

view it is absolutely necessary that not more than one scholarship should be held in any given district.

The scholarships should be awarded on a competitive examination based on the Sixth Standard of the Education Department, with the addition of two short papers on the chief facts of animal and vegetable life and structure. The examination should be conducted by the Education Department, subject to the approval of the papers by the Commissioner of State Forests.

The annual cost of the twelve scholarships would depend upon the fees charged for board, &c. If these are fixed at £40 for each student, the total would be £480. With the progress of the school means may be found to provide a scholarship for each district every year; but this could not be done for less than £1,400 if a three-years course be adopted; £960 if the course be restricted to two years.

I have already pointed out that the salaries of the chief members of the teaching-staff are too low. It seems advisable to refer to this subject at greater length. The knowledge and qualifications required for the manager and biological lecturer more especially are in each case of a varied character, and but rarely possessed by one individual. It will be found an extremely difficult matter to obtain a manager versed in the theory and practice of agriculture, and possessing the power of imparting that knowledge in a pleasant and attractive manner. The possession of knowledge does not necessarily imply the possession of teaching-power, still less does it imply the faculty of organization and discipline, united with that feeling of sympathy without which other qualifications lose half their force. A biologist capable of performing really good work in connection with a school of forestry and agriculture must possess not only an acquaintance with the form, structure, and physiology of animals and plants, but he must have acquired an extensive detailed knowledge of the habits and peculiarities of those groups of animals and plants which are especially the charge of the forester, the fruit-grower, and the farmer. It is beyond the scope of our present university training to afford this special knowledge, which can only be fully attained by a lengthened experience. To attempt to impart a mere book-knowledge of any branch of natural science would be little better than a farce. At the same time, I fully believe it would be advisable to appoint the manager and lecturers at the salaries named, on the understanding that as soon as the institution becomes self-supporting the salaries should be increased.

With the object of obtaining a revenue from the Kioreroa Block for the support of the school at the earliest date, I have to make the following recommendations: 1, To lay down 250 acres in wattle plantations, £406; 2, to lay down four acres in ordinary fruit-trees, and one acre in oranges, lemons, and limes (the soil to be trenched three spits deep; the orchard to be protected by shelter-belts), £175; 3, to plant fifty acres of jarrah, of which one-year-old plants may be purchased at a cheap rate, £75; fencing, say 420 chains, at £50 per mile, £263; freight and contingencies, £20: total, £934. Estimated cost of planting as proposed, £934; estimated cost of cottage for foresters, shed, tool-house, seed-room, &c., £260: total, £1,199. Maintenance for nine months—Forester, salary, £94; labour in nurseries, &c., £100; tools, contingencies, &c., £25: total, £219.

Wellington, 9th June, 1886.

APPENDIX.

Classification of Students adopted in the Agricultural College, Roseworthy, Adelaide, under the Charge of Professor Custance.

Department A.—Practical students, who will be required to work regularly on the farm. A portion of each day will be devoted to instruction in the college. Students physically unable to work on the farm cannot enter in this department.—£50 per annum.

Department B.—Science students, who may devote themselves chiefly to the sciences in connection with agriculture, farm-work being voluntary, though no student will be qualified for the college certificate who is unable to satisfy the examiners that he has sufficient practical knowledge to render him competent to perform the various farm operations in a good and workmanlike manner.—£70 per annum.

Department C.—Working students can be received, who will be required to work all day on the farm, receiving instruction in agriculture only each evening.—£25 per annum.

Out-Students.—Settlers wishing to attend lectures and classes at the college will be received as non-resident students.—£20 per annum.

The fees stated do not include books, apparatus, or laundry account. Students are paid for their work on the farm at contract-rates where possible; if by time, at 3d., 4d., or 6d. per hour. A quarter's notice is required prior to the removal of a student. The course of study extends over two years.

NOTE.—The college was opened 3rd February, 1885. The present number of students is twenty-eight. The salary of the principal is £800 per annum, with house rent-free.

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