



SUPPLEMENT
TO
**The Hongkong
Government Gazette**

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REPORT ON QUEEN'S COLLEGE, FOR THE YEAR 1907.

*Laid before the Legislative Council by Command of
His Excellency the Governor.*

1. During the year 1907, 645 boys applied for admission, of whom 396 secured seats. On the other hand 347 boys left in the course of the year. The total attendance for the year was 1,401.

2. In the former half of the year, the total attendances were reduced owing to two causes, viz.: the premature attempt to abolish Class VII, and the depletion of the Upper School in 1906 on account of the abnormal number of boys obtaining situations in that year. The result is a reduction in Daily Average Attendance from 1,005 to 991. In the latter half of the year, the numbers recovered their usual figures, and we have this month an exceptionally high attendance, 1,049, *i.e.*, 64 more than in January 1907.

3. There were 228 school-days, three being lost on the occasion of the Commercial Processions, when most schools in the Colony were closed as Chinese Masters and boys had relatives from the mainland whom they wished to entertain.

4. The total gross expenditure was \$60,995, or \$4,863 more than in 1906, the increase being due to the 2/- rate for Exchange Compensation ordered by the Secretary of State. The public paid one half of the year's expenses of the college, and the cost of each boy to the public was \$30.82. The statistics in this paragraph merely show a reversion to the conditions of 1905.

5. The following changes on the Staff took place during the year:—

- Mr. LAI PUI-YAN appointed Articled Pupil Teacher, 1st April.
- Mr. TSANG KUN-WA, Clerk, resigned, 30th April.
- Mr. WONG WAI-SHÜ, appointed Clerk, 1st May.
- Mr. R. E. O. BIRD, Senior Assistant Master, went on leave, 4th May.
- Mr. B. TANNER returned from leave, 20th September.

6. The drainage of the entire premises has been relaid, and a new Masters' Latrine provided. The roofs of two class-rooms have been repaired, and the cubic content of the rooms considerably increased by the exposure of the rafters. It does not appear possible for the Public Works Department to effect alterations of such magnitude in our short vacations (one month each, in February and August). The consequent dislocation of school work is considerable, as we have no spare room into which to transfer the disturbed class. We are obliged to use the Grand Entrance Lobby, which is entirely unsuited for educational purposes. In the case of classes of 60 boys, some two dozen have to be distributed among other sections which are thereby overcrowded.

7. On the 13th of September a panic occurred in the East Wing of the college, two or three hundred boys rushing downstairs, on account of a cry in the streets that Queen's College was falling. The origin of the scare was simple enough. A piece of plaster fell from the ceiling in a class-room, whereupon all the boys in that room bolted. The wind blew the dust into the adjoining room, where the boys mistaking it for smoke shouted "Fire!" and ran. The people in the street added to the excitement. In five minutes, order was restored and work resumed. It was discovered however that one boy in alarm for his own safety had jumped over the verandah, a distance of 25 feet. He was conveyed to hospital and returned to school a month later. To prevent the recurrence of such a panic, all plaster ceilings in class-rooms and verandahs should be removed. This is the more necessary when we remember that these ceilings have been *in situ* fully twenty years and in many places are covered with patches.

8. The health of the college has been very good. The chief causes of absence from sickness were Beri-beri, from which Chinese appear to recover with astonishing ease, and Scabies, which often necessitates an absence of two or three months from school. Dr. JORDAN and Dr. GRÖNE were appointed by the Government to report on the condition of the eyes of the pupils of the college, they discovered a very large proportion of the boys suffering from Trachoma in various stages.

