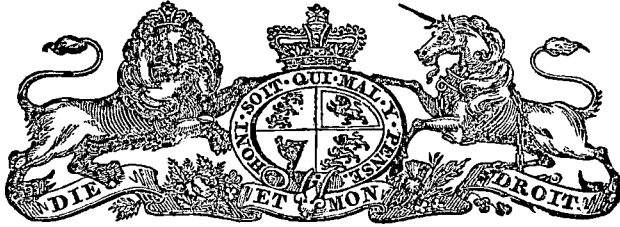


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1857.

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T A S M A N I A.

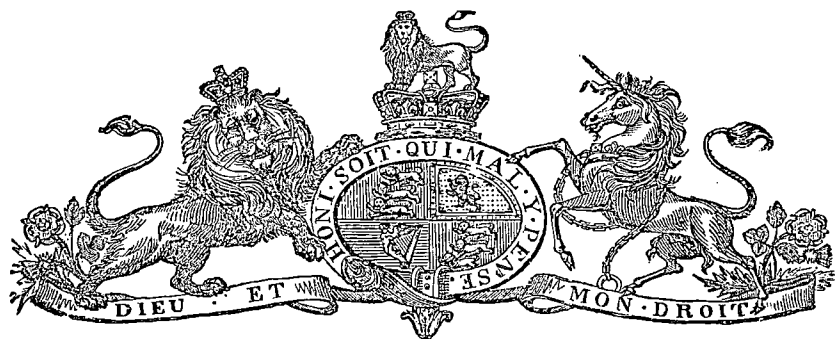
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B O A R D O F E D U C A T I O N.

R E P O R T F O R T H E Y E A R 1 8 5 6.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 6 February, 1858.



# REPORT

OF THE

## INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

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*Hobart Town, 1st April, 1857.*

GENTLEMEN,

As Secretary to the late Board of Education and Inspector of the Schools of the Colony, it appears to be my duty to prepare, for the information of the Government and the Public, a Report on the Educational operations of the year 1856; and I believe that, under the altered arrangements, I cannot be wrong in addressing my Report to the Southern Board, as that under whose control the majority of the Schools have been placed.

I entered upon the duties of Secretary to the late Board and Inspector in the month of July; and from the month of October, when, owing to the dissolution of the Legislative Council, the existence of the Board of Education ceased, I carried on, under the direct authority of the Government, all the operations of the Department, but leaving the establishment of new schools, applied for in several localities, and other important measures involving considerable expenditure, for the consideration of a future Board.

In the month of July seventy Schools were in operation, varying extremely in character from a high degree of efficiency to total inefficiency.

The grant to two schools had been discontinued during the previous half-year, having proved unsuccessful, viz.—that at Cressy, and that in Brisbane-street, Launceston.

During the last half-year the support of the following seven schools was discontinued; viz.—

1. At Brown's River a school had been established experimentally, and failed; not more than six pupils attending. The grant, therefore, was discontinued after my first visit of inspection.
2. The St. Joseph's Girls' School in Hobart Town was withdrawn from the Board's supervision.
3. The school at Macquarie Plains I found to be under an incompetent Master, and it was therefore closed. This school, at the solicitation of families in the neighbourhood, has since been re-opened under the control of the wife of the late Master, on a smaller salary.
4. The school at Black Brush was closed owing partly to local contentions, out of which arose counter-complaints for the Board's consideration both respecting the state and tenure of the school-house and the conduct of the Master. The Board's decision was favourable to the Master, and he was removed to another school; but the state of the building, and the difficulty of obtaining another in the neighbourhood, have prevented the revival of the school.
5. The school at Rocky Hills was broken up, owing to the Military Pensioners with their families leaving the neighbourhood, and the Master was removed to another school.

6. The Douglas River School was closed on the Master giving in his resignation, and was revived under a Mistress with a smaller salary.

7. The Master of the Perth School, on the death of his wife, retired, and that school was closed in consequence; but it is a locality in which, under a good Teacher, a very important school would be established. This Township now falls within the range of supervision of the Northern Board; and I beg earnestly to recommend for its consideration the appointment of an efficient Master, and the erection of suitable school-buildings there.

During the half-year seven new schools came into operation; viz.—at Circular Head, Mona Vale, Forcett, Coal River, Pontville (an old school revived), Bishopsbourne, and Birche's Bay, all country schools of about 30 children, and Cascades Road, Hobart Town, where the attendance has been about 40, and is continually increasing.

