

The Training of Foresters

by

C. E. Lane-Poole

first Conservator of Forests.

Published 1921

... In every one of the States of Australia there is a vast quantity of work to be accomplished in repairing the damage done by generations of exploitation and in protecting and extending the forested areas so that they shall remain permanent assets. But without men who have had some special training for the work, it is useless to entertain hopes for the accomplishment of the task. So necessary is this training that in every State arrangements have either been made or are in progress for imparting the necessary knowledge to those who may enter a forest school as apprentices, with a view of reaching higher grades. Forestry as a life calling for youth offers many attractions. Almost the whole of the work is in the open air and under conditions eminently suited to physical and mental health...

The course of instruction for apprentices at the school will extend over a period of four years and the following outline furnishes some idea of the scope and nature of the training:-

First Year - The successful applicants will proceed to the Forest School for Apprentices.

Subjects for the first year:-

1. Elementary mathematics.
2. Geology and Physiography.
3. Botany (elementary).
4. Entomology.

While engaged in practical work in the field printed lectures will be forwarded to the apprentices fortnightly in the subjects set out for each year.

Second Year - In the second year the apprentices will return to the school for two months' training.

On returning to practical work in the bush, the boys will be placed, as far as possible, in localities where they will receive training in nursery and plantation work.

The subjects to be studied during the second year are:-

1. Soils.
2. Botany - systematic and economic.
3. Surveying.
4. Forestry - History and Value.

Third Year - In March of the third year the apprentices will return to the school for a further two months' instruction.

On returning to the bush the apprentices will, where possible, be employed in classification and working plan survey work.

Subjects for third year:-

1. Sylviculture (including nursery work).
2. Mensuration.
3. Valuation.
4. Protection.

During the fourth year the apprentice will be attached to a district in order to learn, under the District Forest Officer, the whole of the routine work, including clerical work, general work and timber inspection. He will be required to submit independent reports on matters receiving consideration in the district. Opportunities will be given for visiting various mills and wood-working industries and provision made for continuous employment in at least one sawmill.

Subjects for fourth year:-

1. Forest Management and Working Plans.
2. Utilization.
3. Transport and forest engineering.
4. Forest Policy.

Rate of Pay - Subject to an apprentice passing the necessary examination, the following rates of pay will apply:-

First Year	12s. 6d. plus 18s. subsistence allowance per week.
Second Year	17s. 6d. plus 18s. subsistence allowance per week.
Third Year	22s. 6d. plus 18s. subsistence allowance per week.
Fourth Year	30s. 0d. plus 18s. subsistence allowance per week.