

(No. 13.)



1869.

T A S M A N I A .

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

COUNCIL OF EDUCATION.

REPORT FOR 1868-9.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 24, 1869.



*ANNUAL REPORT of the TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF EDUCATION for the
Year 1868-9:*

To His Excellency CHARLES DU CANE, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Island of Tasmania and its Dependencies:

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

1. IN conformity with the provisions of "The Tasmanian Council of Education and Scholarship Act," we beg leave to submit this our Ninth Report embracing the proceedings of the Council between the 1st May, 1868, and the 30th April, 1869. 22Vict. No. 21.
Section 30,

2. We caused an Examination to be held in the month of June, 1868, of Candidates for Exhibitions to Superior Schools; and on the recommendation of the Examiners Exhibitions of the value of £20 each were awarded to Charles Caleb Williamson, Church Grammar School, Launceston, and Henry Morris L. Pike, City School, Hobart Town. Exhibitions to
Superior
Schools,
Gazette
Notice, 23
June, 1868.

The Examiners in closing their Report observe:—"The results of this examination invite a favourable comparison with those of past years. The foremost boy has obtained a number of marks very little short of the large number obtained by the First Exhibitioner of last year, whose success was beyond the experience of any previous Examination. But the most noteworthy feature of this Examination is the encouraging proof which it affords that so many Tasmanian boys under fourteen years of age are able and willing to qualify themselves for attaining the high standard fixed by the Council. For, besides the two recommended for Exhibitions, and whose attainments are very far above that standard, eleven have failed to win the honor for which they have striven, not through any demerit, but solely because they have been outstripped by others yet more worthy. We record the fact with satisfaction, as showing that the honorable rivalry among Schools, and among boys of the same School, produced by the annual award of these Exhibitions, is manifesting good effects increasingly every year."

3. The Ninth Examination for the Degree of Associate of Arts was held in September, 1868, Professor Irving, M.A., undertaking all the subjects except Drawing, which was confided to Henry Hunter, Esq. Five Candidates presented themselves, all of whom obtained the Degree, three being placed in the First Class and two in the Third. The Senior Associate, Edwin Hughes, in addition to the Council's Gold Medal, was awarded the First Prize for English, the First Prize for Greek, the First Prize for Mathematics, and the Second Prize for Latin. William Field Barrett, placed in the First Class, was awarded the First Prize for Latin, the First Prize for French, and the Second Prize for Greek. Joseph Benson Walker, placed in the First Class, obtained the Second Prize for French and a Prize for Drawing. Degree of
Associate of
Arts, Gazette
Notice, 29th
Sept, 1868.

The Examiners remark,—

"The small number of Candidates is the only point in this Examination which would cause regret; for in no other respect is there any falling off, but rather a manifest improvement. The number of marks obtained by the senior Associate has been exceeded once only, by Hogg in 1864; and the average marks of all the Candidates is considerably above that hitherto maintained.

“The Examination then, regarded as a whole, may be pronounced satisfactory. None of the Candidates displayed any marked ability or extensive knowledge; but all had evidently been carefully grounded, and, up to a certain point, their acquaintance with the several subjects of examination was sound and accurate; and, with the exception of the Preliminary Examination noticed before, faults of carelessness were less observed in this than they have been in earlier examinations.”

Tasmanian
Scholarships,
Gazette
Notice, 29th
Sept. 1868.
Latin Verse
Composition.

Four Candidates presented themselves for the Tasmanian Scholarship. It was awarded to Manasseh Fearnley, an A.A. of 1866. He has since proceeded to England to enter on his studies at the University of Cambridge.

A Prize of the value of £5 was offered for the best translation (if considered worthy) into Latin Elegiacs of Gray's Ode on Eton College, Stanzas 2 to 6 inclusive, but as no papers were sent in, the same subject has been set for 1869.

Tasmanian
Scholars.