The attendance at the last-mentioned school consists chiefly of very young children, and the Mistress greatly needs the assistance of an experienced Infant School Teacher. The school has proved a very valuable acquisition in the neighbourhood.

Accompanying is a full return of the schools in operation during 1856, showing the number of children receiving education, the number of Teachers employed, and the expenses in detail for the year, prepared by Mr. Burgess from the records. (*See Appendix A.*) It will be observed that the average daily attendance compared with the number of children on the rolls is nearly equal in each half-year, and very nearly the same (viz. 5 to 7) as it appears to have been in 1855, as shown by Mr. Arnold's Report for that year. The total number under education has increased from 3377 in 1855 to 3717 now. If we compute the number of children in the Island who ought to be under education at one-eighth of the population, or 8000, and suppose that 3000 are educated independently of the Government, we have under the Board of Education 3717 out of 5000, leaving about 1300 who are entirely untaught. I have no positive means of ascertaining the number privately educated; but I think I cannot be far wrong in setting it at 3000, and drawing the conclusion that with a little exertion on the part of a well-constituted Board of Education, with adequate funds at its command, the number excluded from means of education could be reduced to a very small portion of the total youth of the Colony.

At the close of the year seventy schools were maintained, and, of these, eight in Hobart Town, three in Launceston, and thirty-two in the country, are conducted by experienced Masters, affording means of education of the most satisfactory order to 2837 children. The remaining twenty-seven schools are conducted by Masters of inferior attainments, and Mistresses: these are small schools, educating in all 880 children, for the most part well conducted, and with good effect considering the class of pupils who attend. In some localities, particularly in the winter, when access to the school is difficult, and in the harvest season, the attendance at these small schools is exceedingly irregular, and the advance in education proportionally unsatisfactory; yet these schools are not less important than the larger schools in populous places, as they afford instruction to many children far removed, not only from means of education, but from moral guidance, and even from bare civilisation. The aid granted to these schools is in all cases small—too small.

Viewing the great object of State Education to be to place it within reach of all to whom it is otherwise inaccessible, I am of opinion that more should be done amongst the scattered population of the Country Districts, and less in the principal Towns and other comparatively populous places, where private schools are or may be supported by the parents and others interested in the education of the children around them. It is important also to provide education in the Towns *gratis* to those whose parents are really unable to pay for it, and also to children abandoned or neglected by their parents.

In Hobart Town I think the number of schools might be reduced from eight to four or five without depriving one child of the means of instruction; and if the Government aid is continued to the Ragged Schools, there will still be a very legitimate saving of expense, affording funds for many small Bush schools so urgently called for.

The school at New Town appeared to me unnecessary, there being many private schools in the neighbourhood, and I have recommended its being closed. There are, on the other hand, some localities, as Perth, already mentioned, Hamilton, and Swanport, where first-class Teachers, if suitable buildings were erected, would be able to form more satisfactory and important schools than have hitherto been formed there, as in the similar case of Bothwell, where the interest excited in favour of Education has been very great. Large subscriptions were raised to meet the grant from the Government

for the erection of the school-buildings, and children of all classes of the community are now receiving a good education there. Campbell Town also is a similar case, and Hagley, New Norfolk, and Newnham, where the appointment of good Masters has given a stimulant to local exertion, and caused good attendance at the schools. I cannot help here drawing the attention of the Northern Board to Mr. Welch's management of the last-named school, as I think his conduct and ability merit higher remuneration than they have received. Mr. Cantwell also, the able and very successful Master of St. Joseph's School, and Mr. Burston, of Elizabeth-street School, Launceston, merit advancement to the first class.

With respect to the actual effect of the operations, I must remark generally that the schools in Hobart Town and Launceston and the larger country schools are remarkable for the mental exercise and culture they afford to the pupils of all ages who attend them; and that, although nearly all leave school too young to be advanced far into any branch of instruction, all leave with a store of useful knowledge and enlarged mental capacity; and some have continued their studies, and have been able to exhibit attainments highly creditable to their Instructors, as in the case of one from the Central School, Hobart Town, who obtained a Scholarship at the Hutchins School in December last, in competition with many candidates educated in private schools.

