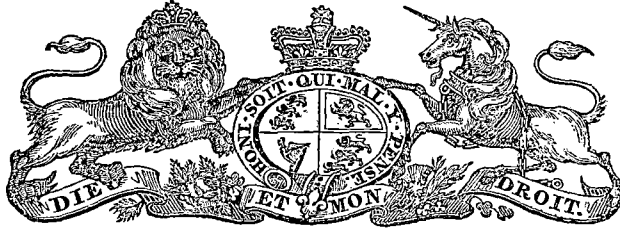


(No. 3.)



1856.

TASMANIA.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1855.

Presented to the House by Command of His Excellency, and ordered to be printed,
3 December, 1856.



THE Board of Education have the honor of laying before His Excellency the following Report for the year 1855.

2. The progress made during the year in extending the benefits of their system throughout the Colony has been, on the whole, satisfactory; and seems to prove that the principles of that system are generally acceptable to the community, and adapted to the circumstances of society in the Colony. At the end of 1854 there were 50 Schools in operation, having the names of 2734 Children enrolled on the books. At the end of 1855 there were 63 Schools in operation, with 3377 Children; showing an increase of 13 Schools and 643 Scholars. Five* new Schools have come into operation, and one† has been discontinued, since the commencement of the current year. At three‡ other places Schools have been sanctioned on the application of the inhabitants, but from various causes have not yet come into operation; and three§ applications are now under consideration.

3. Since the date of their last Report the eight trained Teachers sent for by the Board in May, 1854, have all arrived in the Colony. So far as they are yet able to form an opinion, the Board consider that these Teachers are on the whole a valuable set of men, and calculated, by their talents and character, to raise the standard of public education. Mr. Park, who has been for some months employed at Bothwell, has given the greatest satisfaction there; and Mr. Kidd and Mr. Reynolds—the one appointed to Evandale, the other to Richmond—will prove themselves, the Board are convinced, to be excellent and able Teachers. At the same time the Board feel bound to express an opinion that the English Teachers have not been so carefully selected, with a view to meet the requirements of the Colony and their own expressed wishes, as either the Scotch or the Irish. Three out of four of them are young unmarried men; of whom two were students at a Training School at the time they were appointed, and of course have had no practical experience in the management of Schools. The third has had charge of a School about 15 months since leaving his Training School. The fourth English Teacher possesses a certificate of the *third* division of the third class only; whereas the Board requested that no Teacher should be sent who was rated lower than the *first* division of that class.

4. The remaining five Teachers, whose destination has not been mentioned, have been disposed of as follows:—Mr. Rice has been sent to Ross; Mr. Morris to Hadspen; and Mr. Roberts to Emu Bay. Mr. Clemons is employed for the present at the Central School, and Mr. Pears at the School in Campbell-street. The last four appointments are to be considered as provisional, and liable to revision as vacancies occur.

5. A general Balance-sheet for the year 1855 will be found in Appendix A. Owing to the expenses connected with the outfit and passage of the trained Teachers, it will be seen that the expenditure has exceeded the annual vote by about £300.

6. A detailed Statement is also given, in Appendix B, of the expenditure of the Board on School-buildings, made up to the 31st December, 1855. Considering the limited means at their disposal, and the too general apathy with which they have to contend on the

* Old Beach, Port Esperance, Fingal, Table Cape, Emu Bay.

† Brisbane-street, Launceston.

‡ Cambridge, Deloraine, Anstey Barton.

§ Torquay, Kingston, St. Joseph's, (girls.)

part of the Colonists, the Board have no reason to be dissatisfied with the progress made in this respect. Still the existing state of things is truly lamentable. Out of 63 Schools in operation on the 31st December last, 24 were held in rented or private buildings, and 9 in places of worship.

