

"It will thus be evident that the new regulations do not in any way apply to the character and arrangement of the work upon which this School is chiefly engaged. A retrenchment that will only delay the expansion of this School, as by withholding the promised and much needed buildings grant may be perfectly admissible, but a retrenchment, the effect of which will be to revolutionise the whole character of the teaching, and necessitate a remodelling upon so much narrower a basis that its present status will be swept away, cannot, we feel sure, be the wish of the Department or of the people of this colony.

"We sincerely hope that upon due consideration of the effect which, as we think we have shown, the new regulations will have upon this School, the Department may see its way to allow The School to continue its development in the directions which 21 years of hard-won experience have proved to be the best calculated to meet the wants of the colony, and that the Department will not impose any restrictions upon The School which will tend to check its progress, lower its educational position, or diminish its value to the community at large.

SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OFFICIALLY SUPPLIED.

For the last 10 years this School has been supplying free instruction in some branches of elementary science to a large number of senior pupils of the Ballarat State Schools. Taking the figures for last year, for instance, a weekly lecture on Chemistry for the first two terms, and on Electricity and Magnetism for the remaining two terms of the session was delivered at each of seven State Schools, and two lectures a week to another, making 9 lectures weekly to a total of 806 individual pupils, the average number on the rolls per term being 579, and the average attendance at 236 lectures being 55.77. At The School of Mines a weekly lecture on Physics was given to a class comprising 135 individual pupils, the average number on the rolls per term being 88.5, and the average attendance at each lecture 61.47. This makes a total of 10 lectures weekly to an aggregate of 941 State School pupils. During the same 10 years, free instruction has been given to State School teachers. Last year this instruction included weekly lectures on Chemistry, Natural Philosophy, Physiology, and Botany, the number of individual teachers entered being 30, 22, 7, and 5 respectively. Similar lectures on Geology and Mineralogy have been delivered in previous years. So far as the Schedule regulations provide, this large amount of useful work, embracing 14 lectures a week, would pass entirely unrecorded and unrecognised. At the request of the Pharmacy Board, classes for instruction in all the subjects comprised in the Pharmacy course were established in connection with The School in May, 1879, and have been in continuous operation ever since. This is the only provincial school in the colony whose teaching is recognised by the Pharmacy Board. So far back as 1874 classes in Telegraphy were established at the request of the Department and to meet the very numerous demands of the public of this district for instruction in this subject.

Up to the end of last year The School had issued 808 final certificates of competency, and 805 grade or stage certificates in various branches of science and art. In regard to financial matters, it should be mentioned that The School has been supported by public subscriptions amounting to £5844, has earned in fees £17,186, and that on the 31st December, 1891, it possessed assets valued at £22,681, insured for £14,550. From 1884 to 1891 inclusive, £9606 were expended on the purchase and erection of buildings and plant, including equipment with apparatus, appliances, machinery, etc. The number of students more than doubled during this period, necessitating the heavy expenditure incurred in providing increased accommodation and school requisites.

ANDREW BERRY,
Registrar.

A report of the Board of Examiners upon the results of the midwinter examinations was submitted and referred to the Administrative Council.

Vice-President Martell exhibited a comparative statement shewing the amounts granted by Government to the various technical schools, the number of students, subjects of instruction, etc. and it was resolved that the information be collated for use by the legislative members for the district.

Vice-President Dr Pimock having intimated his intention to proceed on a short tour it was resolved that he be furnished with a letter under Seal as the accredited representative of this Institution.

The School of Mines Ballarat

Ordinary Meeting of } Friday 7.30 pm.
Administrative Council } September 9th 1892.

Present - The President in the chair Vice-President
F. J. Martell, His Lordship the Right Reverend the
Bishop of Ballarat, C. Eyles (Hon. Treasurer), S. E. Figgis,
M. Lindsay, J. Louie, and Theo. Williams, J. P.

Minutes of previous meeting held 12th August ultimo
were read and confirmed

Accounts amounting to £371.12.2 paid since previous
meeting were confirmed and the Accounts presented
£147.17.3 making a total of £519.9.5 were passed
for payment.

Progress Reports submitted by the Staff were read by
the President and a requisition for a box of gramme weights,
a gale lock and eight keys for use of indentured students
was approved. - A requisition for an Arc Lamp estimated to
cost £12.10.0 was submitted by Mr Dawson. - It was
resolved that Mr Dawson be supplied with the material
for construction of same. - A special report from Professor
Stowood recommending the appointment of a lecturer on Practical
Mining was made an order of the day for consideration at
next meeting of the Council. -

The report of the Board of Examiners recommending the
issue of stage certificates to the successful candidates at the
recent half-yearly examinations and a free scholarship to
C. Stinear was adopted.

On the report of J. Cosmo Newbery Esq. C.M.G., a Certificate
of Competency in Assaying was granted to Candidate N^o 887
Charles Patjen. - Six students having presented for
examination in this subject the result was considered
unsatisfactory. - It was resolved that Professor Smith
be asked to furnish a report in explanation and to offer
suggestions for increasing the efficiency of the instruction.

Wm. J. Dawson