

SCHEME FOR PLACEMENT OF BOYS

DRAWN UP BY

BENDIGO AGRICULTURAL & EDUCATIONAL BUREAU & VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE
COMMITTEE.

Scheme with two-fold purpose :-

- A. Placement of boys.
- B. Social Entertainment.

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A. PLACEMENT OF BOYS.

At present there are about 700 boys under 21 years of age in Bendigo unemployed, we decided for the present to concentrate on placing the 200 unplaced who have left school since January 1930.

We are to pick 50 or 60 and try to place them. It was considered better to start in a small way and try out the various schemes.

SCHEMES.

1. CREATE A TRAINING SCHOOL IN MIXED FARMING.

We would use the 9 acres near the "Durham Ox" (closed) Hotel and train say a dozen boys yearly. At the end of the year we should try and place these boys on blocks of land or with farmers for further experience.

Arrangement of farm.

Allow $\frac{1}{2}$ acre for building of a 3 room house;
Allow $\frac{1}{2}$ acre for poultry pens - keep 50 pullets;
Allow $\frac{1}{2}$ acre for pigs - build sty and keep 6 to 12 sows;
Allow $\frac{1}{2}$ acre for vegetables;
Allow 1 acre for fodder for 2 cows;
6 acres to be under pasture, properly manured;
Fence around and into paddocks.
Buildings to be done by voluntary labor cost of material and stock estimated at £250.

Supervision of farm.

Efforts to be made to obtain an experienced retired farmer to supervise for 1 year, or failing that a graduate from an Agricultural College.

Instruction in branches of agriculture to be given by outside experts.

Two or three boys to reside on farm, others to go from their homes daily.

2. PLACING BOYS IN SHOPS.

An effort to be made to place say 10 boys in shops where they would be kept on till properly trained. Those would be extra to the present hands, and the rate of pay to be according to experience not age.

The Trades Hall and Chamber of Commerce to be consulted in the matter and their advice and support to be enlisted. If this scheme not practicable they be asked for other suggestions for placing more boys. When things brighten up we want trained youths available.

3. PLACING BOYS ON FARMS.

An effort to be made to place a dozen boys on farms with farmers in the Northern area. The Agricultural Society to be consulted in the matter and their support enlisted in an endeavor to get boys placed on the land and in the establishment of the farm.

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4. TRAINING BOYS FOR ENGINE DRIVERS ON STATIONARY ENGINES.

In view of the increase in mining in Bendigo, efforts to be made to get say 6 boys trained for engine drivers. The Mine Managers and Drivers' Union to be consulted and their advice and support enlisted.

5. TRAINING IN SCIENTIFIC PROSPECTING.

There are over 1,000 men prospecting around Bendigo. Can a scheme be evolved for placing say a dozen boys who at present cannot get expert advice but would be willing to do this class of work? The aim would be to look for new reefs or leads. Two or three boys could be attached to skilled prospectors. Local support from mining companies or Government aid to be given in form of a small wage while the boys are at work. As boys must be 16 years old to take part in shaft sinking, the work would be "loaming" as a preliminary to costeaning.

6. TRAINING BOYS IN SCIENTIFIC CARE OF FORESTS.

As there are large forest areas around Bendigo efforts should be made to train say 6 boys in the care of forests.

7. ASSISTANCE FOR BOYS WHO WISH TO WORK AT HOME WITH POULTRY OR GARDENING.

B. SOCIAL.

For the boys who are unable to be placed efforts should be made to keep them off the streets. The support of Churches, Lodges, Boy Scouts, Y.M.C.A. and C.Y.M.S. should be enlisted to provide organized games, debates etc.

We decided to avoid all press publicity until we finalize the above schemes.

McBarnes
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Mr. Giles

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BOX. 81.
BENDIGO.
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BENDIGO INSPECTORATE.

REPORT ON VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE. 1931-----1932.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE SECRETARY.

VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE CARDS:

These have been found very useful, especially in keeping a record of school progress and in directing attention to preferences for life work and in ascertaining more definitely the bent naturally possessed by each boy and girl. It is felt that the choice obtained immediately after Grade VI is not worth much and should be delayed. The cards could be simplified and tendencies as regards sport indicated.

The education given in the post-primary courses of secondary classes being wholly in the nature of a preparation for University courses, is totally unsuitable for the majority of country children, who, through this, invariably give a choice for government positions or clerk-ships. Even in most prosperous times, the supply would exceed the demand ten-fold.

PLACING OF BOYS AND GIRLS.

Much good work has been done in the limits of the employment offered. Boys of fourteen are more easily employed, but, unfortunately, they displace youths of 16 to 18 years of age who, being entitled to higher wages, are turned adrift and become idlers--- nearly 600 of these, under twenty years, are found in Bendigo. The problem is a serious one and calls for national action.

At Echuca, although the town is at a very low ebb financially, few boys are out of employment. 48 boys were employed this year; 12 have gone from the district; and 5 or 6 are out of employment.

At Inglewood, 14 youths were employed for 1932 and none of those who had recently left school were out of employment. Here, again, there are several older youths out of employment.

At Eaglehawk, 14 boys left in 1932 and 12 are employed, three of these are prospecting and 1 is not on full time. 10 girls left in 1931, 4 being employed and 6 are at home. 2 boys are staying on at school until employment comes.

At other country centres there is not much unemployment below 16 years of age, as work is obtained on farms and in other ways.

In Bendigo, pupils are more readily employed after attendance at the Technical and Domestic Arts schools, but, when the ages of 16 or 18 are reached, they are dispensed with, and there are several hundred youths now out of work, many of them for the second year in succession. These are growing up in idle habits and the problem of what is to be done in the matter is a most serious one, and altogether too complex for a body like the Vocational Guidance Committee to cope with.

In Bendigo, an important forward movement has been made, and the two bodies, the Vocational Guidance Council and the Agricultural and Educational Bureau have merged into one body. Several meetings have been held and much interest is being displayed. It is proposed to take hold of the problem in as definite a manner as possible and to enlist the support of the citizens.

Mr. J. Aberdeen, of the Bendigo Junior Technical School, has been appointed Hon. Sec. and Mr. J. C. Kilfeder, a retired teacher, a full time welfare officer. Much good work in the matter of collecting statistics and in exploring the various avenues of employment, has been done.

A tentative scheme adopted from the committee is enclosed, but, as yet, it is not for publication.