

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.--No. 253.

The following Report of the Acting Head Master of Queen's College and of the Examiners appointed by the Governing Body for 1900, are published.

By Command,

T. SERCOMBE SMITH,
Acting Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 26th April, 1901.

1. The total number on Roll was 1,440 being nearly 100 more than last year; and this number could have been exceeded had the Roll been large enough to have admitted of more entries being made, and the class-rooms of a more expansive nature. This shews that an entrance into this Institution is eagerly sought after, in spite of the fees being, in the higher part of the school, \$36 per annum, and in addition to which each boy has to provide himself with all books used in the school, which in some classes means an extra expenditure of about \$10 on the part of each scholar in the upper classes.

The average daily attendance was 990 as against 887 last year. The highest monthly attendance was reached in April, when there were 1,126 pupils in attendance. The highest average daily attendance was also in April, viz., 1,049. The largest number of boys present on one day was 1,079, on 25th July.

2. The revenue from fees was \$29,037 being an *increase* of \$1,792 on last year. The gross expenditure has been increased owing to the increase of salaries, granted under C.O.D. 280 of 1899, and also by an increase of compensation on the same, and the adjustment of exchange in England; yet owing to the great increase in the average daily attendance the expense of *each* scholar has been *decreased* by \$1.28.

3. On my return to duty, from leave of absence, I took over charge on the 1st May from Dr. WRIGHT, the Head Master, who then went on leave. I found the staff weakened by Messrs. JONES and WOODCOCK (seconded for duty at the Supreme Court and Sanitary Board respectively), and Messrs. BARLOW and MACHELL, away sick—the former detained in Singapore Hospital, and the latter in Colombo Hospital.

Fortunately the services of Messrs. JAMES CHEUNG and J. HATMER were still available, and they were very good substitutes for two of the absentees, and thus the College has not suffered as much as it otherwise would have done. Unfortunately, just at that time Mr. DEALY, the Acting Second Master, was away also on sick leave for about a week, so that with the great increase in the number of boys, it was no easy task to arrange for the work of the school, and I had personally to give all my attention for some time to one individual class, and the general supervision had, for the time, to be greatly relaxed.

Messrs. BARLOW and MACHELL returned to the Colony on 15th May, but neither was in a fit condition to resume duty in full, and the result was that Mr. BARLOW after a few days on half duty, was ordered to the Hospital where he practically remained till 13th July, when he was recommended to go home for a period on medical certificate.

Mr. MACHELL was far less fit for work than even Mr. BARLOW, and within a few days, he too had to be admitted into the Hospital where his disease became so acute that it was found necessary to retire him from the service, and he was sent home in August.

The continued absence of these two Masters was totally unlooked for, and thus the staff was further reduced. So great then were the difficulties I had to contend with, that I had it seriously under my consideration to apply for permission to temporarily decrease the number of pupils. However, as Messrs. CHEUNG and HATMER gave me to understand that, under certain conditions, they would continue to act till the end of the year, and I had permission to employ some of the 1st class students as Acting Pupil-teachers, I was able to struggle on.

Relief from England in the shape of a successor to Mr. MACHELL has been anxiously looked for, but up to the present no one has been appointed; but I am expecting a new Master before long.

Thus throughout the year the school has been seriously understaffed, and had it not been that Messrs. CHEUNG and HATMER were able to remain, a reduction in the number of pupils would certainly have been necessary, and that would have meant a greater expense to the College. My thanks are also due to the whole staff for their assistance in these trying circumstances.

The school has suffered a great loss in the compulsory retirement of Mr. MACHELL, for he was not only a very energetic and efficient teacher, but was also always to the front in matters of recreation for the boys. He had been on the staff since 1892, so that his severance from the College will be all the keener felt.

4. The results of the Oxford Local Examinations are as follows:—Of the 8 juniors 5 passed, one of whom was a Chinese. Of the 9 Preliminary Candidates only 2 passed, one of these being a Chinese.

5. Of the four free scholars who were admitted this year, FUNG PAH-LIU (from Sai-ying-pun School) gained the Junior Morrison Scholarship, as the head boy of the Lower School.

6. During the year under review, great strides have been made in recreation and sports. I am happy to be able to state that a greater interest has been taken in sports generally by the Chinese, who have now got both Foot-ball and Cricket Clubs of their own, and I am further pleased to note from the "Yellow Dragon" that 2 or 3 Chinese boys are included in the College 1st Cricket Eleven.

Mr. TANNER is to be thanked for encouraging sea-bathing among the boys, and for starting a Club open to all who were willing to pay the fee, and of which many availed themselves.

