

schools and the University. Promising pupils from the State schools are sent up at the Government expense to one of these secondary schools, and are from them passed on into the University; so that these secondary schools do work for the State which it does not lie within the province of its own primary schools to do. Were it not that private enterprise has supplemented State undertakings, the State, if it wished to give promising boys the benefit of an University education, would have to establish and endow an Advanced School for Boys, and this brings us to our second point. The University does not as yet pay its way; if anything were to occur which would tend to diminish the number of students at the University affairs would be in a worse state, and incalculable harm would be done to the cause of higher education in the colony; and that this reduction of members might very fairly be the result of increased fees at the secondary schools, which increase of fees might recommend itself to these governing bodies as a set-off against their loss by taxation, seems to me a consummation devoutly to be deprecated indeed, but distinctly probable.

The gist of the matter may be stated thus:—The State has a paid army of teachers, who provide their pupils with elementary instruction, but for higher work the State has to rely on outside institutions. They are paid to supply certain wants, which the State acknowledges to be real wants, but which it cannot afford to supply itself. Anything which tends to impair the usefulness of such institutions or to lower their tone—the alienation of moneys, for instance, which would otherwise be employed in procuring the services of additional or superior teachers or for other educational purposes—would be hurtful to the State. But this exemption from taxation should only be secured to such lands as were bona-fide used for purposes of school buildings and recreation. Lands and tenements which are productive of revenue should of course be taxed. With this exception, not an unimportant one, I cannot but think, Sir, that a proposal to exempt the buildings and lands of incorporated schools from taxation will commend itself to Parliament. I look forward with interest to the action which the school authorities will probably take in the matter.

I am, Sir, &c.,

SPECTATOR.

*From the Register
August 29th 1883*

DEPUTATIONS.

TAXATION OF INCORPORATED COLLEGES.

A deputation waited on the Treasurer (Hon. L. Glyde) on Tuesday morning, August 28, for the purpose of requesting the Government to exempt the Prince Alfred and St. Peter's Colleges properties from the operation of the proposed property tax of the Government. The Hon. G. W. COTTON, M.L.C., who introduced the deputation, pointed out that these Colleges were conducted in the interests of the public, and relieved the Government of a considerable amount of expenditure for general and middle-class education, and he thought they might fairly be exempted from any taxation.

The Ven. Archdeacon MARRYAT was of opinion that the institutions ought to be able to claim exemption under the provision in the Government scheme, to the effect that any Society not formed wholly or in part for the purposes of profit should not be subject to the tax. The Colleges were founded for the purposes of the public generally, and for the purpose of education pure and simple; certainly not for the pur-

poses of profit. If art unions were exempted from the operation of the tax he thought the Colleges had fully an equal claim to consideration, and he hoped this fact would be clearly recognised by the Government. Again, he would point out that as the Government were going to exempt from taxation all property used for the purposes of public health or recreation, the exemption might fairly be made to extend to the College playground.

Mr. F. CHAPPLE said some reliance was placed by the deputation on the fact that the Colleges were built by the funds privately subscribed by persons who were interested in the higher branches of education, and the schools should therefore be placed in the same category as chapels and churches. Then by their acts of incorporation the funds of the Colleges could not be applied to any other object than that of promoting higher education. The deputation were rather surprised to see that their institutions were not in the list of exemptions from the tax which the Treasurer had laid before Parliament, and it struck him that it would be difficult with any amount of consistency to exempt churches and chapels and not colleges.

Archdeacon FARR felt that the Government would readily exempt the colleges when it was represented to them that the effect of the tax as applied to them would be to cripple them, and render them less effective agents in the cause of education.

The Rev. JAMES BICKFORD briefly expressed his acquiescence in what had been said.

The Rev. F. WILLIAMS said one effect of the tax would be an increase in the school fees, which would be an additional burden on the parents, and no doubt further limit the class of people for whose benefit the Colleges were established.

Mr. H. E. DOWNER represented that the Colleges could not afford to pay the tax, and Dr. STIRLING supported the request of the deputation.

The TREASURER said he did not think the Government could recognise the argument that as the Colleges partly relieved the Government of the task of teaching, they should be exempted from taxation. If that were once admitted he did not see how they could very well limit its application, and he could not regard with any more favour the argument that the playground should be included in the category of places for public recreation. He acknowledged, however, that there was a great deal of force in the principal argument that the Colleges should be regarded as belonging to Societies not formed wholly or in part for the purposes of profit, which were exempted from the operation of the tax. The words of the New Zealand Act were very similar to those in our Bill, the latter words of the paragraph, however, being "for the purposes of profit divisible amongst the shareholders." This of course was a legal question upon which lawyers might differ, but he believed the Attorney-General certainly told him that Colleges would not be exempted. The Sevenhills College would be about the only other institution in the colony that would stand in the same position, and he thought it might be well to carefully consider their case. He supposed they had proved the fact that there was no profit divisible amongst the shareholders. (Mr. Downer — "No doubt about that; there are no shareholders.") The profits were devoted to enlarging the sphere of their operations, and on the main argument he felt personally disposed to waive the point in favour of the three Colleges. He would speak to his colleagues on the matter, and their decision would shortly be announced in the House.