

GOVERNMENT NOTIFICATION.—No. 143.

The following Annual Report on Queen's College, for the year 1901, is published.

By Command,

J. H. STEWART LOCKHART,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hongkong, 7th March, 1902.

No. 10.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE,
HONGKONG, 25th January, 1902.

SIR,—I have the honour to present the Annual Report on Queen's College for the year 1901.

1. On the 22nd January, 1882, I first arrived in the Colony to assume the duties of Head Master. I propose, therefore, briefly to compare the conditions existing twenty years ago and now:—

2. <i>Statistics.</i>	1901.	1881.
Total No. on the Roll,	1,483	562
Average Daily Attendance,	894	386
Monthly Maximum,	1,154	451
Daily Maximum,	1,129	—
School Fees,.....	\$28,424.00	\$4,050.00
Expense to the Government,	\$15,475.00	—
Average Expense of each Scholar,.....	\$17.31	—

Thus at the present time we have twice as many scholars as in 1881; fees seven times the amount; total net annual expenditure nearly three times as much, while the cost of each individual scholar is nearly two-thirds as much as in 1881.

3. I arrived at a time when the work and standards had been published, and my opinion, as a stranger, was desired. In my first contribution, after the examination, I was able truthfully to say to Sir JOHN BURNETT that I was impressed by the success of Chinese boys in coping with the difficulties of the examination. This impression has not faded, but, on the contrary, it has been confirmed by the experience that a Chinese boy should in five years advance from the level of a boy who can write a play of Shakespeare and a few lines of English, to the level of a boy who is short of the standard of the examination; when due allowance is made for the progress of the boys, which are common in the schools, without parallel in his own language.

4. The chief points of contrast between the Examination in 1882 (which is indelibly printed on my brain) and the Examination just completed are as follows. The papers now are nearly all clean and remarkably well written; whereas twenty years ago these, with the exception, the majority of papers being dirty and almost illegible. The standard now is infinitely severer; in 1882 the action of the gauge was very delicate; e.g., in the translation, you could decipher that the boy had a fairly correct original; in Composition, three sentences grammatically correct were sufficient; irrespective of subject matter; in Arithmetic, there was an allowance for mistakes; to condone for a wrong digit in even a total or product; beyond all this, a special allowance had been introduced into the equation in the case of delicate or weak-minded boys, or of boys who had been affected by sickness or other cause. I objected to anything but a rigid standard being applied to all alike; and maintained that, in mathematical subjects except for some special cases, no leniency could be shown. The severer standard was gradually adopted, pressing too heavily at first.

5. A further proof of the increase of standard is to be found in the larger proportion of boys examined in certain subjects. Every boy is now examined in Reading, as against three-quarters of the school. All the Chinese are examined in Translations, whereas in 1882 twenty per cent. did not offer these subjects. More than half the boys are now examined in English Composition, as against less than one-quarter in 1882; in Grammar 85% as compared with 46%, and in Geography 69% with 39%. The full significance of the difference will be more apparent when it is understood that 781 boys were in 1902 examined in English Grammar as against 170 in 1882. On the other hand, twenty years ago. Copy Writing was accepted for more than three-quarters of the whole school as a subject which might assist in averting failure; this concession is now made to only one-seventh. Several subjects now forming part of the curriculum were not taught in 1881—Shakespeare, Algebra, Euclid, Mensuration, Book-keeping, Natural Science, and Physiology. One outcome of this general

raising of the standard of education in Queen's College has been that for the last twelve years, through entering for the Oxford Local Examinations, our boys have, with varying success, been able to submit to a test of their English attainments by English Examiners in England.

6. I feel confident that this brief historical review will not be misconstrued into an expression of satisfaction with either the progress made or the standard attained in so long a period as twenty years. My desire is merely to place on record a statement of the fact that some advance, however inadequate, has been made in that time. No one can be more eager or ambitious than myself to see the standard of work at Queen's College raised immeasurably higher; but I may perhaps be permitted to say that nobody knows better the inherent difficulties in the way. The formation of an Advanced Class above and beyond the First Class has long been a cherished scheme of mine. Unfortunately, however, less than half a dozen boys remain in the College at the beginning of the new school year, who would be fit to proceed to higher work; and of these we should have no assurance whatever that any would remain so long as even six months, whereas two years would be the least possible time, in which any result could be hoped to be effected; and in saying this I refer to both non-Chinese and Chinese alike. Of circumstances not under our control, it is to be noted that so long as Plague recurs annually in the Colony education must suffer.

