

1856-7.

VICTORIA.

PROGRESS REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF

NATIONAL EDUCATION

FOR THE

COLONY OF VICTORIA,

FOR THE YEAR 1856.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.

No. 63.—a



PROGRESS REPORT.

No. 1539.

National Education Office,
Melbourne, 8th June, 1857.

SIR,

I have the honor, by desire of the Board of Commissioners of National Education, to submit to you the following brief statement of their proceedings, during the year 1856, in anticipation of the ordinary Report, which is not yet ready.

1. NUMBER OF SCHOOLS IN OPERATION.

The following Table exhibits the increase in the number of National Schools, and in the attendance of children, from the establishment of the Board to the present time:—

Period.		Number of Schools in Operation.	Number of Children on the Rolls.	Average Attendance.	Average Number on the Rolls of each School.	Average Attendance at each School.	Percentage of average Attendance to Number on the Rolls.
31 Dec.	1851	6	342	...	57	—	—
"	1252	9	552	361	61	40	65
"	1853	27	1753	908	65	34	52
"	1854	42	2969	1772	71	42	60
"	1855	58	3532	2509	61	43	71
"	1856	82	4804	3553	59	43	74

Thus giving on 31st December, 1856, eighty-two schools in operation, with 4804 children on the rolls, being an increase over the previous year of forty-one per cent. of schools and thirty-six per cent. of scholars.

2. FINANCE.

The Commissioners beg to refer to the accompanying abstract of the receipts and disbursements of the Board for 1856, from which it will be perceived that the total receipts (including a balance of £12,340 1s. 5d. from the previous year) were £41,404 12s. 2d., and the total disbursements £36,227 2s. 6d., leaving a balance at the end of 1856, of £5,177 9s. 8d. The amount placed at the disposal of the Board by the Government for that year was £21,299 19s. 9d., a sum which was inadequate to enable the Board to extend their operations, and they were consequently obliged to refuse many applications for aid. Nearly the whole of the sum of £9,663 15s. 8d. which appears under the head of "School buildings, repairs and Works," was disbursed to redeem pledges made during 1855.

Appendix No. I.

The following statement shews the present position of the finances of the Board :—

	£	s.	d.		DISBURSEMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Balance at the end of 1856	5,117	9	8	Amount Disbursed	12,391	0	6	
Five monthly instalments from the Government, at £1,750 per month	8,750	0	0	Balance	3,605	2	10	
Receipts from other sources	2,068	13	8					
	<u>£15,996</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>			<u>£15,996</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>

Leaving a cash balance at this date of £3,605 2s. 10d.

In correspondence with the Government on the subject of their finances, the Commissioners have already stated that the amount at present paid to them, viz., £1,750 per month, is insufficient to meet the ordinary current expenses of the Board, which average £2,100 per month.

The following statement shews the probable position of the Board at the end of the present year if further funds be not allowed.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Cash balance to date	3,605	2	10	Salaries and other expenses due for May... ..	996	15	4
Grant to be received from the Government for seven months, at £1750 per month	12,250	0	0	Seven months salaries and contingencies, from 1st June till 31st December, at £2100 per month	14,700	0	0
Probable receipts of fees from Model Schools and Training Department	1,139	4	4	Incidental Expenses... ..	250	0	0
Ditto for school books sold	260	0	0	Amounts due to redeem pledges incurred as per statement in Appendix No. 2	3,963	10	1
Deficiency	2,655	18	3				
	<u>£19,910</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>		<u>£19,910</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

Thus shewing that there will be a deficiency of assets to meet liabilities of £2,655 18s. 3d. if further aid be not granted.

Appendix No. 3.

The following sums are also required to meet applications for aid of which the Board have approved :—

1. For the erection, repair, enlargement and furnishing of school houses	£	s.	d.
	2,870	6	8
2. For works required in connection with the Model Training Schools	200	0	0
3. To meet applications for aid to non-vested schools	525	0	0
4. To meet applications for increased assistance in conducting schools	827	10	0
Total	<u>£4,422</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>

In the latter item (£827 10s.) is included a sum of £500 to meet the salaries of teachers for the new schools at Geelong, which are nearly completed.

