

(No. 106.)



1876.

T A S M A N I A .

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y .

FREE SCHOOL, LAUNCESTON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, October 31, 1876.



Northern Board of Education, Launceston, 19th May, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to annex copy of a Resolution passed unanimously at a meeting of the Northern Board of Education, held on the 30th April last, and shall feel obliged by your giving effect thereto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RONALD C. GUNN, *Chairman.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

“That an application be made to the Government for the unappropriated portion of the lot of land in St. John’s-street, between Cameron and Cimitiere streets, which has not been granted for the building of a Town Hall.”

Colonial Secretary’s Office, Hobart Town, 17th July, 1858.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 19th May last, with an application from the Northern Board for a portion of the allotment in St. John’s-street as a site for a Model School, I beg to say that a good deal of difficulty exists in regard to any immediate transfer of the property vested in the Ordnance to the Colonial Government.

With regard to the object for which you would propose to apply this site, if attainable, I beg to offer a suggestion, whether the Inspector might not be asked to report upon that part of the town most suitable, in his opinion, for such purpose.

It has occurred to me that difficulty might be found in obtaining pupils at this spot to supply the School; but I shall be most ready to adopt the views which the Board, after a full consideration of the subject with the Inspector, may arrive at.

The obtaining of the present site now applied for need not be waited for, as the having to purchase a site should not operate as any impediment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WM. HENTY.

The Chairman of the Northern Board of Education.

Launceston, 2nd September, 1858.

SIR,

IN reply to your advertisement for a site for a school within certain boundaries of Launceston, I beg to offer you the property in Canning-street, between Charles and Wellington streets, formerly the residence of the late Captain Synnot, and of which I enclose a sketch of the ground plan.

The buildings are very commodious and already well adapted for school purposes. Two of the rooms are from 25 to 26 feet long and wide in proportion. There is a detached kitchen and wash-house, a green-house, and large garden well stocked, as well as ample yard room. There is a two-roomed house also on the land, with garden to it also. The upper floor is capable of being made into spacious dormitories.

The original cost of this property exceeded £3000, and the title is unexceptionable. The price is £1200, a sum which would not replace the buildings alone. I shall be happy to furnish every other information that may be required if this offer is entertained.

I am, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. MARTHUR.

*To the Chairman of the Northern Board of Education,
Launceston.*

Launceston, 16th September, 1858.

SIR,

WITH reference to an advertisement in the *Launceston Examiner* of the 11th inst., inviting tenders of a building site within the boundaries of York, George, Balfour, and Wellington streets, I beg to tender an allotment situate at the angle of Canning and Charles streets, having a frontage upon the last-named street of 358 links, and comprising an area of 3r. 10p., for the sum of One thousand Pounds (£1000).

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. J. WEEDON.

The Inspector of Schools.

Launceston, 24th September, 1858.

SIR,

I BEG leave to amend my tender of the premises in Canning-street, and hereby to offer them to the Board for the purposes required for the sum of £1000 (One thousand Pounds).

I have also to call attention to the fact that the allotment in question exceeds in size the limit named in your advertisement calling for tenders.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. M'ARTHUR.

*The Chairman of the Northern Board of Education,
Launceston.*

Launceston, 6th December, 1858.

SIR,

YOU are aware from the resolution passed by the Northern Board of Education on the 19th May last, a copy of which was forwarded to you, and subsequent communications, that they have been anxious to procure a suitable site on which to erect a Model School in this town.

St. John's Square being considered by the Board the most central, and therefore the best, neighbourhood for the purpose, they were desirous of securing a portion of the land between St. John's Church and Frederick-street, which they presumed was at the disposal of the Government, but on application to the Surveyor-General were informed that the land had been appropriated for church purposes.

The Board also applied for a portion of the land in St. John's-street between Cameron and Cimitiere streets, thinking that if obtained the Government would sanction the sale or exchange of it, and thereby enable them to procure land in a more desirable situation, but were again disappointed in finding the land applied for was vested in the Ordnance Department, and that there existed considerable difficulty in regard to the transfer of property from that Department to the Colonial Government.

Seeing no prospect of obtaining Crown Land, and encouraged by the concluding paragraph of your letter of the 17th July last, the Board advertised for land in and about St. John's Square, but most of the lands offered were not at all suitable.

