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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

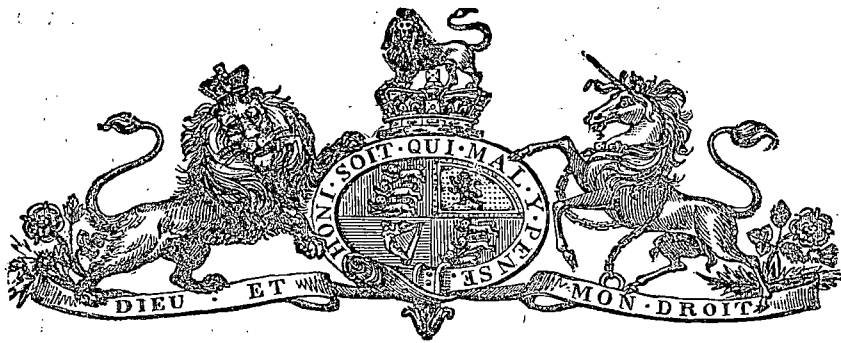
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TRAINING SCHOOL FOR TEACHERS:

CORRESPONDENCE AS TO ESTABLISHMENT.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
October 25, 1876.



*Macquarie-street, 3rd December, 1874.*

SIR,

I HAVE waited on you several times to press on your consideration the immense importance of the immediate establishment of a Training School for Teachers; and I drew your attention to a Petition I presented last Session to both Houses of Parliament, offering £1000 towards it, and praying for the appointment of a paid officer in room of the present honorary and irresponsible "Board" for carrying out that object, and for the better management of the education of the country.

I understood you to say that the subject would be taken into consideration in its turn, but it was an important question, requiring the attention of a full Cabinet, and delays had arisen, over which you had no control.

I request the favour of being informed when I may expect to hear from you.

I take the liberty of troubling you with the copy of a letter I addressed in the *Mercury* last August to the Clergy of the Colony in explanation and support of my views on this subject.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

PHILIP T. SMITH.

T. D. CHAPMAN, *Esq.*, *Colonial Secretary.*

(Copy.)

To the Clergy and Ministers of all Denominations in Tasmania.

*Per favour of the Editor of the Mercury.*

REVEREND SIRS,

BEFORE it is too late, I appeal to you not to permit this session to pass over without an effort being made to induce Government and the Legislature to adopt some means of improving our education system.

You, of all classes in the community, must be supposed to feel the deepest interest on the subject, and I make no apology in thus addressing you, as I believe that you, and you only, collectively or separately, possess sufficient influence to bring about some alteration before the session closes.

No social or political question approaches the education question in importance; and I think therefore we had a right to expect that Government would have been prepared this session with some proposition or other to improve the management, if not revise the whole system.

But neither the Governor's speech nor the budget speech told us anything, and the debate on the budget terminated without a single reference being made to it, from either side of the House, and not till the education vote was taken was a word said.

Up to that time there was still hope; indeed rumour credited Government with the intention of announcing some change on moving the estimates; but on moving the education vote of £15,005 no change was announced, and a very meagre and unsatisfactory discussion followed. Dr. Butler spoke at some length, but confined himself almost exclusively to explaining the duties of the Inspector, and distinguishing between his examining duties and what he called his "detective" duties, and expressed his favourable opinion of "local boards" as a likely means of relieving the Inspector from his "detective" duties; and if so relieved one Inspector, he thought, was sufficient, and for the employment of one Inspector he only was responsible. "In conclusion," he said, "that if the policy which had been carried on by the Board of Education had done wrong, he was responsible for it; and if the House thought it necessary to reverse it, he should not quarrel with any decision the House might arrive at, which would give greater liberality to the system, though at the same time he should

strongly desire the two positions of the Inspector he had spoken of to be kept separate, and that the duties of the Inspector should be entirely devoted to the literary examination of the children of the various schools under his supervision."

Except in continuation, that Dr. Butler referred to the establishment of a few schools with fewer scholars than twenty. this was the upshot of his speech, treating the Inspector's reports, and especially his last report of 13th May last, as a nullity, and leaving entirely untouched the general condition of the schools—the ability and sufficiency of the teachers—the quality of the teaching beyond mere book work—the observance of the regulation as to religious teaching—the general condition of school premises and sufficiency of school accommodation—the numbers taught and untaught—the operation of the Compulsory Act—what provision had been made for the supply of good teachers—and whether bad teachers now employed are to be made better yet. These and other points were not so much as alluded to, and judging of the effect on the House he was considered to have given a satisfactory account of his stewardship.

