REG. 13-8-29

HAND-FEEDING OF SHEEP IN DROUGHT

South Australian Method Wasteful, Says Professor

HOW QUEENSLAND DOES IT

(By Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, of the University of Adelaide, and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.)

THE improved methods of hand-feeding of sheep in drought land appear to be unknown in South Australia, and because of the serious situation in the northern part of this State, Professor Robertson thinks that pastoralists should be informed of the better procedure adopted elsewhere.

HE says:—"It has astonished me to learn that hand-feeding of sheep in drought in South Australia is regarded as a fair expedient, and one which is generally disastrous in its financial outcome. Enquiry into the methods adopted on our northern stations has convinced me that this pessimistic outlook is largely attributable to the way in which it is employed, which are exceedingly wasteful, and therefore foreshadow future failure unless rescued by timely improvement of the season.

"Where hand-feeding has been attempted at all in South Australia, the procedure has generally been to scatter food broadcast for the sheep to pick up, or to spread it upon sacking or hard ground near the watering places. The results are necessarily very poor. The food is trampled by the sheep, with the consequence that the strongest and best nourished sheep get most of it, and the poorer animals, which need it most, get none at all.

Prof. Robertson

MADE DISTASTEFUL

"The principle in Central Queensland is to reduce all the foodstuffs to a coarse, well-mixed powder, and to incorporate in this mixture a sufficient quantity of ground rock phosphate to make it distasteful to the sheep, so that they will not eat it until they are exceptionally hungry. The phosphate is a mineral fertilizer of the food consumption, and the condition of the animals is very closely watched. If the sheep lose weight, the proportion of phosphates is diminished. If they gain in condition it is increased.

"All pastoralists in Central Queensland who have employed the method agreed that it will only succeed when it is initiated in time, that is, before the sheep have lost condition too heavily. It has been found that even lambs can be successfully raised by hand-feeding, but the diet employed for them differs in a little more lucerne and in fewer foodstuffs (for example, bran) than is necessary for grown sheep, the proportion of phosphates must be more lower, and the diet must be supplemented with a little lucerne hay.

"The precise foodstuffs employed will vary somewhat according to their availability, but the mixture is as follows:—

"Three bags ground maize (420 lb.), three bags bran (314 lb.), two bags lucerne chaff (180 lb.), two bags linseed meal (200 lb.), two bags ground rock phosphate (368 lb.), of course common salt (30 lb.).

"The ingredients are mixed together, and a sufficient quantity of water added to each with a chute to fill the mixed fodder into bags. The maize is ground on the spot with a simple grinding machine which also cuts and reduces it, not to flour, of course, but to a coarse powder.

"The diet is rich in protein. In general, if one wished to increase the proportion of starch, one would employ a larger proportion of maize. If one wished to increase the proportion of protein (for example, for ewes suckling lambs) one would proceed most safely by increasing the proportion of bran.

ONLY EAT WHEN HUNGRY

"The fodder is placed near the watering-places in large automatic feeders, constructed on the station out of boards nailed together, and of the shape of a triangle, the wide opening at the top being provided with a galvanised iron cover to prevent blowing away of the fodder by wind, and to keep rain out. The narrow end discharges into a shallow trough from which the sheep eat the fodder.

"The sheep are distinctly averse to the mixture and hence only seek it when very hungry. In a Queensland station (Longreach) consumed by adult sheep is 4-lb. per day, and the cost at Corona (sixty miles from the railway) worked out at 0.66d. per head per week.

"Sheep that have lost condition very heavily, and are very weak, are not willing to eat the mixture, and hence only seek it when very hungry. In a little more forward, but still in poor condition, the sheep will eat it more freely, but have no liking for it. As his dietary he was brought into close personal contact with him, and he learned to admire his many efforts and genius as a director, and to love him as a true companion and friend.

Other Tributes

As a mark of respect to the deceased gentleman the Liberal and Labor Parliamentary parties have both adjourned their respective meetings this morning until to-morrow to enable their members to be present at the funeral.

Among the messages of condolence received by the Education Department yesterday were telegrams from the Director of Education in Victoria (Mr. M. P. Hansen), Mr. P. Board (a previous Director of Education in New South Wales), and the Australian Federated Union of Teachers, and a letter from the South Australian Public Teachers' Union. Teachers in all parts of the State also sent messages, indicating sympathy with the family and the widespread feeling of loss through the death.

The Funeral

The funeral cortege will leave the residence of the daughter of Mr. McCoy, Mrs. Hopkins, Walkerville-terrace, Gilberton, at 11 o'clock this morning for the North-road Cemetery. It will be conducted by the Rev. K. J. F. Bickerseth (headmaster of St. Peter's College, and a member of the Advisory Council of Education, of which Mr. McCoy was president). The pallbearers will be the Minister of Education (Hon. M. McIntosh), Messrs. A.C. Charlton, W. J. Adey (Superintendent of Secondary Education), J. H. Gosse, Professor A. E. Ritchie, Professor A. V. Richardson (Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute).