The most desirable property offered to the Board is a piece of land situate at the corner of Charles and Canning-streets, the property of Mr. Weedon, consisting of 3 roods and 10 perches, having a considerable frontage on Charles-street, for which he asked £900, and unless the Government find on enquiry that there is a piece of Crown Land in a central part of the town at their disposal adapted to the purpose, the Board strongly recommend that no time be lost in securing Mr. Weedon's land. It is not so central as the Board were in hopes of procuring, but both the Board and the Inspector, all of whom have taken much pains in making enquiry for suitable land, are of opinion that there is no private property at present procurable of sufficient extent that would be so desirable for the purpose, and they are of opinion that the amount asked is by no means unreasonable.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JNO. W. GLEADOW, *Chairman pro tem.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 24th December, 1858.

SIR,

IN answer to your letter of the 6th instant, submitting for approval the proposal to purchase a site for a model school, with the opinions of the Board and Inspector, recommending the offer that has been made, I have the honor to acquaint you that the Governor in Council has approved of the

piece of land belonging to Mr. Weedon being secured at the price mentioned, namely £900. And I have further to request that you will at once take the necessary steps for furnishing this office with the requisite information in order that the land in question may be transferred to the Government for the purpose above mentioned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. HENTY.

J. W. GLEADOW, *Esq.*, *Chairman of the Northern Board of Education, Launceston.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th January, 1859.

SIR,

WITH reference to the proposed purchase by the Northern Board of Education of an allotment of land at the corner of Charles-street, the property of Mr. Weedon, I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to request you will forward a written offer by Mr. Weedon of the land which it is intended to purchase, accompanied by a description of the same.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. TRAVERS SOLLY, *Assistant Colonial Secretary.*

The Chairman of the Northern Board of Education.

Launceston, June, 1870.

GENTLEMEN,

THE ministers of religion of all denominations, and a number of lay gentlemen, have had under consideration for a long time the uneducated and neglected state of a very great number of children in Launceston, and are now induced to apply to the Board of Education for the establishment of two Free Ragged Schools in this town, for the following reasons :—

1. Attempts have been made from time to time to establish and maintain such schools by voluntary contributions, and have failed.
2. There are no school-houses erected in Launceston by the Government for the education of the great number of children in destitute circumstances.
3. Some years since the Government purchased a piece of land for a School, had plans prepared, and voted a sum of money for its erection ; but it was not built.
4. The Schools in Launceston supported by the Board are full ; they receive a few free pupils, and refuse altogether to admit the ragged class for whom application is now made.
5. It is found elsewhere absolutely necessary to have separate schools for the ragged classes, both to afford opportunity for their peculiar teaching and to maintain the good character of the regular schools.
6. The compulsory clauses of the late Acts of Council cannot be carried out in Launceston, because there are no schools to receive the children.
7. Many children of this class being neglected, and allowed to wander about the streets, are exposed to great temptations, and fall into habitual crime.
8. The School Boards in Launceston can afford no assistance in this matter.
9. The number of the population in Launceston renders necessary the extension of the care of the Board of Education for the teaching of this increasing class of poor, destitute, and neglected children.
10. There are two rooms in Launceston which can be occupied as Ragged Schools, in suitable situations and at low rents.

Your Memorialists anxiously invite the immediate attention of the Board of Education to this appeal on behalf of those who have no means of helping themselves.

Signed on behalf of the Memorialists.

ALEX. WEBSTER, *Chairman.*

To the Board of Education.

Education Office, Hobart Town, 2nd July, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication to the address of the Board of Education, dated June, applying for the establishment of two Free Ragged Schools in Launceston, and am directed by the Chairman to state that the matter will receive early consideration by the Board.

In the meanwhile the Chairman will feel favoured by your affording him particulars of the dimensions and accommodation of the two rooms mentioned in the 10th section of your letter ; also, a description of their situation, and the amount of rent demanded for each room.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. RICHARDSON.

ALEXANDER WEBSTER, *Esq., Mayor of Launceston.*

Launceston, 7th July, 1870.

