

1852.

VICTORIA.

NATIONAL EDUCATION.

RULES AND REGULATIONS *of the* COMMISSIONERS OF NATIONAL
EDUCATION *for the* COLONY OF VICTORIA, and *Directions for making*
application for aid towards the building of SCHOOL-HOUSES, *or for*
the support of SCHOOLS.

LAI D UPON THE COUNCIL TABLE BY THE COLONIAL SECRETARY,

BY COMMAND OF

HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR,

AND

ORDERED BY THE COUNCIL TO BE PRINTED,

29th October, 1852.

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RULES AND REGULATIONS.

I.

1. It is the earnest wish of the Government, and of the Commissioners, that the Clergy and Laity of the different religious denominations in the Colony should co-operate with one another in conducting National Schools.

2. The Commissioners will grant aid towards the building and support of Schools of two classes;—Elementary Schools, and Schools of Industry; but they can grant aid only to a limited number of the latter, and these must be at certain distances from each other. It is an indispensable condition for aid towards a School of Industry, that a work room shall be annexed to it, if it be situated in a town; and if it be a country or rural School, that a certain quantity of land shall be provided for garden culture. The Commissioners will consider Schools for Females as of the class of Elementary Schools; but they will require that instruction be there given in sewing, knitting, and other works suited to Females.

II.

As to the Government of Schools, with respect to attendance and Religious Instruction.

1. The ordinary School business, during which children, of whatever denomination they may be, are required to attend, is to embrace a specified number of hours each day, according to the instructions which the Commissioners will give to the Masters and Inspectors.

2. Opportunities and facilities are to be afforded to the children of each School, for receiving such religious instruction as their parents or guardians approve of, in class-rooms to be provided for the purpose, to which such pastors, or other persons as shall be approved of by the parents or guardians of the children respectively, shall have access at convenient times, to be appointed for this purpose; whether those pastors or persons shall have signed the original application, or not.

3. The Patrons of the several schools have the right of appointing such religious instruction as they may think proper to be given therein, provided that each School be open to children of all communions;—that due regard be had to parental right and authority;—that, accordingly, no child be *compelled* to receive, or to be present at, any religious instruction to which his or her parents or guardians object; and that the time for giving it be so fixed, that no child shall be thereby, in effect, excluded, directly or indirectly, from the other advantages which the School affords. Subject to this, religious instruction may be given either during the fixed school hours, or otherwise.

4. The reading of the Scriptures, either in the Protestant authorized or Douay version, comes within the above rule as to religious instruction.

5. The rule as to religious instruction applies to public prayer, and to all other religious exercises.

6. The Commissioners do not insist on the Scripture lessons being read in any of the National Schools, nor do they allow them to be read during the time of secular or literary instruction, in any school attended by children, whose parents or guardians object to their being so read. In such case the Commissioners prohibit the use of them, except at the times of religious instruction, when the persons giving it may use these lessons or not, as they think proper.

7. Whatever arrangement is made in any school for giving religious instruction, must be *publicly notified* in the schoolroom, in order that those children, and those only, may be present whose parents or guardians allow them. This public notification is to be inserted in large letters in the "Time Table," and as far as may be practicable the general nature of such religious instruction shall be also stated in the "Time Table," which is to be kept hung up in a conspicuous place in the schoolroom in large characters.

8. If any other books than the Holy Scriptures, or the standard books of the church to which the children using them belong, are employed in communicating religious instruction, each work is to be made known to the local patrons by the pastor or religious instructor, and the local patrons are required to report the title and character of such work to the Commissioners.

9. The use of the books published by the Irish Commissioners is not compulsory; but the titles of all other books, which the conductors of schools intend for the ordinary school business, are to be reported to the Commissioners, and none are to be used to which they object; their intention being to prohibit such only as may appear to them to contain matter objectionable in itself, or objectionable for common instruction, as peculiarly belonging to some particular religious denomination.

10. A registry is to be kept in each school recording the daily attendance of the scholars,

and the average attendance in each week and each quarter, according to a form to be furnished by the Commissioners.

III.

As to Teachers.

1. The appointment of teachers of schools rests with the Board of Commissioners, who are to be satisfied of the fitness of each, both as to character and general qualification.

