SUGGESTIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASMANIAN SCHOOL OF FORESTRY AND AGRICULTURE.

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In the paper on "The Present and Future Prospects of Timber in Tasmania," which I had the honour to read at a meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania, on the 29th April, 1901, I ventured to express my firm conviction that a Tasmanian School of Forestry and Agriculture was absolutely necessary if the treasures of vegetable wealth which exist in your Island are to be properly exploited, so as to yield a remunerative return for the time, labour, and money expended on them.

It must, I think, be painfully evident to anyone who has seriously studied the subject which, in my opinion, is of such vital importance to Tasmania, that the unscientific and unreasoning manner in which forestry and agriculture has been conducted there for the last 15 or 20 years has materially hindered their proper development, has led to the destruction and waste of valuable produce, and prevented the attainment of results which, under scientific and technical treatment, would have been satisfactory, not only to those who are occupied in these pursuits, but to the community in general.

As the world advances in civilisation and population, and the "struggle for life" becomes more imperious and necessary, competition, of ever increasing intensity and ubiquity, manifests its presence with new inventions, new methods, and better appliances.

Those who continue to follow the now antiquated ideas and systems in vogue some years ago will find themselves

outdistanced in the fierce race of life, and learn, perhaps too late, that "the survival of the fittest" is the ultimate result of the struggle, and that their old-fashioned and unreasoning efforts have neither benefited themselves nor others

We cannot shut our eyes to the fact that in every branch of business and industry the most important improvements and developments are being introduced daily, requiring careful scientific, technical, and practical teaching, training, and study to enable us to understand them thoroughly, to adapt them to our own requirements, and to profit by these new facilities for the promotion of commerce in our own interest and for our country's benefit.

Quite lately most important changes have been introduced into your own export business. Quick steamers, fitted with refrigerating machinery and chambers, call weekly at Hobart, enabling you to deliver your splendid fruit in good condition in the markets of England and the Continent, at a period of the year when such produce, if of good quality, ought to realise a remunerative result. Have you profited by this grand opening for your fruit trade, and have satisfactory results been obtained by producers and exporters?

From market reports it appears that about 8*s*. per case was the average rate realised for your apples, a price which, after paying freight and other charges, will certainly not leave much, if any, profit to the producer or exporter. Considering that *good* Tasmanian apples were being retailed at the same date in England at 8*d*. per pound (about 30*s*. per case, and South Australian produce was realising 13*s*. to 15*s*. per case, there seems to be *primâ facie* evidence that some serious deficiency, arising either from bad cultivation or careless or dishonest shipment, in connection with Tasmanian exports, must have existed, which calls for examination and future immediate remedy if your fruit trade is to prosper as it should. I think you will find that the reports of your Agent-General and others interested in the matter point to the conclusion that these faults did exist, and that your producers and exporters had only reaped what they had sown, and had only themselves to blame for such a deplorable state of affairs, which must eventually lead to the loss of your English and other markets.

What such a lamentable occurrence would mean to Tasmania, the following statement, taken from figures compiled by your well-known Statistician, Mr. R. M. Johnston, will give you some idea:—

In his report the value of the fruit export for 1900 from Tasmania is estimated at about £279,988, a very considerable

item in the budget of any country, but of paramount importance to a small State like yours. If the export value of other agricultural products, which is returned as being about £454,054 (including wool) be added, we have an annual total export value of £734,042, or 28·12 per cent. of the whole total export value of every description from Tasmania, and next in importance to the mineral export, valued at £1,640,778. So much for agriculture. Now let us see how forestry figures in these statistics. In a State with such important forests, containing, as I have already informed you, some of the finest timber in quality, and unique in possessing trees of dimensions and specific gravity invaluable for certain important works of construction, it might have been confidently expected that the export value of such produce would form a large asset in your revenue statistics. On examination, however, it appears that this, unfortunately, is *not* the case. In these statistics, in 1900, timber of all descriptions, including bark, only figures for export value as £71,618, but against this there is an item of import value of £23,246 for timber imported, so that this product in reality would only represent a net value of £48,372 really to the credit of your timber account.

