

(No. 10.)



1866.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

COUNCIL OF EDUCATION.

REPORT FOR 1865-66.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 31, 1866.



ANNUAL REPORT of the TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF EDUCATION for the Year 1865-66.

To His Excellency Colonel THOMAS GORE BROWNE, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief 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 Sixth Report embracing the proceedings of the Council between the 1st May, 1865, and the 30th April, 1866. 22 Vict. No. 21, Sect. 30.

2. We caused an Examination to be held in the month of June, 1865, of Candidates for Exhibitions to Superior Schools. The Examiners reported that Henry Bassett Leach, who had been under private tuition in Launceston, had passed the best Examination. In accordance with this Report, the first Exhibition was awarded to him. The Examiners further reported that the difference in the number of marks obtained by William Field Barrett and Murray Burgess was so slight as to render them virtually equal. But the Council felt it incumbent upon them to recognise a superiority of marks, however small; and they accordingly awarded the second Exhibition to William Field Barrett. But so creditable was the Examination passed, and such was the efficiency evinced by Murray Burgess, that the Council considered themselves justified in recommending him to the Government, through the Colonial Secretary, for a third Exhibition. With this recommendation the Government felt themselves not in a position to comply. The Examination was conducted by the Revs. A. Davenport and F. W. Quilter, and occupied four days. The whole number of Candidates entered was ten, six of whom are reported as having attained an honorable place in the Examination. The number of Competitors was smaller than in previous years; but the Examiners suggest that this decrease is probably "owing to the fact that boys and their instructors are better able than formerly to calculate the chance of success, and that some now decline to compete for the Exhibition because they have not sufficient confidence that they will even reach the standard of honorable distinction." They give it as their opinion, that "the beneficial effects of this competition extend far beyond the limits of the little band of Candidates in each Examination," and that "it has produced and is sustaining a marked improvement in the work of Education throughout the Colony." Exhibitions to Superior Schools. Gazette Notice, July 4, 1865. Appendix III.

3. The Sixth Examination for the Degree of Associate of Arts was held in September, 1865, the Examiners being Professor Irving, M.A., A. B. Weigall, Esq., B.A., and the Rev. F. W. Quilter, M.A. Sixteen Candidates presented themselves for Examination, of whom 14 obtained the Degree, 7 of them (including a Candidate over the age of 19) being placed in the First Class, two in the Second, and six in the Third. The Senior Associate, William Morriss, was awarded the Council's Gold Medal, a First Prize for Latin, for Greek, and for French; John Thomas Morriss, brother of the above, also First Class, was awarded a Second Prize for French; John Snowden, First Class, a Second Prize for Latin; Charles Percy Sprent, First Class, a Second Prize for Greek; and Charles Ellis Davies, First Class, a First Prize for Mathematics. Degree of A.A. Gazette, Oct. 3, 1865.

4. In summing up the results of this Examination, the Examiners observe:—

"The first point which claims attention is the gratifying increase in the number of Candidates,—larger this year than in any year since the first, when the scheme was new and the risks of failure unknown,—seeming larger by contrast with the last two years, in each of which the entry was only six. With reference to this great increase the words of the Examiners for 1863 are worth quoting. They then said, speaking of the diminution in the number of Candidates, 'This is not really a ground for discouragement, but rather the reverse; for it is probably only a result of what seems to be a law at the institution of any system like that of this Examination. At first the real difficulties of the Examination are unknown, and as it is but the outset of the system Examiners are perhaps more indulgent. Hence for a year or two Candidates are very ready to come forward, then for a year or

two there will be a reaction and a hesitation on the part of Candidates to present themselves, and of their Teachers to send them in till they are fully prepared.' The large number of Candidates this year seems to show that this period of hesitation is over; and that so many should have attained their Degree speaks well for the training to which they have been subjected. All the elementary work this year (save Arithmetic) shows marked improvement; and the high average of marks,—200 only behind last year's, in spite of the larger number of Candidates,—shews that care has been taken with the higher work as well. It is worth noting that this year, for the first time since the institution of the Examination, a Candidate presented the minimum of subjects for passing,—namely, four. He failed in none, and was placed in the Second Class.