7. In May last the Board found it necessary, in consequence of the increase in the number of the Schools, to recommend to His Excellency the appointment of an Assistant Inspector. Mr. Murray Burgess was accordingly appointed to that office from the commencement of June. The necessity of such an addition to the staff of the Department will be evident when it is remembered that, under a general and centralised system, the details of administration must be far more numerous and complex than under a denominational or localised one. In the former case the Central Educational Authority establishes its own Schools; in the latter case it aids Schools established by others. All enquiries into the conduct of Teachers,—all questions connected with the augmentation or diminution of their pay, or their removal from place to place,—the duty of seeing that the Schools are conducted in suitable buildings, and are provided with furniture, books, and apparatus of the right quality and in sufficient quantity,—the task of procuring from England such of these School Requisites as cannot be had in the Colony, and of keeping on hand a sufficient supply,—all these matters, not to speak of the multiplicity of accounts which the expenditure of a vote of £10,000 upon so many different objects implies, devolve under the present system—in the first instance, at least—on the Educational Department. It is indeed obvious that the complete and efficient administration of all these details,—added to the regular inspection of the Schools by a staff composed of three persons,—is a practical impossibility; and this fact is recognised by the Board, when in their Regulations they require that their grants shall be met by local contributions, and endeavour to establish a regular system of local visiting. But theoretically the Board are responsible for all that goes wrong, and every deficiency in each of the above-named particulars.

8. Such a state of things, the Board are convinced, must and ought to be transitional. And at a period when their system, in spite of some appearances to the contrary, meets with general acceptance,—when their Schools are rapidly increasing, and the demands on their funds threaten speedily to exceed the sum placed at their disposal by the Legislature,—the occasion seems favourable for taking into deliberate consideration what course it will be most for the interest of the whole community hereafter to adopt.

9. It may safely be assumed that at least 1 in 10 of the population ought to be under instruction in the Public Schools. If the number of our Schools, and of the children attending them, were just doubled, it would not be more than under a proper state of things ought to be the case. But to produce such a result, it is evident that not only a greater expenditure of money would be required, but that a strong additional impulse would have to be given to the educational agencies already at work. And there are two distinct principles on which these objects may be pursued,—either that under which the people are educated by those above them, or that by which the people are induced to educate themselves.

10. The first principle, again, may be carried out in two ways. Either by enlisting the zeal of the Ministers of Religion in the cause, or by means of a properly constituted *bureau*. Let each Minister of Religion throughout the Colony establish a School wherever he may be able to find a sufficient number of children,—let him demand and receive aid from public funds in its support, and have the general management of it in his own hands, and there can be no question that an amount of local activity and local expenditure for School purposes will be called forth far exceeding that which can be expected under a centralised system. This is the favourable side of the Denominational System: on the other hand there are serious evils attending it, which have induced the Legislature to discontinue its operation in this Colony, and upon which, as they have often before been commented upon, the Board need not here enlarge.

11. Public Education by means of a *bureau* is the system prevalent on the Continent of Europe, and has certainly been attended by extraordinary success. Under this system Schools are established sufficient to accommodate the entire portion of the population which ought to be under instruction, and ample funds are placed at the disposal of the department to provide for school inspection, training and payment of teachers, the supply of school materials, &c. The department has also the power of making such arrangements as it may deem expedient for promoting local supervision and exacting local contributions.

12. The educational machinery now at work in this Colony is of the nature of that just described, but on a scale hardly as yet adequate to the wants of the Colony. To cope fully with the exigencies of their position, and promptly to take the initiative in bringing under the influences of education that large number of children who, as above

shown, ought to attend the Public Schools, but do not, the Board would certainly require an increased annual grant, and an extended departmental organisation. The discussion of the subject in detail may be reserved for another opportunity: on the present occasion the Board content themselves with having, in general terms, drawn the attention of the Government, and the country, to the nature of those practical conditions under which alone a centralised system of education can be successfully carried on.

13. The Report of the Inspector of Schools is submitted herewith for His Excellency's consideration.

By Order of the Board,

T. ARNOLD, *Secretary.*

1st *May*, 1856.

APPENDIX A.

BALANCE-SHEET FOR 1855.