We see, therefore, that Tasmania is importing wood from other countries, principally Norway and Sweden, a distance of about 14,000 miles, amounting to one-third of her own export of timber, and paying at least two-thirds more for it than if it were grown on her own soil. As a matter of fact, it could be grown better on your own waste lands and islands, within a few miles of your principal ports, at a mere nominal expenditure relatively to what it costs you now to import. I think you must admit that it can scarcely be called good business to go to such a distance to procure an article which you could easily have grown in your own country at a saving of 60 per cent. to 70 per cent., with the triple advantage of having sufficient for your home consumption, a large quantity for exportation to the neighbouring States (on which you could make a good profit), and last, but not least, at the same time ameliorating the hygiene of your island by plantations which would collect the rain of which you have, in some districts, so much need.

Another most regrettable fact gleaned from these statistics is that there does not appear that one single log or plank of timber had been exported in 1900 to Great Britain, the largest timber-importing country in the world, and the most important market for all other timber-producing countries in which to dispose of their produce.

Before leaving these interesting statistics, the compilation of which reflects the greatest honour on their author, I would also call your attention to that most important part of agricultural industry, dairy produce. It appears that you are exporting annually butter and cheese to the value of about £2000, and importing the same produce at a cost of about £35,000. This fact seems strange, considering that other countries, not much larger than Tasmania, are able to supply their own wants besides making the exportation of these products one of the most prosperous and remunerative of their industries.

I wish to impress upon you that the foregoing statements are not mere "idle fancies of the heated brain," but *solid facts*, corroborated by statistical figures, which, if you doubt their correctness, you can easily examine and verify for yourselves. Taking for granted, then, that these statements and figures are correct, what conclusions can we reasonably draw from them? It appears to me that we can reasonably conclude that—1st. The agricultural industry of Tasmania, particularly as regards the production and exportation of fruit, is at present not realising the advantages and profits which the resources of the country, if judiciously and properly exploited, would legitimately warrant the producers and exporters to expect; 2nd. The timber industry, considering the large area of forest lands and the quality of the wood growing there, is in a still more unsatisfactory condition as regards conservation, replanting, and exportation, while one-half of the value of exported home products is absorbed in payment of imported timber, which could and ought to be grown in Tasmania at one-third the cost; 3rd. The minor products of the farm, such as dairy produce, butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, honey, &c., may, as far as exportation is concerned, be treated as quite negligable quantities; 4th. The most strenuous efforts should be made, without delay, to determine the cause of this state of affairs, and remedies found to ameliorate the present condition and ensure the future development and prosperity of the two great industries of forestry and agriculture in Tasmania.

The causes which are generally put forward as reasons why your fruit trade is not giving a remunerative return for the labour, time, and money expended on it, are numerous. Unpropitious seasons and weather will, of course, have an influence on this as well as on other agricultural crops in every country in the world, but in such a climate as that of Tasmania it is not likely that great material injury will be caused by them, or only in rare and exceptional instances.

Pests of various kinds no doubt give sometimes much trouble, but, as a rule, their presence in numbers sufficient to menace the existence of the crop is a proof of bad or careless cultivation. During my stay in Tasmania several so-called "pest scares" arose, and it always struck me that if the same time, energy, and labour displayed in writing and disputing about their existence or non-existence, and the best means of eradicating them, in the long letters appearing every day in the newspapers, had been judiciously expended in the orchards and fruit gardens, the result would have been decidedly advantageous to the fruit crop. We must not forget that agriculture in all countries has been subject to pests of all descriptions, some of them more destructive than the average of those with which you have to deal, and Tasmania can scarcely expect to escape from the ills that plants are heir to. But scientific culture, increasing care and examination, combined with the well-directed application of the latest remedies, will be found as effective in either considerably diminishing or eradicating these pests in Tasmania, as they have been elsewhere. The suppression and extinction of pests, to be effective, must be thorough, and, consequently, entails a certain loss of fruit, as every apple affected by codlin moth, &c., or injured in any way, must be picked from the tree at once and destroyed. This waste of produce (more apparent than real, the tree profiting by the removal of unsound fruit), should be followed by careful selection, picking, and packing, if the fruit is expected to arrive at its destination in good condition. It would seem, however, that many producers are not alive to this fact, and will not take, or do not know how to take, the most necessary precautions to prevent any but the soundest and best fruit being sent to markets at a distance of some 13,000 miles. They appear to think that purchasers in England and on the Continent are such fools as to be willing to pay a good price for bad fruit, although they have the choice of importations from some of the finest fruit-exporting countries in the world. Worse still, the recurrence of inferior shipments from Tasmania will lower the reputation of its fruit, and purchasers on the other side of the world, who have neither the time nor the will to discriminate between good and bad shippers, will refuse to have anything to do with fruit exported from that country, unless at such low prices as they may think may cover any risk they run. This, in reality, means the destruction in a very brief space of time of some of the best markets in which to dispose of your

produce, and the ultimate ruin of your fruit trade, now valued at the export worth of nearly £300,000.

