

colony lives on what the land can give either from its soil or its reefs, it is not too much to expect that its learned and well - paid guides will lend a helping hand towards educating those who are to be the financial pillars of the nation's prosperity. It was a good movement on the part of the Government to invite a professional agriculturist to settle among us, and to build and endow the Roseworthy College. Successive Ministries have not, however, proved wise foster nurses for this noble institution, which they have alternately scolded and petted, sometimes giving lavishly for its maintenance, but oftener grudging the modest amount it has cost. Many think that it would have been very much better for the college and the public if the Government had handed the former over to the management of the most learned scientific educationists in the colony, with the direction that they make it a department of University study. It is probable that when Parliament meets some scheme may be propounded for giving effect to Professor Tate's suggestion, and that public instruction in agriculture may become part of the ordinary work of the University. Such a measure if adopted would relieve the Ministry of the day from the charge of a very hopeful but very awkward institution, and at the same time would, it is believed, give such an impetus to the work of the University and to the scientific study of how to make the best use of our lands that all sections of the community would feel that a wise and prudent step had been taken. If Professor Tate had done nothing more in his address than to give currency to this practical and sensible view of the duty of the University towards this great national industry he would deserve the thanks of all. It is to be hoped that he will have his reward in finding that his words have been carefully pondered and are likely to produce lasting fruit.

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## THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir — The Minister of Lands appears to have acted toward the Roseworthy Agricultural School or College in a manner deserving severe reprobation. Because his relations with the head of that institution were strained the Hon. Mr. Howe refused to be present to give the certificates. Does the Hon. Mr. Howe imagine that Roseworthy is a private property belonging to Professor Custance? Did he not very well know that Roseworthy belongs to the country? What a proceeding to ignore and of purpose neglect one of the most important of public institutions because he had sore feeling towards its chief officer. I suppose if the railways were in his department, and the Traffic Manager and himself had managed to work up a little friction, Mr. Howe would think it just and right to ignore and neglect the railways. Mr. Howe also seems to have forgotten the students, or else not to have cared how much he hurt the feelings of those worthy young men by refusing to give *éclat* to the presentation of their certificates by his presence as a Minister of the Crown. It appears to me that he owes those young men a most hearty apology. The Hon. Mr. Howe's conduct in this transaction shows that he is by no means equal to the position he has attained, and that he is not a capable steward of those great interests which the country has placed in his hands. The greatest of all interests in South Australia is the land. What this people need to know is how to handle the land. And yet, O ye gods! the Minister of Lands does his utmost to make little of and so to crush the only institution which gives special scientific and practical instruction in farming. The touchiness of



Professor Custance is not the shadow of an excuse for the action of the Minister of Lands towards Roseworthy as a public institution. The whole arrangement about the giving of these certificates reflects the greatest discredit upon the Lands Department. Seeing the national importance of agriculture, the pupils of Roseworthy should have been brought down to Adelaide, and His Excellency the Governor should have been asked to preside and to present the certificates. If requested, no doubt the University authorities would have lent the use of their premises. By such means Roseworthy would have received a great lift in public esteem, and the number of its pupils multiplied. We make a great ado about the University, which principally exists to supply lawyers and doctors. But these classes are of far inferior value to capable farmers. Surely it is madness to make such a fuss over budding lawyers and budding doctors and to ignore the rising hope of the farmers of the country. Our leading people in this matter seem like men that dream. Instead of casting contempt upon agriculture, we should seek to make it most honourable in the sight of the youth of South Australia. The various Farmers' Societies should take up this matter, and insist that the Farmers' College should be treated with proper respect by the Government. At the same time they should urge that half the scholarships given at the public schools should be given to country schools, and should entitle to instruction at Roseworthy. Why, at the present time Adelaide and Port Adelaide monopolize the scholarships, and all the country schools are nowhere. In order to make amends for his past behaviour the Minister of Lands might very well arrange even now that the successful students of Roseworthy for 1886 should have their certificates publicly presented in Adelaide.

I am, Sir, &c.,

AGRICULTURE.



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## DEATH OF SIR WALTER WATSON HUGHES.

The name of this gentleman, who has just died after lingering several months in agony, is associated with at least two prominently patriotic public acts, either of which is calculated to place it amongst the most lasting records of the doings of our leading colonists, and South Australians will sincerely regret to hear of his death. Sir Walter Watson Hughes was one of those strong-spirited, clear-headed men who carve out their own fortunes by dint of untiring energy and self-reliance. He was the son of the late Thomas Hughes; was born in the town of Pittenween, in Fifeshire, Scotland, in August, 1803, and was educated in the small town of Crail, where he was apprenticed to the trade of a cooper. Being of a rather restless, roving disposition, however, he took to the sea, and rose to be chief officer of a vessel at the age of 26, when he made a voyage to India. Before this he had a rough time of it on board a whaler, and in those days whaling was rough indeed—it is bad enough now, with all the modern appliances. His first seafaring essay was in a whaling expedition to the Arctic regions. Tiring of this, however, and seeing a field open for him in Calcutta, he made a voyage there as chief mate of a ship in 1829. Succeeding in his venture he bought the brig *Hero*, and traded between Calcutta and China, mainly in opium. For nearly twenty years he lived in the East; but the climate telling upon his constitution, and South Australia offering a fresh field for enterprise, he came to this colony in 1840, and engaged in mercantile pursuits in conjunction with the firm of Messrs. Bunce & Thomson. He resided in Adelaide till shortly after the crisis of 1842 paralysed business, when he started sheepfarming on the Hummocks. He lived in the neighbourhood of Macclesfield for a number of years, and had stations near Watervale and Wallaroo. For some years Mr. Hughes prosecuted a search for copper in the Watervale district, and when he obtained his Wallaroo property the search was continued in that locality. On the Wallaroo beach he discovered specimens, and was so confident of the result that he communicated