

With these provisions a satisfactory measure of agricultural education for our present needs might be instituted in New Zealand, except in the case of those pupils who leave the primary school to take up agricultural work direct. It is suggested that in the scheme of education already referred to this defect may be remedied by the institution of afternoon and evening classes at suitable centres, and this appears to me to have everything to recommend it.

These considerations on agricultural education and its progress, as I have said, are fundamental to research and experiment, and it is equally clear to me that education having for its aim the improvement of agriculture, through raising the standard of intelligence of the agricultural population, must be based on the work of agricultural research and investigation throughout the world, but especially within the Dominion. To this task the Department of Agriculture must apply itself with ever-increasing zeal and by every available means. In recent times there has been an ever-growing clamour on the part of the farming community for the services of qualified officers to give advice in connection with cultivation, liming, manuring, cropping, grassing, control of disease, &c., and to carry out experiments and demonstrations, and farmers are inclined to be impatient that more is not done on these lines. Few are aware that to this day the Department has in its service for undertaking this work the merest handful of trained men, and the few officers whose duties lie in the direction indicated are apt to be so engrossed in efforts to comply with demands of every conceivable description, and from the North Cape to the Bluff, that the pursuit of any continuous experimentation or planned research is practically impossible. We have nothing in New Zealand to compare with the fully equipped experimental stations, with their complete complement of trained men and facilities for the uninterrupted pursuit of experiment and research, as is the case in other countries, and this is a state of matters which is not easily remedied. Not only does the Department lack qualified specialists for research, and men of all-round training for the prosecution of local experimental and demonstration work, but of men having the necessary training and at the same time sufficient experience of New Zealand conditions to make their services of value there are very few, and these few generally have more remunerative fields for their abilities.

Local experimental work has been pursued by the Department with the means at its command, and has not been unproductive of good, *pace* the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, but a better and more complete organization is certainly most desirable, and