SIR,

I AM requested by Alex. Webster, Esq., to supply the following particulars for the Board of Education in reference to the two School rooms. One, situated on the Wharf, is of brick, 42 feet by 20 feet. In this a Sunday Ragged School is held. The Board could occupy it during the week as a Ragged School upon condition of keeping it in repair, and leaving it clean for the Sunday School. The other room is situated in Lower Brisbane-street, it is of wood, 40 feet by 20 feet. The rent of this would be Six shillings per week and keeping it in repair. A Sunday School is also held in this building, not belonging to any particular denomination. There are forms in each school which could be used during the week.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. PRICE.

G. RICHARDSON, *Esq., Board of Education, Hobart Town.*

Education Office, Hobart Town, 20th July, 1870.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Board to transmit you the enclosed papers, and to request you will be pleased to examine the buildings therein referred to and report upon their suitability or otherwise.

You will at the same time favour the Board with any observations on the application you may have to offer, and furnish them with information or suggestion regarding Teachers for the Schools in case it should be decided to bring the Schools in question under the Board.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. RICHARDSON.

MURRAY BURGESS, *Esq., Inspector of Schools, Carrick.*

FREE SCHOOLS, LAUNCESTON.

MEMORANDUM.

In obedience to the instructions of the Board, I have examined the buildings proposed for occupation as Free or Ragged Schools in Launceston, and have placed myself in communication with the Rev. Mr. Price, the principal promoter of these schools.

I regret that I cannot report favourably of either of the proposed buildings.

The brick chapel on the wharf requires substantial repairs ; has no yard, closets, or enclosure whatever, and I believe there are no means of remedying these deficiencies.

The Union Chapel in Lower Brisbane-street is a wooden building in fair state of repair, well lighted and ventilated, and would accommodate 80 children ; but the allotment on which it stands only covers a space of 63 feet by 47 feet, and it is surrounded by brothels. In their play-hours the children would be exposed to the worst influences. There are two closets, but both are in bad order.

I have made enquiries with respect to other sites. Only two occur to me as at all eligible,—the old Hospital in Wellington-street, and the Commissariat Stores on the Wharf. The Hospital is in a very dilapidated state, and would require a large outlay to adapt it to school purposes. The position however is central, and it has the advantage of a large play-ground at the back. The Commissariat Stores appear to me still more suitable, inasmuch as they stand quite apart from other buildings in a large open paddock (1 acre 3 roods by 30½ perches), securely fenced all round. The upper room of the Stores would accommodate 250 children. The only use to which this room is at present applied is as a drill-room for the Volunteers, who I am informed are few in number, and only meet once a week in the evening. The room is so large that I do not think the operations of the day school would at all interfere with the Volunteer arrangements. The stairs are wide but would require improvement to render them safe for children. The necessary alterations would be trifling.

The necessity of making further provision for the instruction of the poor and neglected classes in Launceston has long forced itself on my attention; and as soon as the question of site is determined, I shall be prepared to offer suggestions for the organization of a Free School.

I would propose to transfer to it all children, infants excepted, attending the other Public Schools who are borne upon the free list, in order to reduce the expense. There are probably many parents who in view of such a contingency would contrive to pay School Fees.

MURRAY BURGESS,
Inspector of Schools Office, Launceston,
16th August, 1870.

The Chairman, Board of Education.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

RETURN showing the Number and Ages of the Children attending the Public and Private Schools in Hobart Town and Launceston, and the amount of Accommodation provided in the Public Schools.

Town.	Number of Children between the age of 5 and 15.	Number of Children of all Ages attending the			Number of Children between the age of 5 and 12.	Number of Children between the Ages of 5 and 12 attending the			Number of Children for whom accommodation is provided.
		Public Schools.	Private Schools.	Ragged and Industrial Schools.		Public Schools.	Private Schools.	Ragged Schools.	
Hobart Town	5665	1120	2127	439	3867	583	1166	204	1893
Launceston	3096	560	908	..	2114	392	545	..	625
TOTAL	8761 5154	1680	3035	439	5981 2892	977	1711	204	2518 1680
Not attending	3607	5154			3089	2892 or 48 per cent.			838 more can be accommodated.

GEO. RICHARDSON.

Education Office, 20th October, 1870.