7. The present most crying educational needs of Queen's College would appear to be:—

- (a.) the maintenance of the full strength of the English staff, vacancies being supplied as expeditiously as possible;
- (b.) more efficient training of Junior Chinese Assistants by the appointment of a Normal Master, who, for a small extra salary (like that of the Head Master of the Police School), should devote, in addition to his ordinary class duties, six hours a week to the careful instruction of Pupil Teachers;
- (c.) the restoration of Native Chinese School for the boys in the Lower and Preparatory Schools;
- (d.) the erection, or enlargement, of schools at Wantsai and Saiyingpun under English Masters, to act as feeders to Queen's College, the curriculum of which place would have to be carefully followed, that boys might on admission be fit for the Upper School or for Class IV at the lowest.

8. I returned to the Colony after eighteen months' leave and resumed duties on 1st November, 1901. Mr. A. J. MAY (Second Master) had been Acting Head Master during my absence, evidently discharging his most energetic duties in the interests of the College. I may especially mention that increased accommodation was provided at the Central School, and that a great improvement was secured in the results at the Annual

9. I found on my return three English and two Chinese Masters, all energetic and capable men, removed from the staff: Mr. MACHELL by death, Mr. BARLOW by retirement on pension, Mr. WOODCOCK by transference to the Sanitary Board, Mr. PUN YUN FONG by resignation, and Mr. UN K'AM WA on loan to the Supreme Court. If to these losses, we add the absence for four years as Acting Deputy Registrar, of Mr. JONES, the resignation of Mr. CHIU CHI-TSUNG and Mr. LUK KING-FO, and the transfer to the Supreme Court of Mr. WONG KWOK U, which took place a couple of years ago, we find that we have lost 4 Senior English and 5 Senior Chinese Masters.

10. A year was occupied in filling the vacancy caused by Mr. MACHELL's retirement and subsequent death, Mr. W. B. SEYMOUR of London University, who promises to be a useful addition to the staff, arriving in June last. There are still two vacancies caused in July and October, which we anxiously long to hear are suitably filled. It must be remembered that *six* English masters were considered the minimum number necessary for the 400 boys at the Central School; it is therefore evident that for 1,000 boys per month (and often per day) *ten* English masters are far indeed from an extravagant demand.

11. With only half the English staff present, and with Junior Chinese Assistants rapidly promoted to fill the vacancies caused by five changes in the Senior Chinese staff, while all the Chinese Assistants were temporarily raised three places to supply the vacancies on the English staff—it is manifest that Mr. MAY had serious difficulties to cope with in securing the efficient working of the College, and that great credit is due to him and the English and Chinese masters for the considerable success gained.

12. The Governing Body instructed me to examine the Upper School this year, in addition to the Lower and Preparatory Schools, which by standing order are annually examined by the Head Master. Unfortunately at the beginning of the Oral Examination, I was absent for several days through indisposition. As no time could be spared, I was obliged to authorize Mr. MAY to examine Classes V-VIII in Reading, Classes V and VI in Conversation, and Class VII orally in Grammar. With these exceptions, and the omission of the Translation Papers from English into Chinese, which were as usual entrusted for marking to the Second Master, I have personally conducted the entire Examination of the 910 boys present.

13. The following summary shows the result of the Examination in the various sections and the College generally:—

Upper School	.....269	boys examined	.....238	boys or 89 %	passed
Lower School	.....362	“	.....332	“	“ 92 “
Preparatory School	.....279	“	.....271	“	“ 98 “
College	.....910	“	.....841	“	“ 92 “

The usual table of Percentage of Passes in each class and subject is here given:—

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.
HONGKONG.
ANNUAL EXAMINATION, 1901.

