

# ENGLISH STUDENTS AT URRBRAE.



The Director of the Waite Research Institute (Dr. A. E. V. Richardson) explaining pasture improvement research to visiting English University and public school men on Friday. Left to Right.—The Minister of Agriculture (Mr. Cowan), and Messrs. R. Smailes, C. H. Rex, F. Pelutte, R. J. Smailes, and T. H. Kelsey.

NEWS 22-8-28

## Waite Institute Visited

In view of the interest being manifested in agricultural education the visit paid to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute yesterday by 60 teachers and inspectors who were in Adelaide for the final sessions of the thirty-third annual conference of the South Australian Public Teachers' Union, was of particular interest.

Dr. A. E. V. Richardson (Director of the institute), after explaining the general scheme of the work, divided the party into three groups, each of which visited the laboratories, the conservatory, and the pasturage. At the conclusion of the inspection Prof. Richardson entertained the visitors at afternoon tea.

The teachers, on the motion of Mr. M. Gerlach, seconded by Mr. T. S. Raggatt expressed their appreciation to Dr. Richardson for his interest.

REG. 22-8-28

## EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

### Important Innovations.

## Director's Recommendations Approved.

It was announced on Tuesday that Cabinet had approved many important recommendations made by the Direction of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) upon his return from abroad, where he attended the Imperial Education Conference.

In all 22 proposals were made by Mr. McCoy, and of these 12 have been endorsed, eight deferred, and it has been found that two were anticipated by the passing of the Agricultural Education Act. The following recommendations, which have been approved, will operate almost immediately:—

#### Teachers' University Courses.

"That for the next five years the Education Department endeavours to send not

less than five qualified students annually to attend courses established by the University council, with a view to creating a supply of teachers qualified to instruct in agriculture in the high schools."

#### Agriculture in Schools.

"That an organizing inspector of agriculture for secondary schools be appointed, under the Superintendent of Secondary Education, to direct, develop, and inspect agricultural teaching in secondary schools. (It would be of the greatest advantage to the scheme if this officer were given the opportunity of visiting the United States to study the details of the project method and supervised farm practice before taking up duty.)"

"That where 10 or more pupils in a high school offer for an agricultural course, and the Director is satisfied that such a course can be maintained, a special department under a teacher with the proper qualifications be established in the school."

"That teachers who are appointed to the charge of agricultural departments in a high school be paid ordinary assistants' rates (£20), provided that their qualifications are approved by the Director; these teachers shall be eligible for promotion on the same terms as other assistants."

#### Urrbrae Boarding School.

"That the work of erecting a boarding school at Urrbrae, on land most of which was generously donated by the late Mr. Peter Waite for the purpose of agricultural teaching, be commenced. Such a school should be organized to afford a course of study suitable as a preparation for entrance to the agricultural courses at the University, and instruction suitable for boys about to enter upon work on the land, but whose parents cannot afford to keep them at school beyond the age of 15-16 years. The institution, besides affording city children such experience of country life as might determine them to settle on the land, would also form an admirable training ground for the students of the Teachers' College. Schools of instruction in various forms of agriculture could also be conducted here for the benefit of teachers engaged in rural schools."

#### Primary Schools.

"That more variety be given to the teaching of elementary agriculture in primary schools:—(1) By increasing the number of simple projects carried out by the pupils, namely, how to care for poultry, bees, pigs, and other small animals, and how to grow wheat, oats, &c., on the lines of the Boys' Club movement; (2) by cultivating shrubs, flowers, lawns, &c., where circumstances are favourable, in addition to the usual vegetable plots; (3) by organizing visits to well-managed farms in order to study some particular aspect of work for which previous preparation has been made in

school; (4) by making the course in wood-work more practical."

"That the Supervisor of Elementary Agriculture be given the rank and status of Inspector of Elementary Agriculture, and that his duties include the organization, direction, development, and inspection of agricultural teaching in the primary schools, and the training of teachers for this work."

"That the Inspector of Elementary Agriculture select from each inspector's district two or three teachers who have shown aptitude for teaching agriculture and some qualifications for leadership, for a special course, after which they should return to their schools and act as assistant organizers, spending half a day per week in the surrounding schools, suitable provision being made for the performance of their school duties during absence."

#### Vocational Guidance.

"That each high school, higher primary school, and central school organize within itself a scheme of guidance and placement involving the appointment of one or more teachers as counsellors, with the head master as chief counsellor, whose duties shall be:—(1) To inform and advise boys and girls regarding the content of the courses offered by the school, and the prospects of the various types of employment open to them; (2) to readjust courses, after consultation with the parent, where it is shown to be necessary or desirable to do so in the interest of the student; (3) to secure and maintain relations with as many employers as possible, and to register vacancies notified by them or the employment officer; (4) to recommend applicants to employers for such vacancies. The first, second, and fourth duties should be carried out after consulting the wishes of both pupil and parents. The employment officer will assist in carrying out the third."

#### Domestic Arts.

"That the status of the present Organizing Teacher of Domestic Arts be raised to Inspector of Domestic Arts, and that, subject to the authority of the appropriate superintendent or inspector, her duties include the organization, direction, development, and inspection of the teaching of domestic arts in all schools and centres."

#### Teachers of Small Schools.

"That, at the discretion of the Director, arrangements be made for members of the college staff who are engaged in training teachers for small school work to spend a week every alternate year with a country inspector in small schools of his district for the purpose of studying the special problems and difficulties of the small school teacher, and that when considered

necessary similar opportunities be offered to teachers in charge of model one-teacher and two-teacher schools."

"That the Architect-in-Chief be asked to consider the various points raised in my report with a view to incorporating the various ideas therein expressed in future plans and specifications for school buildings."

#### Chair of Agriculture.

The recommendations referring to the establishment of a chair of agriculture at the University, and the provision of funds necessary for buildings, equipment, and maintenance, are covered in the Agricultural Education Act.

It is understood that the appointment of the inspectors, instructors, and other staff required in connection with the approval of the foregoing recommendations is already receiving the attention of Cabinet.

REG. 23-8-28

## WAITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

### Visit by Teachers.

In view of the interest manifested in agricultural education, the visit paid by 60 teachers and inspectors to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute on Wednesday was of particular interest. The Director of the Institute (Professor A. E. V. Richardson, M.A., D.Sc.) explained the general scheme of the work, and then divided the party into three groups, each attended by a member of the professional staff. These inspected the laboratories, the conservatory, and the pasturage. At the conclusion of the inspection, Mrs. Richardson entertained the visitors at afternoon tea. Mr. M. Gerlach, B.A., proposed and Mr. T. S. Raggatt seconded a vote of thanks to Professor and Mrs. Richardson and the staff for their kindness.