

C.S.

<u>LIVESTOCK.</u> (Misc.) <u>EDUCATION.</u> (Misc.)	
No.	27/39.

19 39.

H. E. the Governor.

SUBJECT.

19 39.

7th February.

Articles published in "Times" regarding the improvement of grassland and the teaching of agriculture in school.

Previous Paper.

MINUTES.

1-2

Minute from H. E. the Governor of 7/2/39.

3

Letter to Rev. G.K. Howe of 8. 2. 39.

*P.A.*  
9/2/39

Subsequent Paper.

ES MONDAY DECEMBER

19 1938

## RURAL SCIENCE

### TEACHING AGRICULTURE IN SCHOOL

In a paper read to the Agricultural Education Association recently Mr. J. O. Thomas, of Dauntsey's School, West Lavington, Wiltshire, discussed the teaching of agriculture in schools. At Dauntsey's School a two-year course in rural science has been arranged for boys of ages between 14 and 17 who intend taking up an agricultural career.

Mr. Thomas said the number of boys taking the course was not as many as the school would like. Taking the average over the last five years, about 10 boys had followed the full course every year. This number did not appear to justify the existence of the course, but when one considered the number of boys being nursed by the school over a period of four years it meant that out of a total of 200 boys about 30 would eventually return to the land. Other boys would leave school in sincere sympathy with the farmer and his difficulties.

All the ordinary agricultural subjects were taught. The boys spent about one-third of their time working out of doors. An hour a day was spent in the woodwork and engineering shops. The school possessed a farm of 30 acres. Ten Shorthorn cows were kept and accredited T.T. milk was produced. Twelve breeding sows, together with a pedigree Large White boar, were run in folding units. About 120 pigs were fattened each year in a Danish piggery. A flock of 15 Clun Forest ewes was kept and crossed with Down rams. Four hundred Rhode Island Red hens were kept, and about 500 chicks were hatched and reared each year. There was one acre of orchard and five acres of market garden.

Each unit was limited in size so that it could be almost entirely managed and worked by the boys themselves under supervision. One man and a boy were employed to help with the garden crops and to take over the work during the holidays. Although each department was run on an experimental basis, a profit of £65 15s. 9d. was realized last year. The capital involved was £950. Wages were charged which represented the amount required to run the farm if student labour were not available. When compared with other school subjects Mr. Thomas claimed that rural science taught in this way was by far the most remunerative.

From His Excellency the Governor

to the Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

---

(2)

The two articles marked X in  
attached page of The Times are of  
interest to us and might be cut out.

The local paper might reprint  
the first that is 'A tractor for  
grassland' - acknowledging the source  
(The Times has given permission for  
this) and the article on Teaching  
Agriculture in the School should be  
of interest to the Agricultural and  
Education Departments.

The staff of the Agric. Dept.  
does not permit of additional duties now  
but the whole question of education  
in agriculture here is very important  
and has to be considered as a part  
of the Government policy for getting the right  
people on to the land and fitting  
them for it.

~~W.H.H.~~ 7/2/39

27739.

8th February.

39.

Reverend Sir,

I am directed by the Governor to request that you will be good enough to cause the attached cutting to be reprinted with due acknowledgement to the source from which it has been obtained.

I am,

Reverend Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*W.H.*

Colonial Secretary.

The Revd. G. K. Lowe,  
Editor,  
F.I. News Weekly & Church Bulletin,  
STANLEY.