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Visitation Report of BINDOON

COMMUNITY: Br. Paul Keanev (Sup); Br. P. O'Sullivan (S.S.);
Ers. R. Wexted, M. Dawe (Conv), A. Angus (Conv);

At the time of Vis. and for some weeks before it Br. L. Wise was on loan from Tardun to Bindoon.

The Superior besides attending to the general supervision of the farm work directs the huge building scheme now in progress. Br. P. O'S looks after the 800 sheep on the farm. Br. A.A. attends to the machinery and the farm work generally, Br. R. W. has the Books and is now making himself responsible for the Poultry Run. Br. L.W. who was sent there from Tardun to teach some of the boys the art of cooking had his energies diverted into other channels such as fencing and ploughing. He is about to return to Tardun. Br. M. Dawe's whole time practically is taken up with trucking house and building supplies from Perth, having to do the double journey on an average of three times a week.

OBSERVANCE: The position of affairs in B. today is somewhat akin to what they were some ten years ago in Tardun, that is they are going through the difficult pioneering stage. Conditions are rendered all the more trying because of the forced evacuation from C. last year. While this gave a considerable squad of excellent workers to B. it made the living conditions very unsatisfactory. There are at present 57 boys in residence made up of Child Welfare, Migrant and Orphan lads with a sprinkling of private boarders. Last year they were under canvas but now that the N.E. wing of the building is almost completed they can be housed more comfortably. The crowding of the boys on the verandahs gives very little privacy the Brothers, so that taking this into consideration the standard of Observance is satisfactory. The S. rises at 5 a.m. and the others at 5.30. There is only one Mass a week, on Sunday, when one of the Benedictines comes from W.W. Breakfast is at 6.45 and morning tea is partaken of because of the long interval between breakfast and lunch. The evening Exercises are not so satisfactory. Lecture is at dinner and Visit follows immediately. The latter is sometimes interrupted by the coming in of the boys for Night Prayers. The S. purposely refrains from working to a set Time Table for the boys as a means of preventing the more unruly ones from creating trouble. The Office is said in private. There is no A. of P. as sufficient privacy cannot be got for this exercise. The monthly Retreat day has been neglected, the excuse being that the influx of visitors on Sunday renders it well-nigh impossible to have it. I went into this matter and left instructions that it was to be held during the morning of the First Sunday. The question of visitors is one that creates problems affecting Community life. The large circle of friends that had gathered around C. have transferred their practical interest to B. It is a place of call for friends passing between W.W and Perth and for other visitors at the week-end. At present there is no accommodation to meet this, the result being that these people dine in the Brothers' Refectory. Those staying the night are housed at the "hostel" huts recently

erected at some distance from the main building.

BUILDINGS AND CONDITIONS GENERALLY: The work being carried out under the supervision of the Superior is as the E/S shows done at a nominal cost although the haulage of building material makes the outlay much heavier than it would be at G. The stone is quarried on the property. The W.E. wing is almost completed. It is a block 165 by 100 feet consisting of Chapel, Brothers' and Boys' Refectories, Bath Rooms, Bed Rooms, Boys' Library, Kitchen. Wide verandahs run on three sides. The allocation given above is only of a temporary nature.

The S.W. wing is now in course of erection and the foundation trenches for the central block are already dug. When the whole is completed there will be a building frontage of over 700 feet. The new road begun last year and now complete except for surfacing has a majestic entrance in stone at the junction of the Geraldton and Toodyay Roads. A second road from the old entrance on the Geraldton Road has been made higher up the hill to avoid the swampy lowland. A double dam has been constructed near the house on either side of the last named road. The creek has been dammed in three places to provide suitable conditions (a) for a swimming pool (b) for ducks and geese and (c) for the pigs.

A recreation hall 40 by 20 feet and workshops of the same dimensions were put up last year at the rear of the main building.

The permanent Workshops will eventually be built to the W.E. of the present wing.

The kitchen arrangements at present are very primitive. There is no woman cook and the whole "cuisine" is in the hands of inexperienced boys. This should be remedied as soon as possible not only for the sake of the health of the hard-working Brothers but also because of the very bad impression made on visitors to B.

THE FARM: There are about 3000 of the 17000 acres cleared. Of this the ~~there are~~ 300 acres have been established with subterranean clover. It is the aim of the S, to extend the clover area as much as possible. In time the farm should be able to carry at least 5000 sheep, instead of the 1000 there now. Up to last year there was but a "skeleton" staff in charge of the property, but now with five Brothers and over 50 boys there should be a distinct forward move in this part of the W.A. rural scheme. The soil is of excellent quality and large areas are eminently suited to the cultivation of the vine and citrus fruits. Some years ago a start was made in this direction but no provision was made against the rabbit pest with the result that most of the young trees were eaten out. Pigs are another very profitable sideline and there is ample scope for development in this direction as well as in the breeding of turkeys for which the district is specially suited.

A large hay-shed has been built and a fine stock-yard constructed by the boys from the wandoo timber obtained on the property. So far success has not met the efforts of A.A in the vegetable garden. The large patch planted with potatoes, turnips and peas should supply not only their own wants but give a large marketable surplus. With so many boys on the move it is very difficult to keep gates and fences in order with the result that rabbits and stock have undone most of the work put into this department.

In dealing with the buildings I s

should have mentioned the underground tank built by the boys at rear of the W.E. wing. It is now complete except for the non-porous surface. Its storage capacity is 350,000 gallons. The second wing will have a similar tank.

(For further particulars about the Farm see the Report submitted by the Govt. expert)

<u>FINANCE:</u>	1942	Income	£2987	Expenditure	£3400
<u>Receipts:</u>		Boarders	£32	Donations	£194
		Bequests	£49	C.W.D.	£525
		C. Endowment	£344	Sheep, Pig & Wool	£737
		Clontarf Pigs	£60	L. Com.	£234
		Lotteries Farm Bequest			£300
		Clontarf Rent	£139		

Bank O/D	£3010	Amt due to Strathfield	£340
Amt due to State Saw Mills			£383
Amt due to Employees			£122
Fuel and Light	£170	Farm Expenses	£798
Telephone	£40	Petrol	£212
Refrigerator	£109	Truck	£712
Building	£400		

As at Castledare and Tardun the statement of Farm receipts is misleading as no account has been taken of the supplies of butter, eggs, meat etc to the House.

POINTS ARISING OUT OF THE VISITATION: (1) There is a lack of definiteness about the Exercises especially the evening Exercises (2) Under present conditions staying guests should be discouraged (3) The lack of finish about past Farm undertakings should be provided against - orchards planted and not protected, vegetable/garden left exposed to inroads from rabbits and stock. (4) There is no A. of F. (At present it may be difficult to adjust this) nor Monthly Retreat (5) Kitchen and food serving conditions require immediate attention (6) M.D. lives more out of the Community than in it. This is because of his constant trucking of supplies from Perth. When in town he attaches himself within the limits of his many commissions to the College. His work is of a most trying nature and as far as I could judge he attends faithfully to his S.E. (7) Until the water supply is improved the kitchen and Laundry work are carried on under very unsatisfactory conditions. (9) I am not satisfied that the boys get the instruction in important matters that that type of boy requires. Their attitude before the B.S. did not impress me very favourably.

S. R. Young.