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T A S M A N I A.

NATIONAL SCHOOL EXHIBITIONS.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Brought up by Mr. Gellibrand, and ordered by the House to be printed,
19 August, 1859.



THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to consider Mr. Miller's Resolutions, on the subject of establishing Exhibitions open to the National Schools of the Colony, have decided upon recommending that Mr. Miller's Proposition be adopted, with the following slight alterations and additions:—

THEY do not deem it advisable that the Parents or Guardians of the successful Candidate should be at liberty to choose any superior School they please, since it may often happen that the natural protectors of the boy may, themselves, be utterly incapable of judging what really constitutes a superior School; and the whole of the advantages of the scheme would be imperilled by the youth being sent to an establishment where the instruction would be of so inferior an order as to render it most improbable, if not altogether impossible, that he should eventually carry off one of the Tasmanian Scholarships. At the same time, they are of opinion that the Classical Schools of every denomination should be included in the list of superior Schools, in order to prevent anything like sectarian jealousies or religious prejudices being excited.

They have agreed, therefore, as the best means of solving the difficulty, to leave it to the Council of Education to declare what shall be the Schools in the Colony at which such Exhibitions shall be tenable.

From that list, when published, the Parents or Guardians of the successful Candidate will select the Institution at which they desire to see the boy educated.

They have also extended the limit of the age of the competitor from 12 to 13 years. This amendment has been made in consequence of the late period of life at which boys are usually sent to Elementary Schools in this Colony.

Lastly, they have thought it necessary to insist that the competitors for the Exhibition should have been at least two consecutive years immediately preceding the examination at some one of the National Schools of the Colony.

It might otherwise happen that a boy who had received his education either at home, or at a superior School, might enter himself a short period before the examination on the books of a National School, simply to qualify himself as a Candidate for the Exhibition. This would be virtually defeating the objects of these Resolutions, which are, first, to improve the National system of Education by giving a fresh stimulus and an honourable ambition to both the masters and boys of the Government Schools of the Colony; and secondly, to afford these classes who have to pay the amount of the Scholarships tenable at the British Universities an opportunity of profiting by these very liberal endowments.

T. L. GELLIBRAND, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, 19 August, 1859.