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1880.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

RAGGED SCHOOLS:

REPORT FOR 1879.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 10, 1880.



TWENTY-SECOND Report of the HOBART TOWN RAGGED SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

IN submitting the present Report the Committee believe that they cannot better further the interests of the Schools under their charge than by dealing with statements of facts as to the progress made in the Schools during the past year. With this object in view the Committee would commence by giving the following extract from the Official Report of the Chief Inspector of Schools, Thos. Stephens, Esq., a gentleman to whom it is but due to state the Committee feel greatly indebted, not only for his unabated interest in the Schools, but also for the practical advice and co-operation he has on all occasions so cheerfully accorded. His Report to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary runs thus:—

“CASCADES ROAD SCHOOL.

The annual examination of this School was held on the 27th August and three following days.

	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
No. on Rolls	119	103	222
Average daily Attendance	98	81	179
Present at Examination	92	80	172

Upper Division.

First Class.—Boys, 4; Girls, 10; Total, 14. Age, 10 years to 14 years.

Second Class.—Boys, 8; Girls, 12; Total, 20. Age, 9 years to 13 years.

The reading books are the 5th and 4th Royal Readers. The reading was generally fluent and correct, somewhat wanting in distinct and deliberate utterance. General intelligence well developed. Writing and Spelling fair to good. Arithmetic, from Simple Rules in the Second to Practice in the First Class, good on the whole. Grammar good. Geography fair. The average proficiency in the First Class ranges between the work of the 4th and 5th classes in a good public school, and the teaching and management of this department, which were not satisfactory last year, have become very efficient under the present Teacher.

Lower Division.

Third Class.—Boys, 6; Girls, 9; Total, 15. Age, 8 years to 12 years.

Fourth Class.—Division I.—Boys, 9; Girls, 9; Total, 18. Age, 8 years to 11 years.

Division II.—Boys, 6; Girls, 12; Total, 18. Age, 7 years to 9 years.

Reading in the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Royal Readers quite satisfactory, considering the ages of the several children and their position in the School. Writing very fair to good. Elementary work in simple rules neatly and correctly done up to the standards of the respective classes, except by some five new comers of irregular attendance. General answering satisfactory, and the whole of the teaching and management reflecting great credit on the single Teacher of these three classes.

Infant Division.

Boys, 53; Girls, 34; Total, 87. Age, 3 years to 8 years.

About half are reading in various stages, from easy tablet lessons to simple narratives, the highest division being well acquainted with the First Book of the Irish Series. A somewhat larger proportion was advanced as far as this stage last year, but the average proficiency in general work shows no falling off. The Gallery Exercises and Drill are executed with satisfactory precision, and sufficiently break the monotony of the daily routine.

LOWER COLLINS-STREET SCHOOL.

This School was examined on the 2nd September and two following days.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	TOTAL.
No. on Rolls	87	80	167
Average daily Attendance	65	56	121
Present at Examination	66	53	119

Upper Division.

First Class.—Boys, 2; Girls, 4; Total, 6. Age, 10 years to 12 years.

Second Class.—Boys, 16; Girls, 9; Total, 25. Age, 9 years to 12 years.

The reading books in use are the Fourth, Third, and Second of Collins's Progressive Readers, a series which is not well adapted to schools of this class. Reading, generally, fluent, and the substance of the lessons well taught. Answering and intelligence fair to good, with a few exceptions. Writing from dictation fair to good, except about half of the lower part of the Second Class. Arithmetic below standard in the same portion of the Second Class, but in the rest of the two classes quite satisfactory, and showing good progress during the year. Collective instruction is given in Sacred History and Geography, and fair progress had been made. The exceptional cases in this division are those of children who have been long absent or who attend with great irregularity. The general discipline is satisfactory, though the attention of some of the children is not secured without much difficulty.

Lower Division.

Third Class.—Boys, 12; Girls, 5; Total, 17. Age, 8 years to 12 years.

Fourth Class.—Boys, 8; Girls, 7; Total, 15. Age, 6 years to 10 years.

The reading in this division does not proceed beyond the First Book of the Progressive Readers; but it is well taught, and the intelligence of the children sedulously developed. Writing very fair, with scarcely any exceptions. Arithmetic fairly up to standard, except in notation of some easy numbers. Discipline and general management highly satisfactory. There is an unusually wide gap between the proficiency of the children in the Third and Fourth Classes, and this will only be obviated in future by securing a somewhat higher standard than is now attained in the Infant Division before the children are moved into the Fourth Class.