9. I am pleased to be able to report a very marked improvement in the success of our candidates at the Oxford Local Examinations, which were held last July for the twentieth time at this centre. The occasion was signalised by Mok Kai-fook's taking Third Class *Junior* Honours. This is the first time that a Queen's College boy has obtained Honours. This year I am happy to say that all our *Juniors* took Mathematics, passing 100 p.c. in Arithmetic, 90 p.c. in Algebra, 80 p.c. in Geometry and 90 p.c. in Mensuration, also 4 out of 5 or 80 p.c. in Trigonometry. All the *Preliminary* took Higher Arithmetic and Algebra, passing 100 p.c. in Arithmetic, 78 in Algebra and 56 in Higher Arithmetic. The mark *Good*, next to *Distinction*, was awarded 19 instead of 11 times as last year. *Senior*, 1 in Scripture. *Junior*, 3 in Arithmetic, 1 in Scripture, 1 in Algebra, 2 in Geometry and 2 in Mensuration. *Preliminary*, 4 in Arithmetic, 2 in History, 2 in Geometry and 1 in Freehand Drawing.

10. The results of the Annual Examination for Prizes and Promotions, held by me under Standing Orders from the Governing Body are as follows:—

Upper School,	295 boys examined,	279	or	94 %	passed.
Lower School,	622	„	„	577	„ 93 % „
Preparatory School,	127	„	„	124	„ 98 % „
Total,	1,044	„	„	980	94 % „

The two previous annual percentages of passes are 81 in 1906, and 88 in 1905.

Table I shows the percentage of passes in each subject.

11. I have not the slightest hesitation in assessing the work of 1907 as excellent. I have invariably found the results of the Oxford Local Examinations to provide a safe criterion of the work to be expected in the Upper School and this year is no exception. It will always happen, in Oxford and all other examinations, that some particular questions may appear easier in one year than another. It is also worthy of notice that such apparently easy questions frequently act as pitfalls to the unwary. It may however safely be premised, and I fear no contradiction from my masters and boys, that the questions set by me in 1907 were as searching, and as severe tests of intelligence as in previous years. The head-boys of most classes achieved the same aggregate as last year: but the following particular instances deserve notice, II.A. 1,270 instead of 1,124, III.A. 1,152 instead of 942, III.B. 1,017 instead of 790, IV.B. 1,004 instead of 858, V.A. 948 instead of 843 and V.B. 952 instead of 814.

12. I desire to invite particular attention to the following points. Owing to the depletion of the Upper School in 1906 referred to above (para. 2) it was necessary for me in September to form a fourth section of Class III. Mr. TANNER, on his return from England, took charge of this section III.D. which was composed of the boys in the various sections of Class IV, that obtained highest aggregates at my Half-yearly Examination in July. Not a single boy failed and the general tone of the work was excellent. The promotion of boys from Class IV to III entailed promotions in all classes below. Reference to the figures in the preceding paragraph will show that while no class came out worse than last year, three IV.B., V.A. and V.B. attained a much higher figure. Class I.B. that for many years has borne the unenviable reputation of being composed of dull, slow boys was observed by the class-masters and myself throughout the year to possess better material than usual, and to be working in a satisfactory manner. The opinion thus formed was amply justified by the final result of the examination when 84 per cent. passed instead of 53. Non-Chinese boys throughout the college have acquitted themselves above the average: the head-boy of V.A. is a Japanese and of V.B. a Philippino.

13. I have addressed the classes on the weak points observable in their papers throughout the examination and therefore do not propose to dwell on matters, which in view of the general excellence of the results, appear comparatively trifling. For the first time in my experience the Graphs in Classes I, II and III were excellently well done, and Logarithms successfully employed by boys in Class I.A. Mathematics generally and Arithmetic in particular showed great improvement. The important subjects of English Grammar, Reading, Conversation, Dictation, Composition and History, and the allied subjects of Translations were of a high order of merit. The map-drawing from memory in Classes III, IV, V and VI were astonishing feats. A few boys in II.A. drew the Southern counties of England well, but the map of Ireland proved too much for I.A.B. Hygiene was well taught to 736 boys, Mr. SUTHERLAND being specially successful in teaching this subject to the boys of so low a standard as Class V.