The Council have received the satisfactory information that Charles Hogg, A.A., 1864, and Tasmanian Scholar of 1865, has obtained a First Class, and a Prize in the Annual Examination of Second-year Men at St. John's College, Cambridge. George Archer, A.A. of 1865, Tasmanian Scholar, 1867, has commenced residence at Christ's College, Cambridge.

Associate of
Arts.

Andrew George Gatenby, A.A., 1865, has obtained a First Class and Prize in the Annual Examination of Freshmen at St. John's College, Cambridge. Frederick B. Sharland, A.A., 1864, King's College, Cambridge, passed the Previous Examination in last October term.

Alteration in
Rules.

We have caused the following alteration to be made in our Rules and Regulations, and have duly obtained the approval of the Governor in Council thereto:—

FORMER RULE.

Art. 19.

The Degree of Associate of Arts shall be open to persons of any age; but Candidates for that Degree above the age of nineteen years, who may take honors, shall be placed in separate Class Lists, and shall not be eligible for any Scholarships, Exhibitions, or Prizes that may hereafter be awarded under the Tasmanian Council of Education and Scholarship Act.

PRESENT RULE.

Art. 19.

The Degree of Associate of Arts shall be open to persons of any age; but Candidates for that Degree above the age of nineteen years who may take honors, shall be placed in separate Class Lists, and shall not be eligible for any Prizes awarded by the Tasmanian Council of Education.

Army Com-
missions.

We have forwarded a communication to the Military Secretary in England, submitting that Candidates for Commissions in the Army who have obtained the Tasmanian A. A. Degree, may be exempted from the Literary Examination required by the Regulations now in force.

President.

It is with great regret we have to report that our President, the Honorable W. E. Nairn, Esq., was obliged through ill health to resign, in July, the Chair which he had so ably filled for a term of three years. The Right Rev. the Bishop of Tasmania was unanimously elected to succeed as President.

Appendix III.

We are gratified by being able to state that the Tasmanian Scheme of Education has been favorably thought of in New Zealand. Agreeably to the wish of the Government of that Colony, we have furnished them with a full Report of its working, a copy of which Report we append.

Financial
Statement.

Appendix I &
II.

We submit a Statement of the Disbursements of the Council between the 1st January and the 31st December, 1868, the termination of the Financial year; together with a Supplementary Statement of payments between the 1st January and the 30th April, 1869. Our total expenditure under every head for the year 1868 is shown to have amounted to £1112 12s. 2d.

C. H. TASMANIA, *President.*

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF EDUCATION.

APPENDIX I.

ABSTRACT of EXPENDITURE from the 1st January to the 31st December, 1868, including Sums exhibited in Supplementary Statement of Expenditure to 30th April, 1868.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ADMINISTRATION.									
Secretary's Salary	—			60	0	0			
Books and Stationery	—			2	16	2			
Printing and Advertising (2s. being arrears of 1867)	—			4	10	0			
							67	6	2
DEGREE OF ASSOCIATE OF ARTS.									
Examiners' Fees—									
Professor Irving	90	0	0						
Henry Hunter, Esq.	5	0	0						
				95	0	0			
One Gold Medal (Edwin Hughes, Senior Associate)	—			10	0	0			
Books for Prizes	—			39	0	0			
Incidental Charges, Attendants, &c.	—			5	17	6			
							149	17	6
TASMANIAN SCHOLARSHIPS.									
Mr. Knight, 1 January to 31 May, 1868	—			83	6	8			
Mr. Hogg, 1 January to 31 December, 1868	—			200	0	0			
Mr. Perkins, ditto	—			200	0	0			
Mr. Archer, 1 June to 31 December, 1868	—			116	13	4			
							600	0	0
EXHIBITIONS TO SUPERIOR SCHOOLS.									
Edwin Hughes, Exhibitioner of 1864	—			25	0	0			
H. B. Leach, ditto 1865	—			50	0	0			
W. F. Barrett, ditto 1865	—			50	0	0			
C. R. Buckland, ditto 1866	—			50	0	0			
S. E. Innes, ditto 1866	—			50	0	0			
D. E. Stewart, ditto 1867	—			20	0	0			
C. H. Creswell, ditto 1867	—			20	0	0			
H. M. L. Pike, ditto 1868	—			10	0	0			
C. C. Williamson, ditto 1868	—			10	0	0			
							285	0	0
Examiners' Fees :—									
The Rev. A. Davenport	5	0	0						
The Rev. F. Hudspeth	5	0	0						
				10	0	0			
Incidental charges—Fuel	—			0	7	6			
							10	7	6
							£1112	11	2