2. But while the Commissioners reserve to themselves the right of nomination, they will in all cases pay special regard to the recommendation by the local patrons of candidates for the office of teacher. A teacher should be a person of Christian sentiment, of calm temper and discretion; he should be imbued with spirit of peace, of obedience to the law, and of loyalty to his sovereign. He should not only possess the art of communicating knowledge, but be capable of moulding the mind of youth and of giving to the power which education confers, a useful direction. These are the qualities for which patrons of schools, on their recommendation of teachers, should anxiously look. They are those which the Commissioners are anxious to find, to encourage and to reward.

3. The Commissioners will provide a Normal Establishment in Melbourne as soon as practicable, for training teachers, and educating persons who are intended to undertake the charge of schools; and they will not sanction the *permanent* appointment of a teacher to any school, unless he or she shall have been previously trained at the Normal Establishment, or shall have been pronounced duly qualified by the Inspector, or such person as they may authorize to examine.

4. Teachers selected by the Commissioners for admission to the Normal Establishment, must produce a certificate of good character from an officiating Clergyman of the communion to which they belong, and must pass through an examination in the books published by the Irish Commissioners. A vigilant superintendence will be at all times exercised over their moral conduct.

5. The Commissioners will grant a salary to each teacher proportioned to the nature and extent of the instruction which may be afforded by the school; and for the present according to the terms of their notice, dated the 10th May, 1852, as published in the Government Gazette. [See Appendix A.]

6. The Commissioners propose, as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made, to divide teachers into the following classes, to each of which a fixed salary will be attached:—

First Class,
Second Class,
Third Class,
Probationary Teachers,
Assistant Teachers,
Mistresses to teach Needlework.

7. All newly appointed teachers, who have not previously conducted National Schools, will be considered as *probationers*, and must remain as such for at least *one year*, at the expiration of which time they will be eligible for classification.

8. Examinations will be held at specified times by the Inspectors, with the view of promoting meritorious teachers, while those who may have conducted themselves improperly, or in whose schools the attendance has considerably decreased will be depressed.

9. The Commissioners will not grant a salary to an assistant teacher or to a teacher of needlework, unless they are satisfied that the appointment is necessary; and such teachers even though they may be classed, will not be paid any higher rate of salary than the amount awarded to them as assistant teachers, or teachers of needlework, until appointed to the rank of principal teacher, with the sanction of the Commissioners.

10. The Commissioners will determine upon a course of study for each class, in which the teachers will be examined as a test of their fitness for promotion; but their general conduct, the condition of their respective schools, their method of conducting them, and the daily average attendance of pupils, will also be taken into consideration.

11. The Commissioners will require that a further income be secured to the teacher, either by local subscription or school fees, to such amount in each case as they may direct, and the Commissioners also require that the payments made by the children shall not be diminished in consequence of any increase of salary which may be awarded to the teacher.

12. In schools consisting of male and female children, occupying the same room, under the care of one male teacher, the Commissioners will grant a salary to a teacher of needlework, provided the average daily attendance of children be sufficiently large to warrant the Commissioners in so doing.

13. In schools attended by female children only, under the care of a female teacher, such teacher must be competent to conduct the needlework as well as the literary department.

14. The Commissioners will also grant salaries to assistant literary teachers, in all schools, where, in their opinion, the daily average attendance is so large as to render additional teachers necessary.

15. Salaries will be granted by the Commissioners to teachers *individually*. No new teacher, therefore, is to receive a salary from them unless they have first approved of him; and the amount will be regulated by the class in which he may be placed.

16. The Commissioners will award premiums to Masters and Mistresses of National Schools who are most distinguished for order, neatness, and cleanliness, observable in themselves, their pupils, and in the school houses.

17. The Commissioners also propose to establish a system of pupil teachers, who will be

apprenticed to competent masters, to be instructed and trained, so as to be prepared to complete their education as teachers in the Normal School. Salaries will be granted to the pupil teachers, and gratuities to the training masters.

18. Should the Commissioners consider any teacher employed in a school under their supervision unfit for his or her office, or otherwise objectionable, they have the power to dismiss him summarily, and to provide another.

IV.

On the Inspection of Schools.

1. The public generally must have free access to every National School during the hours devoted to secular instruction,—not to take part in the ordinary business, nor to interrupt it,—but, as visitors to observe how it is conducted.

2. Every teacher of a National School is to receive courteously visitors of all denominations, to afford them free access to the schoolroom, and full liberty to observe what books are in the hands of the children or upon the desks; what tablets are hung upon the walls, and what is the method of teaching; but they are by no means required to permit any person to interrupt the business of the school, by asking questions of children, examining classes, calling for papers of any kind, or, in any other way, diverting the attention of either teachers or scholars from their usual business.