14. With regard to Special Subjects, I find that the papers on Physiology and Natural Science taught by Mr. CROOK to non-Chinese boys of the Upper School in lieu of Translations, were better done than for many years past, notably so in the case of Physiology. Trigonometry, taught by myself to a class that had dwindled down to 14 boys at time of examination also had made progress, the Seniors doing very well and the Juniors creditably. The Morrison Scholar Mok Kai-fook floored every question of the Senior paper losing a few marks on matters of method. Model and Freehand Drawing, taken by the Second Master Mr. DEALY to a larger class than usual, gave evidence of talent and application.

15. When I arrived in the Colony 22nd of January, 1882, I immediately proceeded to hold the Annual Examination of the Central School, 337 boys, 1,875 papers. This year I have examined 1,044 boys and personally corrected 8,888 papers. The fact that I mark all the papers myself is not in any sense whatever a reflection on my staff, whose ability to hold examinations carefully is amply attested twice a year at the Mid-Term examinations: I am actuated by the very simple and to me excellent reason, the maintenance of one standard in appraising the excellence and intelligence of the answers throughout this large college. It is not because I lay any foolish claim to omniscience or to infallibility but because I believe the gain to the whole college incalculable, and the loss to the individual (in the event of a slip) infinitesimal. A very good illustration of the wide divergence of views in assessing the same paper is afforded by the Table of Marks awarded by six masters (including myself) on the subject of Composition in the First Class. We none of us know the writer of a paper, there is nothing but an Index Number provided for the occasion. The five P.

T.s and all the boys in both sections of the Class are thrown into hopeless disorder, a key being kept by Head Master. The marks awarded to one paper were 52, 70, 90, 90, 50, 63 and to another 70, 85, 96, 95, 64, 60. The following Table may be of interest showing how the number of papers under review is arrived at:—

Class I	32 boys.	15 subjects.	480 papers.
II	83	13	1,079
III	180	11	1,980
IV	233	11	2,563
V	208	9	1,872
VI	181	5	905
VII	127	3	381
Total,			1,044
Marked subjects of boys partially examined,			250
Not Drawing. Special Subjects,			114
			<hr/>
			9,624
Deduct E. to C. Marks by Second Master,			736
Total marked by Head Master,			<hr/> <hr/> 8,888

16. We have a most excellent English Staff. What is needed is for each master to specialise in some distinct branch. When I approached them by Circular for the expression of their views in this direction, they showed a remarkable unanimity in their desire to specialise on Natural Science: but as the Governing Body is opposed to the introduction of Elementary Science into the curriculum, it behoves the English Masters to seek other channels for the vent of their energies. Mr. GRANT has for years been practically Mathematical Master in Class I also taking the subject of Bookkeeping in Class II. I propose next month to make Mr. CROOK *quasi* Professor of Geography a subject in which he has distinguished himself. The great need of the college is a man who will so devote himself to the subjects of English Grammar and Composition as to be an authority on these important subjects. Since the death of Mr. FALCONER (Second Master) twenty years ago, we have had no master prominent for ability in this direction, and the want of such a man is urgently felt in a college teaching the English language to students nearly all Chinese.

17. As regards the Chinese Staff, we may also congratulate the public on service faithfully and energetically performed. Of these eleven Chinese Assistants, the four at the head of the list may without hesitation be at once classified as excellent, and there are two or three promising young masters below them. The great desideratum among the remainder is an awakening to the fact that it is only by hard private study that they can equip themselves for the annually increasing demands made upon their store of knowledge, as teachers of a language foreign to them. Year after year by the abolition of lower classes they are promoted to the charge of higher classes, and in many instances it would appear that they are hardly equal to the strain. In this connection, it must be remembered that in spite of the fact that the Government has very greatly increased the scale of salaries attached to these posts, we do not find the better educated class of boys in the college electing education as a profession. In the old days the highest boys in the First Class were eager to be monitors at \$4 a month: now with \$20 to \$35 a month we have during the past eight years drawn our future masters from bare passes in Class I and even from Class II.