Mr. Innes followed Dr. Butler, "by taking for granted that the existing system was accepted by the Colony," but took exception to Dr. Butler's unsatisfactory explanation of the Inspector's duties, and of the little use made of his reports as an assistance and guide to the Board. Mr. Balfe also supposed "there was no intention of doing way with the Board, or of supplanting that Board with the services of a head of the department;" but local boards were a failure, the wages of teachers were too low, and the present system worked badly. Mr. Lewis also thought that education was "in a very defective state, that a vast number of children went uneducated, and that the teaching of common morality had been neglected." The Attorney-General did not venture to go into the general question, or to controvert any of these statements, but kept strictly to the management of the Queen's Asylum, and seemed to consider the education of the colony fully and satisfactorily disposed of by Dr. Butler. The Treasurer said not a word, and Dr. Butler made no reply.

In the face of this state of things, is it not shameful that nobody stirs? Nothing clearly is to be expected from Government or the Legislature. The Lower House has shown itself willing and capable of nothing but small criticisms, and Ministers in the present position of parties dare not provoke the hostility of a single supporter. I believe nothing but your rousing yourselves into the conviction that you have too long delegated this question to the laity, and that you must do so no longer, affords the least chance of anything being done. A radical review of the whole system is wanted, but an enquiry of that extent is probably beyond the compass of Parliament this session; but an alteration in the management is an easier thing, and depends entirely on the pressure that is brought to bear on it.

I repeat, Ministers of themselves will do nothing, but they know what they ought to do, and would be rejoiced to do it if party politics permitted. They would remodel the Board, and put a paid man at the head of it, and perhaps abolish the Board altogether. Even were Dr. Butler and his Board more able and diligent than they have the credit of being, this department, with its large expenditure and variety and multiplicity of business, is far too cumbrous for honorary service; and one of the striking results is exhibited in the last report of the Inspector, which states, that out of 127 teachers 25 are first-class, 37 more or less competent, and 65 very moderate, or very bad.

These figures imply consequences to hundreds of children which no one can estimate. But lamentable as they are after so many years of "Board" management, no provision is being made to convert these inferior teachers into good ones, or to manufacture better upon any organised system. Pupil teachers are our only supply; and the supply leaves little room for choice. This crying want of good teachers, and the absence of all concern about our 65 incompetent teachers, are two among many other proofs that honorary service is dear service, and that a paid Minister of Instruction is indispensable—no department probably requiring more minute supervision and technical knowledge, and a vast deal more than mere fragments of time snatched from professional and other pursuits for the proper management of it.

Every department must have a paid head except education, and just as anybody formerly was supposed to be good enough for a schoolmaster, so Dr. Butler was appointed, for no better reason than because he was a politician; and the results we see in general dissatisfaction in and out of Parliament, and in the Inspector's reports, which never meet the eye of the public, and, it is to be feared, seldom his eye. Nothing but a certain deadness and indifference among us can account for our long forbearance.

It is time that the most important of all our departments, in its bearing on the present and future of the colony, should be managed like other departments, and not by a set of amateurs and a clerk.

Mr. Innes truly remarked that "a grudging spirit had ever been shown in promoting education."

Money, on the other hand, is ever ready for promoting the material interests of the colony, while

you are ever reminding us that our material prosperity is a very small thing compared to higher things, not the least of which, I presume, is the well-being of the population, based on education.

Look at the enormous sums proposed for public works—ought you to hesitate in demanding that every child shall be well educated, and every master well trained; and not as now mostly badly educated and badly trained, under a slovenly irresponsible management? Expense in this matter is the truest economy, and the highest religion for Government and yourselves.

I venture respectfully to submit that this great question ought no longer to be trifled with, and left to the mercy of our Politicians; and surely, if your teachings are not a mere form, it is your duty to lead the way and insist on a reconsideration of the education vote.

Two things are wanted. First—Efficient management under a paid and responsible head. Second—A training school for teachers. All else would follow without noise or effort.