GEO. RICHARDSON, *Secretary to the Council.*

Examined—E. J. MANLEY, *Colonial Auditor.*

APPENDIX II.

Supplementary Statement of DISBURSEMENTS for the period from 1st January to 30th April, 1869, inclusive.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ADMINISTRATION.						
Secretary's Salary to 30th April	20	0	0			
Advertising	0	4	6			
				20	4	6
EXHIBITIONS TO SUPERIOR SCHOOLS.						
W. F. Barrett	12	10	0			
S. E. Innes	12	10	0			
C. R. Buckland	12	10	0			
H. B. Leach	12	10	0			
C. H. Cresweell	5	0	0			
D. E. Stewart	5	0	0			
H. M. L. Pike	5	0	0			
C. C. Williamson	5	0	0			
				70	0	0
				£90	4	6

GEO. RICHARDSON, *Secretary to the Council.*

Examined—E. J. MANLEY, *Colonial Auditor.*

APPENDIX III.

Hobart Town, 30th September, 1868.

THE Committee of the Council of Education, appointed by the Council to prepare a statement for the information of the Government of New Zealand in reference to the working of "The Tasmanian Scholarship Act," have to report as follows:—

1. The object of "The 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 into connection with the English Universities, by which it was hoped that sound learning would be promoted, and a beneficial influence exercised on the fortunes of the Colony.

2. Some of the most important effects of "The Scholarship Act" have not had time to develop themselves, inasmuch as only three of the Scholars have as yet had the opportunity of graduating. It is, nevertheless, gratifying to know that the liberality of the State, in making this provision, has been highly applauded by eminent statesmen and scholars both in England and on the Continent of Europe.

3. 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 time of Sir John Franklin's Government a vote was taken for £5000 with a view to the endowment of five Exhibitions to British Universities; but hindrances arose to the establishment of the Collegiate School, with which they were to have been associated, and the measure lapsed.

4. The scheme at present in operation was originated in 1858, during the administration of Mr. (now Sir Francis) Smith. In the course of the Parliamentary session of that year he drafted a Bill for the establishment of 8 Scholarships, each of the value of £200 per annum, and tenable for 4 years; of which Scholarships two were to be annually competed for by youths under 20 years of age, who had resided for the foregoing 5 years or more in the Colony. The conduct of the examination was to be in the hands of a Council of 10 members to be nominated by the Governor, and designated the "Tasmanian Scholarship Council." Before the Bill thus drafted had been submitted to the House of Assembly, various alterations were suggested by persons engaged in tuition or interested in the cause of Education. The most important of these was a scheme for examinations to be held in imitation of the local examinations which are annually held in England by Examiners appointed from Oxford and Cambridge. This suggestion was adopted. Provision was made in the Act for the holding of such examinations for boys under the age of 19, and for conferring the Degree of Associate of Arts (A.A.) on those who passed a satisfactory examination. It was also provided that no youth should be admissible to the competition for a Tasmanian Scholarship until he had taken the Degree of A.A. As the operations of the Scholarship Council were thus enlarged, the name was altered to that of "The Tasmanian Council of Education," and the number of members was increased to 15. The Act was passed in the session of 1858, and constituted the Council of Education a corporate body.

5. Early in 1859 the Council of Education commenced its operations, and proceeded to make bye-laws for the conduct of its proceedings, and to arrange the scheme of work for the examinations to be held under its authority. In accordance with the Act of its constitution, the first examination for the Degree of A.A. was fixed for 1860, and the first examination for the Scholarships for 1861.

