

and lectures on special subjects to farmers. Since he had been Commissioner of Crown Lands he had visited the College three times unannounced. He went there last Saturday, and although it was a half-holiday he found some of the students finishing up the shearing. The sheep had been shorn in a most creditable manner. One young student was ploughing. The Professor told him that the lad was backward in ploughing, and as it was impossible for a student to get a diploma until he could plough fairly well he was trying to improve himself. In the College he found two or three students studying, and the whole appearance showed him that a good disciplinarian was at work. He visited one paddock where there were fifty plots of wheat, and he had no hesitation in saying that if the farmers would only experiment a little they would reap the advantage. He saw some Barrot wheat, an African variety, which was nearly 4 feet high, with a good head, and would give 15 or 16 bushels to the acre, although the ground had not been specially prepared or manured. If the Professor could grow that wheat the farmers could, and if they did the harvest of South Australia would not be measured by 4 or 5 bushels to the acre. He had often heard it remarked that "it scarcely mattered how one farmed," but those who farmed best were better off than those who did so in a slovenly manner. If those farmers who could afford would visit the College and the farms in the immediate neighbourhood they would gain practical experience which would be of benefit to themselves and to the colony. During the last debate in connection with the College, on the motion of Mr. Moule, it had been stated in effect that the institution had been starved. Statistics which he had obtained would refute that, and show that the Farm was fairly well equipped. They had 12 horses, 6 head of cattle, 251 sheep, 40 pigs, and 15 pairs of fowls. In dead stock there was on the farm 2 English wagons, 2 heavy drays, 1 water-cart, 1 spring-dray, 2 scarifiers, 3 single ploughs, 3 double ploughs, 1 deep cultivator, 6 sets of harrows, 1 horse-chaffcutter, 1 general purpose drill, 1 winnower, 1 light trap, 1 blower, 1 stripper, and a great many other articles requisite for a well-appointed farm, in addition to harness, &c. (Hear, hear.) They, in addition, had a carpenter's shop and blacksmith's shop with the requisite number of tools, and a shed for the machinery was erected now. This had been done under his instructions. The Professor had utilized the labour on the Farm for that purpose, where the stone had also been raised, the timber being got from the nearest town. Three cottages and a farmhouse had also been erected. Since the farm was established the students and labouring men had accomplished the following work:— Constructed 5 large dams, made and metalled 57 chains of road, fenced with posts and two wires 100 acres, added wires to other fences, planted 1,200 trees (all of which were looking well, particularly the sugar-gums), and grubbed and cleared 40 acres of dense mallee scrub. South Australia had nothing to regret in establishing the College. There was nothing in the Bill which needed explanation. Clause 2 created the Commissioner of Crown Lands the body corporate, and clause 3 gave power to reserve

50,000 acres. Clause 7 was merely formal, with reference to using the land. Clause 9 gave the Commissioner power to make regulations from time to time, but these regulations must be laid before Parliament.

Mr. CATT congratulated the Commissioner on having at last brought down this Bill. He was glad to see that there was so little to say against the previous Commissioners. Mr. Coles had little practical sympathy with the College, but had business tact enough not to cripple the Professor. The larger portion of our farming area was not near running water, and the Agricultural College should be as nearly as possible like the chief of our farming area. Fifty thousand acres of land would not bring in more than 5d. an acre per annum, or a yearly return of £1,034 13s. 4d., which was not a large sum to set aside for College purposes. He hoped that the returns would be kept separate from the receipts of the products of the College. They could then see at a glance the actual results from the Farm itself. Mr. COPLEY supported the second reading of this very necessary Bill. Now that they had spent so much on the building and the Farm it would be a pity to stop supplies to it. It should therefore be rendered free from the changes of Parliamentary opinion. The results were not great yet, but then the time was short and the seasons had been adverse. The Professor, too, had given offence through the very strong expressions of opinion as to the way farming was conducted in the colony. He was pleased to find that with experience the Professor had modified his views, and believed he would be in future more useful even than he had been in the past. He would like to see a number of experimental plots throughout the colony cultivated under the direction of the Professor. There were many farmers who would be willing to cultivate such plots at no cost to the Government beyond the seed. The College was a desirable institution and bore the same relation to the colony as the School of Mines to Victoria. The area of land mentioned in the measure was none too large, as the rental would be small. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. BEWS was pleased with the Bill. There had been a good deal of undeserved opposition to the Professor on his arrival on the part of the farmers, who had a prejudice against a new-comer. The Professor had nothing to learn in the science of agriculture, and in a very short time after his arrival he was able to teach the farmers much respecting South Australian farming. The Professor had worked like a slave for his College, but he (the speaker) hoped that when it was placed in a better financial position he would go out into the colony giving instruction to the many on farms who had had no previous training. A little such advice to merely one farmer might do an immense service to a district. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. COGLIN would be proud to see the Professor assisted if he were an unparalleled brilliant scholar, but personally he would be just before generous. Had the farmers asked for the land to be dedicated for the College? He would vote with alacrity for the Bill if it had an educational object.