The outcome of this was Aquatic Sports promoted by Mr. RALPHS, and held for the first time in the history of this school, and here again some of the Chinese shewed great proficiency.

In response to a general wish expressed by the Non-Chinese students, Mr. RALPHS (having first consulted Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, Colonel of the Hongkong Volunteers, on the matter) undertook to raise a Cadet corps, which, with some of the former students, numbered close upon 50. Drills were carried on, and in November the corps was inspected by Sir JOHN CARRINGTON, who spoke very favourably of the appearance and drill of the boys, and stated that a scheme would be presented to the Government for sanction to attach the corps to the Volunteers. The decision is still awaited.

Another subject which I hope is under the consideration of the Government and which I trust ere long will be *in fait accompli*, is the building of a suitable Gymnasium.

An increased interest is shewn in the "Yellow Dragon," which is still in a flourishing condition.

7. I examined the Lower and Preparatory Schools according to the standing order of the Governing Body, and make the following Report:—

In the Lower School 397 were examined and 368 or 93 % passed.

In the Preparatory School 310 were examined and 294 or 95 % passed, making a total of 707 examined, out of which 662 or 94 % passed.

Compared with last year 101 more boys were examined and 133 more passed.

As will be seen from the attached Table C., Classes IVc. and VIIIb. were by far the weakest. This is explained in IVc. by the fact that that class was constituted for the most part of the lowest boys promoted from the lower classes and even some from the Preparatory School. The VIIIa. was constituted of new boys who have been but a comparatively short time in the school, and in Grant-in-aid Schools might be exempt from examination.

I was struck by the readiness with which questions were answered in the "Conversation" examination even in the lowest classes, so long as I stuck to the exact matter of the book; and here the innate retentive powers of the Chinese came out strongly, for many of the boys had committed great portions of their reading lessons to memory. As soon, however, as I went off the straight path difficulties cropped up, and there was great stumbling.

8. Our warmest thanks are due to the donors of prizes whose names were published in the public papers when an account of the prize-giving was published.

9. The usual Tables A. and B. are attached.

ALFRED J. MAY, M.B.A.S., & F.F.I.S.,
Acting Head Master.

1900.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

Month.	Number of Scholars.	Number of Attendances.	Number of School Days.	Average Daily Attendance.	Remarks.
January,	859	14,867	18	825.94	
February,	1,044	5,134	5	1,026.8	
March,	1,088	27,791	27	1,029.0	
April,	1,126	14,693	14	1,049.5	
May,	1,108	27,161	26	1,044.65	
June,	1,071	23,635	24	984.79	
July,	1,008	20,802	22	945.56	
August,	907	3,562	4	890.5	
September,	1,109	19,600	19	1,031.5	
October,	1,083	25,614	25	1,024.56	
November,	1,063	24,954	25	998.16	
December,	1,027	20,927	22	951.23	
Total, .....	.....	228,740	231	990.23	

Total Number of ATTENDANCES during 1900,228,740
 Number of SCHOOL DAYS during 1900, 231
 Average DAILY ATTENDANCE during 1900, 990.23
 Total Number of SCHOLARS at this School during 1900, 1,440

AVERAGE EXPENSE OF EACH SCHOLAR AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE DURING 1900.

Expenditure,—

Cash Book,\$32,317.12
 Do., Exchange Compensation, 5,093.30
 Crown Agents, 2,674.44
 Do., Adjustment of Exchange,..... 3,649.79

\$43,734.65

Deduct,—

School Fees,\$29,037.00
 Sale of Books, 44.85

\$29,081.85

Total Expense of College,.....\$14,652.80

Average Expense of each Scholar,—

Per Number on Roll,\$10.17
 Per Average Daily Attendance,..... 14.80

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF LOWER AND PREPARATORY SCHOOLS, WITH PERCENTAGE OF PASSES IN EACH SUBJECT.