6. Meanwhile, in the Parliamentary Session of 1859, a measure was passed which has had a most important influence on the Educational arrangements of Tasmania. The common Schools of the Colony have been for many years under the management of a body called the Board of Education. It was decided by a vote of the Legislature that the Board of Education should have the privilege of bestowing, annually, Exhibitions to the amount of £100 on the most deserving pupils of the common schools; these Exhibitions to be tenable for 4 years at such Superior Schools as the Board should approve. A similar privilege was awarded to the Council of Education. The Board of Education have been in the habit from that time onwards of sending to the Superior Schools annually 6 of the best and ablest pupils of the Common Schools. Meanwhile the Council of Education decided on bestowing annually, by means of the money placed at its disposal, 2 Exhibitions of £50 each on boys under 14, who had not been during the previous six months at any School under the Board of Education. The object of this last limitation was partly to make these Exhibitions an object of further emulation to those who had succeeded in obtaining the Exhibitions bestowed by the Board, and partly to encourage the Superior Schools and the Private Schools of the Colony to send in their pupils as competitors. The first examination that was held under the authority of the Council of Education was an examination for two of these valuable exhibitions. It was held in June 1860, and each year since then there has been an examination held in the same month; and 2 Exhibitions have been awarded to the best 2 of the candidates who have succeeded in attaining the standard of marks fixed by the Council.

7. In September, 1860, the first examination for the Degree of A.A. was held. It was conducted by Professor Irving of the Melbourne University, assisted by other competent Examiners. The subjects of examination, the standard of marks requisite for merely passing, and for passing with honor, had been assimilated, as far as possible, to the schemes of the Oxford and Cambridge Local Examinations. Each successive year Professor Irving has taken the principal share in the examinations, assisted sometimes by Examiners from Melbourne, and sometimes by Graduates of the English Universities resident in Tasmania. The nature of the examinations will be seen from the examination papers which the Secretary is instructed to send with this Report, while the average number of marks obtained, of degrees conferred, and of candidates rejected, will be seen from other documents which he has been directed to furnish.

8. In September, 1861, the second examination for the A.A. Degree was followed by the first examination for the Tasmanian Scholarships. Two youths, Hope and Garrett, who had attained a First Class in the A.A. Degree of the preceding year, were candidates for these prizes; but though both passed a very creditable examination, they did not succeed in reaching the very high standard of marks which the Council had fixed as the necessary qualification for success. It was felt that such a prize ought not to be bestowed except upon candidates who should pass such an examination as might prove them qualified to take a good position in an English University. In the examination for Scholarships in 1862 both these candidates were successful, and proceeded to England at the beginning of the following year, one going to Oxford the other to Cambridge. This is the only occasion as yet on which two

Scholarships have been awarded in one year. In 1863 the Scholarship was obtained by W. Knight, who had headed the list of the A.A. Degree in 1861. He proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1864 there was no candidate for the Scholarship, and consequently no examination for it. In 1865 one Scholarship was awarded. It was obtained by C. Hogg, who had headed the list of Associates in the previous year. He is the only one who has as yet succeeded in qualifying himself for the Scholarship within one year after taking the A.A. Degree. He proceeded to St. John's College, Cambridge. In 1866 the only Scholarship awarded was obtained by H. A. Perkins, who had taken a 1st Class in the A.A. list of 1864. He has proceeded to the University of Edinburgh. Last year, 1867, again there was only one successful candidate, G. Archer, A.A. of 1865. He has proceeded to Cambridge. And in the examination just concluded for the present year, one Scholarship only has been awarded. The successful competitor is Manasseh Fearnley, who headed the Degree list of 1866.