I propose to give £1000 towards the establishment of a training school.

I am, reverend Sirs,

Very respectfully, your obedient Servant,

PHILIP T. SMITH.

Hobart Town, 19th August.

Hobart Town, 29th December, 1874.

SIR,

I ADDRESSED a letter to you 3rd instant, drawing your attention to a Petition I presented to Parliament last Session offering £1000 towards the immediate establishment of a Training School, and praying for the appointment of a paid officer for the better management of the education of the country in the room of an honorary and irresponsible Board.

I took the liberty at the same time of sending you a copy of a letter I addressed last August to the Clergy of the Colony on this matter. You have not yet favoured me with a reply, and I take leave to press for one as I have arranged to go to England next month.

I am well aware that my offer of £1000 would not weigh with you for a moment in deciding you to make any alteration in your present education arrangements if the time had not arrived for the purpose, but the time has arrived. The dissatisfaction with the present state of education, and with the present management of it, is universal.

The Inspector's Reports—especially the last "May" Report—show defects which are a reproach to the country; and there is but one opinion, that it is hopeless to expect efficient management and reforms from an Honorary Board.

No other Department with such an expenditure and with so much power is so managed, and no other Department has charge of such important interests, immeasurably more important than any other, in all that concerns the well-being of the Colony.

The first thing wanted is a paid manager; the second, more teachers in proportion to scholars and of a better quality, and with higher and discriminating wages. Third, some plan of improving our inferior teachers till better can be procured, and more inspection.

When I petitioned Parliament and offered £1000, my object was to save time and to get these and such like reforms carried out immediately. I regret that my Petition did not come under discussion in either House.

After Parliament broke up, I brought it under your notice, and had several interviews with you about it. On the last occasion I drew your attention to a suggestion made to me by the Inspector, of at once appropriating my money to some less difficult and expensive scheme than a regular Training School, but adequate to supplying a certain number of trained Teachers till a more perfect scheme could be carried out. You promised to take this suggestion into consideration forthwith.

I have not heard from you since, and I do not trouble you with any facts to show the unfitness and incapacity of the "Board" for its various and important duties. They are in everybody's mouth, and the Inspector's reports are evidence, as far as they go, in the same direction.

The one thing needful at this moment is education. It is the last thing, I take leave to say, that Government, the Clergy, and Laity seem to care about, beyond what the present cheap, slovenly, and imperfect system produces.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

PHILIP T. SMITH.

T. D. CHAPMAN, Esq.

Hobart Town, 1st February, 1875.

SIR,

I BEG to call your attention to a letter, addressed to you 29th December last, requesting your attention to my previous letter of 3rd December, and to the scheme which the Chief Inspector of Schools had suggested some time before for providing an immediate supply of trained Teachers, without waiting for the establishment of a regular Training School.

I have not been favoured with a reply to either letter.

Under the conviction that no subject before Government surpasses the Education question in importance, I again beg leave to bring these matters under your notice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP T. SMITH.

T. D. CHAPMAN, *Esq.*

Hobart Town, 24th March, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE taken the liberty of addressing three letters to you on the subject of my petition to Parliament relative to my offer of £1000 towards the establishment of a Training School for Teachers; and I called your attention to a scheme, which I understood the Chief Inspector was ready to lay before you, of making use of the Central School premises in Liverpool-street as a Provisional Training School. This scheme having the recommendation of easy execution with my money, and of saving most valuable time in obtaining a supply of trained Teachers, I hope you will not consider me unreasonable in pressing this matter again on your attention.

I may be permitted to remind you that my sole object in offering to assist was to secure earlier attention to our great educational want than was likely without that assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP T. SMITH.

*The Colonial Secretary.*

Hobart Town, 22nd April, 1875.

SIR,

I BELIEVE the Board of Education holds its usual fortnightly meeting to-day, and may possibly reopen the question of my petition in reference to a Training School.

At the last meeting of the Board on 8th instant, as reported in the *Mercury*, it would seem in transmitting my petition to the Board you made no reference to the letters I have addressed to you on this matter.

As the delay in this case seems to me to require explanation, and as my letters may help to explain it, as well as help the Board to deal with the question more readily than without them, I trust you will be so good as to forward my letters to the Board.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP T. SMITH.