Mr. E. W. HAWKER said the Bill was to promote technical education. He knew the immense value of the College. Last harvest the *Register* pointed out that there were two farms alongside one another. The soil and rainfall were almost identical, but one farm produced 12 bushels and another 3. That showed the difference between good and bad farming. The Professor had done great service by introducing fodder plants. In New South Wales they were growing Hungarian millet. He had heard that the Professor could make the College self-supporting if he had more accommodation for students. Regarding visits to farmers, the students would soon be disseminating the information all over the colony. He supported the Bill. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CALDWELL felt that there was great force in Mr. Coglin's objection to the new departure, as sufficient money had been voted for the College. He differed with the view that the Professor should itinerate lecturing the farmers, but until it was proved that the Professor had practical information to impart he had better remain at the Experimental Farm. He objected to the suggestion that South Australian farmers did not know how to conduct their business, as we had good, competent farmers. There was an education always going on from successful farmers to unsuccessful ones.

Mr. MOULE congratulated the Government on laying aside their animosity to the Agricultural College.

The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS—Well, I'm blest. That is good, certainly. (Laughter.)

Mr. MOULE did not believe that any Government had taken kindly to it. (Oh.) The debate on the subject at the earlier part of the session had done the Ministry good. The Professor had been imported to teach the farmer to get more than he had got out of the soil, and he must have more money to sustain the College.

The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS said if any farmer wanted seed for experiment it would be supplied by the Professor, who only stipulated for a report as to the result. The Professor had done a great deal of good by lecturing on farming.

deal of good by lecturing on farming here, and now he had set aside Thursdays for showing visitors over the College and Farm and explaining any matter to farmers. There were two classes of students. The one was the practical, who worked during the day and paid £50 a year. The other class needed

not to work in the same way, but paid £70 a year. The 50,000 acres of land dedicated would realize about 6d. per acre per year. As to the necessity for setting aside the land, it would be a great pity if any subsequent Parliament should impair the usefulness of the institution through over-economy. The discipline alone of the College was worth the money to the students, to say nothing of the educational value. There was no reason why good farming should not increase the average yield 50 per cent. Great advantage would result from the establishment of the institution. (Hear, hear.)

The Bill was then read a second time. In Committee. Clauses 1-6 passed. Clause 7—"Commissioner may contract with lessees for payment for improvements." Mr. CATT said they ought to have some principle for settling the question of improvements. Regulations ought to be carefully prepared in relation thereto. Only permanent improvements ought to be allowed for. The COMMISSIONER of CROWN LANDS said the clause had been copied from the Education Act, which had been found to work well. Mr. NEWLAND did not approve of paying for improvements on leases, as it would involve us in a serious liability. What improvements would be paid for? Mr. ROUNSEVELL thought that some machinery should be introduced into the Act for settling the matter of improvements. Mr. LANDSEER observed that the clause was optional. Passed. Clauses 8 and 9 passed. Bill reported. Third reading Wednesday.

The Bill was read a third
time on Wednesday Oct 13th 1886