Hobart Town, 14th March, 1871.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th instant, requesting me to report on the advantages that will probably arise from the establishment of Free Schools in Hobart Town and Launceston.

The question of the establishment of Free Schools has been for many months under the consideration of the Board; and I believe I am justified in saying that the present proposal was finally adopted as the only possible mode of bringing under control and instruction the numbers of neglected children whom the existing means of education, and the special agency employed on their behalf, have hitherto failed to reach.

It is asserted by some that children of this class ought to be brought, and may be easily brought, under the influence of the ordinary Public School; and they go on to argue that the amalgamation of the waifs and strays of the streets with the children of respectable parents will produce the happiest results to all concerned, the advantages of a higher social intercourse extending ultimately to the parents of the former class. It may be doubted whether any obstacles to progress of every kind are so formidable as those which originate with amiable theorists who see only one side of a question, and insist on annexing impossible conditions to every scheme. The getting these children into the ordinary school is just the difficulty which has never yet been overcome; and even if the machinery for carrying out the compulsory clauses of the Education Act should be got into working order, the work would be barely commenced. The rules of every well-regulated school require that the children shall come clean, and with at least decent clothing, let it be ever so poor. Who is to guarantee that this condition will be fulfilled in the case of the children who are now under

consideration; and who is not aware that the admission of some would be a gross injustice to the industrious and independent poor who are striving to bring up their families decently, and to pay the school-fees out of their small earnings? Again, in our ordinary Public Schools it is absolutely necessary that the scholars shall attend with fair regularity, and that the home lessons, &c. shall be regularly prepared, if they are to keep pace with the progress of the classes to which they belong. Neither of these conditions is fulfilled, as a general rule, by free scholars, and the lower the social status the greater the difficulty. These children, then, must always be a dead weight upon the regular classes,—the limited staff of the schools not being sufficient to admit of their organization in separate divisions,—and they must either be left to take their chance, and fall behind the other children day by day, or the paying scholars and regular attendants must be neglected to give them the special attention which they require.

But let all the foregoing objections be ignored, and there still remain the obstacles caused by the refusal of parents to send their children when they cannot be as well dressed as their companions, and the reluctance of the children for reasons which are too often, unfortunately, very well grounded—obstacles which chiefly affect that portion of the neglected class which specially requires protection. Many of those parents who find it convenient to plead poverty, and get their children admitted as free scholars, can still afford to clothe them with the best; and it is only because, looking at the means of the parents, there is no real line of demarcation between the paying and non-paying children (with, of course, some exceptions), that the latter are found in such numbers in the Public Schools.

The above facts ought to be already well known, and I will only give one illustration in point. At my last examination of the Hobart Town Schools, out of 633 free scholars of all ages from 4 to 15 belonging to the different schools only 39 were found placed as high as the Fourth Class, and many of these failed in one or more subjects. The rest were in the lower half of the school, and an overwhelming majority of these not higher than the Second Class,—a standard of proficiency which is frequently attained by children of six years of age. For this state of things the Teachers cannot be held responsible. Except in one school, I had ample evidence to show that quite as much attention is paid to the free scholars as to any others, and the above result appears to be only the inevitable consequence of the working of the present system.

The Ragged Schools to a certain extent supply the demand for free education, and they are especially entitled to respect from the fact of their stimulating the action of private benevolence to defray a portion of their annual expenses. But they, as well as the principal Public Schools, have already on their books as many scholars as ought to be admitted,—and the only question has been the *mode* in which the extra school accommodation may be best adapted to the necessities of poor children.

But before this question could be decided it was necessary to consider the operation of the present system of free certificates. The injustice of offering to one parent admission for his children to a humble Ragged School, while those of his next-door neighbour obtain a free education at the sole cost of the State in the more highly esteemed Public School, is painfully apparent. There are the strongest grounds for believing that the non-paying class of children can be educated to far greater advantage under a system specially designed for them than under the routine of the ordinary Public School, and it is clear that no invidious distinctions between those who claim the eleemosynary protection of the State ought any longer to be tolerated.