18. The Normal Master, Mr. RALPHS, speaks very highly of the work done by the five Pupil Teachers in their five respective classes. My observation throughout the year enables me to endorse his statement which is supported by the excellent results in Classes VI and VII at the Annual Examination. On the other hand, the result of the Pupil Teachers' examination in a Theoretical Paper and in Practical Demonstration in front of a class, together with the subjects Arithmetic, Dictation, Grammar, Geography, Composition and Translations from and into Chinese can only be described as a very qualified success.

19. *Vernacular School*.—707 boys were examined and 641 or 91 per cent. passed. 308 or 43 per cent. of the Vernacular School are now in the highest class, Class 5. As only a dozen newly admitted boys are fit for this class, it is evident that great credit is due to the Vernacular Masters for the high standard to which they have raised the native school in three years.

20. The Reading and Cricket Clubs flourish. Gymnastic instruction under Bombardier WADE, R.G.A., is very successful to small squads of 17 making a total of 85. Our Football Team has distinguished itself this year, by winning the Hongkong Schools Football League Shield, and fighting a well contested game with the *Empress of India* Football Team, (winner of the *Empress* Competition Cup). Visits interchanged between the Queen's College and Christian College (Canton) Football Teams are a distinctly new departure, as there is no precedent on record of a Chinese Football Team leaving the mainland to play upon foreign shores. Queen's College was too strong for them but it is hoped that better matches may take place in the future.

21. During the year 1907, 93 boys from Queen's College obtained situations: 9 in the Hongkong Government Service, 25 in local firms, 8 under the Chinese Government and 51 in various parts of the Far East. The above figures represent only those boys whose careers on leaving school are known to us. Many boys are employed in Government and other offices without our knowledge, and it is impossible to say how many of the 89 boys who did not return after vacations last year and were marked Left, are so employed.

22. I have once again to express our most fervent sense of gratitude for the generosity of the public in supplementing the Government Grant of \$200 for Prizes. Without their aid we would be unable to provide 48 prizes for 24 English, and 15 prizes for 15 Vernacular Classes: while Special Prizes for History, Composition and Special Translations would be hopelessly impossible. We have no space for their names here, but they are annually posted at the College Entrance, and are published in the *Yellow Dragon*, the monthly organ of the College.

23. Queen's College is hindered in an ambitious upward course by the following considerations. It is a Day-school, so that all attempts to teach English Conversation are necessarily confined to school-hours and no supervision can be given to preparation of work. Again fully one third of the boys change annually, and this has always been the case from time immemorial: 400 boys leaving and 400 new boys being admitted each year is a very serious obstacle in the way of obtaining a large and efficient Upper School. In this connection it must be observed that there is no external system for feeding the Upper School of Queen's College such as exists in England: for the half-dozen boys from the Government District Schools are lost sight of when the number of seats available (400) is borne in mind. The Table below should succeed in illustrating the slow but steady progress of Queen's College. Gradually the number of subjects has increased, and the increase in the number of scholars taking these subjects is enormous.

<i>Subject.</i>	<i>1881</i>	<i>1885</i>	<i>1889</i>	<i>1907</i>
Translation, E. to C.	301	379	676	736
„ C. to E.	301	379	676	736
Grammar,	172	312	547	1,044
Geography,	144	253	477	1,044
Composition,	83	127	360	736
History,.....	30	75	143	295
Geometry, .....	...	75	143	528
Algebra,.....	...	75	143	528
Mensuration, .....	...	25	24	115
Latin, .....	...	...	117	...
General Intelligence, .....	...	...	83	32
Shakespeare, .....	...	...	24	32
Trigonometry, .....	...	...	17	14
Hygiene, .....	...	...	...	736
Bookkeeping, .....	...	...	...	115

GEO. H. BATESON WRIGHT, D.D., (OXON.),
Head Master.

20th January, 1908.

Table I.
PERCENTAGE OF PASSES.

