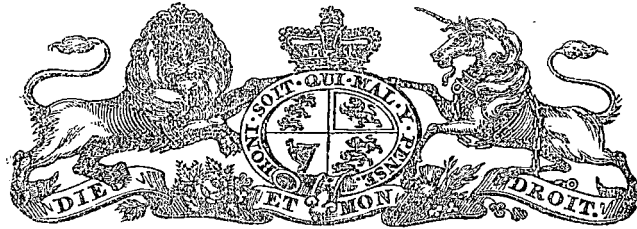


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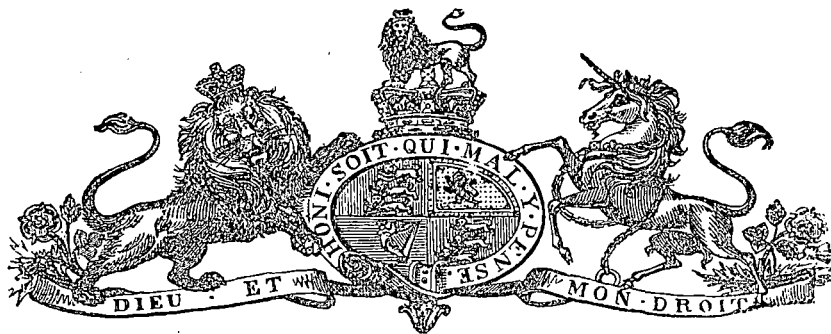
1886.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TECHNICAL EDUCATION :

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION WITH
REFERENCE TO.

Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands and Works, and ordered by the
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TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

Hobart, 14th October, 1886.

SIR,

IN continuation of former correspondence on the same subject, I have the honor to submit the following remarks and suggestions in connection with the proposed establishment of a Technical School in Hobart, with special reference to the site near the Tasmanian Museum in Argyle-street.

As it is now decided that accommodation is to be provided in the new buildings for the offices of the Government Analyst alone, in addition to the Technical School, the question of the appropriation of space for their respective purposes is much simplified.

I understand that the intention of the Government is that instruction in Chemistry and allied branches is to be given in the Technical School only, so that there is no necessity for making any provision for students elsewhere, nor is there anything to prevent all the departments which are ordinarily recognised under the head of Technical Instruction from being grouped together under one management, though various teachers will be employed. The example of other countries will not give much help in the matter of plans. Some of the chief Technical Schools in England and on the Continent of Europe are designed to give a systematic course of training which occupies the whole time of the students for a series of years, and necessitates the employment of a complete staff of professors and lecturers. Others are too specially connected with the particular manufactures or industries of the cities in which they are established to serve as models for an institution which must be comprehensive in its scope, though of a very unpretentious character. A Technical School for Hobart, although it may be designed for a variety of purposes, and with a view to ulterior extension, must be something altogether different from that which has been planned for a busy manufacturing town or other large centre of population, and the chief difficulty will be the reduction of good examples to the modest scale required by local circumstances.

Those who may be expected to derive benefit from technical instruction are,—first, artisans in every branch of skilled labour, and lads who have received a sound elementary education and are beginning to be employed in industrial pursuits of one kind or another. There are, however, many others who require opportunities of instruction in various branches for which no satisfactory provision is now available after the ordinary limits of school age have been passed; and in technical education, as in other matters, the demand rapidly follows the supply if the quality of the latter is of the right sort.

The following is an outline of the ordinary range of instruction in a Technical School:—

1. *Applied Mechanics*, including Machine Construction, Mechanical Drawing, and Naval Architecture.
 2. *Architecture*, including Building Construction, Carpentry, and Masonry.
 3. *Art*, including Freehand, Geometrical and Perspective Drawing, Modelling, Decoration, and Design.
 4. *Chemistry*, including Theoretical and Practical Chemistry, General Laboratory Work, and Metallurgy.
 5. *Mining*.—Geology, Mineralogy, Coal and Metal Mining.
 6. *Experimental Physics*.—Heat, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Telegraphy.
 7. *Mathematics*, including Navigation.
 8. *Commercial Economy*.
 9. *Domestic Economy*, including Cookery.
- Workshops*.—Workshops for Carpentry, Smith's Work, &c.

In planning the details of accommodation, it will be necessary to bear in mind that the various class-rooms, with the exception of the Laboratory, will have to be used for several different purposes. The extent of the accommodation which can be provided will, of course, be determined by the architect, but the most convenient plan for the site will be a rectangular building about 30 feet in depth, with two stories and a basement, and extending along the whole frontage on Argyle-street. Of this main building about three-fourths should be appropriated to the purposes of the Technical School, the main entrance being in Argyle-street, and opening into a hall with rooms to the right and left. Opposite to the entrance would be a staircase leading up to a large room, which would serve for lectures or other general purposes, and behind which space might be found for small class-rooms. Near the entrance should be a small office for a Curator or Registrar, who would have general charge over the premises and over the attendance at the various classes.

Along the southern frontage, separated from the main building by a cart entrance, a wall about 15 feet high, pierced with windows, might be built, which would form one side of a long shed, to be subdivided into workshops as circumstances may require. These will be the most important feature of the Technical School, and their erection will be comparatively inexpensive if planned as is here suggested. I shall be very glad to confer again with the architect when the question of site is finally decided.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. STEPHENS, *Director of Education.*

The Hon. J. W. AGNEW, Chief Secretary.