Infant Division.

Boys, 28; Girls, 28; Total, 56. Age, 3 years to 9 years.

In the highest class there were 13 reading easy tablet lessons fairly, and writing the letters and figures more or less satisfactory. The proficiency of the rest of the children cannot easily be particularised; but the general condition of the whole division is much the same as it was last year. The teacher is evidently painstaking, and anxious to do the work well; but it is a business which eminently requires a natural gift, besides special training in Infant School routine.

WATCHORN-STREET SCHOOL.

This School was examined on the 9th September and two following days.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	TOTAL.
No. on Rolls	66	71	137
Average daily Attendance	50	59	109
Present at Examination	40	60	100

Schoolroom.

First Class.—Boys, 3; Girls, 7; Total, 10. Age, 9 years to 13 years.

Second Class.—Boys, 7; Girls, 5; Total, 12. Age, 8 years to 10 years.

Third Class.—Boys, 4; Girls, 14; Total, 18. Age, 7 years to 10 years.

The reading books in this division are Collins's 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Books; and in the First Class, McCulloch's 4th Reader. The average proficiency continues to improve. Writing from dictation in the First Class fair to good, and equally satisfactory in the other classes, with a few unsatisfactory exceptions in the Second. Arithmetic, from Addition and Subtraction in the lower Third to Compound Rules in the First Class, well taught, and the execution of the work on slates generally neat and satisfactory. Most of the children in the First Class have a fair knowledge of the parts of speech, and some acquaintance with the outlines of Geography and of Sacred History. There is a tendency towards a habit of rote answering which it would be well to correct. Memory work is highly important in its proper place, but the children require to be trained to answer questions in their own words, and they cannot begin too soon. The general management is highly satisfactory, and the order and attention greatly improved.

Infant Division.

Boys, 26 ; Girls, 31 ; Total, 57. Age, 2 years to 9 years.

In the First Class there were five reading the Second Primer fairly ; in the Second Class, ten reading the First Primer equally well ; and in the Third Class, eight reading tablet lessons. In this and the other work the First Class would be on a level with Class II. in a Public School, and the other classes seemed to be fairly graduated in the different elementary stages. The Gallery Exercises and Drill are fairly executed, and the general management is all that can be desired.

GENERAL.

There are many matters of detail in which improvements can be made in the organisation and management of these Schools ; but the defects are quite insignificant in comparison with the benefits conferred by the Institution, and it is rather a matter for surprise that so important a work is being done by its means, and done so well."

In response to enquiries made by the Secretary, the Lady Superintendent of the Cascades Road School reports :—

1st. *Visitation of School.*—During the year 1879 the school has been regularly visited by Mrs. Stephens, Miss Edwards, and Mrs. Perkins ; occasionally by Mrs. G. P. Adams, Miss Owen, and Miss Parsons.

2nd. *Making and Distribution of Midwinter Clothing.*—The distribution of clothing consisted of 75 frocks, petticoats, &c. to the girls ; 44 trousers, shirts, &c. to the boys. The remainder of the children received each a woollen comforter. The material and funds are subscribed by ladies interested in the school, Miss Owen kindly acting as collector for the clothing fund. The work is chiefly done by the girls of the school under the superintendence of Mrs. Perkins, who is largely assisted by Mrs. Calvert.

The members of Mrs. Perkins' Bible Class meet once a week to assist in preparing the work for the children.

3rd. *Money collected for the purchase of Prize Books and providing the usual Christmas Treat.*—The money for the above was all collected by Miss Mitchell. This school had no allowance from the General Fund. The amount collected was £4 5s. Expended :—Buns, 12s. ; lollies, 3s. 6d. ; books, £2 11s. 11d. ; total, £3 7s. 5d. : thus leaving a small balance, which we intend passing on to the Clothing Fund.

The Lady Superintendent of the Watchorn-street School reports :—

1st. *Visitation of School.*—During the year 1879 the school has been visited by Mrs. Crosby, Miss King, the Misses Walch, Miss Walker, Miss Owen, and Mrs. Webster.

2nd. *Making and Distribution of Midwinter Clothing.*—About 110 children received articles of clothing—frocks, petticoats, hats, pinafores, &c. for girls ; coats, jumpers, socks, and comforters for boys. Mrs. Salier kindly supplied remnants and pieces for making into articles. The Clothing Fund was supported by each member of the Committee contributing or collecting £1 per annum. The work was mostly made by the girls under the superintendence of Mrs. Crosby. The ladies met once a month to prepare the work for the school.

