up an important position at one of the secondary colleges in the city, and his place has since been filled by the appointment of Mr. C. S. Piper, B.Sc. who graduated in science at the Adelaide University last year. (Applause.)

Among the important events of the college year were the annual gathering on Farmers' Day and the Second Winter School for Farmers. The latter was again a pronounced success, the available space being largely over-occupied by members of the Agricultural Bureau. As the result of experience, however, it has become evident that more profitable use would be made of the opportunity provided if the minimum age were raised to 21, and in future schools this modification of the conditions will be introduced.

Another College Suggested.

At this time last year the Lincoln Red Shorthorn cattle were approaching the end of their long voyage. They have now been comfortably accommodated on the college farm, and two calves have been added to the herd. The college is indebted to our ex-Governor, Sir Archibald Weir, for this valuable and interesting addition to our live stock, and also for the indirect benefits that resulted from the importation. I refer to the extension of the stabling accommodation, the construction of the commodious and creditable cow-byres and the erection of several bull boxes. The task of remodeling the farm premises is still in hand, and it is hoped that in a year or two we shall be equipped with overhead silos, modern pigsties, and a

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE SPEECH DAY.

The great importance and value of the Roseworthy Agricultural College to the State were forcibly indicated in the largely-attended Speech Day proceedings which took place at the institution on Thursday under the Presidency of the Minister for Agriculture, Hon. G. F. Jenkins, himself a former student of the College. The able and comprehensive report of the Principal, Mr. W. J. Colebatch, and the prize list, which appear in other columns, testify that increasingly primary industries are attracting the energies of some of the more talented and naturally enterprising of our educated youths. The appointments and distinctions obtained in South Australia and other States, and even in countries beyond the seas, by men who have won diplomas in the College, provided an overwhelming argument in favour of the Parliament adopting legislation to encourage successful students to devote themselves to agricultural occupations in the State, instead of looking elsewhere for opportunities to exercise their trained abilities and expert knowledge. South Australia has benefited incalculably, both directly and indirectly, from the presence among her farming population of men who have been thoroughly grounded in the scientific principles of intensive cultivation, stock raising, wool classing, and so on, and it is fitting and right that special inducements should be offered to ardent and capable students of the College to give the State the benefit of the training they have received, to some extent at the public expense. The crops of cereals and hay harvested by the College staff and students for the past season pleasingly witness to a high standard of ability and zest in the conduct of the practical outdoor operations.

Viewing the achievements and the present outlook of the College as an index of the position and prospects of agriculture in the State, the community may well be confident that country life is steadily growing more attractive, and that primary production will become yearly more extensive and varied as the years pass. Rightly enough, the Principal is averse from the reception of lads at the College until they have had a fairly liberal education; but the suggestion that there should be an organized linking up of the College with the State's primary and secondary schools must commend itself to every one who realizes that South Australia is essentially an agricultural country. Few would care to dispute the correctness of Mr. Colebatch's verdict that it would be a mistake to greatly enlarge the existing accommodation of the College, because the best work can be done when the number of students allows of their being personally supervised and taught. An obvious inference is that the time may come