

the rules of the College, is liable to dismissal by the Principal. Students are compelled to keep a farm journal from personal observation, and they must attend all lectures and demonstrations regularly and punctually. Students must obey the orders of the Principal and his staff. The Principal may at the close of any session direct that any student whose retention is unprofitable to the student himself, or injurious to other students, or prejudicial to the reputation of the institution, shall have his name removed from the College roll.

From my personal observation I should say that the system is successful, because the young men whom I saw there appeared to be physically, intellectually, and morally a class of youths of whom any country might be proud. As has been said with reference to them by a writer in a Home paper, "You will see there (at Hawkesbury) the coming maker of the Commonwealth, a piece of wiry, human mechanism, with brains and dash and independence; a thinker, a worker, a gentleman, who can be seen with his sleeves rolled up, as much at home in the cow-shed, in the pigsty, or in the blacksmith's smithy as he is in the lecture-room, notebook before him, listening to a dissertation on the classification of bacteria." The same writer says, "Half a dozen such colleges in England would in twenty years revolutionize the methods and manners of agriculturists. By means of such colleges Australia is supplying to the sons of its people whose instincts are towards the bush rather than the city, the plough instead of the music-hall promenade, a first-class chance of developing the muscle and mind of the young men, and turning them into not kid-gloved, scholarly, airy gentlemen, but vigorous, intelligent, practical, sober, and efficient farmers."

I also desire to quote the opinion of Mr. James Dunlop, one of the Scottish Commissioners, who said, "Hawkesbury College is one of the finest agricultural colleges in the world. There is nothing superior to it in Canada or the United States."

I may also say that since the opening of the College nearly six hundred public-school teachers have attended the summer school, and about the same number of farmers the winter school. Ex-students are to be found occupying Government positions in New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, Western Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and Soudan. Many of them are farming in all parts of Australia, and as far afield as British East Africa, New Caledonia, India, Cape Colony, and the Philippine Islands.

It would be impossible to conclude this brief description of Hawkesbury without reference to the Principal, Mr. Potts, who, I believe, is a native of Northumberland, England. As was remarked by one of the Scottish Commissioners, "Mr. Potts, the Principal—he is the College." He struck me as being a man extraordinarily well adapted to such a position; a keen agriculturist, a student, a lover of animals with a great knowledge of their points, and a born organizer and teacher. It is a combination rarely to be found.

Mr. Potts has occupied various positions in connection with agriculture in the Australian Colonies, and came to Hawkesbury in 1902. Since then the institution has flourished, and has now reached the proud position of being the best agricultural college in the world. He turns out men from his College who are a credit to him, and what to my mind was most satisfactory was that through his efforts there can be no doubt a very high tone exists amongst the students at Hawkesbury. There are few men to whom it is given to see such excellent results from their labours as Mr. Potts.

Before concluding I would like to refer to the difficulty of determining the cost of the Hawkesbury Agricultural College. I would suggest that if colleges are erected in New Zealand separate accounts should be kept of what may be described as the experimental or strictly demonstration portions of the work in addition to the ordinary farm accounts. In support of this I desire to quote from the financial statement for 1911-12 appearing in the "Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture of the Union of South Africa," which I have received from the Hon. the Minister at Cape Town. On page 556 (Public Accounts Committee), referring to a recent inquiry into the cost of educating students attending agricultural schools (at Potchefstroom), the following appears:—

"In order to supply this information it was necessary that the school accounts be kept as distinct from the farm accounts and accounts of other divisions. Although this is under ordinary circumstances not easily done, the organization of this institution and the system of accounting have permitted the necessary allocations being correctly made. In the statement presented herewith it is shown that the cost of maintenance is £53 3s. 10d. and the cost of education £60 18s. 10d. per capita per annum, or a total of £114 2s. 8d., of which £50 is remitted in fees. This leaves a balance of £64 2s. 8d., which represents the cost of each student to the public purse. If interest on buildings be charged this amount is raised to £102 8s. 7d., as explained in the statement."

It is interesting to note that the cost at Hawkesbury, taking £13,000 divided by 200 students as the basis, runs out at about £65 per head per annum; but this is not a true estimate of the value of the College, because the winter and summer school work and other works carried on there should be credited to the establishment.

Having now observed the conditions existing in Australia, there are one or two points in connection with the establishment of similar institutions in New Zealand which I think I should mention.

The conditions, of course, are very different in New Zealand from what they are in Australia, and this has to be remembered when the question of organizing a system of instruction at a college is determined. For many years—perhaps for all time—the bulk of New Zealand farmers will be pastoralists, not agricultural farmers; and to these men, while an intelligent knowledge of the science of agriculture is valuable, still the practical work such as is taught at Hawkesbury would be of even greater use. I take it that our aim in New Zealand should be to provide an education for young men who are either going on to agricultural farms or to take up bush farming, and for the latter the practical training of Hawkesbury would be invaluable.