3rd. *Money collected for the Prize Books and providing the usual Christmas Treat.*—At one time each member of the local Board gave so much towards the prizes, but for some years past the Committee have granted the funds for the purchase of books, whilst this year the sum of £1 for the treat was collected by the Rev. R. Maclaren Webster. Expenditure :—Books, £2 ; buns and lollies, 16s. ; total, £2 16s. ; leaving a balance of 6s. to go to the Clothing Fund.

The Lady Superintendent of the Lower Collins-street School reports :—

1st. *Visitation of School.*—The school is regularly visited by Miss Wright, Mrs. Wilson, and myself.

2nd. *Making and Distribution of Midwinter Clothing.*—In the sewing department, with which I am more particularly connected, we endeavour to teach the children step by step all the different branches of plain needlework, and to encourage them in this, several prizes are generally offered in June for the best made article. Each year from 60 to 100 garments are made by the girls, the number varying according to the age and number of the 1st class of girls. It is seldom the girls

stay till old enough to make first-class workers. Two afternoons a week are devoted to the needlework. Last winter 170 garments were distributed—one to each child present; those not made in the school were made by various friends—Mrs. Walker, of Barrack-street, Mrs. Woolley, &c. The material is provided by friends interested in the school, especially Mr. R. A. Mather and Mrs. Woolley; Mrs. A. G. Webster has also very kindly contributed largely.

3rd. *Money, &c.*—The prizes, except special ones, as needlework, attendance, &c. have been hitherto provided by the Executive Committee of the Association; the fruit, &c. provided by friends, especially Mrs. Woolley, who, ever since the retirement of Mrs. M'Lachlan, has been a most active and earnest friend to the school.

It must be observed that the Ladies Committees are doing a good work, and, from the personal interest lately shown, there can be little doubt but that the future of the schools may be viewed as hopeful and encouraging.

Looking at the state of our finances the Committee cannot too strongly impress upon the collectors the necessity for some strenuous efforts being made to raise more funds, as the whole of the grant from the Government—£150—cannot be claimed unless a corresponding amount by voluntary subscription is secured, whilst the want of funds to meet our just engagements is a source of anxiety to our Treasurer, from which he should be relieved as soon as possible.

The Annual School Examinations were held on the 22nd and 23rd December last, and as the reports of those examinations as they appeared in the columns of *The Mercury* newspaper are thoroughly reliable, they are incorporated in this report, and will doubtless be read with much interest.

CHRISTMAS EXAMINATIONS.—RAGGED SCHOOLS.

COLLINS STREET.

The annual examination of this school was held yesterday afternoon. The school was prettily festooned with flowers and ferns, arranged by the teachers. The children, to the number of 154, were all clean and tidy, and fairly clad in their best clothes. The senior classes were examined in reading, spelling, arithmetic, and geography; special attention being given to a knowledge of Australia in the latter subject. The questions were readily and correctly answered, and all the work was well and carefully done, some of it with much credit to the children. The junior class was exercised at mental arithmetic by the Rev. Mr. Webster, who was much pleased with the smartness and proficiency they displayed. The older pupils did practice sums. Two of their number, Esther Dixon and George Sutcliffe, recited cleverly. The infant class read their first books under the direction of Miss Ryan. Prizes were distributed by Miss Garrett; after which the scholars were addressed by the Revs. Butchers and Webster, who expressed the pleasure they felt in seeing the school so well conducted, the satisfactory examination which had just been gone through reflecting great credit upon the children and their teachers, who took so much pains with them. Noticing that prizes for punctuality were wanting, the Rev. Mr. Butchers promised six prizes, three to the best girls and boys respectively who were most punctual during the ensuing year. The rev. gentleman gave the juveniles some excellent advice. Messrs. Castray and Macfarlane also made some remarks of congratulation and encouragement, especially recognising the ability and zeal of the teachers, Mr. Todd and the Misses Proctor and Ryan.

WATCHORN STREET.