3. Should any visitors wish for information which they cannot obtain from such an Inspection, it will be the duty of the teacher to refer them to the Local Patrons of the school for it.

4. Every Teacher is required to have his Visitors' or Daily Report Book lying upon his desk, that visitors may, if they choose, enter remarks in it. Such remarks as may be made the teachers are by no means to alter or erase.

5. As the religious instruction of the children is under the control of the clergyman or lay person communicating it with the approbation of their parents, the Commissioners can give no liberty to any other visitor, whether clergyman or layman to interfere therewith.

6. The Commissioners by themselves or their officers, have the right to visit and examine the schools, whenever they shall think fit. Those who visit on the part of the Commissioners will be furnished with credentials under their seal, which such visitors will show to the teachers.

7. The Commissioners will divide the Colony of Victoria into School districts, with a view to their effective inspection, and will appoint such inspectors and agents to each as may be necessary.

8. The Commissioners will take an early opportunity of issuing detailed instructions, to the inspectors of their Schools.

V.

Building.

1. Before any grant is made towards building a school-house the Commissioners are to be satisfied that a necessity exists for such a school, that an eligible site has been granted by the crown, or, (if otherwise procured,) that a satisfactory conveyance will be executed to the Commissioners in their corporate capacity, and that the applicant parties are prepared to raise, by local contribution, at least one-third of the whole sum which the Commissioners deem necessary for the erection of the house, providing furniture, &c.

2. The local patrons are expected to provide for the good repair of their respective schools.

3. The Commissioners will determine from the information afforded them, the dimensions of the proposed building.

4. The Commissioners cannot, in any case, pay more than two-thirds of the sum which they may deem necessary for the erection of the school-house, (including furniture, &c.,) and they invariably require that the remaining one-third at least shall be locally provided for.

5. The cost of the house, &c., is determined by the number of children which it is intended to accommodate, allowing an area of six square feet for each child.

EXAMPLE.—A school-house capable of accommodating one hundred children should contain not less than an area of six hundred square feet, and should be ten feet high to the wall plate.

6. The Commissioners will furnish instructions as to the plan and specification, to which the parties receiving aid are bound strictly to adhere, and they will require that a portion of each school-building shall be divided from the rest by a partition, in order that it may be used as a separate class-room.

7. The Commissioners will not contribute to the ornamenting of school-houses, but merely to such expenditure as may be necessary for having the children accommodated in plain substantial buildings. If buildings of another description be preferred, the whole of the extra expense must be provided by the applicants.

8. Previous to the payment of the grants, a certificate according to a form furnished, must be forwarded to the Commissioners, stating that the school-house, furniture, &c., have been completed in a satisfactory and workmanlike manner, and built according to the dimensions and directions set forth in the plan and specification. This certificate is to be signed by the local patrons, and by the contractor. The work is to be approved of by the inspector, or by some person authorized by the Commissioners to examine it, and if a question arise as to the expenditure incurred, the accounts must be submitted to any audit which may be deemed necessary.

VI.

Books.

1. The Commissioners will furnish gratuitously to each School a first stock of school books. They are to be kept as a school stock, for which the Master or Mistress is held responsible, and they are on no account to be taken out of the School. The Commissioners will also supply books from time to time for the general use of the children, and school requisites such as paper, slates, quills, &c., at a stated price.

2. When books, &c., purchased from the Commissioners, are sold to children attending a National School, it is directed that in no case shall any advance be made on their prices, and the Inspectors will receive instructions to inquire into, and report upon, any infraction of this rule.

VII.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Commissioners will consider themselves at any time entitled to add to the number of Local Patrons of a School, and to name such additional Patrons.

2. When any school is received by the Commissioners into connexion with them, the inscription "National School" and no other, shall be put up conspicuously on the School-house.

3. The Commissioners require that no use shall be made of the School-houses for any purpose tending to contention, such as the holding of political meetings in them, or bringing into them political petitions or documents of any kind for signature, or otherwise.

4. The Commissioners require that the National School-rooms shall not be converted into places of public worship.

5. The Commissioners require the Schoolrooms to be used *exclusively for the purposes of Education*, and any breach of this rule will be held to be a violation of the principles of the National Education System.