"It is also worth noting that for the first time in these Examinations the Senior Associate is also the junior in years of all the Candidates. Two Candidates, W. Morriss the first and Snowden the third on the list, are not yet 16 years of age. There have been instances in which boys of 15 have attained the Degree, but none before this year of any so young finding their way into the First Class, much less, as in this Examination, heading the list.

"This shows conclusively, after the experience of past years, if additional proof were needed, that even if parents do not intend to give to their sons the further years of educational training that a learned profession imperatively demands,—but instead to take them early from school and discipline them at once for their employment in after life,—still, to such boys this Degree is accessible; and this Examination should be looked upon as the test whether a boy has rightly used, or has failed to profit by, the teaching he has enjoyed at school."

Tasmanian
Scholarships.

5. Two Candidates offered themselves for Examination for the Tasmanian Scholarships, one of whom, Charles Hogg, the senior Associate and Medallist of the previous year, succeeded in reaching the standard of proficiency prescribed by the Council, and has since proceeded to England to enter upon his University studies. We may be permitted here to quote a passage from the address delivered by the President of the Council at the close of the last Annual Meeting:—

"The result of the Scholarship Examination has exceeded my expectations. It is the first achievement of its kind. When we look to the youth of the successful Candidate, to the fact that he obtained his Degree last year, and to the short time that has been allotted to him to acquire a stock of knowledge adequate to the demands of the high standard imposed, nothing but a gifted mind, rich in power and resources, directed by skilful and vigilant training, and aided by unwavering assiduity, could have ensured success. Our gratification at this success is greatly enhanced by the consideration that our scholar of this day is a practical illustration that no artificial barrier arising from birth or wealth is thrown across the road of promotion, but that the avenues to distinction which have been opened out are accessible to all."

Tasmanian
Scholars.

6. We continue to receive highly satisfactory accounts of the progress and position of the other Tasmanian Scholars. Hope was again placed in the First Class at the May Examination holden at St. John's College, Cambridge. He was a Prizeman of his year, and was awarded an Exhibition of the value of £15. Knight is at Trinity College, Cambridge, and at the recent Examination, amongst one hundred and fifty of his year, embracing leading Students from all the great English Public Schools, he attained the twelfth place in the First Class. Garrett's success has unfortunately been impaired by sickness; but as his health is now restored, we have every confidence that he will not disappoint our just expectations at the Degree Examination.

Examinations
for A. A. De-
gree and Tas-
manian Scho-
larships for
1867.
Prize for Latin
Verse Compo-
sition.

7. We have issued programmes both of the Degree and Scholarship Examinations to be held in 1867. They will be found to vary in details, but are identical in principle with those of the current year.

8. We have also offered a Prize of the value of Five Pounds for the best translation (if considered worthy) into Latin Elegiacs of Cowper's "Boadicea," to be awarded at the next general Annual Meeting of the Council.

Vacancies in
the Council.

9. We have to notice with regret the loss the Council has sustained by the retirement of the Right Rev. Bishop Willson and T. J. Knight, Esq., both of whom have left the Colony. Their seats have been supplied by the Very Rev. Dr. Hall and by the Right Rev. Bishop Bromby.

Financial
Statement.

10. We submit a Statement of the Disbursements of the Council between the 1st January and 31st December, 1865, the termination of the financial year; together with a Supplementary Statement of Expenditure between the 1st January and the 30th April, 1866. Our payments under every head for the year 1865 amounted to £1264 17s. 4d., in addition to which there are outstanding claims to the value of £12 16s. 7d. in course of payment, making the total Expenditure £1277 1s. 10d., being £151 3s. 11d. less than the amount of the Parliamentary vote.

W. NAIRN, *President.*

TASMANIAN COUNCIL OF EDUCATION.

APPENDIX I.

ABSTRACT of EXPENDITURE from 1st January to 31st December, 1865, including Sums exhibited in Supplementary Statement of Expenditure, to 30th April, 1865. (Parliamentary Paper, H.A., No. 12, 1865.)

