

THE CANADA

EDUCATIONAL MONTHLY

JUNE-JULY, 1900.

EDUCATION IN TASMANIA.

BY INSPECTOR G. J. McCORMAC.

TASMANIA is a large island lying to the south west of Australia. It is 240 miles long and 200 miles wide. Its area is 26,215 square miles, so it is nearly as large as the Province of New Brunswick. It was discovered by Tasman on December 1, 1642, and named by him Van Diemen's Land, which name was afterwards changed in honor of the discoverer. It was first settled in 1803 by soldiers and convicts from Sydney, New South Wales. It has had a steady growth since 1817, and now has a population of about 150,000. The surface is hilly, and the coast indented with fine bays and harbors. The climate is mild and healthy, and the soil fruitful. Agriculture, mining and whale fishing are the leading occupations. In the western part of the island are large coal beds. There are two cities, Hobart and Launceston. Hobart, which is the capital, has a population of twenty-five thousand. It is beautifully situated on the river Derwent, which flows into Storm Bay, on the south-east of the island. Launceston, with a population of seventeen thousand, is situated on the north side of the island. The school system of Tasmania resembles very closely the system of

education followed in the Australian colonies. The head of the Education Department is a Minister of the Crown, designated the Minister of Education. The other officers are the Director of Education, inspectors and teachers. All officers of the department are appointed and removed by the Governor-in-Council at pleasure.

A State School may be established in any locality where, after due inquiry, the Minister of Education shall be satisfied that there are at least twenty children of five years of age and upwards who will regularly attend such school at its establishment. When the average daily attendance of children at any State School shall have fallen, for a period of six months, below the number of twenty, such school shall thereupon be classed as a Provisional School. Provisional Schools may be maintained or established by the Minister in remote and thinly-populated districts, and in districts where from any cause it is expedient to establish or maintain schools, the Minister may appoint itinerant teachers to visit such places. If the parents or other residents of any locality apply to the Minister for the establishment of a