ADV. 24-6-27

THE ROSEWORTHY COLLEGE.

Referring to the changes in connection with the Roseworthy College, consequent upon the resignation of Mr. W. F. Colebatch, the "Teachers' Journal" states—The appointment of Mr. Walter H. Kirks to be principal of the Roseworthy Agricultural College in succession to Mr. W. J. Colebatch, is a satisfactory settlement of a question that has been exercising the minds of friends of that institution for some time. It is the unanimous opinion of the head of the important concern to fulfil the immediate obligations of his office, and, although it was doubtless a tribute to the ability and versatility of Mr. Colebatch that in recent years he was so frequently commandeered by the Government of the day to undertake tasks which took him away from the college, it was risking much of the advantage which it was due to the college that he should devote his entire attention to the work of the Irrigation Commission. Mr. Kirks appointment is just about the happiest that could possibly have been made at this juncture. A graduate of both the Roseworthy College and the Adelaide university, with experience as vice-principal of the Dookie Agricultural College in Victoria, and in the service of the Agricultural Department of New South Wales, he comes to the position of head of a highly responsible duties equipped with a training and experience equal to that of any of his predecessors, and with an available reputation for getting the best out of the students who come under his influence.

ADV. 24-6-27

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION.

A VALUABLE INSTITUTION.

NEW YORK, June 22.

It is announced that the Rockefeller Foundation disbursed 9,740,000 dollars in 1926 in promoting the health of the world. The principal work was aiding the growth of 74 medical colleges in ten different countries, dealing with the hookworm campaign in many parts of the world, a yellow fever campaign in South America, and anti-tuberculosis undertakings in Europe. The announcement lays stress on the fact that the foundation has had invaluable opportunities, and covers many British undertakings, stretching all the way from London and Edinburgh to Sydney and Hongkong.

ADV. 24-6-27

TRAINED SCIENTISTS NEEDED.

Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, in his address at a conference at the joint conference of the Australian Research Council of Australia and the Woolsellers' Brokers' Yesterday, deplored the lack of trained scientists in Australia. Unless men devoted their attention to the more practical subjects, such as medicine, they had little opportunity to make use of their knowledge pay. Professor A. Ritchie, of the University of Melbourne University, mentioned the case of a young man who had fallen from 30 students to 10. The number was spread over four years. If stockowners were not prepared to give trained men their routine veterinary work, they would leave them to live and starve there, or else, cut out the course down school after another would close down, because of scientific men would continue unless it was made apparent that the trained man could command the positions which went to those in other professions.

ADV. 24-6-27

RHODES SCHOLARS.

THE ANNUAL DINNER

LONDON, June 23.

There were 100 guests at the annual dinner of the Rhodes scholars at Oxford last night. They included ten former Australian and three former New Zealand scholars and five Australians just leaving.

Sir V. Lovett was chairman and explained the conditions of the new Rhodes travelling scholarship of £1,200 annually for graduates of five years' professional experience. Sir R. L. Borden (Canada) and Lord Bryce also spoke.

Mr. R. Sholl, replying on behalf of the Dominion students, discussed the question of the age limit for scholars. Whereas the American delegate wanted the Rhodes scholars still over young, Mr. Sholl suggested they should be 21 or 22, when they would be able to profit by their experience.

ADV. 27-6-27

LONDON UNIVERSITY.

A NEW SITE PURCHASED.

LONDON, June 24.

After seven years of negotiation the University of London, at a cost of £225,000, has purchased the Bloomsbury site from the Duke of Bedford as its headquarters.

ADV. 27-6-27

The council of the University of Adelaide, at a meeting on Friday afternoon, recorded its sorrow at the death of Sir George Brookman, and its great appreciation of the services rendered by him to the University during his long term as a member of the council. The Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell) said Sir George Brookman's great experience in general and educational affairs had been invaluable to the council. He had gained the esteem not only of the council, but also of the members of the staff, by his patient attention to the details of University organisation, and by the invariable justice of his decisions. The registrar (Mr. F. W. Eardley) was directed to convey to Lady Brookman and family the sincere sympathy of the council.

REG. 27-6-27

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ADV. 24-6-27

THE PASTORAL INDUSTRY.

Need for Research.

Scientists Outline Position.

Growers Agree to Co-operate.

Professors T. Brailsford Robertson and A. H. Woodruff addressed delegates to the Graziers' Federal Convention and to the Woolselling Brokers' Conference yesterday on the need for scientific research in the pastoral industry and the work being done and contemplated by the Council for Industrial and Scientific Research. Mr. Aitken presided.

Professor Robertson said the urgent necessity for research in Australia on matters affecting the welfare of the pastoral industries arose from three sources which might be enumerated as—first, those natural difficulties and disabilities which were experienced in every district, to a greater extent or other, and might or might not be a chance to be remediable; second, the depletion of many constituents of the soil which was attributable to the fact that the plants growing upon the soil had absorbed from it certain materials which had been assimilated by animals and incorporated into their own body substances, and the materials had been subsequently exported or otherwise removed from the soil upon which they were reared; and, third, the unique qualities of the animals for wales had resulted from careful selection and breeding, with a view to maximum productivity. The animals which were bred nowadays for the pastoral industries could never have survived under primitive conditions permitting their natural selection for the empire-wide sheep industry, as it is by man, they could not maintain such extraordinary powers of production.