The conclusion arrived at by the Board, as expressed in the proposed regulations, is, in effect, that parents who will not pay some small contribution towards the cost of their children's instruction are not to have a discretionary power in the selection of their school; that accommodation shall be provided for such children in a Public School specially adapted to their circumstances and wants; and that arrangements shall be made for their being drafted to ordinary schools as soon as they shall have been trained up to a standard which will enable them to hold their own with other children. It is also signified that sums contributed by private benevolence to meet capitation fees paid by the Board will give the same privileges to poor children as the contributions received from the parents themselves.

I believe that these regulations embody one of the most important and really valuable principles that have ever been enunciated by the Board of Education; and not the least of the beneficial results that may be confidently expected from its application will be, that many parents who now take advantage of free certificates will immediately begin again to pay school fees, as they always did before they found out the way of getting them paid out of the public funds. Of this I am well assured by Teachers themselves. The establishment of the proposed school is, of course, only an experiment, and an experiment which can only be tried in large towns. It may fail to achieve all that is desired; but the circumstances are now peculiarly favourable, and it is not Hobart Town alone that is interested in the question. The want of suitable buildings has alone prevented a similar experiment being made in Launceston, where the means of education for poor children are sadly defective. To illustrate this, and show the serious extent to which the system of free certificates has reached in Hobart Town, I may point out that for the quarter ended on the 31st December, 1870, there were 685 children in the Hobart Town Public Schools whose parents paid

absolutely nothing towards the cost of their instruction, and 495 in the Ragged Schools, making a total of 1180; while in Launceston for the same period the total number of free scholars only amounted to 197.

In conclusion, I may add that the establishment of the proposed school will remove one of the chief of the obstacles which have hitherto impeded the operation of the compulsory clauses of the Education Act.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. STEPHENS, *Chief Inspector of Schools.*

The Chairman, Board of Education.

*Frederick-street School Board, Launceston,
8th January, 1872.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in accordance with the expressed wish of this Board, to forward an Extract from the Minutes of a Meeting of the Board, held at the Public Buildings, Launceston, on Thursday, the 28th ultimo; viz.—

“Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to report to the Central Board the opinion of the Local Board of the very efficient manner in which the school has been conducted by the School-mistress during the past year, and also the very satisfactory state of the school at the present time.”

I was also requested to remind you of the urgent necessity for Ragged Schools in Launceston, without which a large proportion of the population must still be left without any education whatever.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. THOMSON, *Chairman.*

*The Chairman of the Board of Education,
Hobart Town.*

Launceston, 12th March, 1872.

GENTLEMEN,

I BEG most respectfully again to bring under the notice of the Board of Education the necessitous circumstances of a great number of poor children in Launceston, who cannot be received into the schools at present under the Board's direction in this town. I need not repeat what has already been stated to you in former applications, of the circumstances of these children who are without education, and have no means of procuring it.

The School Boards in Launceston can do very little to meet the case, and it rests with you whether matters shall remain in their present very unsatisfactory state, or whether a change shall be made in the arrangement of the schools under your care to meet the case of these destitute children.

By the resignation of one of the masters an opening is made for a rearrangement of the schools. The existing schools being connected with places of worship are considered by many of the inhabitants of the town as denominational, one Protestant, and the other Roman Catholic, and consequently as not answering the purpose of public undenominational schools in accordance with the “Education Act.” This certainly ought not to be the case in Launceston, the second town of the Colony, to the great detriment of the helpless poor children. I beg, therefore, the earnest consideration of the Board to this important matter, that something may now be done to carry out the designs of the “Education Act” in Launceston.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. PRICE.

The Board of Education, Hobart Town.

Education Office, Hobart Town, 16th March, 1872.

SIR,

WITH reference to your communication of the 8th January last, in which you call attention to the urgent necessity for Ragged Schools in Launceston, I have the honor to inform you that the Board of Education have no power under “The Public Schools Act” to establish such schools.

The question of the establishment of a Free School, for scholars whose parents are unable to pay the school fees, has already been under the consideration of the Board; but a difficulty presented itself in obtaining suitable premises for the purpose. The subject will, however, again receive the attention of the Board.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

CHARLES THOMSON, *Esq., Chairman*
Frederick-street Local School Board, Launceston.

Education Office, Hobart Town, 23rd March, 1872.

