

19-10-49

The transfer of students to say, Ballarat. The Director said that the matter could be called a clash of interests. It had been found that several aspects of the present system were uneconomical and grouping was found to be necessary to achieve greater efficiency. Decentralisation had received greater attention by the present Minister and his immediate predecessor than at any previous time. Evidence of that was the recent decision to erect Teachers Training Colleges in Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong and to increase the numbers in training in those centres.

The present system of training Manual Arts Teachers was resulting in students going to Melbourne for their third year with their first and second years work incomplete. These students were being paid an allowance of approximately four pounds per week and the system was proving so uneconomical that he, as Director, had to do something about it. He felt that an increase in efficiency would result from the change but if it did not then some other system would have to be adopted.

Mr Lane said that in conclusion the Mayor had told the Minister and the Director that public re-action would be most marked if the proposed move was carried out.

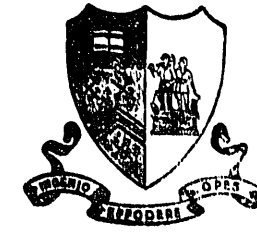
In thanking the Minister and the Director for coming to Ballarat and presenting the case for the change he (Mr Lane)

19-10-49

He told the Minister and the Director that the effect on our school would be

ESTABLISHED 1870

A.E.J.



TELEPHONE 659

The School of Mines and Industries, Ballarat

24th. October, 1949.

Hon. R. W. Tovell M.L.A.,
Minister for Education,
Public Offices,
MELBOURNE, C.2.

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the School Council, I wish to convey to you and to the Director our appreciation of your action in visiting Ballarat recently in regard to the proposed centralization of Manual Arts training in Melbourne, and for the very patient and thorough manner in which you traversed the reasons for the proposed transfer.

At its monthly meeting on October 19th. the matter was discussed very fully by the Council in the light of the arguments advanced by you and the Director. As we see it these arguments relate to:-

1. The need for supervision and co-ordination. It is apparent that a number of students throughout the state proceed to the third year lacking necessary passes or with work incomplete, and that in the past there has been insufficient effective supervision. It is possible that the present course is too onerous resulting in work lacking in either quality or quantity.
2. The need for giving students a sense of vocation by:-
 - (a) Attendance at the Teacher's College for special lectures.
 - (b) Association with students taking other courses at the Teacher's College.
3. The present "dispersal" of students among many technical schools with consequent isolation and lack of continuity.

My Council still holds very strongly to the opinion that in this matter the Government's expressed policy of decentralisation is involved. In this regard decentralization is taken to be the deliberate fostering by the Government not only of industry but also of cultural agencies in centres other than the metropolis, even though this involves for the time being, some inconvenience in administration and possibly some slight increase in relative cost.

You will recollect that the Director stated that two conflicting interests were involved, and we believe he realized that