6. The Commissioners will require that the principles of the following Lesson, or of a Lesson of similar import, be strictly inculcated in all Schools admitted into connexion with the Board, and that a copy of the Lesson itself be hung up in each School.

"Christians should endeavour, as the Apostle Paul commands them, to 'live peaceably with all men,' (Rom. ch. xii. v. 17), even with those of a different religious persuasion.

"Our Saviour Christ commanded his Disciples 'to love one another.' He taught them to love even their enemies, to bless those that cursed them, and to pray for those who persecuted them. He himself prayed for his murderers.

"Many men hold erroneous doctrines, but we ought not to hate or persecute them. We ought to seek for the truth; and to hold fast what we are convinced is the truth; but not to treat harshly those who are in error. Jesus Christ did not intend his religion to be forced on men by violent means. He would not allow his Disciples to fight for him.

"If any persons treat us unkindly, we must not do the same to them; for Christ and his Apostles have taught us not to return evil for evil. If we would obey Christ, we must do to others, not as they do to us, but as we would wish them to do to us.

"Quarelling with our neighbours and abusing them, is not the way to convince them that we are in the right and they are in the wrong. It is more likely to convince them that we have not a Christian spirit.

"We ought to shew ourselves followers of Christ who, 'when he was reviled, reviled not again,' (1 Pet. ch. ii. v. 23), by behaving gently and kindly to every one."

7. The Commissioners will regard the attendance of any of their Teachers at meetings held for *political purposes*, or their taking part in elections for Members of the Legislative Council, except by voting, as incompatible with the performance of their duties, and as a violation of rule which will render them liable to dismissal.

VIII.

Aids to Schools previously established.

The Commissioners will at their discretion, take under their supervision schools not vested in them, and to the building of which they have not contributed, but which receive aid only by way of salary and books. All the foregoing regulations, with the exception of those in Section V. on "Building," will apply equally to these schools.

IX.

1. The Commissioners desire it to be distinctly understood, that they will not hold themselves bound to grant assistance in any case, unless application shall have been made to them in the first instance, unless such application shall have been approved of, and unless they shall have funds at their disposal when they come to decide upon the case, to enable them to grant the required aid. Applicants are therefore recommended not to incur any expense towards the payment of which they expect the Commissioners to contribute, until the decision of the Board shall have been communicated to them.

2. Applicants for assistance are not to understand that the Commissioners are bound to grant the full amount of aid as set forth in the foregoing regulations in every case, nor can they grant any, unless they have sufficient funds for the purpose, which depends upon the amount placed at their disposal by the Legislature.

3. Persons desirous of obtaining assistance from the Commissioners of National Education, under any of the foregoing heads, will, upon intimating to the Secretary the nature of the aid required, be furnished with the forms upon which their application must be laid before the Commissioners.

4. The Commissioners only correspond with teachers through the local patrons of their respective schools, or through their inspectors.

5. All letters should be directed as under, and in all cases pre-paid.

*The Secretary,
Board of
National Education,
Melbourne.*

6. The Commissioners would wish to establish, in the more thinly peopled districts of the Colony, a system of boarding children in the vicinity of National Schools; and in the mean time they request from such employers of labor as are favourable to general education, and inclined to become patrons of schools in connexion with the Board, every local information on the subject which they may consider themselves able to afford.

7. The Commissioners are empowered under the Act of Incorporation, 15 Victoria, No. 7, from time to time, to revoke or alter any of the foregoing regulations, as it shall seem to them either expedient or necessary.

J. F. PALMER, *Chairman.*
C. H. EBDEN,
HUGH C. E. CHILDERS,
THOMAS H. POWER,
W. WESTGARTH.

(L. S.)

APPENDIX A.

National Education Office,
Melbourne, 10th May, 1852.

The following will be the scale of salaries to be paid to teachers of National Schools, from the 1st of April, 1852:—

- Male teachers, where there are less than 30 children under tuition, £70 per annum.
 - Male teachers, where there are at least 30 children under tuition, £80 per annum.
 - Female teachers, where there are at least 20 children under tuition, £20 per annum.
 - Female teachers, where there are at least 30 children under tuition, £30 per annum.
- Where the number of scholars considerably exceeds 30, or where the teachers are shewn to have evinced peculiar ability, the Board will take the same into special consideration.

By order of the Commissioners,
BENJAMIN KANE,
Secretary