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1878.

T A S M A N I A.

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

RAGGED SCHOOLS, HOBART TOWN:

REPORT ON THEIR INSPECTION AND EXAMINATION.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, October 4, 1878.

Hobart Town, 16th September, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, for transmission to the Government, my Report on the Hobart Town Ragged Schools, 1878.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. STEPHENS.

The Chairman Board of Education.

MEMO.—Transmitted to the Government.

By order of the Chairman,

GEO. RICHARDSON, *Secretary.*
Education Office, 23. 9. 78.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Hobart Town, 14th September, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith my Report on the Inspection and Examination of the Ragged Schools in Hobart Town, which has been delayed through the pressure of country engagements subsequently to the examination.

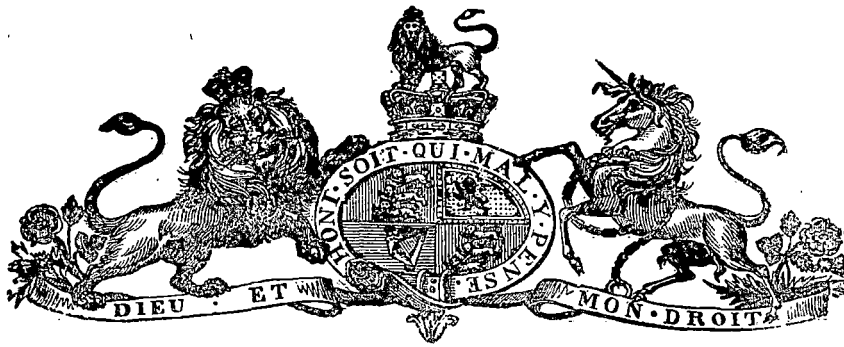
I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. STEPHENS.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.



REPORT of Chief Inspector of Schools on the Cascades Road, Lower Collins-street, and Watchorn-street Ragged Schools, Hobart Town.

CASCADES ROAD.

	Boys.	Girls.	TOTAL.
Number on Rolls	112	87	199
Average daily attendance	80	64	144
Present at examination	83	72	155

PREMISES.

No alteration has been made in the position of the closets, which are very inconveniently situated. It would not be difficult to place them in a better position and provide separate yards for boys and girls.

MANAGEMENT.

In the First and Second Classes the order and discipline are not quite satisfactory. The children appear amenable to control, but there is a noticeable absence of the quiet attention which is indicative of good management; and the tendency to mutual help, copying and talking, interfered considerably with the work of examination. In the Third and Fourth Classes, and in the Infant Division, the discipline and management, all circumstances being considered, are deserving of high praise.

INSTRUCTION.

First Class.—Boys, 5; girls, 6; total, 11. Age, 9 years to 13 years; average age, about 11 years.

The reading book has been changed, the class now using the Fifth Royal Reader, which, though free from the defects of the Irish series, is rather above the capacity of the children, with one marked exception. Intelligence and general answering moderate, with the above exception. Writing and spelling from dictation moderate to fair. Arithmetic far less satisfactory than last year, inaccuracy in quite elementary work being a marked feature. A very fair acquaintance with the parts of speech in an ordinary sentence was shown by the class, and some general knowledge of the outlines of geography.

Second Class.—Boys, 9; girls, 8; total, 17. Age, 9 years to 14 years; average age, about 11 years.

Reading moderate to fair. Intelligence and general answering moderate. Writing and spelling from dictation passable on the whole, the latter requiring more special attention. In arithmetic general familiarity with the simple rules was shown, but the inaccuracy of the work precludes favourable remark.

Third Class.—Boys, 4; girls, 7; total, 11. Age, 7 years to 10 years; average age, about 9 years.

Reading tolerably fluent. Intelligence moderate. Writing on slates fair to good. Spelling from dictation moderate to good. Arithmetic well taught up to simple multiplication. Tables well known. More oral teaching to aid in the development of intelligence appears to be required.

Fourth Class.—Boys, 20; girls, 16; total, 36. Age, 5 years to 10 years; average age, about 8 years.

This class is worked in two divisions, the reading books being the 2nd and 1st Royal Readers, and the instruction well graduated throughout. General answering very fair. Writing and spelling very fair on the whole. Arithmetic well taught up to the standard of the class. The results

of teaching and management of the 47 children in the three classes of this division, at an age when much separate attention is required to be given to each, are highly creditable to the single Teacher.

Infant Division.—Boys, 45; girls, 35; total, 80.

Of the 80 children present, 26 were reading the 1st Book (Irish series), and 15 easy tablet lessons, with fair general proficiency. A somewhat monotonous style has been acquired, probably from the repetition of oral gallery lessons; but this will be corrected in due time. The rest of the work in this division in its several rudimentary grades is highly satisfactory.

LOWER COLLINS-STREET.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	TOTAL.
Number on Rolls	72	85	157
Average daily attendance	57	62	119
Present at examination	55	61	116

PREMISES.

The condition of the out-offices is improved. Their position is bad, but it would not be easy to make any arrangement that would not be open to some objection. There is nothing else that calls for special remark.

MANAGEMENT.

The discipline in the Schoolroom has greatly improved during the year, and may be described as generally satisfactory. In the other departments of the School the former standard of efficiency appears to be maintained.

