

F. REPORT OF THE CANTERBURY AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, 1919.

(The Canterbury College and Canterbury Agricultural College Act, 1896.)

Visitor.—His Excellency the Governor-General.*Board of Governors.*

Appointed by His Excellency the Governor-General—W. F. M. Buckley, Esq., B.A.

Elected by members of the Legislature—H. A. Knight, Esq. (Chairman); R. W. Lochhead, Esq.; and Hon. D. Buddo, M.P.

Elected by governing bodies of agricultural and pastoral associations—J. Deans, Esq.; T. Blackley, Esq.; and B. Tripp, Esq.

*Staff.**Director.*—R. E. Alexander.*Lecturer on Veterinary Science.*—A. Taylor, M.A., M.R.C.V.S.*Lecturer on Biology.*—F. W. Hilgendorf, M.A., D.Sc.*Lecturer on Chemistry.*—L. J. Wild, M.A., B.Sc., F.G.S.*Lecturer on Applied Mathematics.*—F. G. Thomas.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR (ABRIDGED).

SIR,—

I have the honour, by direction of the Board of Governors, in pursuance of the Canterbury College and Canterbury Agricultural College Act, 1896, to submit the following report on the work of the institution for the year ending 31st December, 1919.

The number of students enrolled in 1919 was fifty-two, being about the same as in the previous year, and up to the full limit of the accommodation. Of the students enrolled, five were returned soldiers, nine were holders of the Education Department's bursaries, and one the holder of a Kitchener Scholarship. The progress of students, both in class work and on the farm, has been satisfactory. Of those who left at the end of the year, eight had completed one year's course, ten had completed two years' course, and nine had completed the full three years, and, having passed all their examinations and obtained satisfactory reports, were awarded the diploma of the College.

Nine of the students at the College in 1919 were taking the B.Ag. course. A number of these were Education Department bursary-holders, and the Department, at the request of the Board of Governors, agreed to extend the bursaries so as to allow these students to complete their course.

The demand for admission to the College exceeded the accommodation, and, as the Education Department wished a number of bursary-holders to be taken in, correspondence passed between the Board and the Department in regard to increasing the accommodation, but so far no arrangement has been made and no scheme evolved for the increased accommodation, the College Board not having any funds at their disposal for the purpose.

The Board have had the fees payable by students under consideration during the year, and were compelled, owing to the increased cost of maintenance, to notify parents and guardians that after December, 1920, the fees for the course would be as follows: For first and second years, 50 guineas per year; and 25 guineas for the third year.

Some years ago the Board of Governors tried to impress on the Agricultural Department the importance of the seed-selection work being carried on at the College. During the year under review the Board conferred with the Director-General of Agriculture and his staff, and the result of the negotiations is that the work has been recognized by the Department, and through the Minister a grant of £500 was made to assist and extend the work. It is hoped that this grant will be forthcoming every year, and increased if necessary.

The addition to the College building arranged for last year has been completed, and adds to the accommodation for the staff and to the appearance of the buildings. All the buildings have been kept in good repair, as have the farm buildings, fences, &c. An experimental concrete calf-shed has been erected, and the result is satisfactory both from an economical point of view and ease of erection. This style of farm building must become popular in the future where materials are available.

The farm has been maintained at its former high state of fertility, the yields during the past year having been in some cases the highest ever obtained on the farm, proving that where good husbandry is carried on no depletion of the soil-fertility takes place.

Stud stock maintain their high reputation, their successes in the show rings at Christchurch, Ashburton, and Timaru being evidence of this. A glance at the balance-sheet will show that both the stud stock and ordinary stock are run on sound commercial lines.

That the College is fulfilling its function so far as the Canterbury farmer is concerned is evidenced by its popularity, which can be gauged not only by the attendance and expressions of opinions by farmers at the annual gathering, but by the number of visits and correspondence from farmers during the year.

I have, &c.,

R. E. ALEXANDER, Director.

The Hon. the Minister of Education, Wellington.