

Minutes of a Committee Meeting of R.O.C.A held at the home of Dr. R.N. McCulloch on 17th July 1958.

Present. Mr. G. Merton (Chairman) Dr. R.N. McCulloch, Messrs J. Reddin, L. Laffin, R. Krause, R. Day, E. Crawford, C. Matthews, H. Stephens & C. Hooper.

Apologies. Mr. D. Suter, & L. Cook, Col. Fulton.

Minutes. Taken as read and confirmed.

Business from Minutes Dealt with under general business.

Correspondence. Re. catering for Annual Re. Union
Re memorial to the late Mr. H. E. Orchard.

General Business.

Memorial to the late Mr. H. E. Orchard

Several suggestions were discussed.

Prof. Mr. Reddin, seconded Mr. Day that the Association expresses the hope that a move for a new swimming pool at the College will be made shortly by the College authorities. R.O.C.A. promise their support to the project. The memorial to the late Mr. Orchard to be incorporated in the plans of the new pool (Carried)

Arrangements for Annual General Meeting.

Time 6 p.m. at Druids Hall, Mictlam.

Agenda

1. President's Report
2. Treasurer's Report.
3. Recommendation that £500 be invested in Bonds.
4. Defining of the term 'Honorary Member'.
5. Discussion on October visiting day & sports day.
6. Memorial to the late Mr. H. E. Orchard
7. Discussion on place & type of Annual Dinner
8. Discussion of possibility of raising the value of R.O.C.A. Scholarships
9. Reports on Sandeaters Land Settlement Act.
10. Any other business

Re-Union Dinner

Time 7.30 Guests 7.15. Dinner

Catering - Don Wallis Catering Service - quote 10/6- for
a four course meal

Banquet at the rate of 20 guineas per 100

Sherry To be obtained and served

Fruit cups and soft drinks to be purchased

Admission Charge 17/6.

Toast List.

The Queen - President.

The Association - ① Minister of Agriculture
② Director of Lands

Response. The President.

The College ① Mr. J. C. M. Farnham ^{Donnachie}
② Mr. J. Goode

Response. The Principal.

Annual Sports Day.

To be held as usual on the October Holiday.

Arrangements to be left in hands of sub-committee
- Messrs. Stephen, Martin & Hooper.

Graduation Land Settlement Act.

Report by Mr. Martin & Mr. Laffer.

Full report filed after these minutes

Recommendation from Sub-Committee - that a General
Committee be formed from interested bodies, R.O.C.A.
to be represented at this level and possibly hand
over leadership to a bigger organization with
more influence.

Proposed Mr. Riddin readed Mr. Stephen that the
sub-committee's action be endorsed and they be
given the authority to go ahead with their plans.
(carried)

Resolved that Sub-committee forward detailed

list of expenses to Treasurer for reimbursement.

Resolved - that a further advance of \$5 be made available for future expenses.

Resolved - that Advisory Council of College be forwarded a copy of the Sub-Committee's Report.

Resolved - that the Committee recommends to A.S.M. that a further \$500 be invested in bonds.

Resolved - that the possibility of increasing the value of the R.O.C.A. Scholarships be discussed at A.S.M.

Resolved that Treasurer purchase new ledgers and Minute Books.

J. H. Henton
7/1/58

ROSEWORTHY OLD COLLEGIANS ASSOCIATION.

SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEE ON LAND SETTLEMENT.

*Report. to Committee
at meeting. 17.7/58.*

1. CONSTITUTION OF SUB-COMMITTEE.

A Sub-committee of four (with power to add) of the general committee originally appointed to carry on a long standing effort to revive the Graduates Land Settlement Act or to attack the problem of land settlement for young Roseworthy graduates along alternative lines. No limits have been placed upon our field of action.

(The Graduates Land Settlement Act was passed in 1922 and provided for loans of up to £3,000 for graduates and other old collegians to assist their settlement on agricultural land. It had a comparatively short and chequered history.)

2. AIMS.

For various reasons, including recent Cabinet decisions, it is now clear that the old Act cannot be revived in any useful form. We have therefore decided to attack the problem anew and have adopted as basic principles:-

(1) It is desirable that young men be encouraged to follow agriculture and that it is eventually desirable that they own their own land.

(2) To establish one self on an agricultural property is becoming more difficult and some kind of help is needed. These two statements, we feel, do not need proof and the first we have adopted as the reason for our present effort, as it has been for all the past efforts. The second statement is the practical application - the end towards which the effort should be directed.

3. THE PRESENT POSITION REGARDING LAND SETTLEMENT - SUMMARISED.

(1) Considerable areas of virgin land have been developed in this State in the past decade through the War Service Land Settlement Scheme. The closing of this scheme has recently been announced.