9. If it should seem that, considering the splendour of the prizes proposed, the competition is somewhat meagre, it must be borne in mind that the very high standard fixed for the attainment of a Scholarship makes it useless for any to try except youths of great ability and attainments. Several who have taken the A.A. Degree have continued their studies with a view to the Scholarship, but have ultimately withdrawn from the competition. Of these some have proceeded to English Universities. The real importance of "The Scholarship Act" is not to be seen by regarding it solely or even mainly in relation to the scholars themselves, but rather by regarding the immense stimulus which it has given to the cause of sound education during the years that it has been in operation. It will be seen that the Scholarships are the climax of a system whose effects extend to all primary schools throughout the Island. Any boy at a Government School may hope to obtain an Exhibition which shall enable him to afford the expense of studying in one of the Superior Grammar Schools; (viz. the High School and the Hutchins School in Hobart Town, the Church Grammar School at Launceston, or the Horton College at Ross). He may then in another year hope to be a successful competitor for one of the more valuable Exhibitions conferred by the Council of Education. These latter are tenable for 4 years; and thus if the boy take the A. A. Degree when he is 16, his Exhibition will pay the expenses of his school studies till he may reasonably hope to compete for a Tasmanian Scholarship with a fair prospect of success.* Hogg and Perkins were both Exhibitioners under the Council of Education nearly up to the time of obtaining their Scholarships. Nor is this merely a hypothetical result of the system in force; it is the fact that, in the Primary Schools, boys are carefully prepared for the Exhibitions; that, in the Private Schools and Grammar Schools, the work of the junior pupils is arranged according to the scheme put forth by the Council of Education for its Exhibitions; and that not only do many boys under 14 years of age every year attain the standard of marks which would entitle them to an Exhibition were there more than two conferred, but these boys, by their example, and the emulation they create in their respective schools, are the means of carrying on the junior classes to a point of attainment which the senior classes of the various schools scarcely reached before the present system of examination was established. Then, again, the work of the head class of each of the principal schools is arranged according to the scheme put forth by the Council of Education for the A.A. Degree,—as, in Melbourne and Sydney, the schools prepare their head classes for the Matriculation Examination of the Universities of those Colonies. But inasmuch as the examination for the A.A. Degree requires higher classical and mathematical attainments than the Matriculation Examinations of those Universities, there is reason to believe that the head classes of the Grammar Schools of Tasmania reach a higher point of scholarship than those of the leading schools of the neighbouring Colonies. The work for the Scholarships, requiring as it generally does two years' hard study after the A.A. Degree, is rather of an University than of a school character, and may be considered as on a par with the first year course and part of the second year course of most of the Colleges of Cambridge.

10. The Council of Education would wish to draw particular attention to that part of their system which relates to the Degree of Associate of Arts. But for the introduction of this scheme into the Scholarship Act, it is hardly too much to say that the latter would almost certainly have remained a dead letter. To those who have entered for the Tasmanian Scholarship it has served as a trial of strength before commencing a course of study which would have disheartened by its length and severity any who had not gained confidence through success in the previous A.A. Examination. It is also of immense value in itself, apart from its effects in reference to the Scholarship, as giving a standard for the Grammar Schools to work up to, and as sending forth into the community every year a number of young men well grounded in those subjects which form the basis of a liberal education. The Legal profession in the Colony have recognised it as an equivalent for the literary portion of the examination which they require of the young men admitted to practise at the Colonial Bar; and the General Council of Medical Education of the United Kingdom, and the Royal College of Surgeons, have given to our Degree the same privileges as to those of the English and some other Universities,—that, namely, of exempting such as have obtained it from the necessity of passing an examination in Latin and Mathematics before admission to the Medical Profession.

11. In order to illustrate the practical working of the Educational System of Tasmania, the Committee send with this Report Returns exhibiting the results of the several Examinations which have been held under the Council's directions since the passing of the Act, and likewise of the Examinations conducted under the authority of the Board of Education.

By Order of the Council,

R. D. HARRIS, *M.A.*
ARTHUR DAVENPORT, *B.A.*
HENRY BUTLER.

* It must, however, be mentioned that the Legislature have lately seen fit to reduce the value of these latter Exhibitions to £20.