Their arrangements with the wish of relatives, the funeral will be as non-official in character as possible. The shops will not be closed.

Deputy Director of Education has announced that headteachers of all schools will be requested to make the necessary arrangements to attend the funeral, together with such men on their staffs as may be spared. The afternoon all heads of schools throughout the State should assemble their school staffs for memorial ceremonies, and that meanwhile all school flags are to be flown at half-mast. Every male teacher on the staff of the Education Department Office will be enabled to attend the burial.

Resolution of Sympathy

The standing committee of the Chamber of Commerce, meeting in Adelaide at its meeting on Tuesday, passed a resolution of sympathy with the Department of Education in the loss it has sustained by the death of its Director of Education, Mr. W. T. McCoy, and placed on record its appreciation of his stirling value both as a citizen and as an educationist.

REGRET OF THE LEAGUE UNION

Regret at the loss sustained by the death of Mr. W. T. McCoy was expressed by Mr. J. H. Vaughan on behalf of members of the League of Nations Union at the lunch yesterday. Mr. McCoy, he said, was not only a valiant citizen, and titled his great as Director of Education with remarkable capacity and practical idealism, but also took a great interest in the work of the League. He was one of its first vice-presidents, and one of the best friends it had had.

SCHOOL SPORTS CANCELLED

As a mark of respect to Mr. W. T. McCoy the athletic events which were to have been contested by scholars of the Woodville and Unley High Schools on Tuesday were cancelled. The Kadina boys will leave for home this morning.

TASMANIA'S SYMPATHY

CONDOLENCE FROM UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Hobart, August 13.

There were many expressions of regret in Hobart when the news of the death of Mr. W. T. McCoy was received. Before his appointment as Director of Education in South Australia he occupied a similar position in Tasmania for years. He was responsible for the introduction of many reforms in the Education Department, and they have stood the test of time and been a decided influence in the shaping of the Tasmanian system of primary education, was organised, kindergarten and Montessori schools were established in schools, and the principles extended to smaller schools. He was also responsible for the introduction of a system of correspondence school education. Tasmania established a secondary school branch of the department.

Mr. McCoy was a member of the University Council of Tasmania, and at the meeting of that body yesterday a motion of condolence with the South Australian Education Department was carried.

ADV. 15-8-29

MR. W. T. McCOY

LARGE ATTENDANCE AT FUNERAL

On Wednesday morning the funeral of the late Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) took place in the North-road cemetery. There was a long procession of motor cars, containing public men and educationists paying their last tribute of respect. A short service was conducted in the mortuary chapel at the cemetery by the Rev. K. J. F. Bickerseth (principal of St. Peter's College), who also officiated at the burial service. Nearly every headmaster and chief assistant of public schools in the metropolitan area was present, in accordance with permission given by the Education Department. The wreaths filled two motor cars.

The pall bearers were the Minister of Education (Hon. M. McIntosh), the Superintendent of Secondary Education (Mr. W. J. Adey), the Director of the Waite Research Bureau (Professor A. E. V. Richardson), the Deputy Director of Education (Mr. C. Charlton), Mr. R. Homburg, and Mr. J. H. Gosse. Others present included the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray), the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Mr. J. Bartlett), the President of the Legislative Council (Sir Lancelot Stirling), the Lord Mayor (Alderman Richardson), Messrs. Hon. T. Pascoe and W. G. Duncan, M.L.C's, and P. W. Coneybeer, M.P., the Speaker of the House of Assembly (Hon. H. R. Laffer), the leader of the Opposition (Hon. L. L. Hill), Messrs. P. Reidy, J. Dunn, J. Dennis, W. Jeffries, F. W. Birrell, E. A. Anthoney, H. S. Hudd, M.P.'s, the chairman of the Public Service Board (Mr. S. Talbot Smith), the registrar of the University (Mr. F. W. Eardley), the Under Treasurer (Mr. R. Sutcliffe), the Commissioner of Railways (Mr. W. A. Webb), and Inspectors R. Sutton, A. Jeffries, J. Jeffries, W. Jeffries, W. T. Martin, W. V. Leach, Miss L. Longmore, and Miss A. L. Mietike.

Tributes

The Minister of Education (Hon. M. McIntosh) has received from the managers of the visiting inter-State schools' basketball teams a message expressing sorrow on the occasion of the funeral, and deepest sympathy with the State in its sad loss through the death of Mr. McCoy.

Western-Australian Regrets

Addressing the Constitutional Club on Wednesday, Mr. John Tucker, of Perth, a Australian representative of the Young Australia League, who was connected with the Education Department in Sydney, referred to Mr. McCoy's work and latterly with the educational movement in Western Australia, referring to the death of Mr. McCoy. He expressed regret at the great loss it had occasioned to the State. In Western Australia, he said, they had watched with keen interest the advance made by the educational institutions in South Australia under Mr. McCoy's direction. The late director had always gladly helped the Young Australia League movement, and had sent one of his officers on a mission to address the boys of some of the schools on the objects of the league.