CLASS.	Number of boys Examined.	Percentage of Passes.	Chin.-Eng.	Eng.-Chin.	Reading.	Conversation.	Dictation.	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.	Composition.	History.	Algebra.	Geometry.	Measurement.	Bookkeeping.	Shakespeare.	General Intelligence.	Hygiene.
I,	A.....	13	100	100	100	62	69	92	85	38	100	100	38	77	38	62	83	46	100
	B.....	19	84	100	87	100	68	32	89	84	47	84	53	74	21	53	47	37	94
II,	A.....	51	98	84	98	98	59	84	90	86	76	94	94	90	62	88	64	...	92
	B.....	32	78	46	89	97	56	89	63	75	78	88	97	72	40	60	10	...	56
III,	A.....	57	95	94	98	100	58	91	95	86	82	91	88	96	89	...	...	...	96
	B.....	55	100	95	93	100	59	89	86	91	71	95	78	96	58	...	...	...	96
	C.....	54	94	88	91	97	29	88	91	76	24	82	94	88	79	...	...	...	68
	D.....	34	100	100	100	100	50	91	91	97	53	94	88	76	50	...	...	...	97
IV,	A.....	62	96	92	100	98	50	84	76	87	100	90	...	92	66	100	...	...	94
	B.....	61	95	97	92	98	62	92	72	85	87	67	...	95	26	97	...	...	95
	C.....	37	95	78	89	100	54	81	70	89	89	68	...	87	49	97	...	...	95
	D.....	35	94	94	94	97	29	80	80	97	94	49	...	91	57	97	...	...	80
	E.....	38	64	50	74	97	32	80	79	71	58	39	...	74	18	95	...	...	50
V,	A.....	52	96	83	93	98	67	90	83	98	94	87	...	...	100	...	...	...	94
	B.....	59	100	88	86	100	59	100	91	89	94	71	...	...	95	...	...	...	88
	C.....	32	85	59	63	91	50	94	87	78	63	66	...	...	94	...	...	...	50
	D.....	33	90	53	97	100	66	93	84	84	93	48	...	...	99	...	...	...	75
	E.....	32	97	56	88	100	69	97	81	84	91	38	...	...	97	...	...	...	38
VI,	A.....	63	98	...	...	100	75	100	73	84	89	...	...	...	86	...	...	...	...
	B.....	57	93	...	...	100	42	100	67	86	86	...	...	...	81	...	...	...	...
	C.....	61	90	...	...	98	59	96	57	69	82	...	...	...	93	...	...	...	...
VII,	A.....	33	100	...	...	93	45	100	76	90	93	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	B.....	60	95	...	...	97	57	100	83	80	88	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	C.....	34	100	...	...	100	62	100	94	100	44	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Table II.
ATTENDANCES IN 1907.

MONTH.	Number of Scholars.	Number of Attendances.	Number of School Days.	Average Daily Attendance.	Remarks.
January,	985	23,411	26	900	
February,	880	2,597	3	865	
March,	1,095	20,603	20	1,030	
April,	1,072	15,882	16	993	
May,	1,058	24,768	25	991	
June,	1,032	23,353	24	973	
July,	1,011	21,248	22	966	
August,	979	6,351	7	907	
September,	1,127	16,914	16	1,057	
October,	1,116	25,849	25	1,034	
November,	1,086	25,546	25	1,022	
December,	1,072	19,327	19	1,017	
		225,849	228		

Total Number of Attendances during 1907,225,849
 Number of School Days during 1907, 228
 Average Daily Attendance during 1907, 991
 Total Number of Scholars at this School during 1907, 1,401

Table III.

AVERAGE EXPENSE OF EACH SCHOLAR AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE DURING 1907.

Expenditure :—

Cash Book as per Estimates,	\$45,053.15
Do. Exchange Compensation,	13,341.08
Do. Crown Agents,	2,601.18
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Total,	\$60,995.41

Deduct :—

School Fees,	\$30,442.50
Refund of Salaries,	15.00
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	30,457.50

Total Expense of College,..... \$30,537.91

Average Expense of each Scholar :—

Per Number on Roll,	\$21.80
Per Average Daily Attendance,	<u>30.82</u>