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T A S M A N I A .

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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**TASMANIAN SCHOLARSHIPS.**

REPORT OF COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE COUNCIL OF  
EDUCATION.

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Laid on the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
July 29, 1864.



*Council of Education, 29th July, 1864.*

*To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, C.B., Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

WE, the Members of the Tasmanian Council of Education, submit to Your Excellency the Report of a Committee appointed to "prepare a Statement of facts in reference to the working of the Council of Education and Scholarship Act, so far as relates to such Scholarships, and as to the interests which will be prejudicially affected by the repeal of that Act," to which Report we have agreed. And we pray that Your Excellency will be pleased to cause the same to be transmitted to the Legislative Council, before whom a Bill for the abolition of the Scholarships is now pending.

R. OFFICER, *President.*

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## TASMANIAN SCHOLARSHIPS.

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### R E P O R T.

THE Committee of the Council of Education, appointed by the Council on the 25th instant to prepare a Statement in reference to the working of the Scholarship Act, have to report as follows:—

2. The object of the Tasmanian Scholarship Act was, to encourage emulation in the Schools of the Colony, to raise the standard of Education, and to bring the Youth of Tasmania in connection with the English Universities, whereby not only would sound learning be advanced, but a beneficial influence be exercised upon the fortunes of the Colony itself.

3. Although it is premature to speak of its effects, so short a period having elapsed since the Act came into operation, it is yet gratifying to know that the wise liberality of the State in making this provision has been highly applauded by Statesmen and Scholars, wherever it has been made known; and it is not too much to expect that those who have gained or who may hereafter gain this enviable distinction (the prelude, it is to be hoped, to further honors) will, when they come to reside amongst us, exert a most favourable influence upon public opinion; and even should they withdraw to the neighbouring Colonies or other parts of the British Dominions, that influence must still be exercised for good, connected as they will be by ties of birth and kindred with this Colony.

4. The principle of making such an endowment by the State was long since recognised by the Legislature of the Colony. So far back as the period of Sir John Franklin's Government, when the resources of Tasmania were far more limited, a Vote was taken for £5000 with the view of endowing five Exhibitions to British Universities; but, in consequence of the Collegiate School with which they were to be associated not having been established, this measure fell to the ground.

5. With these few preliminary remarks we now come to the working of the Act itself, which may be regarded as in the highest degree satisfactory.

6. The Tasmanian Scholarships are part of a system, and they are regarded as such from without as well as by those who are within the sphere of their influence. That system embraces all educational arrangements throughout the Colony, and is by no means confined to a few persons or Schools. Even private and domestic instruction is affected by it, and the whole community is consciously or otherwise under its operation. Hence the Scholarships cannot be viewed abstractedly, or as detached from the system of which it is a prominent feature.

7. The effect of the Act has been directly to raise the standard of instruction throughout the Colony ; and measures have been adopted both by the Council of Education and by the Board of Education with the view of giving the freest development to the intentions of the Legislature.

8. Under the direct sanction of Parliament Minor Exhibitions have been established from the Public Schools under the Board of Education, enabling boys of the best promise to proceed to Superior Schools ; and again, the Council of Education has, also at the instance of Parliament, awarded higher Exhibitions to Superior Schools, for the purpose of leading on by regular gradation to competition for the great prize of the Tasmanian Scholarships.

9. Thus, not only are these Scholarships open to free competition, but means have been directly afforded to boys to pursue their studies who, from the straitened circumstances of their parents, could not otherwise have entered the lists of competition at all.

10. The result is, that a general emulation has been created, the want of which in former years was painfully felt by Masters ; and its influence is not the less beneficial upon the habits and manners of the boys themselves, who begin to recognise the advantages of learning and of patient industry, before which they see that all fictitious pretensions must give way.

11. Although the greatest prize—that of the Tasmanian Scholarship—is confined to few, its indirect advantages are participated in by all, inasmuch as the cultivation of those higher branches of learning is promoted, which, but for this stimulus, would have been neglected. Moreover, the Act has operated as a great incentive to the exertions of Schoolmasters and Teachers of every grade.

12. It is, therefore, with great pain the Council has learnt that a Bill has been introduced into Parliament proposing to abolish the Tasmanian Scholarships. The withdrawal of such a prize cannot but have a most depressing effect upon the spirit of emulation it has called forth ; it must create doubt and dismay in the minds of all who take an interest in such subjects, to think that an Act of the Legislature passed so recently with unanimous approval should, notwithstanding the Reports of the Council testifying to its beneficial operation, be deprived of what has been well termed its crowning honor. So far from looking for such an untoward result, we might rather hope to see private endowments (as generally follows in such cases) gradually added to the endowments of the State, and Tasmania become a place of resort for families on account of the eminence and advantages of its Schools.

