

YOUNG FARMERS' CLUBS

Meeting of Dominion Executive Committee

A MEETING of the Dominion Executive Committee was held in the Farmers' Union Rooms, Johnston Street, Wellington, on Friday, October 20. Those present included Messrs. T. E. Streeter (Dominion President), S. G. Avery (Dominion Vice-President), D. S. Ross (Immediate Past President), P. W. Smallfield (Director of the Fields Division, Department of Agriculture), J. M. Smith (Department of Agriculture), D. E. Waide (Auckland Council), M. Donald, J. L. Sunderland, A. D. Young (Wellington Council), J. Barclay, S. A. La Roche (Canterbury Council), W. A. Jacques (Massey College), A. P. O'Shea (N.Z. Farmers' Union), and S. Freeman (Dominion Organising Secretary). Apologies were received from Messrs. C. H. Schwass (hon. treasurer), A. S. Trotter (chairman, Otago-Southland Council), F. S. Atcheson (chairman, Auckland Council), R. W. Wightman (chairman, Canterbury Council), G. Spratt (Auckland Council), B. J. Collerton (Wellington Council), I. Gibb (Canterbury Council), W. King, E. Rabbidge, S. R. Whyte (Otago-Southland Council), and J. H. Bremner (N.Z. Farmers' Union).

The forthcoming Education Conference at Christchurch was discussed. The Vice-President, Mr. S. G. Avery, had been appointed as the federation's delegate, and would be attending the conference the whole of the following week. It was apparent that he had given the matter a great deal of thought and study, and was well qualified to represent the federation. The sub-committee appointed at the annual general meeting had forwarded recommendations on rural education, and these had been incorporated in a pamphlet issued with the agenda of the conference. The recommendations were approved by the meeting, and confidence in Mr. Avery was expressed.

The Hon. C. F. Skinner, Minister of Rehabilitation, had consented to address the meeting, but was unavoidably detained; Mr. E. L. Cullen, M.P., a member of the Rehabilitation Council, attended in his place, and gave some interesting facts and figures connected with rehabilitation. He outlined the complete set-up of the Rehabilitation Council, Board, and local committees, and at the conclusion of his address answered a number of questions.

Department's Full Support

After lunch Mr. J. M. Smith (Department of Agriculture) apologised for Mr. P. W. Smallfield (Director of the Fields Division), who had been prevented from returning to the meeting. Mr. Smith, on behalf of Mr. Smallfield, assured the meeting that the Department was wholeheartedly behind the Young Farmers' Clubs movement. During the war period, on account of staff shortages and other handicaps directly connected with the war effort, it had been extremely difficult for the Department's instructors to give much support to individual clubs or to district committees. Quite a few instructors were overseas—two or three in England—and 33 had been engaged on special work—linen flax and Services Vegetable Production. The position was, however, much brighter, and with the gradual closing down of the vegetable projects, a number of instructors were being released for normal duties. The staff was being built up, and there was also a cadet scheme in operation, all of which would mean that very shortly the Department would again be in a position

to extend its full assistance to the Y.F.C. movement.

Referring to the "New Zealand Journal of Agriculture," Mr. Smith said it was the Department's intention to make the "Journal" an even more valuable farming periodical, and constructive criticism and suggestions for the improvement of the Y.F.C. section would be welcomed. He expressed his pleasure at being able to attend the meeting and to be once more associated with the Y.F.C. movement.

The President thanked Mr. Smith, and asked him to convey the federation's appreciation to Mr. Smallfield for the Department's help in the past and the promise of further assistance in the future. He felt sure that the Y.F.C. movement, with the improved outlook and the help of all those associated with it, would from now on forge ahead.

The President expressed regret that there was not a better attendance—unfortunately a number of South Island delegates had been unable to secure accommodation on the ferry, which accounted for there being no representation from Otago-Southland. He was glad, however, to see good representation from other councils. He referred to his recent visits, since the annual general meeting, to Invercargill and the Bay of Plenty; he had attended a meeting of the Otago-Southland Council at Invercargill, followed by a field day and a debate at night, and at Tauranga he had taken part in a meeting of the Auckland Council and attended a combined club

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