

1853-4.

VICTORIA.

NORMAL SCHOOL CORRESPONDENCE.

*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, 7TH FEBRUARY, 1854.

Copies of all Correspondence between the two Boards of Education and the Government, on the subject of the formation of a Normal School.

Denominational School Office,
Melbourne, 7th March, 1853.

SIR,

I have the honor to address you on the subject of a letter which I have received from the Secretary of the National Board of Education in this Colony, and of which a copy is enclosed.—That Board propose that the Denominational School Board should provide two-fifths of the costs of the erection of Normal School Buildings in Melbourne, estimated at £20,000, and offer two-fifths of the advantages of the proposed Institution for the limited term of ten years, in consideration of the sum of £800 to be contributed by them. Enclosure No. 1.

It is understood that the management of the Institution is to reside altogether in the National Board, and that it is to be conducted on their principles. The Denominational School Board feel it to be their duty to submit a matter of such grave importance to the consideration of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, more especially as they have been led to believe that the present arrangement, under which the Department of Education is administered by two co-existing Boards is only temporary, and will be superseded at an early period by a combined system.

The propositions of the National Board, however, appear to be inconsistent with such a result; inasmuch as they suppose the separate and independent existence of that Board for a length of time.

It would also appear desirable that before any final arrangements are made for the erection of Normal Establishments, the community at large should have an opportunity of expressing their sentiments upon the question.

If however, it should be deemed advisable that Normal Institutions should be initiated previous to the opening of the next session of the Legislature, the Denominational School Board consider that with upwards of one hundred of the people's schools under their charge, they ought not to be precluded from any advantages which Normal Establishments may afford; but having no prospect of having any funds available during the year which will not be claimed by the immediate wants of Denominational Schools, (as will be seen by the annexed statement of their accounts), it will be quite out of their power to contribute towards Normal Institutions, without further provision being made from the public funds for the purpose. Enclosure No. 2.

They conceive however, that it is their duty to avoid all unnecessary expenditure under present circumstances, and respectfully suggest that Government should give such instructions to both Boards as may prevent any steps being now taken, which may prove irreconcilable with the satisfactory adjustment of an improved system of public education.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) COLIN CAMPBELL,

Acting Secretary.

The Honorable

The Colonial Secretary.

A.—No. 49.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

National Education Office,
Melbourne, 1st March, 1853.

SIR,

I have the honor, by direction of the Board of Commissioners of National Education, to inform you that they have it in contemplation to erect an extensive Normal School upon the land in East Melbourne conveyed to them for that purpose.

2. The Commissioners duly impressed with the importance of proceeding with the initiation of this Institution without delay, have examined different plans which have been submitted to them, and are of opinion that the sum of Twenty Thousand Pounds might be advantageously expended at the present time upon the proposed building, which should provide suitable accommodation for Pupil and Training Teachers, and should contain large Model Schools for boys, girls, and infants.

3. Before however entering into permanent contracts, it has occurred to the Commissioners, that as the Denominational School Board have expressed themselves strongly in favor of the establishment of a system of Normal training for their Teachers, "on public principles," and as the erection of two large Normal Schools in Melbourne would appear to involve an unnecessary expenditure of public money, the Denominational School Board might be willing to devote a portion of the funds entrusted to them, towards assisting the Commissioners in carrying out the object on which they are both agreed.—They are confirmed in in this view by the consideration, that the secular instruction recognized by the Denominational School Board is identical with that promoted by the Commissioners; the same books and apparatus being used, and similar general regulations being enforced in the Schools of each system.

The Commissioners have therefore desired me to make the following proposition, that is to say:—that the Denominational School Board should contribute a certain proportion, say two-fifths of the expense of erecting the Normal School Buildings, and that they should be entitled to nominate as Pupil or Training Teachers during say ten years after the opening of the institution, the same proportion of the whole number of Teachers which the Institution may be able to admit, upon the same terms and with the same advantages as Pupil or Training Teachers nominated by the National Board.