The speaker proceeded to deal with the problem of pasture, which was a great industry, and, if it was to be considered absolutely ideal, no other products needed by man, it could always be conceivably possible to the population of pastures upon the land possessed of certain natural deficiencies, shortcomings they had placed the extraordinary strain of producing animals of all kinds—the animals were thus forced to become, in a sense, abnormal, specifically for producing wool, or meat, or milk, as the case might be, and, having abstracted everything from the soil that was necessary to achieve this extraordinary result, they had removed the resultant product, so that the nutritional values extracted from the soil were never permitted to return to it. That a condition which was ideal from the first might be, ultimately, to become less ideal, eventually bad, and ultimately hopeless. To combat or forestall those results of abnormal—extraordinary—pressure, they must take measures in part dictated by economic commonsense, in part by the salutary lessons of experience, and in part by scientific investigation conducted with the express purpose of ascertaining the precise origins of defective welfare or production wherever it was encountered.

Divisions of Research.

Research of that character naturally fell into three main fields—first, the investigation of animal diseases; secondly, animal nutrition; thirdly, animal genetics. The problem of animal diseases was not strictly separated from the problem of animal nutrition, for it was a well-known fact, both in human and animal pathology, that weaklings contracted disease more readily than healthy individuals. Animals which were partially deprived of the nourishment exhibited diseases which were accompanied by evidences of their nutritional poverty. In such cases the root causes of the trouble was nutrition, and endeavours to combat the disease, without removing the root of the trouble, might simply result in throwing good money after a bad one. In other cases, more particularly those of an epidemic character, disease must itself be directly fought.

Breeding Problems.

Notwithstanding the wonderful results which had been accomplished through practical breeding experience and generations of systematic endeavour on the part of pastoralists themselves, there was no doubt that the knowledge of animal genetics might be increased and a great deal done in the future. Unimaginable possibilities lay before them. Even if that was taking a too hopeful view of the possibilities of animal genetics in the aid of the pastoral industry, much could undoubtedly be done to elucidate the reasons why certain districts failed to produce useful breeding stock, while other districts were exceptionally favored. He had been asked to conduct investigations in animal nutrition by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. The natural and acquired deficiencies in nutrition would be found most probably to fall into one of two classes. There was first the class of mineral deficiencies. That was the deprival of certain essential mineral constituents of the soil and water, making which the animal was unable to thrive, or, if apparently thriving, unable to produce the maximum of wool, or of desirable quality of wool; and second, the defect in the composition of the nitrogenous foodstuffs which the animal required from the fodder plants. There was little likelihood that they would have to concern themselves with deficiency of any other of the various groups of foodstuffs. For the present, therefore, they intended to concentrate their attention on ascertaining which particular mineral or nitrogenous deficiencies might be found in the fodder plants in various parts of Australia.

Excess Minerals.

In addition to deficiencies, however, there were, relatively frequently met in Australia with excesses of certain mineral constituents. For example, many of the animals in the north-west were troubled with that excess of magnesium increased the demand for lime. A supply of lime which would be adequate to supply the normal animal might be inadequate to support a sheep whose food and water were rich in magnesium. They proposed to investigate the effect of excess of magnesium upon the requirement by the animals of other constituents, such as lime, so that they might learn to combat the excessive demands placed upon the physiological mechanism of the animals by the abnormal mineral composition of their food and water.

Side by side with that work was work to be carried out at the Waite Institute under the direction of Professor A. E. V. Richardson, directed towards ascertaining the nitrogenous constituents of Australian fodders under natural and artificial conditions, so that putting one set of investigations together with the other, they might be able to predict which plants in which districts might be lacking in the growth and development. They proposed to conduct an iodine survey of the pastoral areas by determining the iodine in the thyroids collected in as many different localities as possible. That would show how much iodine the animal was able to collect from its surroundings. Given that they had a picture of the situation as the sheep found it.

From experience in other countries it was quite possible that certain parts of Australia iodine was so deficient in the soil and water as to inflict positive injury upon the development of the animals.

Another important investigation concerned the manner in which phosphoric acid was utilised by the pastoral industry and the forms in which it must be present in the food to be most readily available for the animal. That was work that be carrying on extensive investigation into that subject.

They intended to investigate the nitrogenous constituents of the fodders they would obtain samples of one cwt., or more of various fodder plants, and fodder plants had extract from them the nitrogenous they contained. They would determine the nutritive value of those proteins in comparison with some standard protein of known nutritional value, and would thus be enabled to grade the values of the proteins in the different fodder plants and ascertain which pairs, or groups of plants were most suitable for the purpose of supplying each other's deficiencies. By the introduction of the most suitable supplementary fodders for the purpose of correcting of the deficiencies encountered, it might be possible in some instances materially to increase the carrying capacities of pastoral areas.

Co-operation Promised.

Sir C. Graham Waddell said New South Wales and he felt sure, other pastoralists would assist the Council in every manner possible. Scientific investigation and practical work must go on together. The meeting should be the starting point for something big in the industry. The pastoralists and pastoralists were earnest in their endeavor to make the pastoral industry as beneficial as possible to the nation.

ADV. 24-6-27

THE RIVERSDALE CONFERENCE.

The visit of Professor G. C. Henderson, M.A., to the scene of his former University activities, is being hailed with great mutual pleasure. Last evening the University Association entertained their old friend at the Prince of Wales lecture room, at the University. In the absence of the President (Mr. E. W. Holden), the Vice-President, Mr. C. T. Madigan, occupied the chair. There was a representative attendance. Subsequently, a lecture, and impromptu speeches were delivered in the concert hall, Mr. D. M. Hodgson being in the chair, and Mr. Hall had charge of the lecture.

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