CLASS.	Total Number examined.	Total Number passed.	Percentage of Passes.	C. to E.	E. to C.	Reading.	Conversation.	Dictation.	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.	Composition.	Map.	
IV A.,	56	56	100	98	100	100	100	100	88	89	98	93	84	} Lower School.
B.,	33	32	97	97	100	100	97	91	82	91	97	82	94	
C.,	56	44	79	60	79	100	98	60	55	29	73	50	43	
V A.,	57	56	98	95	100	100	91	75	84	98	82	91	84	
B.,	55	45	82	71	69	100	96	31	45	89	58	71	44	
VI A.,	57	56	98	97	97	100	97	98	72	100	98	...	56	
B.,	54	54	100	98	85	100	98	94	77	94	92	...	85	
C.,	29	25	86	83	69	100	97	93	38	79	79	...	69	
VII A.,	35	35	100	100	100	100	...	100	86	100	
B.,	34	34	100	100	88	100	...	94	85	91	...	...	...
C.,	33	33	100	100	94	100	...	94	64	100	...	...	...
D.,	33	28	85	85	81	100	...	70	45	88	...	...	...
VIII A.,	36	36	100	100	100	100	...	97	97	...	...	Writing.	97
B.,	44	44	100	100	100	98	...	100	100	...	...	93	...
C.,	43	43	100	98	98	98	...	95	84	...	...	93	...
D.,	52	41	79	87	81	65	...	56	59	...	...	61	...

COLONIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,

HONGKONG, 9th February, 1901.

SIR,—We have the honour to present, for the information of the Governing Body, our report on the Upper School of Queen's College.

2. We have examined 250 boys of whom only a few have shown any grasp of the subjects in which they were examined.

3. *Reading*.—On re-considering the mark-sheets, we are of opinion that the marks awarded were in general far too high. As, however, the examination in this subject was necessarily oral, we have not been able to modify the marks originally awarded. It was obvious that in many cases the boys, while reproducing the sounds correctly, had no comprehension of what they were reading, while in other cases the enunciation was so defective, that, though we were able to understand the boy, so long as we followed his reading with our eyes on the book, without this aid what he read conveyed no meaning to us.

4. *Conversation*.—In this subject as well as in reading we can only endorse the remarks made by the examiners appointed by the Governing Body for 1897. We would recommend that in future the oral examination should not be held till after the examiners have had the opportunity of seeing the written work of the candidates. This is the universal custom in examinations both in English schools and universities and is necessary as a guide to the examiners in forming a just estimate of a boy's ability. The mark sheets as they now stand do not represent our final judgment on the conversational powers of the candidates; but again it has been impossible to revise them. Such fragmentary conversation as we were able to elicit was stilted and stereotyped; little knowledge of English idiom was evinced.

5. *Dictation*.—In this subject all the Chinese forms with the exception of III A., and III B., which obtained respectively 60 % and 51 % of passes, were disgraceful. The top form I A.B. obtained 30 % of passes; no boy in the class obtained full marks, while 13 out of 20 obtained no marks at all. The next form II A. obtained 38 % of passes. In this form 3 boys out of 56 obtained full marks, and 6 boys no marks. The third form II B. only obtained 20 % of passes, 16 boys out of 26 obtaining no marks, whereas one boy was awarded full marks. The subject for dictation in this form was Fuller's definition of the true gentleman as personified in Admiral Sir FRANCIS DRAKE. One boy has rendered the opening words as follows:—"The quaint old bullock sums up in a few words the character of the true gentleman in the describing that of a great animal Sir FRANCIS DRAKE." This may be taken as typical of the performances of this form. Of the 2 forms whose percentage of passes just exceeded that of failure, III A. shows 19 zeros among 53 boys. It is worth mention that 5 boys out of 27 in III A. obtained full marks. The Non-Chinese were generally good.

Arithmetic.—Of the Chinese forms not one gains a percentage of passes; II A., with a percentage of 43, being the best, and III B., with a percentage of 11, the worst. This cannot be considered satisfactory, even in view of the fact that the paper which was set to the top form was distinctly difficult. The work of HO SHAI WING in I A.B., and of TSANG KWAN WA in II B., was especially noticeable, while in II A., four boys obtained 90 marks or over. Many of the failures were due to carelessness on the part of the boys in taking down the questions wrongly.

Of the Non-Chinese forms all except N. 2, whose performance was far from good, produced creditable work. In N. 1 ISMAIL's paper was excellent, and 2 boys in N. 3 were awarded full marks.

Translation (a) English to Chinese.—Three classes—I A.B., II A., and III A.—show percentages of passes, but in general the work was slovenly and small attention was given to detail or shades of expression. The work, however, of 2 boys—HUNG HING KAM in I A.B., and LAU TSUI LAN in II B.—was admirable not merely by contrast.

(b) *Chinese to English*.—Examination in this subject was made ridiculous by the fact that the boys merely reproduced a crib-translation. Mistakes, and they were many, were due to failure of memory, or to unintelligent reading of the crib, and there was therefore no real test of the boy's ability to translate Chinese into English. Our opinion on this branch of study is rather contained in our report on the special translations, which formed a new feature in this examination.

