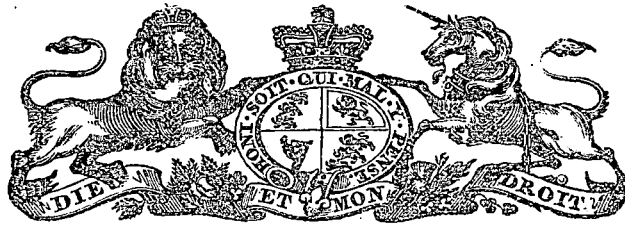


(No. 73.)



1868.

T A S M A N I A.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS ON HIS
REPORT.

Laid on the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
printed, August 26, 1868.



Education Office, Hobart Town, 4th August, 1868.

SIR,

I AM directed to transmit you the following Resolution passed by the Board of Education at their last meeting.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

GEO. RICHARDSON.

"The Board, whilst it acknowledges the zeal which actuated Mr. Stephens in framing his Annual Report, and the ability with which it is written, is of opinion that it does not contain that information which the Board and the Public have a right to look for, and that consequently it is not of that character which is required for presentation to Parliament.

The Board conceives that such a Report should not merely contain an exposition of general principles, or of the abstract views of the Inspector, some of which indeed it might possibly not be prepared to endorse, but that it should set forth a detailed statement of the Schools visited, and the results of such visits, together with such comments and practical conclusions as might legitimately be drawn from his year's experience of the working of the system.

The Board therefore directs that Mr. Stephens should be required to furnish a Report in consonance with these views."

Education Office, 6th August, 1868.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of Minute passed at the last meeting of the Board having reference to my General Report for 1867. I regret to have to inform you that, after giving my careful attention to this expression of the Board's opinion, I have quite failed to comprehend what I am required to do.

In preparing my Annual Reports I have carried out, as far as possible, the principles which I learnt from H.M. Inspectors in England, making allowance for difference in circumstances, &c. On this occasion, for reasons which I have stated in the opening paragraph, the customary remarks on the progress shown during the year in the several branches of instruction were necessarily omitted.

The time during which I was engaged in the active work of Inspection during 1867 was one month—from the 7th November to the 7th December. During this period I paid 21 visits to 14 Schools, the furthest point reached being Deloraine. Portions of 10 of these Schools were examined in detail, but my chief business was to ascertain how far former instructions on the working of the Programme were being acted upon. During the same period I transacted a large amount of business under the Chairman's instructions in connection with the erection or repair of 8 School-houses, and investigated one application for the establishment of a new School. I also had conferences with 29 Special Visitors in reference to proposed alterations in the system of local supervision. Reports were furnished wherever the circumstances allowed; the Chairman was periodically informed of what I was doing; and I don't know that any further information on the work of this brief period can be given in any shape.

From the 7th December to the 25th I was occupied in examining the Queen's Asylum; in preparing for and conducting the Pupil Teachers' Examination; and in writing Reports.

At the end of the current year I shall be prepared to lay before the Board for public information such of the detailed results of the examination of Schools as may be published without injurious

consequences to Teachers personally, or the cause of Education generally. I shall then also be glad to supply any other information that may be required; and will do the same now if the Board will be good enough to state more plainly what it requires.

Of course, I alone am responsible for any "abstract opinions" expressed in my Report. I do not expect all the Members of the Board to endorse them, though I believe if they had the same opportunities of observation there would be little difference of opinion. It is exceedingly unpleasant to me to have to go on from year to year complaining of radical defects, as I consider them, in the system, and it is only a sense of duty and a hope of ultimately bringing others over to my own views that have driven me to say so much on such subjects.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

T. STEPHENS.

The Chairman Board of Education.

MEMORANDUM.

The Board of Education have taken into consideration Mr. Stephens's letter of the 6th instant, and require that he should transmit a Report "setting forth a detailed statement of the Schools visited and the results of such visits, together with such comments and practical conclusions as might legitimately be drawn from his experience of the working of the system," for the period during the year 1867 in which he was engaged in the active work of inspection.

(Signed) HENRY BUTLER, *Chairman Board of Education.*
Hobart Town, 8th August, 1868.

T. STEPHENS, *Esq., Inspector of Schools, Hobart Town.*

STATEMENT of SCHOOLS visited between the 7th November and the 7th December, 1867, by T. STEPHENS, *Esq., M.A. Oxon., Inspector of Schools.*

Apsley.....	8 November,
Campbell Town.....	11 November, 4 December.
Elizabeth-street, Launceston.....	14 November, 2 December.
Margaret-street, ditto.....	3 December.
Infant School, ditto.....	14 November, 2 December.
Cressy.....	18, 26 November.
Bishopsbourne.....	19 November.
Hagley.....	20 November.
Westbury.....	21 November.
Deloraine.....	22 November.
Exton.....	22 November.
Carrick.....	25 November.
Evandale.....	29 November.
Breadalbane.....	15 November.
Perth.....	15 November.
White Hills.....	29 November.

The above Schools were visited for purposes of simple inspection, or for the purpose of making special enquiries respecting the working of the system. Classes were examined in most cases, so far as time allowed, in order to test progress made in removing defects noted at former visits. Three were new Schools or under new management, and were imperfectly organised. In two cases the Schools were unavoidably closed. Such of the results of inspection as demanded attention have been communicated in separate reports, and do not admit of being summarised. Several of the less experienced Teachers appear to have misunderstood the object of the Programme of Instruction, and others have been a little perplexed by the somewhat contradictory directions which were a necessary result of the alternate visits of two Inspectors holding different views and acting on different principles in their examinations. This objection has been removed by the division of the Island into two districts.

The following places were visited on account of special business connected with the erection or repair of School-houses:—Apsley, Cleveland, Hagley, Deloraine, Tunbridge, Cressy, Infant School, Launceston. The rest of the year was taken up with the examination of Pupil Teachers, the Queen's Asylum, and other work at head-quarters.

T. STEPHENS.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Board of
Education, Tasmania.*

JANES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.