

When Advertiser
September 15th 1914

proving the breed might be mentioned in alphabetical order—Messrs Angus, Archer, Austin, Armstrong, Armytage, Bridges, Blackburn, Cairnside, Cox, Cumming, Dangar, Dowling, Duffield, Fairbairn, Falkiner, Gatensby, Gibson, Hawker, Henty, Horsfall, Milliar, Mills, Muirhead, Murray, Officer, Peppin, Russell, Shaw, Stirling, Taylor, White, and Wilson. He thought Mr. Peppin might be considered the most successful breeder of sheep Australia had ever known. He was the founder of the famous Wanganella flock, which passed into the hands of Messrs. Austin and Milliar, although many others of the most successful studs owed their success to sheep purchased from Mr. Peppin.

Mr. van Senden also dealt with the production of wool. The first consignment of Australian wool to London in 1808 consisted of one bale, weighing 245 lb. It was sold at 10/4 per lb. in the back-washed State, or a total of £125 11/8. Last year the export was 1,936,576 bales, weighing 632,206,878 lb., valued at £26,057,981. If the value of exports directly due to sheep was included, that was to say frozen meat, tallow, skins, &c., the total export value for last year was £38,705,981, or more than 45 per cent. of Australia's total exports. In the last 10 years the Commonwealth had received £290,815,587 for its wool. Australia stood third in the continents of the world in the number of sheep possessed. She had 109,692,261, but in average weight of fleece per sheep and price per lb., she beat the world, which was the result of excellent climatic conditions and the intelligent care taken in improving the breed. The handling of the wool clip was a most important matter, and in this connection he paid a high tribute to the work of the students turned out by the Adelaide School of Mines and Industries. The other States had similar institutions, but such apt wool classers were the students of the Adelaide school that they were to be found all over Australia. (Applause.)

The lecturer proceeded to deal with methods of manufacture. A very important factor in spinning was that the fibre of the wool should be well serrated and elastic, and this depended on high breeding of the sheep, and also to some extent on the nature of the season. In this connection he thought the present dry season would have a slightly detrimental effect. A proof of the effect of the care requisite in breeding sheep was the fact that it now took many fewer fleeces to fill a bale than formerly, the bales being of the same weight. As recently as the early nineties a wool grower was satisfied if 60 fleeces filled a bale. Now the average number in Australia was about 42 per bale. The big-framed, well-covered, long-woolled Merinos of South Australia were probably the foremost in the Commonwealth, as on many of our stations in the lower north it took only about 35 in a good season to fill a bale. The character of the country played a most important part in the size of sheep and consequent weight of fleeces. For instance, the Port Lincoln district, producing a very fine wool, produced a smaller sheep than the northern country, and although that defect was corrected by the use of rams from the north it was necessary constantly to introduce fresh blood to keep up size and constitution. To demonstrate the wonderful effect of a good sire on a flock, he referred to the famous ram, Donald Dinnie, purchased in 1906 by the proprietors of Canowie for 1,200 guineas. That animal had proved a most excellent investment, as it was estimated that he had been worth about £25,000 to his owners. It was believed that in a few years Donald Dinnie's blood would prct. say, 2 lb. more weight per head of wool on a large flock. Generally speaking, a farmer would do best by aiming at producing sheep suitable for the butcher. Hence he must have the biggest framed Merinos or crossbreds. The lecturer referred to the immense importance of the frozen meat trade to the Australian sheep-grower. The first shipment from Australia was made in 1880, with 400 carcasses. Ten years later Australia supplied 307,981 carcasses. So wonderful had been the expansion of the trade that in 1913 Australia forwarded 4,412,517 carcasses. A further incentive to Australia to foster the production of sheep suitable for export was the fact that in the United States the numbers of stock were decreasing. In 1907 there were 42,247,307 head of grown sheep.

This year there were 33,000,000, while the population had increased by 12,000,000. That fact probably accounted for the Americans' anxiety to contain a footing in Australia to augment their supplies. The future of the Australian sheep industry was promising. The decreases in the flocks of America and other parts of the world, and the greater demands for woollen clothing were sufficient causes for Australian sheep-owners to exert themselves to bring all suitable country into use. It had been said that there were large tracts of fine grazing country beyond the MacDonnell Ranges, and he had little doubt that the North-South railway would have been a much more payable proposition than the East-West line. In looking to the future flockmasters could safely count upon much

larger demands being made for their supplies for the eastern Asiatic trade. Japan had made much progress in her woollen industries, and was likely to become an important manufacturing centre. China had decided to clothe her army and navy in woollen garments, so that the Australian wool grower could look forward with confidence to an ever-increasing demand for the golden fleece. (Applause.)