Commercial history is full of examples, dating from the most ancient periods up to the present time, showing how some of the most flourishing trades and markets have been lost or destroyed by negligence, ignorance, or dishonest dealing, and the following extract from Mr. Neville Edwards' interesting "Story of China" shows with what disastrous results a similar policy in the once important tea trade of China has ended. "In Tea from China," he says—"The falling off in our purchases has been enormous. The Chinese have injured the reputation of their tea by re-colouring old-used tea leaves. It took a long time to knock this idea into our heads, but now having once got that idea, it will take an equally long time to regain our confidence." Substitute "Tasmania" for "China," "fruit" for "tea," and "inferior shipments" for "re-coloured tea leaves," and we have a timely warning of what may and will happen to your own fruit trade unless precautionary measures be immediately taken to prevent such a catastrophe.

In regard to your timber industry, the foregoing observations relative to the loss of a valuable market can only be applied in a limited degree, as you have not, unfortunately, as yet, got any market worthy of the name to lose. Why this should be so is a question which ought to occupy your most serious attention. It may be, and most likely is the case, that the small quantities you have exported have been of inferior quality, or not properly prepared, chosen, or suited for the work for which it was intended. Another reason, no doubt, is that no energetic means have ever been taken to bring the good qualities of your timber for construction works, paving, furniture, &c., to the knowledge of the foreign consumer, and no really business-like efforts made to establish a market for the disposal of your wood produce. Whatever the reason may be, it is more than time that a proper remedy be applied. So-called remedies have been proposed in abundance, such as—experts to examine the cases of fruit before shipment; experts to find out real, or invent imaginary, pests; experts to see that your fruit is properly packed; Agents-General to tell you that you are ruining your markets; bailiffs in your forests to prevent your destroying and burning your own property and your best timber; experts to see that the wood is of good quality, and properly seasoned and prepared before shipment, &c. Of course, as usual, it is expected that all these people are to be paid by Government, in order to

prevent your wasting your money, time, and labour for no profitable result, to keep men honest against their will, and to hinder those most interested from destroying their own property, and ruining the State's prospects of success in the leading markets of the world.

All these proposals, or some of them, may perhaps be considered as a magnificent scheme of grandmotherly government and political philanthrophy, and will no doubt meet with the approbation of men who prefer others to do the work they should be doing themselves, but, to any practical and business man, such a system must appear as preposterous, as it would, on trial, prove to be useless and impracticable. What possible good can it do an agriculturist who has been properly taught, trained, and knows his business to be told by an expert that he has pests in his orchard? He ought to and would know that long before the expert, and have taken the necessary measures to abate or eradicate them, and this example applies to all the other functions to be performed by experts and bailiffs in carrying out the duties suggested in the foregoing so-called remedies. How many experts do you imagine would be required to inspect thoroughly all your orchards, fruit gardens, and agricultural establishments in Tasmania? How do you propose to inspect and examine the fruit, before shipment, on the wharves? I fear that there would not be the necessary room, and decidedly not the necessary time to do this efficiently, and better no inspection than an inefficient one. Then, where are you to get proper experts in sufficient numbers whose inspection and knowledge can be relied upon, if you have no training schools where they can study and be taught theoretically and practically their duties? In my opinion there is no real remedy for curing existing evils and preventing their continuance and recurrence in the future but one, and that is the establishment of a well-managed Tasmanian School of Forestry and Agriculture. In such an institution the rising generation, as well as adults occupied in these pursuits, would receive an education or information which would very soon render expert interference supererogatory and unnecessary. Not alone would it be of invaluable service to these two industries, but it would open a new field of enterprise and remunerative employment to the youth of Tasmania. As you are well aware, most of your professional and mercantile occupations are more than sufficiently filled up at present, and your young men are often obliged to go to other lands to seek their living, much to the detriment of your State and population, a loss which ought to be avoided, if possible.