Adding this amount to the deficiency previously noted, a sum of £7,078 14s. 11d. will be required to enable the Commissioners to carry out existing engagements to the end of the year, and to meet approved applications for aid.

The Commissioners feel warranted in urging upon the Government the necessity of making an advance to the above amount, with £10,000 additional, to meet such other claims as may be made upon the Board during the present year, making a total amount of £38,078 14s. 11d.

The Commissioners would represent that, unless this be done, the National system will not have a fair trial, as it has not had during the two past years in consequence of the paucity of funds afforded to them.

3. GENERAL REMARKS.

The Commissioners must reserve for their report any detailed information relative to their proceedings during the past year; but they would state, shortly, that the Model Schools are progressing on the whole satisfactorily—the number on the books at the end of 1856 having been 760, and the average attendance 502.

The Training Department is progressing satisfactorily; during the two sessions which have elapsed, fifty-six persons have passed through the Institution, most of whom have been classed, and have obtained schools.

The Commissioners will advert more at length in their General Report to the difficulties which they have had to encounter in carrying out the operations of the Board, in face of which difficulties the progress of the system may be looked upon as most satisfactory.

Money has been denied during the past and present years by the State, on the ground, that, even to meet local subscriptions, money could not be given, except upon calculations based on the attendance of pupils in 1855; and the collection of local subscriptions being thus discouraged, although the inhabitants of different localities have been most anxious to establish National Schools, the efforts of the Commissioners to lay the foundation of new schools have been still further retarded by the refusal *in limine* of grants of land, because local subscriptions have not been raised.

These refusals of money and of land could not but operate to defeat the most earnest efforts on the part of the people, and on that of the Board.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

BENJAMIN F. KANE,
Secretary.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary,
Melbourne.

APPENDIX No. 1.

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF NATIONAL EDUCATION, DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER, 1856.

RECEIPTS.			DISBURSEMENTS.					
	£	s. d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Balance in favor of the Public on 31st December, 1855	...	...	12,340	1	5	I. SALARIES OF TEACHERS.	£	s. d.
Received from the Treasury, being Balance of Vote for 1855	...	...	3,716	5	0	1. Town and Suburban Schools	4,201	12. 10
Received from the Treasury, being Amount of Vote for 1856	...	...	21,299	19	9	2. Country	3,541	0 2
Received from the Patrons and Promoters of Schools in various localities for the Building, Enlargement, and Repairs of School-houses, viz.:	...	...				3. Gold Fields	1,843	2 8
Castlemaine	498	1 4				4. Teachers of Drawing and Vocal Music, Town and Suburban Schools	602	0 0
Geelong	127	0 6				5. Teachers' Travelling Expenses	501	4 0
Ballaarat (Township School)	400	0 0				10,688	19 8	
Ballaarat (Warreneep School)	50	0 0				II. MODEL AND TRAINING SCHOOLS.		
Tarraville	177	0 0				1. Salaries of Teachers and Wages	5,963	2 10
Allansford	100	0 0				2. Buildings, &c.	4,205	13 1
Campbell's Creek	60	0 0				3. General Expenditure	1,272	8 11
Wangoom	56	2 0				11,441	4 10	
Bulla Bulla	20	0 0				III. SCHOOL BUILDINGS, REPAIRS, AND WORKS.		
Woodford	4	14 3				1. Town and Suburban Schools	1,821	14 3
South Melbourne	47	19 0				2. Country	3,369	8 9
Sandhurst	66	13 4				3. Gold Fields	4,432	12 8
Horsham	223	18 0				4. General Furniture	40	0 0
Eltham	80	10 0				9,663	15 8	
Colac	9	11 1	1,921	9	6	598	16 6	
Received for School Books sold during the year	...	...	392	11	0	IV. SCHOOL BOOKS AND REQUISITES	...	...
Received as Fees from the Model Schools	...	...	1,411	5	6	V. INSPECTION	...	1,686 5 6
Received as Fees from the Training Establishment	...	...	315	0	0	VI. MISCELLANEOUS.		
Miscellaneous Receipts	...	...	8	0	0	Law Expenses	65	5 11
						Insurance	80	10 6
						Advertising	99	9 11
						Printing	175	11 0
						Postages	82	8 11
						Stationery	49	3 5
						Other Expenditure	104	16 6
						657	6 2	
						VII. OFFICE DEPARTMENT	1,490	14 2
						36,227	2 6	
						5,177	9 8	
			£41,404	12	2	Balance	...	...
								£41,404 12 2