THE CHARGE.			THE DISCHARGE.			
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Voted by the Legislative Council for the purposes of Public Education (exclusive of Establishment) in the year 1855.....	10,000	0	0			
To Balance		260	17			
	<u>£10,260</u>		<u>17 10</u>			
				Salaries and Allowances to Teachers	7298	13 8
				Ditto to Pupil Teachers, and for their Instruction	73	4 10
				Rents of School-houses	309	10 2
				In aid of the erection, enlargement, or repair of Schools ..	708	9 0
				In aid of School-fittings and Furniture	74	18 4
				Books and School requisites; obtained from England	370	3 11
				Ditto, obtained in the Colony .	5	16 0
				Stores and Stationery supplied through the Accountant of Stores	375	19 11
				Transport (including Inspector's Travelling Expenses).....	32	14 7
				<i>Miscellaneous; viz.—</i>		
				Salary of Assistant Inspector, from June to December, 1855, (temporarily borne on the General Fund)	204	3 4
				Salary of Assistant Clerk, from 14th March to 31st May	43	0 1
				Outfit and passage of Teachers from England.....	701	3 4
				In aid of Ragged School in Watchorn-street.....	12	10 0
				Salary of Singing Master	42	0 0
					1002	16 9
					<u>£10,260 17 10</u>	

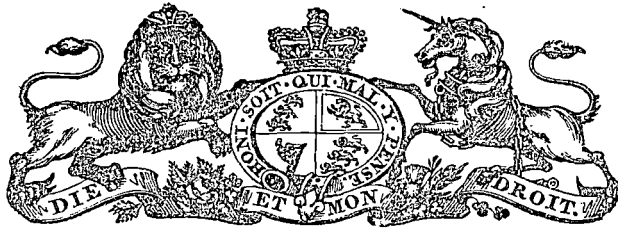
T. ARNOLD, *Secretary.*

APPENDIX B.

DETAILED STATEMENT of Grants in aid of the Erection, Alteration, or Improvement of School Buildings, made up to the 31st December, 1855.

Date of Grant.	School.	Estimated Cost.	Grant of Board.	Amount paid or ordered for Payment to Dec. 1855.	REMARKS.
		£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
25th July, 1855	Bethesda, Hobart ..	30 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0	New fencing, outbuildings and repairs.
18th April, 1855	Bridgewater	3 0 0	3 0 0	3 0 0	Repairs.
7th Dec., 1854.	Carleton	27 13 11	27 13 11	27 13 11	Repairs to the School-house, which is Government property.
5th April, 1854	Central School	154 0 0	154 0 0	154 0 0	Internal alterations and fittings, with the view of rendering this an efficient Model School.
5th July, 1854.	Ditto	101 0 0	101 0 0	115 0 6	External repairs; estimate furnished by the Public Works' Department, under the direction of which the work was done, at a cost slightly exceeding that estimated.
7th June, 1854.	Ditto	37 15 2	37 15 2	37 15 2	For the purpose of laying on water.
18th April, 1854	Franklin	10 0 0	6 13 4	6 13 4	Repairs of School-room.
20th Oct., 1854	Oatlands	110 0 0	110 0 0	162 0 0	Fitting-up an old Government building as a School-room. The case being urgent, and the inhabitants backward in subscribing, the Board decided to bear the whole cost. The estimate furnished by the Public Works' Department was, as the Table shows, considerably exceeded. [residence.
7th Feb., 1855.	Port Cygnet	300 0 0	200 0 0	200 0 0	Erection of a School-house and Master's
4th Oct., 1854 .	Richmond	127 11 0	80 0 0	82 18 0	Repairs to the building and fences, which are Government property.
4th Aug., 1854.	Ross	140 0 0	93 6 8	42 11 5	Internal alterations and repairs.
20th Oct., 1854	St. David's	200 0 0	133 6 8	133 6 8	Erection of a new School-room for Infants.
6th Sept., 1854.	St. George's, Hobart	250 0 0	166 13 4	166 13 4	Enlargement of School-room.
6th Sept., 1854.	School-boards, one for each School, inscribed "Public School under the Board of Education"	..	164 9 5	164 9 5	No estimate made, the boards being obtained by requisition on the Public Works' Department.
[1855. 12th March,	South Arm	350 0 0	175 0 0	..	Erection of School-house and Master's [residence.
		1841 0 1	1472 18 6	1316 1 9	

T. ARNOLD, *Secretary.*



REPORT.

Hobart Town, 1st May, 1856.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to lay before you my Report as Inspector of Schools for the year 1855.