I cannot fancy a more suitable career for your Tasmanian boys, such as I know them (active, courageous, and full of life and vigour, fond of all sports), than the fields and forests, for which such a scheme as I propose would prepare and enable them to exploit to their own advantage and to that of their country. Not only would they benefit from a material point of view, but occupied away from towns, with all their seductions and temptations, they would, in your bush, fields, and orchards, most likely become, both physically and morally, finer and better men. I wish I could impress upon parents, and particularly on the mothers and daughters of Tasmania, the importance I think they should attach to the completion of this project, and get them to use their utmost influence, so valuable and all-pervading, in a matter which concerns both their own family interests, and in which the welfare of their boys is so deeply involved, feeling certain that any successful exertions on their part to get such a school founded will eventually be amply rewarded by the results acquired.

You have also numerous agricultural, horticultural, pastoral, and other similar societies in Tasmania. I would propose that some of the most important of them should send one or more of the most promising scholars in their districts to the examinations, and, if returned successfully, pay all or part of their expenses during their education at the school. They could scarcely do anything more calculated to benefit the interests they wish to promote.

Now, supposing that such a school will, as I trust, be established, what I propose is this—Boys intended to benefit by the instruction it will afford them should, after having attained their thirteenth or fourteenth year, and completed their usual schooling term, be entered for it. An examination, one half written, one half verbal, to prove that the candidate is up to the standard in reading, writing, spelling, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, geography, and the first general principles of physical science, with a voluntary examination in French or German (to count as five points each, and to be added to any deficiency in English or Geometry), should be compulsory before admission. The two first examinations should, I think, be of such a nature as to allow ordinarily well educated boys from good schools to pass without much difficulty, and, as the number of pupils increase and the popularity of the school is established, the questions might be made more difficult. The maximum of points attributed to the different subjects

might be distributed on a scale somewhat similar to the following:—

Subject.	*Written.*	*Vocal.*	*Total.*
English, Grammar, Reading, Writing, &c.	15	15	30
Arithmetic and *Algebra*.	10	10	45
Geometry and *Trigonometry*.	15	10	
History, Ancient and Modern.	5	5	25
Geography, World.	5	5	
Physical Science (1st elements).		5	
Total points			100

In order to gain admission, the candidate would require to have gained at least one-half of the points attributed to each section.

There might be two examinations annually for the admission of pupils, at dates specified beforehand, if found necessary and practicable. The examiners would be appointed by the school authorities, one of whom should be present to superintend the proceedings. The names of the successful candidates, with the points they have acquired, as well as the establishment where they have been educated, ought to be published in the papers within a fortnight after the examination. This publicity would benefit the schools from which the successful pupils had passed, and would doubtless encourage the masters in training boys for the future examinations. After three year's study at the outside, the scholar, if attentive to his work, should be able to pass such a satisfactory final examination as will entitle him to a diploma of efficiency either in forestry or agriculture, or both, and he is fitted for a career, either in his own interests or for the account of others, who will, I feel certain, be glad to make use of his services, knowing that he is competent to render them efficiently.

Of course you will understand that I merely throw out these suggestions as my own ideas on this subject, and they ought, of course, be discussed and modified after careful study to suit the requirements of your State. I may, however, remark that, on the whole, they have proved successful elsewhere.

At one of the most prosperous of existing similar schools (I do not name it, as the information so kindly afforded me by personal friends is more or less confidential), which was founded in 1860, the progress made in the number of

scholars from that date up to 1900 will be seen from the following statement:—

Number of Scholars attending.

Period.	Total.	Boarders.	Day Scholars.	Native.	Strangers.	Farmers, &c.
1861-1865. . . .	167	112	55	110	57	10
1866-1870. . . .	276	170	106	106	170	43
1871-1875. . . .	362	179	113	194	168	67
1876-1880. . . .	352	188	164	229	123	40
1881-1885. . . .	392	234	158	305	87	35
1886-1890. . . .	502	317	185	420	82	71
1891-1895. . . .	562	290	272	461	101	66
1896-1900. . . .	479	267	212	398	81	32
1901.	113	47	56	83	30	10

Now this return of 40 years' progress, in cycles of five years each, is valuable and instructive as a forecast of what may happen, proportionately, to your School of Forestry and Agriculture, once it is established.

I would just call your attention to a few facts which I think may be gathered from it, and I feel certain that our good friend R. M. Johnston (who finds sermons in stones and figures in everything), can find many more if he examines the statement.

The first fact which strikes me is the small number of pupils belonging to the country in which this school is situated, who attended it during the first 10 years of its existence; viz.:—1860 to 1865, 110; and 1866 to 1870, 106; or an average of only 21 per annum. It is the confirmation of the old adage, "No man is a prophet in his own country," and which, in this case, might be freely translated "Anything got up at home is of no good." Similar remarks have, if I remember rightly, been made not 100 miles from Hobart.