(2) Other suitable Crown Lands have been thrown open for application by the State Government and have been developed by private enterprise -- usually by people with sufficient capital for the purpose. A similar group has developed privately held virgin land.

(3) The A.M.P. group scheme has developed land and provided finance for a limited number of young men. We understand that this is practically complete.

(4) To buy an established farm which will provide a reasonable living costs roughly between £8,000 and £30,000 depending on the type of enterprise followed. At least half of the purchase price is normally required before the balance can be borrowed.

In addition to the four points mentioned it is known that compact areas of virgin land suitable for development schemes are becoming scarce to non-existent. The need for the War Service scheme is diminishing. Rising costs and the economics of the projects are discouraging other group schemes. The necessary finance to buy established properties is also difficult to obtain, especially for the younger man with limited capital.

The recent announcement by the State Government of an area to be opened and developed has little bearing on the long term outlook.

4. METHOD OF ATTACK.

Our object is to arouse and stimulate interest in all sections of the agricultural community towards helping with our stated aims.

We intend to do this by:

- (1) Collection of such factual information as is found to be necessary or helpful.
- (2) Enlisting the help of all organised bodies which are likely to be interested, such as, in addition to our own Association.

The S.A. Branch of the Aust. Institute of
Agricultural Science.
The Agricultural Bureau Movement.
Rural Youth Clubs and their Council
Country High School Councils
The Country Womens Association
The Australian Primary Producers Union
S.A. Wheat and Wool Growers Association
The Stock Owners Association
The United Dairymens Association
The Grapegrowers Association
The Fruit Growers & Market Garden Association
The Association of Dairy Factory Managers
and Secretaries.
The Legacy Organisation
The Agricultural and Rural Press

5. PROGRESS ALREADY MADE.

We have circularised a sample of 250 of our own members and received replies.

The percentage in favour of some scheme to assist settlement of either established or virgin land was

The percentage wanting something done about such a scheme was.....

.....% offered their active help at the proper time and through appropriate channels.

.....% suggested purely government financial aid.

.....% suggested government sponsored or purely private aid through existing financial institutions.

A number of senior men with wide experience and broad knowledge of agricultural administration and research have been approached for their personal advice and criticism. Our basic aim has been universally commended by them.

6. THE SCHEME WE SUGGEST.

Any suggestions made here are still subject to amendment as we are very conscious of the fact that any of the people or bodies we approach may be able to offer ideas which improve on what we have set out at this stage. If progress is made and sufficient interest shown there must come a stage when the main framework is fixed.

Assuming this to be so and bearing in mind our two basic principles we suggest that the class of man to be assisted would include the following:- sons of farmers with experience at home; Roseworthy Diploma Holders; other suitable ex students; Agricultural Science Graduates; Long term members of Agricultural Bureaux and Rural Youth Clubs; men with satisfactory rural experience.

Such groups as students from Agricultural High Schools would, as they become old enough, be included in one or the other of these. All of them would have had to have had satisfactory supervised or investigated farming experience, preferably with some managerial experience or background.

Farming and managerial experience is not always easy to get and that will have to be provided for in some cases. It has been suggested to us in more than one quarter, and we believe ourselves, that a change in the pattern of our agriculture is in sight. Already developed farms may have to carry secondary enterprises, not in a haphazard way as has sometimes been the case in the past, but in a planned, long term manner in order to cope with the food demands of our rapidly increasing population and to stabilise the farms as businesses which justify their capital structure. Many suitable secondary enterprises can be quoted e.g. poultry, pigs, sheep or a small dairy on a cereal farm. On a share or wage basis such a project would provide an ideal start for the man we have in mind. No special financial assistance would be needed at this stage -- only the help and blessing of an established farmer and perhaps special attention from the District Adviser. This stage would also aid in ensuring that the individual enters the next stage with sufficient capital to obviate assistance above a reasonable percentage of his total requirements.

The final step would need assistance or sponsorship on Government level. It also means that an appropriate Act would have to be drafted and passed. There would have to be a body to examine and decide upon suitable applicants. An established agency, such as the Parliamentary Committee on Land Settlement might review each application after hearing evidence from Government and Independent observers, the farmers with whom the applicant had worked and so on. Each would have had a fixed number of years suitable experience, perhaps of a little shorter duration for R.A.C. and University graduates than others.

We feel that if efforts in this direction met with success they would be worthwhile, satisfying to those concerned and of benefit to the whole community.

Members of Sub-committee:

D. Fulton
L.J. Cook
L.H. Laffer
J.V. Martin

J. Martin
7/11/58