Regret of Savings Bank Trustees

At the board meeting of the Savings Bank of South Australia on Tuesday the trustees recorded their deep regret at the death of Mr. W. T. McCoy, who, as director, they said, was a keen supporter of any movement to encourage thrift among school children.

Work Appreciated

At a meeting of the Thebarton Town Council on Wednesday night, sympathetic reference was made by the mayor (Mr. M. Walsh) to the death of Mr. McCoy. The following motion, moved by Alderman J. L. Gill and seconded by Alderman H. E. Halwell, was carried, "That the Thebarton Corporation deeply regrets the death of the late Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy), and desires to place on record its appreciation of the valuable work he rendered in the cause of education in this State, and that a letter of sympathy be forwarded to the relatives and to the Education Department."

Touching references were made to Mr. McCoy at the social tendered to Mr. O. D. Muirhead, headmaster of the St. Leonards School, at Glenelg, last night. The chairman (Mr. F. W. C. Inverarity, M.P.) said they deplored his loss by death sustained by the department and the State through the death of such an eminent educationist as Mr. McCoy. Mr. H. M. P., said they all regretted the loss of such a distinguished educationist, who had come with such dramatic suddenness from the ranks of the department. His death was a great loss to South Australia. Mr. McCoy had a great heart, and was enthusiastic in the cause of education. There could be no greater tribute or honor paid to his memory than the fact that the progress in education he had introduced would endure.

ADV. 14-8-29

DEATH OF MR. McCOY

EXCEPTIONALLY FINE SERVICE

REVERED BY ALL

The news of the death of Mr. W. T. McCoy (Director of Education), which was announced in "The Advertiser" on Tuesday, was received in Civil Service and other circles with profound regret. The suddenness of his passing was a great shock to his friends, who were legion. Numerous messages of condolence have been received by the Education Department, and the bereaved family.

The Premier (Hon. R. L. Butler) who is in Sydney, in a telegram yesterday, said he was shocked to hear of Mr. McCoy's death. As an educationist, Mr. McCoy had rendered exceptionally fine service to South Australia, and his name would be revered by children, for whom he had done so much. The Government deeply sympathised with Mrs. McCoy and the family.

"Genius in Leadership"

Mr. C. Charlton (Deputy Director of Education) stated that in May, 1919, the Director of Education in South Australia became vacant, and there were many applicants for the position from almost every State. The qualifications of Mr. McCoy, then Director of Education in Tasmania, stood out conspicuously, and he was selected. He found on his arrival that the primary schools were established upon a sure and sound basis, and that a good foundation had been laid in secondary and technical education in the face of many difficulties. Were that was so, the different branches lacked cohesion, and needed welding into a compact system of education. Mr. McCoy, like a wise general, took into his confidence his officers, men and women, formed them into committees, and laid before them his plans. By his genius in leadership he lived them with his own ambitions, inspired them with his vigorous faith and daring, and secured their loyal cooperation. Six years of that work gave to South Australia a system of general education probably not surpassed in any part of the Empire. Step by step, the extension of the higher primary schools, the Director had given a degree of secondary education to the smaller girls and boys of such schools in the country who were not within reach of a high school. That had proved a great boon, particularly in the far-distant parts of the State. Mr. McCoy was ever keenly alive to the claims of the rural population, and in order to provide for the needs of those boys whose future did not demand secondary work, cookery classes for the girls and agricultural classes for the boys were arranged in the larger country schools. Central schools and supervised hostels for boys had been established with excellent results. In addition serious attention had been given to the training of teachers, and the six courses now found in the college provided teachers for the various branches of the service. The remarkable progress thus shown was due largely to the Director's personal influence and the confidence in 1923 shown by him, after the 1923 visit to Great Britain and America, Mr. McCoy planned a system of advanced agricultural education, and organised the course a scheme for vocational guidance and placement of pupils. Unfortunately, just as he was about to begin the carrying out of his great ideas, he had been called away.

Companion and Friend

During his tenure of office in the State Mr. McCoy had won the goodwill and esteem of all. He was one of the best friends the teachers of the State had, and he certainly did more for the profession locally than had ever been done before. The qualifications of the man, in every way possible he encouraged the teacher to improve his personal qualifications by attending scholarships, by correspondence studies, and the degree of response was rewarded by advance in status. Many men and women who had been drawn into the service under him was not confined to the professional side of their lives only, as many who had been drawn into teaching by him could testify. Like the great Master whom he followed, he was always ready to help the humblest and the man who was down," and no man or woman in need of sympathy ever left his presence without inspiration and courage. Just at that particular moment, added Mr. Charlton, he felt that he had lost a true friend, and a own personal relationship with Mr. McCoy. Besides being a true friend of all, he was a man who had the degree of affection of a woman, and the more intimately he knew the deeper grew his love for him. As his deputy he was brought into close personal contact with him, and he learned to admire his many efforts and genius as a director, and to love him as a true companion and friend.