

Register, Jan. 16/12

AGRICULTURAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

Proposed Innovation.

Training Boys and Teachers.

[By Agricola.]

When the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. J. P. Wilson) visited New South Wales some months ago he was much impressed with the provision made by the Government for agricultural education. After careful enquiries and extended thought, he came to the conclusion that, although South Australia had made appreciable headway in this respect during recent years, there remained a big field for development. Throughout his occupancy of the office of Minister of Agriculture Mr. Wilson has realized, with constantly increasing force, that the country's stability and progress depend more upon the man on the land than upon any other individual; that, in very truth, he is the backbone of the State, and his prosperity invariably reflects in a greater or less degree the welfare of the whole people.

—A New Departure.—

In view of the important position which the primary producer fills, therefore, it is fundamentally necessary that every effort should be put forth to enable him to make the fullest use of his opportunities, and to win the best possible results from his land. Mr. Wilson thoroughly recognises this fact, and, when interviewed on Monday morning, readily consented to amplify the interesting statement made by the Treasurer (Hon. C. Vaughan) at Mount Gambier on Saturday—that, on the advice of Professor Lowrie (Director of Agriculture), the Government had decided to establish two agricultural high schools, under the Education Department—one at North Bundaleer, and the other at the Moorak homestead. Some time ago, when the Moorak land was subdivided, Mr. Wilson was petitioned to establish an Agricultural College on the estate, but as he rightly pointed out, such a step would not be justified considering that Roseworthy College was not utilized to its full capacity. Then somebody suggested that a dairy farm or an experimental agricultural farm should be formed at the homestead, but Mr. Wilson could not see his way to adopt that course, because, in the first place, the capital value of the property was too great, and, secondly, from the residential standpoint, the grand old homestead was really too good. The same considerations applied with practically equal strength to North Bundaleer homestead, and the 1,500 acres of land adjoining.

—A Conference.—

For a moment Mr. Wilson thought of having his boys' farm at Bundaleer, but after an inspection of the place he saw it was not so suitable for this purpose as North Booborowie, which he had previously selected. At this stage the Treasurer came along with what Ministers regard as a happy thought. "What about founding agricultural high schools at these homesteads?" he enquired. "Just what I have had in mind," remarked Mr. Wilson, and forthwith they began to think the matter out. The Minister of Education (Hon. F. W. Conybeer) was consulted, and heads of departments concerned were invited to voice their opinions. The deliberations revealed complete unanimity between the representatives of the agricultural and education branches, and, all being well, a comprehensive scheme for the extension of agricultural education will shortly be carried into effect. "I am satisfied," observed Mr. Wilson to the writer, "that the State has not been doing enough in connection with the higher training of the boys and girls in the science and practice of agriculture. For the best results to be obtained, and the interests of the country to be properly served, there should be facilities for the efficient training of the children right from the primary schools to the University.

—Free Instruction.—

"A valuable move in this direction will undoubtedly be the establishment of agricultural high schools at Moorak and North Bundaleer. It is desired that boys shall be able to advance from the primary schools to the high schools, thence to Roseworthy College, and finally take their B.Sc. degree in agriculture at the University. Eventually I hope to see Roseworthy become the agricultural university of the State. By working along the lines indicated there will be opportunities for boys to qualify in agriculture similar to those open to lads who wish to graduate in other professions. Under existing conditions it is almost impossible to secure locally educated and trained young men sufficiently

equipped to fill the highest positions in the agricultural department. With the undoubtedly excellent material at hand this should not be so. As I have already intimated, the Booborowie farm is intended primarily for the benefit of the boys of poor parents, and everything will be free. Personally I believe the agricultural high schools should also be free. They should not be regarded from the commercial standpoint, but as an entirely new feature of education, based on extremely economic lines. Money-making should not be thought of, but the schools should be made as free as possible, so as to enable the poorest as well as the richest to receive the special education to be provided.