T. D. CHAPMAN, *Esq.*

Tremayne, 3rd November, 1875.

SIR,

I OBSERVE a notice of motion has been given in the House of Assembly on the subject of my Petition presented last year, and again this year, to Parliament in favour of a paid responsible Manager of the Education Department, and of the establishment of a Training School for Teachers. The management at present being gratuitous and irresponsible, and the means of training Teachers being very deficient, and the demand for competent Teachers being out of proportion to the supply, I made an offer of £1000 towards a Training School.

I have addressed you several times before on this subject; and I hoped that Government would have found an opportunity of bringing my Petition before Parliament during this Session, if only for the purpose of accepting my offer towards a Subsidiary Training School, in default of any provision for a more perfect and costly Institution.

But, as my Petition has not been brought under consideration, and as the question has been taken up at the last moment by an independent member, I think it right to remind you that my Petition declares that honorary management should be superseded by paid management; and, upon that alteration being effected, I offer £1000 towards a Training School.

At present the management devolves entirely on the unpaid Chairman of the Board and a Clerk under him; and reference is made to the Chief Inspector just as the Chairman thinks proper, and according as the Inspector is in or out of town,—a vast deal of the work therefore being done in the dark, for want of knowledge of details or for want of time; and the Inspector, meanwhile, deprived of all discretionary power and responsibility.

The system adopted in Victoria and New South Wales ensures efficient management; and till the chief officer of the Board of Education in this Colony is invested with more responsibility in the executive management of Schools, the supervision of Teachers, and in suggesting and carrying out alterations and improvements, the Education of the Colony will not progress or repay the money spent on it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP SMITH.

T. D. CHAPMAN, *Esq.*

*Tremayne, 16th December, 1875.*

SIR,

I BEG leave to remind you of the conversation you favoured me with a few days ago, relative to my Petition presented to Parliament in 1874, and again last Session, for the appointment of a paid Manager of the Education Department, and for the establishment of a Training school for Teachers, towards which School I offered £1000.

You explained the difficulties which had arisen to prevent Government dealing with the question earlier, but that you were prepared at length to state that Dr. Butler intended to resign the Chairmanship of the Board of Education at the end of the year; and that you were about to engage two Inspectors in addition to the Chief Inspector, in accordance with the Resolution passed last Session; and that you hoped for the immediate formation of a Training School on the Chief Inspector's plan, laid before the Board last May, in the promotion of which you suggested that my gift might be usefully employed, if I approved.

I beg to express regret that the prayer of my Petition in favour of a paid officer at the head of the Department has not been granted; but I beg, at the same time, to say that the new arrangements satisfy me so far as to induce me to place the £1000 at your disposal to help forward the Training School with as little delay as possible.

I have &c.

(Signed) PHILIP T. SMITH.

*The Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 17th December, 1875.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, informing me that the proposed arrangements respecting the Board of Education so far satisfy you as to induce you to place the sum of One thousand Pounds at the disposal of the Government to help forward the Training School with as little delay as possible.

I desire on the part of the Government to express to you their appreciation of your liberality, and the interest you have evinced in the cause of education, especially as regards the training of Teachers for our Public Schools, and to assure you that I have every hope that in the early part of the ensuing year some plan may be adopted which will tend to supply the want now so much felt.

You will pardon me for observing that, in your quotation of what passed at our meeting a few days ago, you have attributed to me a hope "for the immediate formation of a Training School on the Chief Inspector's plan laid before the Board last May." I sincerely trust that the object in view may be speedily attained, but I never expressed my opinion in favour of adopting any particular plan as the best means to that end.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

P. T. SMITH, *Esq., Tremayne.*

*Tremayne, 18th December, 1875.*

SIR,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, and regret having referred in my note of the 16th to the Chief Inspector's plan as if it was the only one to be adopted.

At the interview, however, with which you favoured me you spoke of it as under consideration, and it was the only one I knew of.

I care not what plan is adopted, as long as it is decided on and carried out without loss of time, and will adequately supply our wants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP T. SMITH.