REV. SIR,

WITH reference to your communication of the 12th instant, I am directed by the Board of Education to inform you that the proposal to establish a Free School in Launceston is at present under consideration; but a difficulty is experienced in procuring a suitable building for the purpose.

The Board will feel obliged if you can suggest any building in Launceston that could be placed at the disposal of the Board for this service, giving description, &c.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

Rev. C. PRICE, Launceston.

FREE SCHOOLS UNDER THE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

REGULATIONS FOR ESTABLISHMENT.

1. IN order to make better provision for the education of neglected children, the Board have resolved to establish one or more Free Schools for the reception of children for whom no fees are paid by their parents or guardians; such children to be admitted upon the order of a Local School Board, or of any officer appointed by the Board of Education for the purpose.

2. On and after the 29th April, 1872, the Board will discontinue to pay capitation fees for children in any of the Public Schools in Hobart Town, except upon a certificate from the Local Board to the effect that a sum equal to one half of the cost of their instruction, calculated at 3d. per week for each child, has been paid to the Teacher.

3. No Teacher in any Free School will be allowed to receive school-fees from or on account of any children attending such school, but their fixed salaries will be supplemented by such allowances as the Board may from time to time direct.

4. Any children who shall have reached a standard of proficiency qualifying them for Class IV., as defined by the Programme of Instruction, may, with the approval of the Board of Education, be transferred from a Free School to any ordinary Public School.

HENRY BUTLER, *Chairman.*

Education Office, 25th March, 1872.

Launceston, 12th April, 1872.

SIR;

I BEG to acknowledge yours of 23rd ultimo, in reference to a Free School in Launceston.

The two buildings referred to in my communication of 7th July, 1870, are still available. A building, which I think the Inspector of Schools mentioned about the same time, viz., the old Commissariat Store, which belongs to the Government, is very little used by the Volunteers, and would be very suitable for a school if it could be had. It is large, has ground around it, and is well fenced.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. PRICE.

The Chairman of the Board of Education.

Education Office, Hobart Town, 24th April, 1872.

REV. SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by direction of the Board of Education, to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 12th instant, in which you state that the two buildings referred to in your communication of the 7th July, 1870, are still available, and to state for your information that the Board having before them the report of Mr. Burgess, dated 16th August, 1870 (copy enclosed), are of opinion that the said buildings are unfit for the purposes of a Free School under the Board of Education.

With regard to the Commissariat Stores, I am to state that official application has been made by the Board to the Government for the use of these stores, in whole or part, for Free School purposes; immediately upon the reply of the Government the Board will again consider the subject and advise you.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

Rev. C. PRICE, Launceston.

Launceston, 1st January, 1873.

SIR,

FOR a long time past the necessity has been felt for a School for the humblest class of children in the North of Launceston. A great number of children are without instruction in the neighbourhood, whilst the Bethel on the wharf is available for a Schoolroom free of expense.

A Mrs. Walters, a widow about thirty-two years old; who appears suitable for the work, is willing to commence a School in the Bethel, if she can gain such assistance as will enable her to live. Very little towards her support would be contributed by the parents of such children as she could gather. Under the circumstances, will the Board of Education grant such assistance in money and School material as to enable Mrs. Walters to give the neighbourhood a fair trial? By doing this, I am inclined to think that the wants of the town would be partially met, and the way would be opened for more effectually carrying out the provisions of the Education Act.

An early reply will much oblige.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. PRICE.

*The Chairman of the Board of Education,
Hobart Town.*

Education Office, Hobart Town, 20th January, 1873.

REV. SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 1st inst., in which you recommend the establishment of a School under the Board in the Bethel on the wharf, Launceston.

With reference thereto, I am directed to enquire if the Bethel is the same building as is referred to in Mr. Inspector Burgess's report of the 16th August, 1870, in which he states that "the brick chapel on the wharf requires substantial repairs, has no yards, closets, or enclosure whatever, and I believe there are no means of remedying these deficiencies;" if so, has anything been done to the building to remove the objections mentioned in the above contract?

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEO. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*

Rev. C. PRICE, Launceston.

