

### (7) FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF TEACHER-TRAINING

Already some training is being provided for homecraft teachers and teachers of woodwork and metalwork. The course for homecraft teachers began in 1943 and is one of three years' duration, the first year being spent at Dunedin Training College and the second and third years at approved post-primary schools as student teachers or as probationary assistants. The proportion of time spent in the two latter capacities is under review at the present time. Already 30 teachers have completed the course and some 75 others have entered upon it. A training course for woodwork and metalwork teachers was initiated in Auckland in co-operation with Seddon Memorial Technical College at the beginning of 1946. This course is of one year only. Fifteen woodwork and 5 metalwork instructors entered upon and completed this course. They have all been absorbed in schools. A further course for 15 woodwork teachers and 9 metalwork teachers has been arranged for 1947.

It is quite clear, however, that we should do more to assist in connection with the training of post-primary teachers. At the present time, for post-primary teachers in general, there is available one year at Auckland Training College, to which course only those teachers who have already obtained a degree are admitted. Most of these students have obtained their degrees at their own expense. I do feel that the institution of some form of bursary for teachers selected for the post-primary service is desirable, but in my opinion the establishment of such bursaries is not warranted unless the teacher selected enters into a bond to give service at the end of the course. Otherwise, we should undoubtedly find that students would take advantage of the post-primary bursary to help them on the way with courses in accountancy, law, and the like, with no intention ever of taking up teaching. The introduction of such a bond would be in line with the policy of other Government Departments and with the bond demanded in other parts of the world for post-primary teachers.

An estimate of the exact number of new entrants to the post-primary service in all its branches—secondary, technical, and district high—is difficult as, owing to war conditions, the entry over the last six or seven years has been abnormal. A careful investigation of the position shows, however, that the average annual intake is probably 45 to 60 men and an equal number of women. Many of these, of course, have received their training as primary teachers and have transferred to the post-primary service at a later stage. Others enter direct from industry. Others again obtain their University training at their own expense. It is not therefore necessary to legislate for anything like 100 annually. Having regard, however, to the certain increase in the post-primary rolls in the early 1950's, I feel certain that there would be no risk of post-primary teachers being out of employment if we awarded 40 post-primary teachers bursaries annually. As the bursars would ultimately be post-primary teachers, an interview should have a considerable bearing upon the selection, and the needs of the post-primary service would be kept constantly in mind. Students selected would be required to follow approved courses of study, and their courses of study would be continually under review by the Department. At the present time too many students are entering upon degree courses with subjects which are of no great value for post-primary teaching. I feel, too, that we should give further consideration to the training of teachers of commercial subjects and of art. In all probability commercial teachers should be taken direct from commerce and given a short period of training on the lines of that already given to teachers of woodwork and of metalwork.

Refresher courses were continued as in 1945. In that year refresher courses in social studies were held at Feilding and Christchurch. Further courses in general science were held at Wellington and Christchurch in January of this year, over 400 teachers being present at these two courses. Arrangements were made during the year for a continuation of further courses in 1947: in English at Christchurch and Feilding; in home science at Dunedin; and in astronomy and map-reading at Wellington. The