2. The appointment of Mr. Murray Burgess as Assistant Inspector, in May last, has been of material advantage to me already, not so much hitherto in the actual work of inspection, as in the extent to which it has relieved me from the burden of administrative details. During the current year I trust to be able, with Mr. Burgess's assistance, to inspect all the schools more frequently and thoroughly than has yet been practicable.

3. I have visited 58 schools in the course of the year, many of them more than once, and have travelled while on this duty about 2000 miles. There were present in these schools at the time of inspection 2111 scholars. Several places have also been visited in order to make preliminary arrangements for the formation of other schools.

4. In point of efficiency the schools inspected may be said to be in a fair average state. Some are conducted in a superior manner; amongst them I may specify Campbell Town, the Central School, St. Joseph's, New Norfolk, and Hagley. Others again fall below the average, and may be classed as indifferent or bad; *e.g.* Pontville, Bethesda, Brisbane-street (Launceston), Stanley, and Bream Creek.

5. The returns of instruction, of which a summary is given in the Appendix, are so far satisfactory that they show a considerable increase in the number of children receiving instruction in nearly every branch, as compared with the returns for 1854. This will be best exhibited in the following Table:—

PER-CENTAGE OF CHILDREN LEARNING

	Reading.	Writing.	Arithmetic.	Geography.	Grammar.	History.	Singing.
In 1855	67·46	49·38	58·42	36·31	34·72	20·15	42·54
In 1854	60·82	47·54	53·14	33·76	28·38	19·82	35·73
Difference	6·64	1·84	5·28	2·55	6·34	·33	6·81

6. With reference to the age of the children attending our schools,—a point closely connected with the standard of attainments found in them,—a comparison of the return given in the Appendix, with similar tables prepared under the direction of the Committee of Council on Education for all schools under inspection in Great Britain in 1854-5, gives the following result:—

	In Great Britain.	In Tasmania.
Per-centage of Scholars under 7 years	27·63	36·68
Ditto under 10 ditto	69·06	71·33
Ditto above 10 ditto	31·24	28·64
Ditto above 12 ditto	11·18	12·30

It thus appears that, in proportion to the total number attending, there are more very young children, and also more children above 12 years of age, in our schools than in those of Great Britain. And yet a considerable change for the better in the first respect has taken place in our schools since the abolition of the Penny-a-day System, under the operation of which 43·91 per cent. of the total number were under 7 years of age. The comparatively large proportion of children in our schools above 12 years does not, I think, indicate that, as a general rule, children are left at school by their parents till a later age here than at home. I should rather attribute it to the circumstance that many of our schools are of recent formation, and situated in remote localities where no means of instruction before existed, and consequently are often attended at first by children of a more advanced age, who had to that time been left wholly without instruction. In such schools I frequently find that some of the oldest and tallest children in a class are far more backward than little fellows of 6 or 8 years.

7. From a Return given in the Appendix, it appears that the public schools are far more numerous in proportion to the population on the southern than on the northern side of the Island. This is, perhaps, owing to the greater remoteness from the seat of Government, causing a want of familiarity with the nature of the advantages held out by the Board; and the question may be worth considering whether education on the north side of the Island might not be much promoted by permanently stationing an Inspector or Agent connected with the department at Launceston.

8. Early in last year some benevolent individuals in Hobart Town formed an Association for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a "Ragged School," in Watchorn-street, well known as the haunt of some of the most depraved and abandoned characters of both sexes in this city. The school opened with 41, and gradually increased until at the end of the year it numbered 54. The low physical type of many of the children attending it is very noticeable. Out of a regular attendance of 39 children, in March, 1855, eighteen had either no fathers living, or their mothers were deserted, and in many instances living by prostitution. The school was assisted by a small grant last year, which has been increased for the current year, the usefulness of the Institution having been satisfactorily tested.

9. Under the influence of a system which gives to the Teacher an independent position in relation to the parents, the local contributions in support of schools, in the year 1855, nearly doubled those received, in 1852, under the Penny-a-day System, the number of scholars being very nearly the same. We still, however, fall below the Denominational Schools of Victoria in this respect; at which, in 1854, the school fees received amounted to £19,303, being an average of 26s. 10d. for each scholar, while the average at our schools, in 1855, was 15s. 6d. for each scholar. It is true that in 1854 money was more abundant, and therefore less valuable, in Victoria than it was in this Colony in 1855, and that the difference accordingly is not so great as it looks:—still it seems to prove the existence among our neighbours of a degree of interest in education, and a willingness to make exertions and sacrifices in its support, such as cannot be paralleled among ourselves.