Special Translation—(a) Chinese into English.—This subject is not in the ordinary curriculum, but at the suggestion of the Inspector of Schools a paper was set to all the Chinese boys in the Upper School with a view of testing their ability as interpreters. We, therefore, intentionally set stiff papers. The results were disappointing. In translating Chinese into English the percentage of passes was 29 %, 4 %, nil, 8 %, and nil in the forms I A.B., II A., II B., III A., and III B., respectively.

Many of the boys seem ignorant of the nature of a petition, and very few can translate one. It is a surprising fact that scarcely any boys knew the English equivalent for the Chinese title of the Registrar General. We append a few of the attempts at rendering it :—

Lord of Wa Mang.
Your Regisstresous General.
Your Honour Colonel General.
Office of the Pritty.
Dear Restoni General.
The Benefactor.
Colonel Registerer.
The Governman, &c.

While the Chinese character Hat (乞) is constantly mistaken for a man's name and is variously rendered :—

Mr. Lord Hard.
Our Lord master Lord Hart.
Sir Lord Hut, &c.

The boys did not seem to understand the meaning of idiomatic sentences in their own language, and have little conception of the distinction between sense and nonsense.

(b) *English into Chinese.*—The percentages of passes were 15 %, 6 %, nil, nil, and 2 %, in I A.B., II A., II B., III A., III B., respectively. Very few boys were able to write correctly the characters of their own language. In fact, Chinese appeared a foreign language to them and they left us with the impression that, while learning little English, they were rapidly forgetting Chinese.

In all, 5 boys—HUNG KWOK LEUNG, HUNG HING KAM and HO SHAI WENG (in I A.B.), WONG SHING SHEUNG and CHAN SUI UN (in II A.)—have passed in both papers, while 5 boys—FUNG MUN CHAK and CHUNG TAT MAN (in I A.B.), NG CHI KWAN (in II A.), HO YAU SIK and U SHING (in III A.)—passed in translating Chinese into English, and 2 boys—U KWAN PO (in II A.) and HO SHAI SUN (in III B.)—passed in translating English into Chinese. The performance of II B. obtaining no passes in either paper, was lamentable in the extreme.

History was very weak. The boys labour under the initial difficulty of expressing their thoughts. For example—"Acre was a town in Jerusalem it was taken by the French and made him king 88 years" (III A.); "Cromwell was a statement in England" (II A.); "Mayflower was denoted the Plantagenate Kings of the Crown" (II A.); "The Bank of England are many manufacture towns and a great number of sea port and also very rough" (III B.). Ignorance of history adds to the confusion—"The way how Lady Jane Grey came to the throne was that she married, the Dauphin (Philip II) (N. 2); "Ironsides is a brief and generous nobleman" (III B.); "Magna Charta was a great charta was a famous outlaw man who lived in the Sherewood Forest. He robbed the rich but help the poor" (N. 3); "Act of Security was used to make some matter secure" (II A.); "Pilgrimage of Grace was a book written by John Bunyan during his confinement in Bedford jail" (II A.). Ignorance of the elements of geography leads to such statements as "India on the continent of Europe has been subject to England" (II B.); "Bank of England has beautiful mountain ranges high peaks" (II B.). A boy asked to give the *provisions* of the Treaty of Union says—"Tea was brought to England by the Dutch from China; tobacco and pottatoes was brought to England by Drake." In conclusion we must point out that in 3 forms (N. 2, II A., and II B.) not a single boy has passed. However, 3 boys—SILAS in N. 1, HUNG HING KAM in I A.B., and CHAN SZ YUI in III A.—showed considerable historical knowledge.

Geography was worse. Out of 9 forms only 3 have obtained a percentage of passes. We hasten, however, to express our regret that the papers for I A.B., and N. 1 and 2 were not set strictly on the syllabus, and we have, therefore, adopted the suggestion of the Headmaster that "for purposes of settling the order in these classes, and for prize winners, this subject be not counted." Of the remaining forms, in N. 3, N. 4, and III A, no boys have passed, while II A, II B, and III A, show 12 %, 12 % and 35 % of passes respectively. The only boy who showed a competent knowledge of the subject was TAM WING KWONG.

For example the following was given as an answer to the question "What are the boundaries of Bulgaria?" :—

- N. Arctic Ocean.
- E. Ural Mountain, Ural River and Caspian Sea.
- S. Caucasus Mountains, Black Sea and Mediterranean Sea.
- W. Atlantic Ocean.