The annual examination of this School took place yesterday morning. The school-room was decorated for the occasion, and there were about 120 children in attendance, the majority of whom were intelligent, cheerful, and attired in their holiday clothes. There were many, however, for whose benefit the School were especially designed, whose garments and general appearance betokened that they required a little more attention. The various classes were examined in reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, geography, &c., and a number of the children sang some Christmas carols and other appropriate pieces. The examination altogether was of a very satisfactory character, evidencing good order and discipline, and reflecting great credit upon the mistress, Miss Proctor, and her assistants. The prizes were distributed by Mrs. Salier. The Rev. B. Butchers then addressed some words of encouragement to the children, speaking in complimentary terms of the manner in which they had performed their work, and urging the necessity of acquiring information and developing the faculties, in order that the children might be successful in life. The Rev. Mr. Webster also addressed the children, and stated that Mr. Macfarlane would give four prizes to the boys and girls who had been the most punctual in their attendance during the year. He also bore testimony to the skill and care with which the teachers had done their work during the past year, as shown by the very creditable examination which the children had passed through.

CASCADES.

The examination of this School also was conducted yesterday afternoon, Bishop Bromby taking part in the proceedings. The School buildings presented a very gay appearance, having been most tastefully decorated with flowers and foliage. There were about 200 children in attendance, and there was such a very large majority of them who were bright, intelligent, happy, and well clad, that it was difficult to realise that they were pupils of a Ragged School. There is, however, the gratifying reflection that in many cases the children were really those for whose especial benefit the Ragged School was instituted, and that the example and kindly influence of the teachers had caused the mothers of the little ones to show their appreciation by decking them with the best clothes they could possibly obtain. The children were examined by the Bishop and the teachers—the Misses Mitchell (2) and Corbett (teacher of infant class)—and the result was highly satisfactory, showing their attainments in reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, &c. to be very marked indeed. A very keen desire was shown to reply to the questions, and the replies were in the majority of instances given with readiness and strict accuracy. A number of appropriate melodies were sung by the children in unison, and with much taste and feeling, while others gave examples of their progress in the study of the elocutionary art. The prizes having been distributed, the Rev. Mr. Webster expressed the great satisfaction which the visitors had experienced at the result of the year's work. For his own part he had to confess that he had found it difficult to realise that he was present at the examination of a Ragged School, everything was so excellent. The very look and style of the whole School, the pretty decorations, the clean, lively, and happy appearance of the children, all were calculated to give one an impression that it was a school of a superior kind. He was convinced that the education imparted there was of such an excellent character that it must prove a great boon to the whole neighbourhood, and the teachers deserved much credit for their work. He then exhorted the children to persevere in their studies, pointing out that their future lives would depend very much upon the way in which they conducted themselves at school. Mr. Macfarlane also spoke some words of encouragement to the children, and announced that next year it was his intention to award prizes for punctuality, while rewards would also be given for sewing and for needlework.

It is, perhaps, as well to state in conclusion, that the Committee have not lost sight of a paragraph in the Chief Inspector of Schools' Report, viz. :—"That there is an impression generally prevalent that there are children attending one at least of the Ragged Schools whose parents are well able to pay for their instruction; and it is desirable on many grounds that some plan should be devised for confining the benefits of the Schools to the classes for whom they are specially designed." The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, in his letter of the 24th December, also called attention to the same subject, and steps were taken with the least possible delay to correct the irregularity complained of.

THE TREASURER in account with the HOBART TOWN RAGGED SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

1879.	Dr.	£ s. d.	Jan. 1, 1879.	Cr.	£ s. d.
To Cash received from Government Grant-in-aid		300 0 0	By Balance from last year.....		7 7 10
To Cash received from Government to supplement public subscriptions, October to 31st December, 1878.....		54 9 0	Tuition at the three Schools		435 2 4
To Cash received, Subscriptions and Donations.....		74 8 3	Repairs.....		4 0 6
To Balance due Treasurer.....		47 10 11	Stationery		7 14 3
			Printing and Advertising		5 8 6
			Fire Insurance.....		2 18 6
			Fuel		6 16 6
			Hire of Freemasons' Hall		0 5 0
			Cleaning Cascades Road School.....		4 0 0
			Postage and Letters		2 0 0
			Interest on Overdraft to Bank.....		0 14 9
		<u>£476 8 2</u>			<u>£476 8 2</u>
Memo.—December 31, 1879—Balance due Commercial Bank.....		61 1 5			
Less Cash in hand Treasurer		13 10 6			
Due Treasurer.....		<u>£47 10 11</u>	December 31, 1879.		
			By Balance due Treasurer		<u>£47 10 11</u>

Audited and found correct,
R. ANDREW MATHER.

E. & O. E.

JOHN MACFARLANE, *Treasurer.*
Hobart Town, 31st Dec., 1879.