In all the Schools, by the regulations of the Board, an hour daily has been set apart for religious instruction, during which Ministers of all religious denominations have admission. In some schools the opportunity has been fully improved, in others it is neglected. The neglect has been noted in more than one of the school "Visitor's Books" by the Bishop of Tasmania, in the course of his visits to the schools; and I regret to add that in many schools, not only Ministers of Religion, but other influential neighbours also, whose visits would greatly encourage the Teachers, and promote the attendance of children, are never seen. There are many schools remotely situated, necessarily dependent on the Masters or Mistresses for religious as well as secular instruction; but it is much to be lamented that where this is not the case, while the present Educational System gives opportunity and every facility, and apparently every inducement, to Ministers to gather the children of their several flocks (daily if they will) around them for religious instruction, the opportunity is in so many cases neglected. The "Denominational System" may have some advantage over this in exciting the sympathies of Ministers and others in behalf of religious teaching in schools as a principle, but it could not in any possible form, I think, afford more scope to their exertions in carrying it out than does the system now in operation in Tasmania; and I believe the system gives very general satisfaction.

In Hobart Town and Launceston, where there are many schools, some have become under the natural working of the system, without any breach or over-straining of the Board's regulations, almost exclusively denominational, and the effect is good; but necessarily in localities where the population is scattered and mixed no other system can meet the great object of universal education. There are defects which need the attention of the Boards to remedy. The dependence of the Masters for a portion of their income on school fees ill paid, or not paid at all, is a serious evil. The school buildings generally are very defective. Very little is in operation for the training of Masters. I think the Central School in Hobart Town should be placed on a broader or more comprehensive footing, embracing Normal operation and the higher branches of education, perhaps, in evening classes. It would extend this Report to too great length were I to do more than allude to these important subjects of consideration; but I may add, that I trust measures will be taken to obtain a succession of trained Masters without again drawing them from England or elsewhere.

In conclusion, I must observe that the advance made in the number of children brought under education in the last two years, the palpably increasing interest taken by the community in its promotion, and the numerous applications for aid in the establishment of new schools, now unhappily delayed owing to a deficiency of funds, are unmistakable proofs of the general approval of the present system, and indications of a great and effectual work in progress by its means; and give assurance that, if vigorously pursued, it will, ere long, diffuse throughout the Colony, and place within reach of every individual, the means of education, and in the more populous parts such education as will qualify for all classes and departments of society.

I have the honor to be,  
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. C. COTTON, *Inspector of Schools.*

*To the Chairman and Members  
of the Southern Board of Education.*

APPENDIX A.

RETURN of the PUBLIC SCHOOLS under the BOARD OF EDUCATION in operation between the 1st January and the 31st December, 1856.