T. D. CHAPMAN, *Esg.*

*Tremayne, 9th February, 1876.*

SIR,

PERMIT me to call your attention to the letter you were good enough to write me on the 17th December last, in which you acknowledge the receipt of my letter to you of the 16th December, "informing you that the proposed arrangements respecting the Board of Education so far satisfied me as to induce me to place the sum of £1000 at the disposal of the Government to help forward the Training School with as little delay as possible;" and you add, that you "desire on the part of the Government to assure me that you have every hope that in the early part of the ensuing year some plan may be adopted which will tend to supply the want now so much felt of training Teachers for our Public Schools."

On the 18th December I addressed another letter to you in reply to your letter of the 17th December, to the effect that I was quite indifferent what plan was adopted as long as some plan was decided on without loss of time.

I trust I shall not be thought troublesome if I take the liberty of asking you whether the Training School referred to in our correspondence is under the consideration of the Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP T. SMITH.

*The Colonial Secretary.*

*Hobart Town, 29th May, 1876.*

SIR,

I BEG to refer you to my letter of 9th February, addressed to the late Colonial Secretary, requesting to be informed whether the Training School I proposed to contribute to was under consideration.

I did not receive a reply, and I did not press for one as it seemed to me hopeless to expect a satisfactory answer as long as any points in dispute between Government and the Board of Education remained unsettled; and I was confirmed in this by the late Colonial Secretary and other Government authorities.

As Parliament will soon meet it is time to revive the subject, and refer again to my letter of 9th February.

I beg to call your attention to the previous correspondence to show how the matter stood between the Government and myself.

I take the opportunity of repeating that the education of the Colony is very imperfect compared with what it would be under different management, and that the first step towards reform ought to be the appointment of a paid Head in the room of the present Honorary irresponsible Board, and that the next step ought to be the establishment of a Training School for Teachers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP T. SMITH.

*The Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 2nd June, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th ultimo, referring to your letter of the 9th February addressed to my predecessor, requesting to be informed whether the Training School for Teachers under the Board of Education, to which you proposed to contribute the sum of One thousand Pounds, was under consideration.

In reply I have to state that the subject of Public Education in the Colony will be brought under the consideration of Parliament in the ensuing Session; and as the question of the establishment of a Training School forms a most important item in any scheme for the improvement of the existing system, I am unable to say more at present than to assure you that it will be the earnest desire of the Government to secure to the Colony the advantage of your most liberal offer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE GILMORE.

P. T. SMITH, *Esq., Tremayne.*

*Hobart Town, 15th July, 1876.*

SIR,

I BEG to call your attention to your letter of 2nd June, acknowledging the receipt of my letter of 29th May referring to my letter of 9th February addressed to your predecessor; and you state in reply that the subject of public education will be brought under the consideration of Parliament in the ensuing Session, and, in reference to the Training School, that it will be the earnest desire of the Government to secure to the Colony the advantage of my offer of £1000 towards it.

In my letter to you of 29th May, I took the liberty of requesting your attention to the previous correspondence on this subject to show how the matter stood before my letter of 9th February, and of urging upon you the great importance of paid instead of honorary management of the Education of the Colony, as well as of a Training School for Teachers.

Till the resignation of your Ministry I was satisfied to rely on your assurance that you were prepared to bring the subject of Public Education under the consideration of Parliament this next Session.

You favoured me with an interview yesterday, when I understood you to say that no measures had been prepared for submission to Parliament. On which I took the liberty of expressing great regret that after so much delay the question apparently was no further advanced than it was two years ago; and I ventured to express a hope that I might yet have the satisfaction of being informed that the present Ministry, had they remained in office, were ready to recommend not only the establishment of an efficient Training School, but a paid Head of the Board of Education, or, in some other form, paid management of the education of the Country, in furtherance of the views of the late Colonial Secretary contained in his letter to me of 17th December, in reply to mine of 16th December last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP T. SMITH.

*The Colonial Secretary.*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 20th July, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, calling attention to former correspondence on the subject of Education, and your offer of One thousand Pounds towards the establishment of a Training School.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) GEORGE GILMORE.

P. T. SMITH, *Esq., Tremayne.*

*Hobart Town, May, 1875.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo, in which you request me to furnish the Board with information respecting the practicability of establishing a Training School in Hobart Town.

The term "Training School" is susceptible of great variations in its meaning. If it were contemplated to establish an institution having for its special, if not sole object, the systematic training of Masters and Mistresses for the Public Schools on the plan adopted in England and in some of the British Colonies, it would be necessary to incur considerable expense in the erection of new buildings, the selection and maintenance of a suitable training staff, and in making provision for the support of the students during their period of training.



