

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 108.

The following Minutes of the Sanitary Board are published for general information.

By Command,

ARATHOON SETH,
for the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 17th March, 1888.

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Sanitary Board at a meeting held in the Board Room on Tuesday, January 24th, 1888.

PRESENT:

The Honourable the Surveyor General, (Chairman).
The Colonial Surgeon.
The Registrar General.
The Honourable A. P. McEWEN.
Major T. C. DEMPSTER.
Dr. PATRICK MANSON, LL.D.
Dr. JAMES CANTLIE.
Mr. WM. EDWARD CROW, (Secretary).

ABSENT:

Dr. HO KAI.

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th of January, 1888, were read and confirmed.

1. The Secretary laid on the table the draft of the Sanitary conditions of licence for the keeping of Milch Cows and Goats, and after approving of certain alterations in some of the clauses, the Board resolved that the amended conditions be endorsed on the licences to be issued during the present year.

2. Read a report from the Acting Sanitary Inspector on the Small-pox epidemic, and on the steps that had been taken by the Board and its Officers to meet the outbreak. Resolved:—That the Secretary be directed to forward the report to the Colonial Secretary with a view to requesting His Excellency the Governor's approval to its publication for general information.

3. Dr. MANSON suggested that a notification be issued urging on the Public the necessity of steeping all bed-clothes and wearing apparel, used by Small-pox patients, in boiling water before sending such articles to the wash. Resolved:—That the Secretary be directed to draft a notice and request sanction for its issue as a Government notification.

4. Dr. CANTLIE suggested the advisability of issuing a code of instructions for the information and guidance of those having the care of persons suffering from Small-pox in private tenements. Resolved:—That the Secretary be requested to issue in the form of household instructions the various suggestions which Dr. CANTLIE had promised to hand over to him.

5. A conversation ensued on the advisability of erecting as an experiment for the convenience of the public during the Small-pox epidemic the Hospital steam disinfecter which is not required by the Medical Department, and it was resolved that the disinfecter be rendered available for public use.

After a discussion the Board adjourned.

J. M. PRICE,
Chairman.

Read and confirmed, this 13th day of March, 1888.

WM. EDWARD CROW,
Honorary Secretary.

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 109.

The following letter, with enclosure, from the Inspector of Schools, reporting the result of the examination of the Grant-in-Aid Schools, is published for general information.

By Command,

ARATHOON SETH,
for the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 17th March, 1888.

No. 11.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT,
HONGKONG, 31st January, 1888.

SIR,—I have the honour to forward under this enclosure the usual tabulated summary of the amounts earned, during the year 1887, by the various Grant-in-Aid Schools of the Colony under the regulations of the Grant-in-Aid Code (1883), and I beg to recommend that a warrant be issued for the payment of the grants payable, as hereunder recommended, and amounting in the aggregate, after a reduction of one per cent., to \$16,674.72.

2. It will be seen from the enclosed tables, that the sum total, nominally earned by 61 Schools under the conditions of the Grant-in-Aid Code and on the basis of the usual examinations, amounts to \$16,843.16. But as the sum voted for Grants-in-Aid for 1888 (viz., \$17,000) has already been drawn upon to the amount of \$254.50, leaving only \$16,745.50 available, the amount nominally required for Grants-in-Aid exceeds the balance in hand by \$97.66.

3. In Despatch No. 211, of 30th September, 1882, the Secretary of State laid down the rule, "that the sum of money voted each year for Grants-in-Aid ought not under any circumstances be exceeded," and in Regulation No. 6 of the Grant-in-Aid Code (1883) it is provided that "the Government will not bind itself to give grants to all Schools claiming them under the foregoing conditions, but will be guided by the circumstances of each case and by the amount of money at its disposal for educational purposes. Moreover, a similar case occurred in 1883, when the amount nominally earned by the Grant-in-Aid Schools exceeded the sum then available by \$1,793.07, whereupon all the grants were subjected to a reduction of 14.33 per cent. in order to bring the payment to be made within the limits of the amount then available for the purpose.

4. I propose therefore to subject the amounts nominally earned by the Grant-in-Aid Schools in the year 1887, to a reduction of one per cent., as shewn in the enclosed tables, whereby the amount to be paid by way of Grants-in-Aid is reduced from \$16,843.16 to \$16,674.72, and the expenditure brought within the limits of the Estimates, leaving a small balance (\$70.78) in hand.

