

4. CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

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Professors.—Classics—L. G. Pocock, M.A. Mathematics—W. Saddler, M.A., D.Sc., B.A., F.R.S. English Language and Literature—F. Sinclair, M.A. French and German—C. Malthus, M.A., Litt.D. Chemistry—H. G. Denham, M.A., D.Sc., Ph.D. Engineering—(Electrical) P. H. Powell, M.Sc., M.Eng., M.I.E.E., M.A.I.E.E.; (Civil) J. E. L. Cull, B.Sc., A.M.I.M.E.; (Mechanical) S. Steele, B.Sc. Biology—E. Percival, B.Sc. History—J. Hight, C.M.G., M.A., Litt.D., F.R.E.S. Physics—C. C. Farr, D.Sc., F.P.S.L., F.N.Z.Inst. Education and Director of Extension Work—J. Shelley, M.A. Economics—A. H. Tocker, M.A.

Lecturers, nineteen.

REPORT. (EXTRACTS.)

SHRINKAGE in revenue from endowment lands, referred to in reports for the last two or three years, affected Canterbury College severely, but it is satisfactory to report that the position during the year has been greatly improved. Fewer claims have been received for reduction of rents and for remission of arrears outstanding, while tenants have, on the whole, met their commitments under the terms of their lease or under revised conditions made by the Council, with satisfactory results as shown in the statement of accounts.

But it is wise for the Council to realize that the now improved position of the Endowment Revenue Account of Canterbury College is not likely to show yearly advances until the maximum of past years is reached. It would require undue optimism and a disregard of conditions to expect rents to go back to the most prosperous years. In 1920 the amount received was £18,165, while in 1931 it was reduced to £7,548. The receipts for rent for 1936 were £13,997, showing plainly the improvement since the worst part of the depression, but a position far short of the peak years. There is yet a considerable accumulation of arrears of rent on the books of the College, a proportion of which, not possible to estimate, will eventually have to be written off.

I make no excuse for repeating one section of the statement I made last year. It is that from endowment revenue it is impossible to undertake any further developments of importance in the work of Canterbury College. In more prosperous years additions to the staff and extensions of buildings were made almost wholly out of endowment revenue, but any further advances by that means are now impossible. The conclusion is inevitable—that the changed circumstances have so affected, and will almost certainly continue to affect, the sources of the College's material support that the demands for future development can be met only by increased grants from outside sources.

Financial assistance from the Government is the only means by which the efficiency of the College can be maintained. Some solution of the problem of providing sufficient accommodation for staff and students must be found. A claim for State aid can be advanced with justification on the ground that up to the present time Canterbury College has received only a small fraction of the amount advanced by the Government for capital expenditure for the University Colleges. From figures carefully compiled it is arresting to find that of £744,000 provided by the State for University College buildings and equipment in the years 1899 to 1931 Canterbury College had received £32,000. Of this amount, £25,000 was for the School of Engineering, a national institution, leaving £7,000 as the share of this College, exclusive of the School of Engineering. That is less than 1 per cent. of the total amount.

During the year under review many changes took place in the staff of Canterbury College. Dr. C. C. Farr, who had held positions on the staff for thirty-five years, being Professor of Physics since 1911, asked to be relieved of his duties. His high standing as a scientist and his unabated interest in the students and in the welfare of Canterbury College were the outstanding qualities of one who will be long held in the highest esteem. Another loss to the College was in the resignation of Professor James Shelley, who had occupied the Chair of Education for sixteen years. By his striking personality and his enthusiasm for his work he proved himself a stimulating influence in the educational world of the Dominion, and it would not be too much to say that for many teachers who came closely into touch with him through his lectures he was a source of inspiration. Both to Dr. Farr and to Professor Shelley the College owes much.

To fill the vacant Chair of Education, Dr. H. E. Field, a graduate of Canterbury College holding the position of Lecturer in the University of London, was chosen; and for the Chair of Physics, Dr. F. W. G. White was the selected candidate. In the Department of Philosophy Dr. I. L. G. Sutherland was appointed as professor in charge and Dr. Karl Popper, of Vienna, as Lecturer. Dr. White and Dr. Sutherland are both graduates of Victoria University College. It is gratifying to find that these three professors, products of our New Zealand University, were, in open competition, strongly recommended for the positions they now hold by advisory boards composed of distinguished members of English universities.

In the newly-established Department of Geography Dr. Geo. Jobberns was appointed Lecturer in charge. The very fine work he has done in the Christchurch Training College gives assurance of his success in his new office. To find suitable accommodation for the number of students to whom this subject will make strong appeal, is one of the difficulties facing the Council.