INSTRUCTION.

First Class.—Boys, 3; girls, 2; total, 5. Age, 10 years to 13 years; average age, about 11 years.

The reading book is the 4th of Collins's Standard Series. Reading and general intelligence moderate to fair. Writing on slates fair to good. Arithmetic fully up to standard.

Second Class.—Boys, 7; girls, 13; total, 20. Age, 8 years to 14 years; average age, about 10 years.

This class is worked in two divisions, the reading books being the 3rd and 2nd of the standard series. Reading very fair on the whole, and general answering passable, Writing very fair to good. Spelling satisfactory, with a few exceptions. Arithmetic well up to standard: all would have passed in Class III. of a Public School. The First Class and upper division of the Second exhibited some general acquaintance with the leading outlines of sacred history and the elements of geography. A new map of Australia and an additional black board and easel are much wanted.

Third Class.—Boys, 6; girls, 7; total, 13. Age, 7 years to 12 years; average age, about 9 years.

Reading and general answering satisfactory. Writing and arithmetic fair to good; little inferior to the work in the Second Class. Children bright and animated, taking an interest in their work and eager to be questioned upon it.

Fourth Class.—Boys, 6; girls, 6; total, 12. Age, 5 years to 11 years; average age, about 8 years.

Reading and general answering moderate to fair. Writing very fair in large and round hand. Class fairly advanced in simple rules, and progress quite satisfactory for the time they have been in this division.

Infant Division.—Age, 3 years to 10 years.

In the highest class there were 7 children reading the 1st Primer and forming letters and figures on slates with tolerable facility. Besides these there were 19 in various stages of easy monosyllabic lessons on tablets. The usual oral exercises are gone through, and singing is practised with moderate success.

WATCHORN-STREET.

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	TOTAL.
Number on Rolls	60	67	127
Average daily attendance	50	55	105
Present at examination...	49	53	102

PREMISES.

The condition of the out-offices is improved since last report, but the general disadvantages of the site remain unchanged, and cannot easily be remedied.

MANAGEMENT.

The School is now in two principal divisions instead of three; order and discipline in the School-room much improved; and the former condition of efficiency in the lower division of the School well maintained.

INSTRUCTION.

First Class.—Boys, 5; girls, 6; total, 11. Age, 8 years to 12 years; average age, about 11 years.

The reading book is the Third of Collins's Standard series; lessons fairly known, and intelligence satisfactory. Writing very fair on the whole. Simple rules of arithmetic fairly mastered, and acquaintance professed with higher branches, but work imperfect. Grammar, parts of speech. Fair general knowledge of outlines of geography; and fair answering in isolated portions of sacred history.

Second Class.—Boys, 9; girls, 9; total, 18. Age, 7 years to 12 years; average age, about 10 years.

This class is worked in two divisions. Reading in Collins's Second Book fair on the whole, and answering generally satisfactory. Writing and spelling up to standard. Arithmetic, simple rules, moderate to good. More oral class teaching in arithmetic required in this division.

Third Class.—Boys, 7; girls, 6; total, 13. Age, 6 years to 10 years; average age, about 8 years.

Reading, in Second Primer, very fair. Writing, variable. Arithmetic, moderate to fair. This class is working under a disadvantage, in the same room with the infant classes; the reduction in the staff of teachers preventing, for the present, a more satisfactory arrangement.

Infant Division.—Age, 3 years to 10 years.

In the two higher classes there were sixteen children reading tablet lessons and the First Book (Irish series) with satisfactory proficiency. Writing, moderate to good. Initiatory stages in arithmetic fairly taught. The whole of the children in this division appear to be well disciplined, and go through their simple exercises in a satisfactory manner.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The examination of these Schools occupied from the 6th to the 19th of August, with little intermission. The weather was exceptionally wet and stormy, and visits had to be repeated in order to secure a fair muster in some of the classes. As to the general working of the Schools there is little to add to the remarks made last year; but it is necessary to again direct attention to the importance of having a uniform system of registration in the Schools. There is no necessity for the elaborate records and returns which are sometimes required from elementary schools, but it is highly desirable that the same mode of recording the daily and weekly results of attendance should be adopted by all the teachers, and also that a register of admissions and withdrawals should be kept in each school.*

The semi-religious character which usually distinguishes the institution does not appear to attach any longer to these Ragged Schools, so far as sectarian teaching is concerned. A very slight modification of their practice, which would certainly not lessen their influence for good, would assimilate the routine to that of an ordinarily well-conducted school under the Board of Education, and remove one of the grounds of objection to State aid. The Schools are undoubtedly doing a good work, and doing it on the whole more satisfactorily than would be possible in an ordinary public school, where the children would be chiefly under the control of young and inexperienced pupil teachers.

A lively interest is taken in the children by the visiting committees of ladies, whose general oversight and practical co-operation with the teachers are a very great advantage to the Schools.

T. STEPHENS, *Chief Inspector of Schools.*
11th September, 1878.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

* Casual or irregular attendance has often a special significance in schools of an eleemosynary class. In one of the Ragged Schools a carefully kept record of attendance showed a considerable falling off in the week immediately following the annual distribution of gifts, and this is probably not an isolated case.