13. The adjacent Colony of Victoria and other Colonies have expended large sums of public money on the foundation and support of Universities. The Legislature of Tasmania wisely regarded such an application of public funds unsuited to the present means and exigencies of the Colony, while it recognised its obligation to promote the ends for which Universities are founded. Hence, at a cost insignificant compared with the results to be obtained, the Tasmanian Scholarships were founded, and the arrangements concerning them were established by law.

14. Although the Act has only been in operation four years, its tendency has been to encourage the young men of the Colony, other than those who obtain the Tasmanian Scholarship, to repair to the English Universities. We consider this to be a great gain ; and we should gladly look forward to the time when our Churches, our Bar, and our Senate can be recruited from these sources. It cannot be doubted, apart even from the claims of Scholarship, that an University career must enlarge the mind, and make it susceptible of higher influences than those which are likely to operate in a narrow sphere.

15. The standard for the Tasmanian Scholarship has purposely been kept very high, as was consistent with the high reward which it confers. It was felt that such a prize ought not to be bestowed except upon Candidates who would pass such an examination as might qualify them to take a good position in an English University. It has been urged that, because one Candidate only offered himself at the last examination, the Scholarship was awarded to that Candidate as a matter of course. This is a grave error ; for unless the Candidate in question had reached the required standard he would not have been elected to such Scholarship. Indeed, this same Candidate, as well as the successful Candidates of the preceding year, failed to reach the standard in their first trials.

16. Some time must elapse before all the Scholarships can be filled by the growing competitors in our schools. Of the three Scholars who have been elected, two never could, without such aid as the Scholarships afford, have looked forward to the distinctions of an University career. It has been somewhat invidiously observed with respect to the third, that the prize has fallen to one whose parents could afford to send him to the University. Such an argument strikes at the very root of that free competition which the establishment of the Scholarships was intended to create. It was not an eleemosynary but an honourable distinction open to all ; and to complain that it had fallen to the lot of one more fortunate than others in worldly affairs, is to complain not only of the inequalities of fortune, but that the competition has been permitted to be free.

17. The abolition of the Scholarships will not only destroy the chief object of the Act itself, but unsettle all subordinate arrangements, such as the Exhibitions to which reference has been made. It will also diminish the value of the Associate of Arts Degree; and, above all, it will annihilate the hopes and aspirations which it has raised amongst the youth of the Colony.

18. Many persons, of various grades in social rank, are known to have made arrangements with a view to their children's participation in the benefits of the Scholarship Act. Many boys have studied diligently, and are now studying, in entire reliance on the good faith of the Legislature, which they have been taught to regard as pledged in the matter; and there are not a few among the members of the learned professions, and other educated persons, who regard the Act in its entirety as having this special value, namely, as a proof that the Colony means to employ the powers conferred upon it by its new Constitution for the intellectual advancement of its people, as well as for the progress of its wealth and general prosperity.

19. The Committee append to this Report Returns exhibiting the results of the several Examinations which have been held under the Council's direction since the passing of the Act, in order to illustrate its practical working.

For the Committee,

THOS. MACDOWELL.

## EXHIBITIONS TO SUPERIOR SCHOOLS.

[COUNCIL OF EDUCATION.]

*RESULTS of Examinations for EXHIBITIONS to SUPERIOR SCHOOLS between the Year 1860 and the Year 1864, inclusively.*

|   |    |
|---|----|
| No. of Examinations held .....                                    | 5  |
| No. of Schools represented by Candidates .....                    | 16 |
| No. of Candidates .....   | 93 |
| No. of Candidates who passed their Examinations with Credit ..... | 54 |
| No. of Candidates who have been elected to Exhibitions.....       | 10 |

*RETURN exhibiting the Professions and Callings of the Parents of all Candidates for Examination for EXHIBITIONS to SUPERIOR SCHOOLS between the Years 1860 and 1864, inclusively.*

|                             |    |   |           |
|-----------------------------|----|---|-----------|
| Merchants and Bankers ..... | 16 | Schoolmasters .....   | 5         |
| Legal Profession .....      | 4  | Mechanics .....   | 11        |
| Medical Profession .....    | 2  | Shopkeepers and other Retail Dealers .....                  | 17        |
| Clergymen .....             | 3  | Licensed Victuallers .....                                  | 2         |
| Army or Navy.....           | 1  | All other persons not included with the fore-<br>going..... | 18        |
| Farmers .....               | 1  |   |           |
| Stockholders .....          | 4  |   |           |
| Government employ.....      | 9  |   |           |
|                             |    | <i>Total.....</i>   | <i>93</i> |