No.	Electoral District.	School.	No. of Children on the Rolls for the Half Years ending						Average Daily Attendance of Pupils for the Half-Year ending		No. of Teachers, Assistant Teachers, and Pupil Teachers.				Total No. of Teachers, &c.	Amount paid during the Year to Teachers of all Classes in Salaries, Gratuities, &c.	Rent of School Buildings.	Erection, Repair, and Improvement of School-houses.	School Furniture and Fittings.	Grants for School Books & Maps, &c.	Local Contributions and School Fees in aid of Teachers' Salaries.	Remarks.										
			30th June.			30th December			30th June.	30th Dec.	Teachers.		Assistant Teachers.	Pupil Teachers.																		
			Boys.	Girls.	Total	Boys.	Girls.	Total	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.																		
1	FRANKLIN.	Castle Forbes Bay	14	10	24	13	10	23	15	14					1	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.					
2		Franklin	31	17	48	26	20	46	24	23	1				2	125	0	0				8	7	4	1	10	0	32	8	9		
3		Hospital Bay	10	12	22	8	9	17	17	12					1	50	16	6				7	6	0				4	4	0		
4	KINGBOROUGH.	Port Esperance	16	14	30	15	17	32	17	22	1				1	42	10	0				7	8	8	1	0	0	18	14	6		
5		Birch's Bay				13	13	26		20		1			1	22	9	8							1	8	8	5	0	10		
6		Port Cygnet	10	20	30	23	38	61	18	33	1				1	105	0	0										24	4	1		
7	QUEENBOROUGH.	Victoria	10	16	26	11	13	24	19	15	1				1	105	0	0	13	6	8							63	13	0		
8		Brown's River	18	4	22				21		1				1	25	0	2										10	0	0		
9		Sandy Bay	23	32	55	24	30	54	39	43	1		1		2	175	11	3	12	0	0				1	17	10	51	13	0		
10	HOBART.	Bethesda, Davey-street.	59	34	93	71	49	120	63	95	1		1		2	217	10	0										39	13	2		
11		Campbell-street	108	100	208	139	121	260	132	162	1		1	1	2	291	14	3	50	0	0				5	12	0	132	19	11		
12		Cascade Road				21	19	40		31		1			1	73	6	8	30	0	0			14	8	6	1	3	0	19	4	9
13	GLENORCHY.	Central School	163	83	246	165	79	244	194	200	1	1	2	2	7	483	0	5			91	8	10			7	10	0	136	10	0	
14		Goulbourne-street	76	65	141	68	64	132	86	88	1		1		2	202	10	0	22	10	0							88	14	8		
15		St. David's	79	76	155	40	49	89	90	67	1		2		4	281	19	7										73	19	7		
16		St. George's	53	33	86	71	49	120	85	74	1	1			3	257	1	10			36	5	0	5	5	0		52	2	11		
17		St. Joseph's, Boys	70		70	71		71	45	49	1			1	2	222	17	6									3	9	9	34	17	7
18		Ditto, Girls		77	77				60							22	10	9											13	5	0	
19		Trinity Hill	60	69	129	84	53	137	80	92	1	1			3	365	0	0	30	0	0								82	2	11	
20		Bridgewater	13	18	31	11	15	26	20	19	1				2	85	0	0	20	0	0								30	8	3	
21		Kangaroo Valley	15	12	27	12	12	24	20	20	1				1	55	0	0									1	3	0	11	5	10
22		New Town	39	29	68	39	25	64	51	52	1		1		2	165	0	0	40	0	0						2	12	5	78	0	0
23	O'Brien's Bridge	53	33	86	44	36	80	60	64	1		1		2	175	0	0			6	5	0			2	0	0	64	0	4		
24	NEW NORFOLK.	Fenton Forest	8	12	20	3	10	13	13	6		1			1	65	0	0				5	5	4				16	10	4		
25		Back River	13	26	39	11	20	31	33	27		1			2	105	0	0								1	11	0	23	2	7	
26		Macquarie Plains	17	9	26				12							78	6	8											3	6	4	
27	BRIGHTON.	New Norfolk	53	21	74	48	21	69	51	49	1				1	160	0	0	33	15	0					1	5	0	55	12	6	
28		Black Brush	16	12	28				16							65	0	0									1	2	0	15	0	0
29		Green Ponds	17	24	41	17	21	38	41	35	1		1		2	165	0	0	20	0	0			4	4	4			40	14	3	
30	CLARENCE.	Old Beach	9	21	30	11	22	33	26	20	1		1		2	61	3	3								1	0	0	30	14	11	
31		Pontville				22	19	41		23	1		1		2	87	10	0											7	8	0	
32		Kangaroo Point	15	9	24	22	10	32	18	24	1				1	180	0	0	35	0	0						1	19	0	39	9	6
33	RICHMOND.	Muddy Plains													12	10	0											15	0	0		
34		South Arm	27	18	45	26	18	44	31	31	1				1	105	0	0			175	0	0	15	4	4		5	4	0		
35		Coal River				13	10	23		20	1				1	23	6	8				3	1	4	0	11	6	28	0	0		
36		Colebrook Dale	6	9	15	9	17	26	10	17		1			1	65	0	0										33	17	0		
37		Richmond	33	17	50	49	20	69	36	53	1		1		2	196	15	8										45	13	6		
38		Spring Hill Bottom	22	15	37	23	16	39	27	21	1		1		2	105	0	0														
39		Bream Creek	18	16	34	18	15	33	24	28	1		1		2	75	0	0								1	1	0	18	6	0	
40	SORELL.	Carlton	12	5	17	11	8	19	16	13	1				1	67	16	8			40	16	8					12	2	0		
41		Forcett				15	6	21	13	17	1				1	42	9	8											16	6	0	

9.



APPENDIX B.—Balance Sheet for 1856.

