
In the Land of Aristotle

“Learning by Doing”



THESSALONICA AGRICULTURAL
AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

SALONICA, GREECE

1. Q. *Why the Thessalonica Agricultural and Industrial Institute in the Balkans?*

Ans. Because the masses of the people in the Near East have been neglected for many years. This School ministers directly to their everyday needs. Through such work seems the only way to eliminate suffering and wars which have invaded both Europe and America.

2. Q. *What is the Thessalonica Agricultural and Industrial Institute?*

A. A School of boys between the ages of thirteen and eighteen, with a course of five years.

3. Q. *Where is the Thessalonica Agricultural and Industrial Institute?*

A. It is situated three miles south east of the city of Salonica, a mile and a half from the sea, at an elevation of approximately two hundred and fifty feet. It is about a mile north of the highway between Salonica and Vassilica.

4. Q. *Who founded the School?*

A. The School was founded by Dr. John Henry House and his associate in the work of the American Board in Salonica, Dr. Edward B. Haskell. Dr. House had had thirty years of experience in the Balkans which had resulted in the conviction that the spiritual welfare of the people could best be served by practical guidance in their every day needs.

5. Q. *When was the School started?*

A. The land was purchased in 1903; the School was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York in 1904, having commenced work with ten orphan boys, a native farmer and a teacher.

6. Q. *What is the purpose of the School?*

A. To combine with the education of its pupils for Christian manhood, the training which could practically prepare them for life and work in the rural communities of the country.

7. Q. *What is the Method of the School?*

A. The School is divided into two sections, made up of different classes. One division recites in the

morning the class room subjects taught in five forty-five minute periods, and works in the afternoon from one to five on the school farm and plant. The other division works in these departments in the morning and recites in the afternoon. This practical work is divided into twelve departments. The boys rotate in the various departments, working for periods of two months at a time in small groups. These work lessons demonstrate practically the various subjects taught in the class room. The class work is divided into five groups, while in the practical work the boy is classified in one of three groups, according to the proficiency he attains and the responsibility he is able to assume. For example, a boy may be in the Fourth Class in his academic work, while ranking in the lowest group in Machine Repairing, and with the third or highest group in the Dairy. Before graduating, he must have attained the second group in all departments in which he has had two two-month periods, and the third group in at least two departments, as well as having completed the fifth year in his academic classes.

8. Q. *What plant does the School have?*

A. A Farm of approximately 150 acres, including orchards, vineyards, gardens; dairy cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry; a main school building containing class rooms, library, museum, dormitory, teachers' quarters; a building containing a dispensary, an infirmary with 8 beds, a teacher's residence; a building for dining hall and kitchen; a building loaned to the Society of Friends for health, educational, and agricultural extension work in the villages now operated by that Society in continuation of work commenced by the school. Four residences for the staff, two of which are substantial modern buildings; a large dormitory under construction to house 150 boys with social, club, and athletic rooms on the ground floor; a power house for the generation of electricity and for the supplying of water; a dairy barn and other farm buildings; sewage disposal plant; athletic field; electric laundry; and transportation service.

9. Q. *What teaching staff has the School?*

A. The School has a staff of twelve teachers. Six devote their time largely to the class room work, while six are applied to the practical instruction, dur-

ing the so-called work periods of the boys. A school nurse attends particularly to the community health and instructs the boys in personal and community hygiene.

10. Q. *How many pupils has the School?*

A. There are 84 pupils enrolled this year, all of which are boarders. One is Bulgarian, two are Serbian, two are English, four are Armenian, and the balance are Greeks coming from nearly every section of Macedonia, Thrace, Epireus, and the islands.

11. Q. *How many graduates are there?*

A. The School has 69 graduates and more than 200 who were in the School one or more years.

12. Q. *How many classes has the School graduated?*

A. The School has graduated 11 classes, the first class graduating in 1911. The School has operated continuously since its commencement but during the Great War the older boys went into the army and were unable to complete their courses.

13. Q. *For what does the School fit its boys?*

A. The underlying principle which dictates the methods used, is to have the boy experience the needs of a small agricultural community and the methods of supplying them. Thus, in effect, he is prepared to return to his village, having studied and applied agricultural science, sanitary methods and the equipment required, simple and effective building methods, repair and operation of farm machinery, simple plumbing and piping work for water distribution and sewage disposal, the operation, repair and maintenance of internal combustion engines, of electric generators and motors, wiring for the distribution of electric currents for light and power. Therefore, according to his ability, initiative, and economic circumstances, he is fitted to develop to a higher standard the resources of his home community, either immediately in some form of employment or after further education, if circumstances permit, the latter more particularly for those who intend to undertake teaching.

14. Q. *What are the rural conditions to which the boys must return?*

A. Almost no adequate communications by roads;

primitive villages with very few community advantages except under favorable natural conditions; inadequate water supply; scattered fields, often at long distances from the village; primitive tools and run down live stock. These indicate the dark side of the picture. Over against this, we have the growing consciousness among the people of the tremendous need for the development of agriculture; (a knowledge that the land is now in the hands of those who cultivate it;) the pressure of a vast number of new villages, in fact all the call that comes with pioneer development, for, although the land is among the oldest, the people are only now taking possession. The need of young men who know how to do things cries out from every section.

15. Q. *What are the former students of the School doing?*

A. 338 enrolled during the twenty years since the starting of the School

69 graduates

17 active agricultural work

8 further study in agriculture

9 teaching agriculture or other subjects

12 rural activities not strictly agricultural

3 further study in mechanics

13 further general study

47 other occupations

44 work unknown

68 unaccounted for

9 dead

24 other secondary schools

84 enrolled this year 1926-27.

16. Q. *How can the School develop for larger service?*

A. By increasing the number of its pupils; by extending its aid and guidance to its graduates and ex-students; by carrying its experience to, and training leaders in, the rural schools to stimulate better health, better agriculture, more conveniences for the home, and exemplifying the spirit of cooperation for the community welfare through its extension workers.

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