I am to request that you will have the goodness to submit this proposal to the Denominational School Board, and to obtain their decision thereon at your earliest convenience.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) BENJAMIN KANE,
*Secretary.*The Secretary of
The Denominational School Board,
Melbourne.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

STATEMENT of the ACCOUNTS of the DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD.

DENOMINATION.	Voted for 1853.			Unappropriated of the Sum voted for 1853.			Voted for the first Quarter.			Appropriated for the first Quarter.			Unappropriated of the Sum voted for the first Quarter.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Church of England	11229	18	0	6439	18	0	2807	9	6	1947	10	0	859	19	6
Presbyterian ...	3482	8	0	1762	8	0	870	12	0	587	10	0	283	2	0
Wesleyan ...	1496	8	0	386	8	0	374	2	0	277	10	0	96	12	0
Independent ...	1293	18	0	908	14	0	323	9	6	145	4	0	178	5	6
Roman Catholic ...	5404	4	0	1934	4	0	1351	1	0	1332	10	0	18	11	0
TOTAL.....£	22,906	16	0	11,431	12	0	5,726	14	0	4,290	4	0	1,436	10	0

National Education Office,
Melbourne, 11th March, 1853.

SIR,

Adverting to a communication dated the 7th March, addressed to yourself by the Denominational School Board, a copy of which has been sent to this office, and duly considered by the Board of Commissioners for National Education.

I do myself the honor of acquainting you by desire of the Commissioners, that they have witnessed this act of interference with extreme surprise and regret, and I am to express their hope that while they have the honor to be charged with the execution of a great public trust, His Excellency will take such steps as he may deem necessary to prevent for the future, any such irregular attempts on the part of one public body to control the proceedings of any other.

I have, &c.,
For the Secretary,
(Signed) JAMES BISHOP.

The Honorable
The Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Melbourne, 30th March, 1853.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 11th instant, No. 53. | 137, expressing the opinions entertained by the Commissioners of the Board of National Education on the communication which was lately forwarded to this office from the Denominational School Board, relative to the plan which had been proposed to them by the former Board for carrying out the scheme of establishing Normal Schools in Melbourne: I have the honor to inform you by direction of the Lieutenant Governor, that His Excellency is by no means desirous to enter upon a consideration of the various expenses which may be undertaken by the National Board, or of the differences of opinion which may thereby be created between the two Boards.

2. At the same time, as the matter has been brought forward, the Lieutenant Governor also directs me to observe that it was, His Excellency believes, understood, that by the manner in which the Educational Vote was passed, it was contemplated that any very extensive schemes, such as the erection of a Normal School, would remain in abeyance until the Legislature might come to a definite conclusion on the general subject.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. LONSDALE.

The Acting Secretary of
The National Education Board.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Melbourne, 30th March, 1853.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant No. 53. | 76, containing the views of the Denominational School Board on the proposition lately made them by the National Board, for establishing Normal Schools in Melbourne.

2. In reply, I am directed by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor to inform you, that His Excellency is not by any means desirous to enter upon a consideration of the various expenses which may be undertaken by the National Board, or of the differences of opinion which may thereby be created between the Boards.

3. At the same time, as the matter has been brought forward, the Lieutenant Governor is pleased to direct me to observe that it was, His Excellency believes, understood, that by the manner in which the Educational Vote was passed, it was contemplated that any very extensive schemes, such as the erection of a Normal School, would remain in abeyance until the Legislature might come to a definite conclusion on the general subject,

I have, &c.,
(Signed) W. LONSDALE.

The Secretary of
The Denominational School Board.

National Education Office,
Melbourne, 9th April, 1853.

SIR,

No. 59. | 365.

I have the honor by direction of the Board of National Education to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, in which you state, with reference to the interference on the part of the Denominational School Board with the proceedings of this Board, in the matter of the contemplated Model Normal School, that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor is by no means desirous to enter into a consideration of the various expenses which may be undertaken by the National Board.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) BENJAMIN KANE,
Acting Inspector and Secretary.

The Honorable
The Colonial Secretary.