5. The above mentioned amount nominally earned by the Grant-in-Aid Schools in the year 1887 is considerably in excess of the sum earned by this class of Schools in the preceding year. In 1886, the sum total required for Grants-in-Aid amounted to \$14,324.76, and now, in 1887, to \$16,852.16, which is an increase of \$2,527.40. This increase is to be accounted for as follows. The number of Schools under the Grant-in-Aid Code increased from 56 Schools in 1886, to 61 Schools in 1887. The number of scholars individually examined in these Schools increased from 2,068 in 1886 to 2,314 in 1887. That the examinations were about as strict as usual will be seen from the fact that there is but a trifling increase in the percentage of scholars passed, for in 1886, out of 2,068 scholars examined, 1,790 or 86.55 per cent. passed, whilst in 1887, out of 2,314 scholars examined, 2,033 passed, or 87.85 per cent. The increase in the expenditure now required for Grants-in-Aid is therefore principally to be accounted for by the natural increase which took place in 1887 in the number of Schools and scholars placed under the Grant-in-Aid scheme. There is, however, one extraordinary factor in the educational movement of 1887 which contributed to the sudden increase in the expenditure required for these educational grants, viz., the introduction in the Colony of the Cambridge Local Examinations which, by the stimulus they give to the study of the higher branches of an English education, caused a sudden increase in the number of Schools competing for grants allowed by the local Grant-in-Aid Code for the so-called special subjects. For many years past there was only one Grant-in-Aid School (the Diocesan Home and Orphanage) which annually took up the special subjects of Algebra, Euclid and Physical Geography. Thus, for instance, in 1886, out of 2,068 scholars examined in the ordinary subjects of the Code, only 13 scholars were presented for examination in those 3 special subjects. But in 1887, as many as 6 Schools took up the special subjects of the Code, such as Algebra, Euclid, Physical Geography, Astronomy (Findlater's Science Primer), and even Book-keeping (Turner's Commercial Guide and Hunter's Civil Service Examination Papers), and as many as 99 scholars were examined in these subjects in 1887, involving an expenditure, for grants for special subjects only, amounting to \$611, as compared with \$44 required for special subjects in 1886.

6. I now beg to recommend that the enclosed tabulated accounts be audited as usual by the Audit Office, and that, if the accounts are found correct, the proposed reduction of 1 per cent. be approved and, in that case, a warrant issued for the sum of \$16,674.72 to be paid, as usual, by the Treasury on personal application to be made by the respective Managers, Teachers and Assistant-teachers of Grant-in-Aid Schools. I shall then supply the Treasury with the usual list of names and amounts due, corresponding with the detailed accounts herewith enclosed, and I shall also forward to each Manager, Teacher and Assistant-teacher concerned, the usual forms of receipt stating the amount due to each, which forms must be handed in at the Treasury on claiming payment. This form of procedure, first adopted in 1884, has hitherto worked satisfactorily.

7. The enclosed Tables exhibit in detail the mode in which each of the Grant-in-Aid Schools has earned its grant in 1887 and the amount payable to each Manager and Teacher under the proposed reduction of 1 per cent. Further particulars and general observations with regard to the working of the Grant-in-Aid Schools in 1887, I reserve for the usual Annual Report on Education.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient and humble Servant,

E. J. EITEL, Ph. D.,
Inspector of Schools.

The Honourable F. STEWART, LL.D.,
Colonial Secretary,

§c., §c., §c.

RESULTS of the EXAMINATION of the GRANT-IN-AID SCHOOLS in 1887, under the provisions of the Scheme of the 15th September, 1883.

Main table with columns: NAME OF SCHOOL, Class of School, No. of Scholars Pre-sented, No. of Scholars Examined, Number of Scholars who Passed (Standards I-VI), No. of Scholars who Failed (Standards I-VI), Average Daily Attendance, Sums to which the School is entitled (Standards I-VI), Needle Work (Very Good, Good, Fair), Total Grant earned in 1887, Amount of Reduction, Amount Payable, Amount due to Teacher, Amount due to Manager.

TOTAL, \$16,843.16 168.44 16,674.72 4,108.51 12,566.18

Hongkong, 31st January, 1888.

E. J. ERTEL, Ph.D., Director of Schools.

* Reduction of 50 per cent., see C.S.O. No. 2076 of 1887.

† Special Subject, under Regulations No. 22 of Grant-in-Aid Code.