Of the 5 questions set to III B., a certain boy only attempts one to which he replies as follows:—

Trafalgar	is a cape in	Baltic Sea.
Kattegat	„ „	White Sea.
Sevastopol	„ „	Arctic Ocean.
Marengo	„ „	Arctic Ocean.
Copenhagen	„ „	Mediterranean Sea.
Hanover	„ „	Baltic Sea.
Vittoria	„ „	Mediterranean Sea.
Luebeck	„ „	Arctic Ocean.
Bergen	„ „	Arctic Ocean.
Metz	„ „	North Sea.
Fontenoy	„ „	North Sea.

This paper may be taken as a fair specimen of much rubbish which was submitted to us. We cannot explain the curious tendency of many boys to make the Arctic Ocean a lumber-room for unrecognized localities.

Shakespeare.—The play offered was Henry V and the only 2 forms which took this subject were N. 1 and I A.B. They obtained respectively 66 % and 24 % of passes. The non-Chinese form was as a whole very much superior to the Chinese form, though the paper of HUNG HING KAM in the latter form was most excellent. In N. 1 the paper of GHULAMALI was equally good. Shakespeare, however, appears to be beyond the understanding of Chinese boys.

Grammar.—In N. 1 the percentage of passes was very high, and the boys showed a sound knowledge of the subject. The papers of II A. and III A. were also good, but the other forms were mediocre, if not bad. In N. 4 the feminine of “deer” is variously given as swine, antelope, stag, deeress and heifer; of “marquis” as marquichess, marquiness, mergius, marqu-ess, and marquii; of “peacock” as weatherecock and henpeacock; of “fox” as foxess, bitch and victim. In II A.B. the masculine of “bitch” appears as wizard, tib, buck, fox, wretch, witzer, show, tom and tom-bitch; of “hen” as beak and cork; of “mare” as maress, scullion, dota, filly, ewe, hare, staline, hiefer, ballien, ram, stallon; and of “sow” as sow-pig, bore-pig, sower, big, swine, bor, poek, sore, bull, belle, and horse. In III A.B. the plural of “formula” is given as formulix, formulaea, formulii, formulous, formule, formulless, formulx, formuliiis, formulee, formuli, formulars and formulaes; of “dictum” as dictumoes, dictumes, dictia, dictans, data, dictumess, dictaa, dictumaa, dictor, dictunies. “Concord” is defined to be “that which does not depend upon anything else.” The comparative and superlative degrees of “ill” are given as “sick,” “sickness.”

Composition.—In classes I A.B. and N. 1 the test was essay-writing, and the boys were given a choice between three subjects. The Chinese boys seem to have little idea of how an essay should be written, and the difference between them and the non-Chinese boys is strikingly shown in the percentages which are respectively 10 % and 75 %. In N. 1 GHULAMALI'S style and appreciation of his subject was noticeable. The repeated use of the personal pronoun by many of the boys was very offensive, and such sentences as “There are many others proofs of the use of newspapers. Please excuse. I am ignorant”—are in essay-writing to be deprecated.

In the other classes a short story was slowly read to the boys and they were required to reproduce it from memory. N. 2, II A. and III A. show percentages of passes, and the work of SOLOMON, WONG PAK HING, and HO YAN SIK was creditable, but in many cases evidently little was understood and even less was reproduced. N. 3 and II B. were particularly bad. On this subject we must again refer to the comments of the examiners of 1897.

Mensuration.—This subject was only offered by I A.B. We have to thank Lt. BAGNALL-WILD, R.E., for both setting and correcting papers. The percentage of passes is 50. Two boys—CHUNG TAT MAN and HUNG HING KAM—obtained full marks, whereas 2 other boys obtained no marks at all.

Algebra.—There was a great difference in the standard of the papers set to the different forms. The Chinese boys on the whole show greater capacity for mathematics than the Non-Chinese. We were especially struck by the work of CHUNG TAT MAN (I A.B.), who seems to us very promising. In N. 1, ISMAIL was creditable, while in III A. and III B., 6 and 7 boys respectively obtain full marks. The discrepancy between boys, not necessarily at the top and bottom of a given form, is astonishing; for example in I A.B. where several boys do creditably, 6 boys fail to reach double figures; while in III B. the variation is between full marks and no marks. This is apparent in almost every subject.

Euclid.—Again the Chinese boys proved superior to the Non-Chinese. In a searching paper HUNG HING KAM (I A.B.) gained full marks, answering 2 riders correctly. Much of the mathematical work is very neat. But boys who fail frequently show that they do not know the meaning of such elementary terms as base, triangle, angle, etc. For example one boy concludes by stating that “the base of the triangle is equal to 2 triangles. Q. E. D.” We were far too often informed that