10. I have much pleasure in reporting to the Board that the trained Teachers who arrived in the Colony at the end of last year have, up to the present time, wherever they have been employed, given general and almost unqualified satisfaction.

11. A List of the Schools, together with other statistical information, will be found in Appendix I. and II.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant,

T. ARNOLD.

The Board of Education, Tasmania.

APPENDIX I.

LIST of SCHOOLS under the Board of Education of Tasmania in operation on the 31st December, 1855, with the Number of SCHOLARS, &c.

Number.	Police District.	Situation of School.	Number on the Books.			In ordinary Attendance.	Government Aid in 1855.	Subscriptions and School Fees.	TOTAL.
			BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.				
1	BOTHWELL	Bothwell	21	25	46	30	£ s. d. 124 10 7	£ s. d. 12 13 9	£ s. d. 137 4 4
2	BRIGHTON	Black Brush	16	12	28	15	80 0 0	23 16 0	103 16 0
3		Green Ponds	23	24	47	47	160 0 0	52 1 1	212 1 1
4		Pontville	16	12	28	16	90 9 6	18 10 2	108 19 8
5	CAMPBELL TOWN	Campbell Town	34	34	68	46	170 12 8	37 13 6	208 6 2
6		Ross	18	9	27	22	72 13 9	7 17 10	80 11 7
7	GEORGE TOWN	George Town	26	27	53	36	136 13 4	81 5 9	217 19 1
8	HAMILTON	Hamilton	10	16	26	14	80 0 0	20 18 0	100 18 0
9	HOBART TOWN	All Saints	11	32	43	35	12 1 11	3 10 9	15 12 8
10		Argyle-street	65	55	120	94	250 0 0	92 4 2	342 4 2
11		Bethesda	67	41	108	59	250 0 0	60 16 9	310 16 9
12		Central School	150	68	218	180	350 0 0	150 0 0	500 0 0
13		Goulbourne-street	60	43	103	73	124 9 9	52 6 0	176 15 9
14		St. David's	88	66	154	104	250 0 0	109 17 10	359 17 10
15		St. George's	95	37	132	116	180 0 0	84 8 1	264 8 1
16		St. Joseph's	60	..	66	50	190 0 0	62 13 7	252 13 7
17		Trinity Hill	73	80	153	99	330 0 0	97 5 6	427 5 6
18		Kangaroo Valley	12	11	23	21	50 0 0	13 14 1	63 14 1
19		New Town	34	20	54	47	190 0 0	97 10 0	287 10 0
20		O'Brien's Bridge	55	39	94	64	147 13 9	71 5 7	218 19 4
21		Sandy Bay	29	35	64	48	190 0 0	73 15 1	263 15 1
22	HORTON	Circular Head	23	9	32	32	100 0 0	50 11 0	150 11 0
23		Forest	16	7	23	19	100 0 0	38 17 0	138 17 0
24	HUON	Castle Forbes' Bay	12	14	26	19	33 6 8	7 4 0	40 10 8
25		Franklin	34	18	52	39	96 9 0	19 7 6	115 16 6
26		Port Cygnet	18	27	45	25	33 6 8	6 6 3	39 12 11
27		Hospital Bay	8	11	19	13	3 17 8	6 10 0	10 7 8
28		Victoria	11	21	32	22	100 0 0	53 14 2	153 14 2
29	LAUNCESTON	Brisbane-street	29	22	51	44	100 0 0	59 0 6	159 0 6
30		Elizabeth-street	63	19	82	72	125 0 0	109 4 7	234 4 7
31		Frankland-street	73	58	131	84	50 0 0	33 14 6	83 14 6
32		St. Joseph's	64	52	116	84	155 0 0	119 0 0	274 0 0
33		Patterson's Plains	11	12	23	14	120 0 0	15 9 0	135 9 0
34	LONGFORD	Carrick	33	22	55	30	140 0 0	39 17 7	179 17 7
35		Cressy	27	15	42				
36		Longford	54	21	75	52	137 13 4	59 3 5	196 16 9
37		Perth	22	21	43	36	100 0 0	22 13 3	122 13 3
38	MORVEN	Evandale	17	17	34	20	80 0 0	15 17 10	95 17 10
39		Lymington	19	19	38	28	60 0 0	55 14 2	115 14 2
40	NEW NORFOLK	Back River	14	25	39	26	100 0 0	26 9 9	126 9 9
41		Bridgewater	10	21	31	20	80 0 0	37 4 9	117 4 9
42		Corners	11	9	20	20	80 0 0	23 0 0	103 0 0
43		Fenton Forest	17	12	29	14	19 13 4	..	19 13 4
44		New Norfolk	49	19	68	41	158 16 8	69 8 9	228 5 5
45	OATLANDS	Oatlands	28	23	51	42	162 4 7	49 17 10	212 2 5
46	RICHMOND	Colebrook Dale	10	13	23	13	48 6 8	30 4 6	78 11 2
47		Kangaroo Point	17	11	28	19	60 0 0	9 19 0	69 19 0
48		Muddy Plains	8	3	11	11	30 10 10	37 6 0	67 16 10
49		Richmond	25	17	42	33	147 3 6	16 13 9	163 17 3
50		South Arm	26	17	43	25	33 6 8	4 19 0	38 5 8
51		Spring-hill Bottom	22	16	38	26	100 0 0	0 3 9	100 3 9
52	SORELL	Bream Creek	17	16	33	28	47 14 3	23 14 0	71 8 3
53		Carlton	11	8	19	18	80 0 0	15 16 0	95 16 0
54		Forcett	13	4	17	13	60 0 0	37 12 0	97 12 0
55		Prosser's Plains	24	14	38	32	16 13 4	17 17 0	34 10 4
56		Sorell	28	22	50	39	140 0 0	47 4 9	187 4 9
57	SWANPORT	Douglas River	18	10	28	22	24 13 9	3 12 0	28 5 9
58		Gala Kirk	16	9	25	19	50 0 0	67 7 3	117 7 3
59		Rocky Hills	7	10	17	16	5 0 0	2 13 6	7 13 6
60		Spring Bay	7	10	17	14	13 0 0	4 9 0	17 9 0
61		Swansea	13	9	22	18	60 0 0	25 13 6	85 13 6
62	WESTBURY	Hagley	22	22	44	32	140 0 0	78 15 3	218 15 3
63		Westbury	38	32	70	54	160 0 0	27 0 5	187 0 5
TOTALS			1954	1423	3377	2444	£ s. d. 6781 2 2	£ s. d. 2593 10 0	£ s. d. 9374 12 2

