CHILD WELFARE DEPARTMENT

GERALDTON

St. Mary's Agricultural College...... Tardun

On 21st May, 1956 visited Tardun, and was received by
Rev. Bro Thomas, as the Principal, Rev. Bro Quinlan was absent.

This was my second visit, as I had been there on
10th May 1956, and all the pupils and staff were in Geraldton
on Holidays.

STAFF
13 Brothers of the Order
3 Sisters

Assisted by lads who have left school and
are regarded as working boys.

STUDENTS

There are 65 lads at the college, made up as
rold.
Migrants at school...... 47
Working Boys...... 11
Farm Trainees...... 4
Private...... 3

FARM TRAINING

These lads have proved that they desire to work
on the land, and their progress has been such that they will
be allotted a farm of two to three thousand acres of land, and
will be assisted financially, and with stock until they are
self-supporting.

WORKING BOYS

"A"

SCHOOL

The lads were enjoying the May vacation.

KITCHEN

The new kitchen is now in operation, and is a great

improvement on the old one. A large slow combustion stove

that has been completely renovated is now in action. From the kitchen

is a small room, centrally heated for drying tea towels, this

will be very advantageous in the wet weather. Also from the kitchen

is a large servery leading into the Dining room.

DINING ROOM

The large dining room is furnished with Stainless

Steel furniture.

Each set of furniture, comprising Laminex topped

table, and six chairs, is of a different colour, chosen to suit the

colour scheme of the Dining Room.

This accommodation will give the lads more comfort

and will be more "homely" for them. A lad is placed in charge of
each table. At the present time there are six sets of these

furniture, and more will be bought as needed.
DORMITORY

The new dormitory is now in operation, there is plenty of light, and space, each bed being sufficiently apart to conform with health standards. Individual lockers are being obtained so that the lads will have privacy for their own personal belongings. The old dormitory is now being completely renovated, and when completed will bring the whole building up to the same standard, and it will then be able to accommodate more lads.

ABLUTIONS

The ablution block, adjoining the dormitory, has 18 hand wash basins, 2 pedal lavatories, 10 shower recesses with hot and cold water, and a large foot bath, for the lads to bathe their feet to keep them free from skin diseases, that are prevalent in warm climates. A 5000 gallon capacity hot water system has been installed, and is more than adequate for the expected requirements.

HEALTH

Health generally is good, there has been one death recorded, in Anthony Gair, who died in St. John of God Hospital, Geraldton on 10th April 1956. This lad was admitted to hospital on 17th February, 1956 suffering from a burst appendix.

The other lads who suffered accidents were: after trying to get on to a truck who fell over a stairway, and fell about 20 feet, and another who suffered a sprained wrist and bruised hip, he was placed in hospital for observation. The installation of a septic tank has greatly reduced the fly menace, thus reducing the possibility of disease being carried by flies.

CLOTHING

Most lads were dressed in their old clothing at the time of my visit, as they were doing odd jobs about the place to keep themselves occupied.

RECREATION

During the past week the lads had visited Geraldton during their school holidays, picnics and outings are organised to give the lads every opportunity to have a break away from institutional life. Pictures are screened every Sunday night, besides the educational films that are shown.

Football has again started, and matches are played against neighbouring teams.

BUILDING EXTENSIONS

As stated earlier, the new portion of the building is now in use, and there are only minor jobs to be done before the building is complete.

The new building, with ten rooms, is still under construction, and when completed will accommodate the working boys, to teach them to keep their rooms tidy, and give them added privacy in their leisure hours.

GENERAL

The Principal, Revd Bro Quirke, was not present at the time of my visit, being away on business. The general welfare of the lads is good, I spoke to a number of the lads, and they said that they liked the place and were happy in their surroundings, and were enjoying the school holidays.

With the new portion of the building now being used everything has been done to make the lads comfortable, the new dining room especially is brightly coloured and well equipped.

The lads appeared happy and well cared for.