CLASS.	Total Number examined.	Total Number passed.	Percentage of total Passes.	Chin. to Eng.	Eng. to Chin.	Reading.	Conversation.	Dictation.	Arithmetic.	Grammar.	Geography.	Composition.	History.	Algebra.	Euclid.	Shakespeare.	Book-keeping.	Mensuration.	General Intelligence.	Physiology.	Science.	Map.	
<i>Upper School.</i>																							
IA.....	8	7	88	100	100	88	50	38	75	100	38	25	75	88	88	63	50	50	38	...	...	...
B.....	13	11	85	100	54	100	62	31	69	92	15	23	83	23	46	...	54	23	8	...	...	...
IIA.....	32	31	97	81	97	100	84	91	84	94	91	91	84	88	81	...	72	...	...	...	...	...
B.....	20	17	85	70	95	95	70	50	80	55	60	85	45	90	40	...	50	...	...	...	...	...
IIIA.....	59	55	93	96	98	100	80	90	56	86	78	92	93	93	96	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
B.....	54	42	78	89	91	100	41	76	20	57	22	46	43	81	85	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
C.....	32	31	97	100	100	100	63	97	63	97	78	84	97	88	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
N 1.....	10	7	70	...	...	100	80	70	70	60	20	80	80	40	50	80	...	...	50	90	80	...
2.....	10	10	100	...	...	100	70	40	50	50	20	100	100	70	30	...	...	...	...	100	100	...
3.....	12	12	100	...	...	100	50	100	67	92	84	100	75	75	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4.....	19	15	79	...	...	95	84	79	42	74	58	69	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
<i>Lower School.</i>																							
IVA.....	56	51	91	91	95	100	39	83	68	52	53	71	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79
B.....	59	49	83	69	95	98	32	82	31	56	50	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	66
C.....	32	28	87	87	100	100	47	91	34	47	44	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
VA.....	31	28	90	87	100	97	74	64	35	32	19	87	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
B.....	32	30	94	93	90	84	88	91	56	72	56	94	78
C.....	31	30	97	100	97	100	87	100	32	81	64	100	45
VI A.....	51	51	100	98	98	94	92	98	55	94	84	57
B.....	34	29	85	97	100	97	77	91	24	68	65	26
C.....	36	36	100	100	100	100	94	97	69	100	100	25
<i>Preparatory School.</i>																							
VIIA.....	51	50	98	100	94	84	...	98	88	92
B.....	33	33	100	100	94	94	...	100	100	100
C.....	27	27	100	100	83	96	...	100	93	81
D.....	34	34	100	100	97	88	...	97	91	91
VIIIA.....	61	61	100	100	98	90	...	100	100	100
B.....	42	41	98	90	94	71	...	93	88	93
C.....	31	25	81	82	52	84	...	55	61	94

14. On the whole, this is the best Examination within my memory for many years. There is a manifest improvement in the non-Chinese sections. The excellence of the English Composition in the Chinese Classes IIA-IVC inclusive was, in my opinion, the chief feature of the Examination. English Grammar and History were subjects specially good in all classes.

In the Upper School, Arithmetic, Algebra and Euclid were good; Book-keeping in IIA very good; In IAB, N1,2 Geography was weak, and in IAB Dictation and Composition poor.

In the Lower School, with the exception of Arithmetic, which was very weak, all the subjects were much above the average.

The Preparatory School maintained its usual high level.

I shall provide the Governing Body with a separate Report with fuller particulars.

15. The results at the Oxford Local Examinations held at this centre were most encouraging, the number of certificates obtained last July by boys of this College being far in excess of previous successes for many years, there being 4 Senior, 3 Junior, and 9 Preliminary.

16. Two years ago, the Honourable the Colonial Secretary, in his address at the Prize Distribution in this hall, expressed a hope that a Gymnasium might be provided for the use of our boys. The matter has been under the consideration of the Government and plans were submitted some months ago by the Honourable the Director of Public Works. The issue is awaited with interest.

17. The playground accommodation originally intended for 700 boys is naturally barely sufficient for 1,000. It has been suggested that a triangular piece of waste ground to the south-west of the College might be given for this purpose by the Government. The cost of levelling and enclosing would not appear to be a very serious consideration. It might, however, be more advantageous to erect the Gymnasium on this site, instead of encroaching on the lower playground.

18. The usual Tables of Expenditure and Attendances are appended.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

GEO. H. BATESON WRIGHT, D.D. Oxon.,
Head Master.

Honourable J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G.,
Colonial Secretary.

1901.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.

Month.	Number of Scholars.	Number of Attendance.	Number of School Days.	Average Daily Attendance.	Remarks.
January,	989	23,646	25	946	
February,	946	6,428	7	918	
March,	1,147	18,613	17	1,095	
April,	1,154	18,089	17	1,064	
May,	1,108	23,513	24	980	
June,	801	13,941	24	581	
July,	828	16,013	23	696	
August,	791	5,284	7	755	
September,	1,048	15,852	16	991	
October,	1,041	25,797	27	955	
November,	1,011	22,105	25	884	
December,	970	20,772	23	903	
Total, .....	.....	210,053	235	.....

Total Number of ATTENDANCES during 1901,210,053
 Number of SCHOOL DAYS during 1901, 235
 Average DAILY ATTENDANCE during 1901, 894
 Total Number of SCHOLARS at this School during 1901, 1,483

AVERAGE EXPENSE OF EACH SCHOLAR AT QUEEN'S COLLEGE DURING 1901.

Expenditure,—

Cash Book,	\$32,153.74
Do., Exchange Compensation,	5,209.75
Crown Agents,	3,339.83
Do., Adjustment of Exchange,	3,441.37
	<u>\$44,144.69</u>

Deduct,—

School Fees,	\$28,424.00
Refunds,	245.65
	<u>\$28,669.65</u>

Total Expense of College,\$15,475.04

Average Expense of each Scholar,—

Per Number on Roll,	\$10.43
Per Average Daily Attendance,	17.31

GEO. H. BATESON WRIGHT, D.D. Oxon.,
Head Master.