Board of Education, Hobart Town, 9th January, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, at the last Meeting of the Board of Education, a Resolution was passed to the effect that application be made to the Government for permission to occupy the building known as the Old Commissariat Stores, in Launceston, for Public School purposes.

The Board have come to the decision that it is desirable to establish a Free School in Launceston, similar in its character and working to the one in operation in Hobart Town, and with a view to its establishment the Board are led to make this application for the building above mentioned as no other of a suitable character can be obtained for Public School purposes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BUTLER, *Chairman.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Board of Education, Hobart Town, 29th April, 1874.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by request of the Board of Education, to place myself in communication with you with a view to obtaining the permission of the Governor in Council to the sale of the piece of land in Charles-street, Launceston, belonging to the Board of Education, which was purchased for a school site in the year 1859 at a cost of £900. This position not being deemed advantageous for a public school, it is proposed to purchase another piece of ground with the proceeds of the sale, near the corner of Bathurst and York streets.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BUTLER, *Chairman.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

CENTRAL SCHOOL, LAUNCESTON.

MEMORANDUM.

AMOUNTS expended in connection with the proposed Central School, Launceston, (Loans Bill, 21 Vict. No. 29):—

	£	s.	d.
16th August, 1859. Paid to C. J. Weedon for site for Central School.....	900	0	0
1861-2. Architect's Charges for preparation of Plans, &c. for Model School .	88	8	0
TOTAL	£988	8	0

GEO. RICHARDSON.

Education Office, 21st July, 1874.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Education Office, Hobart Town, 18th February, 1875.

SIR,

I HAD the honor, on the 29th April last, to address you in reference to the sale of the piece of land in Charles-street, Launceston, at present the property of the Board, in order to the purchase, with the proceeds of the sale, of a site in a more suitable part of the town for Public School purposes.

The Board of Education at their last meeting desired me to again place myself in communication with you on this subject, and to request you will favour them with the decision of the Government upon this subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BUTLER, *Chairman.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Education Office, Hobart Town, 18th February, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, at the last Meeting of the Board of Education, I was instructed to request the favour of a reply to the Board's application of the 9th January, 1874, for the use of the building known as the old Commissariat Stores in Launceston, with a view to the establishment of a Free School in that town similar in its character and working to the one in Hobart Town.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY BUTLER, *Chairman.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

THE Colonial Secretary requests the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works to cause a Tracing to be prepared of the Court House Square, Launceston.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
13 April, 1875.

TRACING herewith.

H. J. HULL.
22 April, 1875.

The Assistant Colonial Secretary.

MEMO.

THE allotment coloured red on the enclosed tracing was purchased by the Crown on the 23rd July, 1859, for £900. A proposal has been made to have this lot offered for sale at the present time, and I should feel obliged if Messrs. Bell and Westbrook will favour me with their opinion as to the value of the lot as it now stands, and what it would be likely to realise if cut up for sale in three or more lots?

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 11th March, 1875.

Messrs. BELL AND WESTBROOK, Launceston.

Launceston, 13th March, 1875.

DEAR SIR,

WE have inspected the allotment of land as per tracing, and we are of opinion that if it was divided into three lots, as you suggest, the greatest amount it would realise would be three hundred pounds.

For some time past people or the Corporation have been carting away soil and clay from this allotment ; and it would be well if the whole were levelled, as in its present state it is not fit for building purposes.

We have, &c.

(Signed) BELL & WESTBROOK.

T. D. CHAPMAN, *Esq.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, 16th March, 1875.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, giving your opinion as to the value of the allotment at the angle of Canning and Charles streets, Launceston, and I desire to return my thanks for your courtesy in forwarding such a prompt reply to my communication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

Messrs. BELL & WESTBROOK, Launceston.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 21st July, 1875.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 29th April, 1874, seeking the consent of the Governor in Council to the sale of the piece of land in Charles-street, Launceston, belonging to the Board of Education, which was purchased for a school site in 1859 at a cost of £900, with the view of purchasing another piece of ground with the proceeds of the sale near the corner of Bathurst-street and York-street, I have the honor to inform you that the general question of the erection of school premises under the Board is receiving the consideration of the Government, and they are not prepared at the present juncture to recommend to the Governor in Council the sale of the land in question.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

The Chairman of Board of Education.