The Charge.	Arrears of previous Year.		Under Estimates of 1856.		TOTAL.		The Discharge.	Arrears of previous Year.		Under Estimates of 1856.		TOTAL.	
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Voted by Legislative Council for the purposes of Public Education (exclusive of Establishment) in the year 1856 .....	..	..	..	9865	0	0	SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF TEACHERS.	2	7	8	8814	9	0
Proceeds of sale of School-books and requisites .....	101	18	11	215	18	5	Salaries and House Allowances .....	..	..	..	389	9	3
Repayment by Rev. H. P. Fry on resuming possession of the Bethesda School-buildings .....	..	..	..	103	12	0	Fuel to Central School, supplied through Accountant of Stores .....	..	..	..	18	0	6
							Teachers' travelling expenses on transfer from one school to another .....	3	12	0	51	12	1
	101	18	11	10,184	10	5	Charge for Pupil Teachers and for their instruction .....	..	..	..	135	5	9
Balance in excess of Vote .....	..	..	..	2636	7	1	Gratuities to Mr. Lane on his retirement .....	..	..	..	100	0	0
TOTAL.....	101	18	11	12,820	17	6	Gratuities to Messrs. Pears and Clemons in compensation for loss of School-fees while employed as supernumerary Teachers at Schools in Hobart Town, each £13 8s. 6d. ....	..	..	..	26	17	0
							Compensation to Mr. J. E. Wilson for loss sustained by fire at Carlton School.....	..	..	..	2	0	0
								5	19	8	9537	13	7
							RENT OF SCHOOL-HOUSES.						
							Rent of School-buildings in occupation .....	206	6	8	661	16	3
							Ditto not in occupation, and bonus on quitting possession .....	..	..	..	53	5	0
								206	6	8	715	1	3
							Erection, repair, and improvement of School-buildings .....	160	4	10	1447	10	0
							Architect's charges for plans and specifications of Hadspen School-house .....	..	..	..	10	10	0
							Foreman of Works' travelling expenses in inspecting School-buildings .....	..	..	..	3	18	0
								160	4	10	1460	18	0
							Grants in aid of School furniture and fittings .....	..	..	..	179	18	10
							Grants for School-books, Maps, &c. to Public Schools .....	..	..	..	71	6	10
							Ditto to Infant School, Hobart .....	..	..	..	3	0	0
							Ditto to Ragged Schools, Hobart .....	..	..	..	7	11	4
							School requisites and Stationery, obtained through Accountant of Stores .....	..	..	..	242	13	0
							Ditto, purchased in the Colony .....	4	12	9	29	18	1
								4	12	9	272	11	1
							TRANSPORT AND STORES.—Transport, £15 11s. 7d. Stores, £4 15s. 9d .....	..	..	..	20	7	4
							MISCELLANEOUS.						
							Travelling expenses of Inspector and Assistant Inspector of Schools .....	..	..	..	149	7	3
							Salary of Singing Master from 13th October, 1855, to 12th June, 1856 .....	21	0	0	26	5	0
							Lithographing Designs for School-houses.....	..	..	..	18	0	0
							In aid of Ragged School, Hobart .....	..	..	..	50	0	0
							Petty expenses .....	..	..	..	12	12	0
								21	0	0	256	4	3
							TOTAL.....	398	3	11	12,524	12	6
													12,922 16 5

MURRAY BURGESS, Secretary Southern Board of Education.

A P P E N D I X C.

STATISTICS of PUBLIC EDUCATION in TASMANIA for the year 1856.

48 Schools. 2577 Scholars.		Number of Schools and Scholars in the Southern Electoral Districts of the Island, 31st December, 1856.	
24 Schools. 1140 Scholars.		Number of ditto in the Northern Electoral Districts, 31st December, 1856.	
8148		Protestants.	
5664		Roman Catholics.	
5		Other Denominations.	
21-18		Under 6 years old.	
13-44		6 to 7.	
12-29		7 to 8.	
14-10		8 to 9.	
9-65		9 to 10.	
9-80		10 to 11.	
7-94		11 to 12.	
6-47		12 to 13.	
5-69		13 and above.	
£2 12 3 $\frac{1}{4}$		Average Government Aid for each Scholar in 1856.	
£0 16 6 $\frac{3}{4}$		Average School Fees for each Scholar in 1856.	
32-90		Books of General Information.	
30-05		Easy Narratives.	
37-05		Letters and Monosyllables.	
47-29		On Paper.	
25-74		On Slates.	
80-53		From Dictation.	
26-97		Fractions & Decimals.	
6-79		Proportion and Practice.	
14-85		Compound Rules and Reduction.	
32-25		Simple Rules.	
40-81		Geography.	
61-20		Grammar.	
18-45		History.	
29-45		Singing.	
5		Other Subjects, e.g. Latin, French, Drawing, &c.	

MURRAY BURGESS, Secretary Southern Board of Education.