

The School of Mines Ballarat.

Ordinary Meeting of the Administrative Council and Special meeting of the Council held simultaneously Tuesday, September 8th 1891.

Present—The Vice-President in the Chair Councillors the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Ballarat, the Venerable Archdeacon Green, A.L.D., Dr Hudson, Dr Pinnock, Sh. Shelton, B.Sc., C. Eyles (Hon. Treasurer), J. M. Bicketts, S. E. Figgins, M. Lindsay, J. Louie, F. J. Martell, J. C. Molloy, J. Richards (Chairman of the Ballarat Mining Board), E. J. Rosenblum, C. Stewart (Inspector of Mines), R. T. Vale, and Theo. Williams, J. P. — Mr Shelton apologized for absence from previous meetings through indisposition and other engagements on days of Council meetings.

Business:- To pass Accounts and to transact the ordinary business

- To receive Vice-President's Report.
- To grant Certificates.
- To consider correspondence received from the Education Department relative to special grant in aid of new buildings, and advise on the question of proceeding with the required Building Extension.
- To consider the expediency of completing the model mine and its equipment.
- To receive and consider Professorial Report in reference to conferring a distinctive title on certain Certificated Students.

Minutes of previous meeting of the Administrative Council held 4th August ultimo were read and confirmed.

Accounts paid since previous meeting £ 362. 13. 6 were confirmed and the accounts presented amounting to £ 323. 2. 2 making a total of £ 685. 15. 8 were passed for payment.

Progress Reports submitted by the Staff were read and received. — A supplementary report by Professor Howwood recommending the completion of the lower level of the model mine and the purchase of a hot water pump the estimated cost being £ 93. 3. 0 and £ 24. 0. 0.

respectively was approved. — The suggestion of Mr. Hall that full Certificates should issue to students who had passed the second stage in Freehand, Model, and Perspective Drawing was adopted.

The request of the Bendigo School of Mines that a Conference of representatives from each board of examiners of mine managers from the two schools be arranged with a view to adopting a uniform standard of examination was agreed to.

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT.—I am pleased to be able to inform you that we have made another step in advance. Mr Dawson has just completed the installation of the electric light throughout a part of the school as far as the capacity of the present dynamo will permit, viz., 25.16 c.p. lamps, distributed throughout the drawing class room, library, registrar's office, and electrical laboratory. The installation includes a complete switch-board; for controlling and measuring the current, meters to indicate the quantity and pressure of current flowing, main and branch safety fuses and switches for controlling each group of lamps. Three different kinds of incandescent lamps are used—the Edison-Swan, Sawyer-Mann, and Bernstein. The switches and safety fuses are also varied in order to afford the student an opportunity of gaining practical knowledge. The whole installation has been carried out by Mr Dawson personally, in accordance with the latest British regulations. The running of the light will be carried out by individual students every night, thereby obviating any cost for attention. In reference to the question of a special grant in aid of new buildings, it will be remembered that pursuant to resolution passed at council meeting held on the 6th January last, a deputation consisting of Dr Hudson, Dr Pinnock, and myself, waited upon the hon. the Minister of Public Instruction on the 15th idem, with a request that the sum of £5000 might be made available for this purpose in two moieties, to extend over two financial years. The Minister desired that the request might be reduced to writing, and accordingly a written application was forwarded from the school under date of the 17th January. Copies of the letter forwarded, and of the subsequent correspondence in reference thereto, are now submitted for your consideration. In reply to the first written application, an acknowledgment was received, under date of the 4th March, stating that "the report of Mr. Inspector Dennant had been received, and was con-

sidered satisfactory, but in the absence of the Treasurer nothing can at present be said as to the request of the council for money with which to build." On the 15th June the Minister was again requested to give favorable consideration to the claims of the institution to a special grant in aid of the buildings, as previously set forth both by deputation and by letter. On the 17th June, this communication was acknowledged by letter, stating that under the present circumstances of the finances, it will not be possible to comply with the request for aid to building to the extent required. It is hoped, however, that a definite statement can be made in a few days. A month elapsed, and as no statement had come to hand, a letter was written, asking the department what amount was allotted to this institution as a special grant-in-aid of buildings. In reply to this, a letter, under date of the 11th August, was received, informing the council "that a sum of £3000 has been placed on the estimates for the current financial year." As no sum appeared on the printed estimates as a special grant-in-aid of buildings for the school, Mr Dennant was requested to make enquiry, which resulted in a second communication from the department, expressing regret that through a clerical error in previous letter the council had been informed that the sum of £3000 had been placed on the estimates for the current financial year for that purpose. The £3000 placed on the estimates is for maintenance, and not for buildings. The receipt of this communication was acknowledged by letter on the 1st instant, and the department was asked if it was the intention of the Government to place the sum named on the supplementary estimates for the purpose specified. An acknowledgment under date of the 5th instant, received this morning, concludes with an expression of regret that the state of the finances is such that there is no probability of any grant in aid of building during the present financial year.

It was resolved to invite members of Parliament for the district to meet the Council at The School on Friday 11th inst. at 2 o'clock p.m. to consider what steps should be taken to secure an adequate buildings grant for The School.

On the report of the Examiner Dr Geo. E. Andrew Certificates were granted to the undernoted students of the Clunes Branch Classes who had passed the examinations prescribed in Elementary Physiology, viz:-