*RETURN of the Names, Addresses, &c. of all Exhibitioners to SUPERIOR SCHOOLS between the Years 1860 and 1864, inclusively.*

| No. | Names.                | Address.        | Occupation of Parents.     | Amount of Exhibition. | Exhibition tenable. |               |
|-----|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------|
|     |                       |                 |                            |                       | From                | To            |
| 1   | Garrett, Henry L. ..  | Hobart Town ... | Manager Insurance Company  | £ s. d.<br>50 0 0     | 1 July, 1860        | 30 June, 1864 |
| 2   | Carandini, Francis .. | Ditto .....     | Teacher of Dancing .....   | 50 0 0                | Ditto               | Ditto         |
| 3   | Hogg, Charles .....   | Ditto .....     | Widow, father a Blacksmith | 50 0 0                | 1 July, 1861        | 30 June, 1865 |
| 4   | Carter, Wm. Robert.   | Ditto .....     | Merchant .....             | 50 0 0                | Ditto               | Ditto         |
| 5   | Canaway, J. W. ....   | Ditto .....     | Schoolmaster .....         | 50 0 0                | 1 July, 1862        | 30 June, 1866 |
| 6   | Perkins, Henry .....  | Ditto .....     | Merchant .....             | 50 0 0                | Ditto               | Ditto         |
| 7   | Roope, Charles Hunt   | Ditto .....     | Merchant .....             | 50 0 0                | 1 July, 1863        | 30 June, 1867 |
| 8   | Snowden, John.....    | Ditto .....     | Ship Carpenter.....        | 50 0 0                | Ditto               | Ditto         |
| 9   | Hughes, Edwin .....   | New Town .....  | Schoolmaster .....         | 50 0 0                | 1 July, 1864        | 30 June, 1868 |
| 10  | Buckland, John .....  | Hobart Town ... | Schoolmaster .....         | 50 0 0                | Ditto               | Ditto         |

## [BOARD OF EDUCATION.]

*EXHIBITIONS from PUBLIC to SUPERIOR SCHOOLS.—Results from 1860 to the Year 1864 inclusively.*

|  | 1860. | 1861. | 1862. | 1863. | 1864. |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| No. of Candidates .....                              | 31*   | 30*   | 14    | 16    | 16    |
| No. to whom Exhibitions were awarded .....           | 3     | 4     | 4     | 6     | 4     |
| No. who availed themselves of such Exhibitions ..... | 3     | 4     | 4     | 3     | 4     |
| No. who passed the Examination with credit .....     | 4     | 9     | 8     | 10    | 9     |

\* The Examinations were open to Candidates of all ages during these years.

## DEGREE OF ASSOCIATE OF ARTS.

*RESULTS of Examinations held between the Years 1860 and 1863, inclusively.*

|  | 1860. | 1861. | 1862. | 1863. | TOTAL. |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Total Number of Candidates.....                | 12    | 12    | 10    | 6     | 40     |
| Rejected at Preliminary.....                   | 3     | 2     | 2     | 1     | 8      |
| Admitted to Examination for Degree of A.A..... | 9     | 10    | 8     | 5     | 32     |
| Passed for A.A.....                            | 4     | 8     | 4     | 3     | 19     |
| First Class .....                              | 3     | 2     | —     | —     | 5      |
| Second Class .....                             | 1     | 2     | 1     | 3     | 7      |
| Third Class.....                               | —     | 4     | 3     | —     | 7      |

## TASMANIAN SCHOLARSHIPS.

*RESULTS of Examinations held between the Year 1861 and the Year 1863.*

| No. | Name of Candidate. | Occupation of Parent.  | School.                                 | Year. |       |       |                           |
|-----|--------------------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|-------|---------------------------|
|     |                    |                        |   | 1861. | 1862. | 1863. |                           |
| 1   | Hope, Charles A... | Retired from business  | Rev. R. D. Harris, High School .....    | 1     | —     | —     | Failed to reach Standard. |
| 2   | Garrett, Alfred W. | Schoolmistress .....   | Rev. J. Buckland, Hutchins School ..... | 1     | —     | —     |                           |
| 3   | Hope, Charles A... | Retired from business  | Rev. R. D. Harris, High School .....    | —     | 1     | —     | Elected to Scholarship.   |
| 4   | Garrett, Alfred W. | Schoolmistress .....   | Rev. J. Buckland, Hutchins School ..... | —     | 1     | —     |                           |
| 5   | Knight, William .. | Barrister at Law ..... | Ditto .....                             | —     | 1     | —     | Failed to reach Standard  |
| 6   | William Knight ..  | Ditto .....            | Ditto .....                             | —     | —     | 1     | Elected to Scholarship.   |

*EXTRACT from the Minutes of the Council of Education.*

MONDAY, 25TH JULY, 1864.

RESOLVED, That a Sub-Committee be appointed to prepare a statement of facts in reference to the working of the Council of Education and Scholarship Act, so far as relates to such Scholarships, and as to the interests which will be prejudicially affected by the repeal of that Act, to be brought before the Legislative Council. Such Committee to consist of—

Sir Valentine Fleming,  
Dr. Butler,  
Rev. A. Davenport,  
Rev. R. D. Harris, and  
Mr. Macdowell.