T. ARNOLD, Inspector of Schools.

APPENDIX II.

STATISTICS of Public Education in Tasmania for the Year 1855.

41 Schools. 2272 Scholars.	Number of Schools and Scholars on the Southern Side of the Island, 31st December, 1855.	
22 Schools. 1099 Scholars.	Number of ditto on the Northern Side, 31st December, 1855.	
2853	Protestants.	
509	Roman Catholics.	
9	Other Denominations.	
21-58	Under 6 Years old.	
15-10	6 to 7.	
12-48	7 to 8.	
11-98	8 to 9.	
10-19	9 to 10.	
8-68	10 to 11.	
7-66	11 to 12.	
6-30	12 to 13.	
6-00	13 and above.	
40 $\frac{1}{2}$	Average Government Aid for each Scholar in 1855.	
4 $\frac{1}{2}$	Average School Fees for each Scholar in 1855.	
36-01	Books of General Information.	TO READ
31-45	Easy Narratives.	
29-89	Letters and Monosyllables.	
49-38	On Paper.	TO WRITE
29-84	On Slates.	
27-04	From Dictation.	
4-19	Fractions and Decimals.	ARITHMETIC AS FAR AS
7-37	Proportion and Practice.	
15-53	Compound Rules & Reduction.	
31-33	Simple Rules.	
36-31	Geography.	
34-72	Grammar.	
20-15	History.	
42-54	Singing.	
4-28	Other Subjects, e. g.—Latin, French, Drawing, &c.	

T. ARNOLD, Inspector of Schools.