The second fact is that, whereas in the first five years only 57 strangers attended, or, about 11 per annum, within the next 10 years their number was tripled. *They* were not so long in finding out the value of the school as those at home, for whom it was actually founded.

The third fact: after 10 years' hesitation, no sooner do the latter see that their own institution is certainly appreciated by strangers, if not by themselves, than they begin to think that there may after all be some good in it, with the result, that during the next five cycles their numbers are more than quadrupled.

Fourth fact: of the adult agriculturists who were permitted to attend the classes at a nominal fee (about £2 per

annum), 10 only availed themselves of it in the first five years, but then their good common sense and shrewdness prevailed, and their number increased proportionately in a still greater degree.

The lessons to be derived from these facts are, I think—1st. neither to be too sanguine of immediate success, nor despondent of ultimate attainment; 2nd. Once convinced of the necessity and vital importance of the scheme, no hesitation should be allowed to interfere with its immediate commencement; 3rd. Caution and prudence in beginning, and perseverance, activity, and energy until its achievement are nearly certain to be rewarded with final success.

The school which, after serious investigation, I think to be the best model for you to follow, was at first designed to 50 boarders, but it was not until after 25 years of existence that room for this number was required. In my opinion, a house which would accommodate 12 boarders and 12 day scholars, besides manager and inside staff, would be sufficient to start with; and I think that such a house, with good outbuildings and sufficient grounds, which are so essential for the practical teaching which is such a material feature in this scheme, could be leased at a reasonable figure, and thus save the expense, trouble, and delay of building. Indeed, during my stay in Hobart, I saw some places in the neighbourhood of New Town which I thought might, with some trifling changes, prove admirably adapted for the purpose. Of course you on the spot will, particularly after you have been able to estimate the probable number of pupils likely to join at once, or in a short period, be in a better position to form an opinion of the suitability of any place better than I can do. It would be advisable, in order to induce parents or guardians to send their boys, and thus form a nucleus with which to begin operations, that the scholastic terms for pupils should be kept as low as possible. In Germany and Belgium the charge for boarders is about £40, and for day scholars £15, per annum, and, from their reports, they appear to make about £4 per year profit on each pupil. Of course it will be for those who have the management to see if it can be done for these prices, but you must remember that this school will not be founded to make money out of it, but to benefit the community and to provide for a pressing requirement if two of your most important industries are to prosper as they should. There should be a difference made between terms for Tasmanians and strangers; on the Continental plan this would mean 30 per cent. additional for boarders and day scholars. I scarcely think that, until the school begins to be known and

its advantages recognised, you could count upon many strangers, but later on it is more than probable that you will get a number from the neighbouring States and New Zealand. There might also be a likelihood in these days of cheap passages, that English parents and guardians would prefer sending their boys to a lovely climate like Tasmania in preference to the Continent, provided they know they could be brought up in a suitable manner to fit them for forest and agricultural work in India, South Africa, and the Colonies, particularly as the training they would receive in Tasmania would be better adapted to prepare them for such a career.

One of the most important points to settle will be, whether the school is to be a Government one, or solely under the management of a committee chosen from the different persons most interested in the scheme. In my opinion, a combination of the two systems might prove beneficial, and give a certain status to the institution which neither, separately, would confer upon it. The Government, which will no doubt be asked, and will consent, to grant a reasonable annual subsidy at least during the first few years of its existence, will naturally and very properly claim the right of having a vote in the proceedings. The very fact of the legislative bodies having a certain control over the organisation and expenditure will have an advantageous influence as a safeguard against extravagance on the one hand, and parsimony on the other. The members of the committee will be able to bring forward a detailed scheme as practical men interested in the industries involved, knowing what is actually required and should be done.

One of the next most serious points you will have to consider will be the selection of a proper manager of the school. The importance to be attached to this can scarcely be exaggerated. Upon the choice of a competent person to occupy this position may depend, in all probability, the success or failure of the scheme. He must be a well-educated man, of a certain age and standing, to secure the respect and esteem of the parents and teachers, as well as the deference of the pupils. He must possess both energy and tact, and, indeed, he cannot have too much of each combined. He should have, if possible, a good knowledge of French and German, so as to enable him to study the very important works which appear periodically in these languages upon the management of similar schools elsewhere, and to correspond with their managers. With a practical knowledge of both forestry and agriculture, he should be imbued with a firm desire to make the school a credit to

Tasmania and to himself. It will not be an easy task to find such a man, and when found, he must be properly paid.