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ADMINISTRATION.									
Secretary's Salary	—			60	0	0			
Books and Stationery	—			6	18	4			
Printing and Advertising	—			8	6	0			
				<hr/>			75	4	4
DEGREE OF ASSOCIATE OF ARTS.									
Examiners' Fees; viz.—									
Professor Irving	70	0	0						
A. B. Weigall, Esq.	50	0	0						
Rev. F. W. Quilter	5	0	0						
				<hr/>			125	0	0
One Gold Medal (W. Morriss, Senior Associate)	—			10	0	0			
Books for distribution as Prizes	—			63	7	6			
Incidental Charges for Attendants, &c.....	—			5	5	6			
				<hr/>			203	13	0
TASMANIAN SCHOLARSHIPS.									
Mr. C. Hope.....	—			200	0	0			
Mr. A. Garrett.....	—			200	0	0			
Mr. W. Knight.....	—			200	0	0			
				<hr/>			600	0	0
EXHIBITIONS TO SUPERIOR SCHOOLS.									
C. Hogg, Exhibitioner of 1861..	—			25	0	0			
J. W. Canaway, ditto 1862	—			50	0	0			
H. A. Perkins, ditto 1862	—			50	0	0			
J. Snowden, ditto 1863	—			50	0	0			
H. A. Roope, ditto 1863	—			50	0	0			
J. V. Buckland, ditto 1864	—			50	0	0			
E. Hughes, ditto 1864	—			50	0	0			
H. B. Leach, ditto 1865	—			25	0	0			
W. F. Barrett, ditto 1865	—			25	0	0			
				<hr/>			375	0	0
Examiners' Fees; viz.—									
Rev. A. Davenport	5	0	0						
Rev. F. W. Quilter	5	0	0						
				<hr/>			10	0	0
Attendants	—			1	0	0			
				<hr/>			11	0	0
TOTAL	—			<hr/>			<hr/>		
				£	1264	17	4		

MURRAY BURGESS, *Secretary to the Council.*

Examined and certified.

WM. LOVETT, *Deputy Auditor.*

APPENDIX II.

SUPPLEMENTARY Statement of DISBURSEMENTS for the Period from 1st January to 30th April, 1866, inclusive.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
ADMINISTRATION.						
Secretary's Salary to 30th April, 1866	—			20	0	0
EXHIBITIONS TO SUPERIOR SCHOOLS.						
J. W. Canaway	12	10	0			
H. A. Perkins	12	10	0			
J. Snowden	12	10	0			
J. V. Buckland	12	10	0			
E. Hughes	12	10	0			
H. B. Leach	12	10	0			
W. F. Barrett.....	12	10	0			
				<hr/>		
				87	10	0
				<hr/>		
				£	107	10
				<hr/>		

MURRAY BURGESS, *Secretary to the Council.*

Examined and certified.

WM. LOVETT, *Deputy Auditor.*

APPENDIX III.

CORRESPONDENCE in reference to a proposed Award of a THIRD EXHIBITION.

(Copy.)

*Tasmanian Council of Education,
Hobart Town, 8th July, 1866.*

SIR,

I HAVE been requested by the Council of Education to transmit, for the consideration of the Government, the following Resolution passed by the Council on the 6th instant:—

RESOLUTION.

“That, taking into consideration the high qualifications of Murray Burgess, one of the Candidates at the recent Examination for Exhibitions to Superior Schools, as shown by the results of that Examination, and also the Report of the Examiners, that his merits were virtually equal to those of William Field Barrett, to whom the second Exhibition has been awarded by the Council, the Council do now recommend to the Government that a third Exhibition of equal value be specially awarded on the present occasion in favour of the said Murray Burgess.”

I am at the same time to transmit copy of the Examiners' Report, upon which the recommendation has been based.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) W. NAIRN, *Chairman.*

(Copy.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, 23rd August, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th ult., transmitting for the consideration of the Government a Resolution passed by the Council of Education, recommending that a third Exhibition to Superior Schools be specially awarded in favour of Murray Burgess, the Examiners being of opinion that he is well worthy of such Exhibition.

The Government regret that they do not feel justified in complying with the wishes of the Council upon this occasion; for, the full number of Exhibitions to Superior Schools sanctioned by Parliament for 1865 having been appropriated in accordance with the award of the Council upon the Report of the appointed Examiners, it is deemed very undesirable to introduce the objectionable precedent of admitting exceptional cases, however worthy the competitor may be. Such a course the Government consider might lead to results more injurious to the general interests at stake, than would be compensated for by any benefit accruing to the individual.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES WHYTE.

*The Honorable W. E. NAIRN, Esq.
Chairman Council of Education.*