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CORRESPONDENCE.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND ENLISTMENT.

To the Editor.

Sir—University students, like other men, have patriotic feelings, and would like to fight for the Motherland; but, instead of their receiving encouragement from certain University authorities, they have received nothing but discouragement. Unlike the other colonial universities, the Adelaide University has made no concessions to its students who wish to volunteer for active service. A number of undergraduates have already volunteered, and are going with the expeditionary force. These men will lose, not only financially, but this year's examinations. Surely the Adelaide University should follow the lead of the other State institutions in granting concessions to students who wish to volunteer.

I am, Sir, &c., UNDERGRAD.

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THE CASE OF MR. ELKAN.

In the House of Assembly on Tuesday afternoon Mr. Ponder gave notice that he would the following day ask:—"Has the attention of the Attorney-General been called to a letter in the press, signed by Mr. E. Elkan, a naturalised British subject, in which he said he would sooner shoot himself than fight against Germany? Is not this an act of disloyalty to Great Britain? What steps are being taken to prevent similar acts of disloyalty on the part of naturalised British subjects? Is it the intention of the Government to take any action in deporting Mr. Elkan from South Australia? Is it the intention of the Government to follow the example set by St. Petersburg, Berlin, and other cities in changing the names of places which indicate that they belong to a foreign enemy?" Such names as Hahndorf, Blumberg, and Lobethal, said Mr. Ponder, were instances. The Premier asked, "Do you suggest that we ought to alter them?" and Mr. Ponder said he did.

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UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND ENLISTMENT.

Mr. C. R. Hodge (Registrar of the University) wrote to The Register on Wednesday:—"I notice that in The Register this morning you publish a letter, signed 'Undergrad,' in which he speaks of University students who would like to fight for the Motherland receiving nothing but discouragement from the University authorities, and stating that, in his opinion, the Adelaide University should follow the lead of the other State institutions in granting concessions to students who wish to volunteer. I beg to inform you that the council, at their last meeting, determined to make all provision possible to enable undergraduates who desired to do so to join the expeditionary forces, as the following statements will show:—1. Ten undergraduates forwarded a petition to the council, stating that, in the event of a second expeditionary force being formed they desired to join it, and asking whether the annual examination might be accelerated. The council resolved that, should a second expeditionary force be raised, arrangements should be made to hold the examinations immediately after the close of lectures, or earlier, if necessary. The petitioners were informed of this, and requested that, immediately they obtained any definite information in regard to the formation of a second expeditionary force, and its probable date of departure, they should at once write and supply such information, in order that the necessary steps for holding the examinations immediately might be taken. 2. Another student, in his third year, wrote on behalf of himself and other undergraduates, calling attention to the fact that they were all liable to be called upon for a fortnight's military service, either in camp or at Fort Largs, and asking whether any step could be taken whereby students could be excused such service during the third (or examination) term at the University. The military authorities were at once communicated with, and informed that the current term, although a short one, is the most important of the academic year, as students are carefully preparing for the annual examinations, which are held early in November. Any loss of lectures during this term would necessarily imperil their success at the examinations, while, if called upon to take military duty at the time of the examinations it would, in many cases, prevent a man from obtaining his degree, and cause him to lose a year. In these circumstances, the authorities were asked whether there was any provision for excusing students' service? A prompt and courteous reply was sent on behalf of the D.A.A.G. to the effect that students could apply to their own commanding officers for leave to be granted, but that they would be liable to make up the period of training subsequently. This was made known to the students, and some have already applied for, and been granted, exemption, in accordance with this arrangement. 3. A gentleman wrote, calling attention to the fact that many college students who were preparing for the public examinations had been called upon, and were still likely to be called upon, to undergo their period of compulsory military service; and that this would, no doubt, affect their success at the examinations. Another gentleman, father of an undergraduate, wrote in a similar strain. These letters were dealt with sympathetically, and the council decided that every consideration should be given to students and candidates for examinations who have been called upon for military service during term time. A further letter, thanking the council for their consideration, was subsequently received. 4. Two students, holding scholarships, reported that they were going with the first expeditionary force, and asking for consideration in regard to their scholarships. The council resolved to extend the tenure of the scholarships, so that the holders of them should not suffer any disability while serving their country. From the foregoing, you will see that, instead of the University authorities being inert, the council, at their meeting last month, gave the whole question careful consideration, and were prepared to make all provision possible to aid those undergraduates who desired to join the expeditionary forces. The initiative now, of course, rests with the undergraduates who desire to go to the front. The council will put the necessary machinery into operation if requested to do so; but, in the absence of applications in this direction, all examinations will, of course, be held at the normal time."