

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE KAIAPOI TECHNICAL SCHOOL BOARD.

During the year classes were held in dressmaking, woodwork, cookery, and wool-classing. There were fifty-nine students in attendance. Miss E. Pitts had to give up the dressmaking class through increase of business. She has done splendid work here for a number of years, and her loss is greatly regretted. An up-to-date cookery plant has been installed, and should there be a coal shortage this may be used in the day-school classes.

THOS. DOUDS, Secretary.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE TIMARU TECHNICAL SCHOOL BOARD.

A very satisfactory year's work has been done in all the classes. The work has been organized as a day school for full-time pupils, special classes for high-school pupils in typing and wool-classing, classes for soldiers from the Orthopaedic Hospital in wool-classing, and a course of evening classes for pupils who are engaged during the day.

The day-school work is divided into three courses—engineering, commercial, and domestic science; and each pupil attended for a full course. The subjects of the day school were English, arithmetic, practical mathematics, practical geometry, applied mechanics, machine drawing, electricity and magnetism, practical engineering, commercial correspondence, shorthand, type-writing, book-keeping, first aid and home nursing, cookery, dressmaking, and physical drill. Eighty pupils enrolled in the day school, eighteen for engineering, and sixty-two for commercial and domestic science. Of this number eleven left during the year, and a number transferred to evening classes on account of their having obtained situations in the town. Twenty-two of these pupils were from country districts, including Fairlie and Upper Waitohi. The break in the train services, however, affected the attendances considerably except in one or two cases, but apart from this the attendance and general conduct has been very good indeed.

The evening classes were divided into regular courses of work for commercial, domestic, trade (engineering especially), agricultural, and art. Classes were carried on as under: Book-keeping (two), shorthand (three), typewriting (four), English (two), arithmetic (two), commercial correspondence and economics (one), motor-car engineering (one), machine drawing (one), electricity and mathematics (one), dressmaking (two), cookery (one), pharmacy (one), ticket-writing (one), art (one), wool-classing (five), and in addition two classes in wool-classing for boys and two for typewriting for girls from the high schools. These classes were attended by 390 pupils, and, including the eighty pupils in the day school, 470 have been in regular attendance throughout the year. A special class in sheep-shearing was carried on at Smithfield Freezing-works, at which fifteen pupils attended, all of whom qualified at the end of the three-weeks course as shearers. Some 2,400 sheep were shorn, yielding about forty-five bales of wool.

It was not found possible to carry on a practical class in engineering for evening-class pupils on account of the lack of machinery; but fortunately a grant of nearly £500 has been made by the Department, and this has made possible the purchase of two lathes, two drilling-machines, grinding-apparatus, power hack-saw, shafting, belting, &c. All of this is on the way at the present time, and delivery will be complete by February, 1920, so that an engineering course will be available for both day and evening classes.

The annual exhibition of students' work, by the courtesy of Messrs. J. Ballantyne and Co., was held in the firm's premises in Stafford Street, when examples of the practical work done by the pupils were shown.

Six pupils have been successful in passing the examination in theory of shorthand held by Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons.

Thirty-six pupils were awarded senior free places by the Education Department.

Very little has been done in the way of sports on account of lack of space, but, fortunately, owing to the consideration of the Borough Council, an area of nearly 4 acres, on the southern side of Anzac Square, has been offered to the Board for the erection of an up-to-date technical college. This it is to be hoped will meet the needs of the whole of South Canterbury for day-time technical training, games, physical training, and social recreation, the need of which is felt very much at the present time. Owing to the large increase in numbers attending the classes, the existing buildings are totally inadequate to meet the needs of the present day, and obviously this difficulty will be greater in 1920. The day-school pupils were forty-three in number in 1918; in 1919, eighty were in attendance. The evening class attendance increased from 300 in 1918 to 390 in 1919; the increase in the weekly attendances at the day classes was about 430 over the attendance of 1918, so that the work of the College increased some 80 per cent. on the work of 1918, and the need for practically trained pupils for all branches of industry being very great indeed it can only be expected to increase rapidly as time goes on.

In April, 1919, a conference was held, when the Department's Superintendent was present, and the matter of insufficient accommodation at the College was discussed fully. Mr. La Trobe expressed the opinion that the buildings were inadequate for even present requirements, and suggested that a new site be obtained if possible. Further conferences were held with the Education Board, and ultimately the Borough Council was approached with reference to a site of 4 acres attached to swimming-baths, and a further playing-area of 10 acres. After consideration the Council decided to make a grant of the area of 4 acres—which is surrounded with trees and half laid out as a croquet-lawn—to the Board for the purpose of the erection of an up-to-date technical college for South Canterbury. The offer holds good only for 1920 and 1921, and it is confidently hoped that the Government will accept the grant and provide funds for the erection of at least a nucleus of a modern technical college.

During the year two social evenings were held for the evening-class pupils, and two afternoons for the day-school pupils. Basketball and other games, in addition to physical drill, were carried on also.

W. FOSSEY, Director.

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE TEMUKA TECHNICAL SCHOOL BOARD.

Throughout the year classes were conducted in wool-classing, dairy-farming, carpentry and cabinetwork, dressmaking (two), commercial work, and sheep-shearing.

There were eighty-five individual students, including twelve returned soldiers admitted free, besides six non-capitation evening school pupils to whom the association were pleased to give assistance. Of the eighty-five pupils, sixty-one were males and twenty-four were females, the preponderance of males over females being due to the fact that classes in connection with agricultural and pastoral pursuits were well attended by an enthusiastic body of farmers.