—Teachers and Farmers.—

"Admirable provision for the instruction of the rising generation in agriculture is made in the mother State, but the system there does not to my mind go sufficiently far. At the Hawkesbury College the public school teachers are enabled, during vacations, to improve their practical and theoretical knowledge, so as to better fit them for the work of teaching the elementary principles of agriculture to their pupils. They receive two months' training each year—a month at a time—and I understand the classes have been a pronounced success. We want our teachers in South Australia, especially those located in rural districts, to enjoy even better facilities for gaining agricultural knowledge, and it is proposed therefore that they shall be afforded opportunities at the high schools to have six months' continuous training, so that when they are appointed to the different schools they will be well prepared to give elementary instruction in the science and practice of agriculture. Another capital feature of the Hawkesbury College is the arrangement of winter classes for farmers. These are numerous attended by both young and old, who benefit materially by the information which they acquire. We intend to have similar classes at the Agricultural High Schools, and from the experience in New South Wales I feel sure they will be well patronised to the advantage of all concerned."

Advertiser, Jan. 16/12

The friends of Mr. Oswald Rischbieth, B.A., a graduate in honors classics of the University of Adelaide, who went home in August last to continue his studies at Merton College, Oxford, will be pleased to learn that he has been awarded a classical scholarship at the famous English seat of learning. The grant, which is worth £60 per annum, tenable for three or four years, was made as the result of a competitive test, in which there were upwards of 30 candidates, and the papers returned by the winner were highly commended. Mr. Rischbieth, who, for a time, held the position of classical master at the Adelaide High School, is pursuing his studies along a similar course at Oxford.

Register, Jan. 17th, 1912

AN ADELAIDE PIANIST.

MISS MAUDE PUDDY'S SUCCESS.

VIENNA, January 15.

Miss Maude Mary Puddy, Mus. B.Sc., an Adelaide pianist, has met with success in her recital in this city, and received congratulatory notices in the press.

Miss Maude Mary Puddy, Mus. Bac., received her early musical education from her father (Mr. Albert Puddy, of Hindmarsh), and subsequently entered Herr Reimann's Adelaide College of Music, having for her teacher Herr Reimann. She was one of the first students at the Elder Conservatorium of Music, and continued with Herr Reimann for some time. She studied piano later, and was three years with Mr. Bryceson Treharne, A.R.C.M., at the Conservatorium of Music. Of her Mr. Treharne said:—"I can safely aver that I have never met with one who combines in a larger degree so many of the elements necessary towards becoming a successful artist. . . . She has gone through a remarkable amount of work, and I do not think there is much pianistic literature that is not in one way or other known to her." When 17 years old Miss Puddy gained the diploma of Associate of Music at the Adelaide University in pianoforte, and was the first student to receive the degree. In 1902, at the Conservatorium of Music, she carried off the Frederick Bevan prize for the best accompanist for vocal music, the director's prize for the best performance on the pianoforte, and was equal with another student for the Elder Conservatorium prize for general industry. In March, 1899, she won a three years' scholarship in pianoforte playing at the Conservatorium of Music, and in March, 1904, the scholarship for composition tenable for three years. The following year she gained the Mus. Bac. degree. Her exercise—a setting for voices, strings, and organ to the Seventy-second Psalm—was said to be remarkably fine. Miss Puddy left Adelaide over six years ago with the intention of taking lessons from Busoni, but she subsequently decided to study under that great prince of pianoforte teachers, Leschetizky, in Vienna, and has never regretted doing so. Leschetizky says of Miss Puddy:—"Her notable talent, both technical and musical, as well as her high-minded ambition, has helped her to reach a level in the art of pianoforte playing which enables her not only to perform as a distinguished public pianoforte player, but also to teach with an unusual measure of success." Miss Puddy during nearly six years she has lived in Vienna has regularly performed at Leschetizky's class concerts, and last season she played the orchestral parts for soloists. Recently she played at a concert in Ischl, and previously had appeared in public. She has been teaching pianoforte with success in Vienna for a considerable time, and has gained eminence in this department.

Advertiser, Jan. 20/12

According to the report issued by the Royal College of Music, Miss Clara S. H. Kleinschmidt made excellent progress in her studies during the last Christmas term. The director's remarks were:—"Miss Kleinschmidt has her heart in her work and develops well."

Advertiser, Jan. 29/12

The Rev. Brian Wibberley, Mus. Bac., formerly of Adelaide, has been appointed lecturer in theory of music for the Adelaide University in Perth.