BENJAMIN F. KANE.

APPENDIX No. 2.

SCHEDULE OF AMOUNTS DUE BY THE BOARD OF NATIONAL EDUCATION TO REDEEM PLEDGES INCURRED.

	£	s.	d.
Model Schools, repairs...	62	0	0
Allansford, completion of school-house	37	10	0
Bulla Bulla, repairs	30	0	0
Cavendish, "	75	0	0
Colac	116	17	10
Camperdown, completion of school buildings	600	0	0
Dunkeld, ditto	442	3	6
Geelong, ditto	1,166	5	0
Gisborne, ditto	74	17	0
Hawthorn, ditto	20	4	4
Horsham, ditto	470	0	0
Kyneton, ditto	101	0	9
Pentridge, ditto	756	15	0
Taradale, repairs	10	16	8
	£3,963	10	1

BENJ. F. KANE.

APPENDIX No. 3.

SCHEDULE OF AMOUNTS REQUIRED TO MEET APPLICATIONS FOR AID WHICH ARE STANDING OVER FOR WANT OF SUFFICIENT FUNDS.

(1.) Erection, or repair, or enlargement, or furnishing of School-houses :—

	£	s.	d.
New Bendigo...	150	0	0
Aliston, erection of school-house	150	0	0
Balmoral, ditto	200	0	0
Belvoir, ditto	250	0	0
Berwick, ditto	100	0	0
Mount Shadwell, ditto	180	0	0
Steiglitz, ditto	80	0	0
Whoo, ditto	120	0	0
Yangeri Creek, ditto	150	0	0
Yambuk, ditto	100	0	0
Belfast, ditto	300	0	0
Lancefield, ditto	100	0	0
East Collingwood, repairs	15	0	0
Ballaarat, furniture and fittings	100	0	0
Geelong, ditto, and completion of Buildings	400	0	0
Hawthorn, enlargement of school-house	100	0	0
Portland, ditto...	150	0	0
Taradale, repairs	30	6	8
Maddingley, ditto	100	0	0
Wangaratta, enlargement	100	0	0
TOTAL	£2,870	6	8

(2.) Works required in connection with the Model and Training Schools :—

External Stuccoing	£200	0	0
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(3.) Applications for aid to Non-vested Schools :—

Name of Locality.	Amount required for Salary, &c., for six months.
Balmoral	} £75 each.
Oakleigh	
Merri Creek	
St. Albans	
Steiglitz	
Sandridge	
Sebastopol	
TOTAL	£525

(4.) Amounts required to meet applications for increased assistance in conducting Schools,
(calculated for six months only).

	£	s.	d.
Geelong—Salaries to Teachers	500	0	0
North Collingwood—Assistant Teacher	75	0	0
Ballaarat, Red Hill—Monitor	15	0	0
" Brown Hill—Workmistress	22	10	0
Collingwood, Rose-street—Monitor	12	10	0
Belmont—Workmistress	22	10	0
Melbourne, North—Assistant Teacher	75	0	0
Sandhurst	75	0	0
Allowances in lieu of house-rent to Mistresses, Campbell's Creek and Sale	30	0	0
	<u>£827</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u>

SUMMARY.

	£	s.	d.
No. 1	2,870	6	8
No. 2	200	0	0
No. 3	525	0	0
No. 4	827	10	0
	<u>£4,422</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>

BENJ. F. KANE.