As for the professors or teachers, I should think four or five would be sufficient to begin with. They must be practical men, representing forestry, agriculture, fruit-growing, botany, and farm and dairy produce generally. Of course they will have to expound the theoretical reasons for the practical work taught the pupils, and which, after all, ought to be the principle part of their instruction in this school. You have among you many fit and competent for this, and you have only to make a prudent choice to secure a good working staff, and I should imagine that, wishing to further the project, they would not demand too high a payment for their services, which, with a proper division of labour, should not exceed much more than 24 hours in the week.

You will also require a capable accountant, not alone to keep the receipts and expenditure of the school, but also to teach the pupils the book-keeping so absolutely necessary for their success in their future career.

The minor details of outdoor foremen and servants must, of course, be discussed and arranged by the committee of management and the manager.

I had hoped to be able to make up for you a sort of balance sheet of "ways and means," but, on consideration, I find it would be impossible for me to do so, ignorant of the expenses you will have to incur, and, therefore, without any real basis upon which to form any reliable calculations; but this your committee will easily be able to do. I can, however, inform you that the school on the Continent, which I have chosen as a model, with about 100 pupils, has a yearly gross revenue of—

	£
Pupils' fees	2120
Proceeds of farm (100 acres)	800
	£2920

and that the—

Total expenditure (but not including professors' fees) is	£1520

And now comes the vital part of the whole question—How is the money necessary for the establishment and maintenance of the school until it becomes a self-supporting and paying institution to be obtained? I think we may take

it as a recognised axiom in practical life and political economy, that the persons likely to profit most by the adoption and subsequent successful result of any enterprise, are those who should find the necessary resources for its establishment and support. Now, those who are sure to benefit by this school of forestry and agriculture are numerous, and can, I think, be divided into the following categories:—1st. The Government, by a larger revenue derived from extension of trade and foreign relations and sale of timber growths; 2nd. Parents of boys who will be fitted in the school for a profitable career; 3rd. Timber merchants and saw-millers; 4th. Agriculturists, fruit-growers, and exporters who, by better management and more theoretical and practical methods, will procure more remunerative returns for their produce; 5th. Small farmers, whose dairy and general farm products will reap a similar benefit; 6th. Large steamship companies, for whom the increase of fruit, timber, and other agricultural produce means better freights and larger shipments; 7th. Bankers whose clients in those industries will be doing a more lucrative and safe business; 8th. The whole community, who must profit by the success of these industries.

Now, let us see what these different sections ought reasonably to contribute to securing the success of this scheme—

		£
1st.	The Government annual subsidy	250
2nd.	Parents, pupils' fees.....	660
3rd.	Timber merchants and saw-millers ½ per cent. on export value of wood, say £50,000 (or an equivalent per 100 s. ft.)..... (To be augmented as trade increases.)	250
4th.	Agriculturists and fruit growers and exporters, ¼ per cent. on £733,000 export value (or equivalent per case, sack, or bale)	1830
5th.	100 small farmers, at £2	200
6th.	Five steamship companies, at, per annum, £20 each	100
7th.	Three banks, at, per annum, £20 each	60
8th.	Subscriptions from agricultural Societies and private individuals	200
	Making a total of	£3550

Now, this will give you an idea of what a really infinitesimal tax on all who are likely to profit by the project under discussion would place annually at the disposal of the managing committee. Of course, the figures can be changed or modified to suit the requirements and circumstances of the case, but I do not think that any real objection can be made to such a reasonable solution of finding the funds required for the purpose.

I have not the honour of knowing personally your new Governor, but from all reports he is a thoroughly energetic and shrewd business man. If you can only convince him of the necessity and value of such an institution, and enlist his sympathy and co-operation in your efforts, I think success is certain. I am persuaded that the foundation and ultimate success of such a school, under his auspices, will add fresh laurels to his diplomatic career.

In conclusion, I have done my utmost to impress the importance of this subject upon you. I only wish I could be with you to aid by advice and assistance, but, as I have already told you, my services are always at your disposal to carry out a project which I feel sure will benefit Tasmania, to which I am so sincerely attached, and where I received such kindness and made so many new, and, I trust, lasting friendships.