The cost of the necessary buildings would not be less than £5000, and of maintenance not less than £1500 a year, or thereabouts. There are other objections to this form of Training School, in the present circumstances of the country, besides those of a financial kind.

A preferable plan would be to utilise the existing buildings, with such alterations and additions as might be found necessary; to make provision therein for the operation of an ordinary elementary school upon a system which should serve as a model for the imitation of country Teachers; and to supplement this by arrangements for the systematic training of selected students, and for the instruction, on a less formal plan, of untrained country Teachers and candidates for employment.

The necessary staff would consist of a Head Master, who should be responsible for the whole of the instruction and training, under the direct supervision of the Inspector; a Mistress; an Infant Mistress; a trained Assistant qualified to take the Head Master's place as occasional teacher of the head classes; and a body of Pupil Teachers, or students in training, the number being regulated by the size and requirements of the school. The competency of all the officers for the discharge of their special duties should be thoroughly ascertained before their appointment, and only provisional arrangements made, in case persons possessing the necessary qualifications should not be immediately procurable.

The above scheme supposes a concentration and improvement of the existing Pupil Teacher system, the defects of which are sufficiently patent; and an extension of the system of paid Monitors in other schools, the best of whom would be selected, after proved aptitude for the profession, to fill the vacancies occurring from time to time in the Training School.

The cost of adapting the premises in Bathurst-street to the above-mentioned purposes need not exceed £1000. The nature and extent of the necessary additions and alterations cannot be exactly specified until all the details of the proposed scheme are settled; and before entering upon this question at all I must know what amount is likely to be available. The annual expense of maintenance would be £600 a year or thereabouts, being less than twice the cost of some of the existing schools. The school fees, which would be on a specially arranged scale, would bring in a considerable sum, and all the principal Teachers should derive a portion of their income from this source.

The country Teachers admitted to the Training School should have had some previous preparation for their work, under the Inspector's direction, according to the plan described in my letter of 3rd July, 1872; and the admission should be regarded as a privilege consequent upon merit and faithful service. Each case would require special treatment, but the period would be short, and this branch of the work of training need not add to the annual expense of maintenance.

I have now described the objects for which a Training School is required, and have given as full an account of the means by which they may be achieved as is possible at the present stage of affairs. I am bound to add that the establishment of a Training School is hardly desirable, and would certainly prove inoperative, unless accompanied or preceded by other changes, including the organisation of an adequate staff of Inspectors. For many years to come the chief part of the work of training must be done by the Inspectors, if it is to be done at all. The Training School, under proper management, would be a most valuable auxiliary to the work of Inspectors, but can never supersede them, nor can its results be made appreciable until after the lapse of years.

The need for educational improvement is urgent, but the establishment of a Training School without the other necessary reforms would be like the construction of half a dozen miles of a first-class railway in a country altogether unprovided with roads.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*The Chairman Board of Education.*

T. STEPHENS.

*Hobart Town, 3rd July, 1872.*

MEMO.

HAVING met with many instances of the unsatisfactory result of the appointment of inexperienced persons to the charge of Schools, I think it my duty to state for the information of the Board that not one in ten of those whom I report from time to time as having passed the prescribed examination is fit to take charge of a Public School without some special instruction respecting the rules, the mode of keeping the registers and of making returns, the principles of classification, and the fundamental laws of School management.

Although regular training is out of the question under present circumstances, I believe it to be

possible to make a considerable improvement by requiring candidates to qualify themselves by studying the working of the Public School system before being appointed to the office of Teacher.

There is generally within a reasonable distance of the candidate's residence, or of his future School, some Public School in which more or less of the essentials of School management may be advantageously studied; and if, after selecting persons to take charge of new Schools or to fill vacancies which have occurred, the Board will refer such persons to me before allowing them to take charge, I will do my best to supply their want of experience and necessary knowledge of their business. The extra work that this will entail upon me will be more than counterbalanced by the cessation of the trouble and annoyance which I have often experienced in unteaching the errors and bad system into which newly-appointed Teachers have drifted before any opportunity occurred for setting them right.

T. STEPHENS.

*The Chairman Board of Education.*