

I heard the Scholars examined collectively by Mr. Ashwell on several occasions in general Scriptural knowledge, Geography, History, and Chronology, and was astonished at the amount of their information on these subjects, which exceeded anything I had previously met with in any School, European or Native.

School Buildings.

I next examined the School buildings. They are attached to the Mission House and consist of a dining hall, school room, and girls' dormitory. The Boys sleep in small raupo houses in rear of the general establishment.

The plan of those buildings is good—they are spacious, light and well ventilated, but, being composed of weather boards and unlined, are cold and comfortless in winter, and are moreover out of repair and leak badly; they also require shingling.

School Furniture.

There is a want of shelves and presses, for food and utensils in the dining hall, for books, slates, &c., in the school room, and for the girls' clothing in the dormitory. There is also a deficiency of tables and forms, and those which are in use require repair.

Food.

I had frequent opportunities of seeing their food. It consisted of ground wheat made into porridge for breakfast and supper—varied some times by bread or boiled maize—and of potatoes and pumpkins or other vegetables for dinner. The food was good of its kind and in sufficient quantities, but the supply of animal food is very small, and indeed almost nominal. I found in every school a great desire on the part of the Missionaries to increase this supply if means could be found for doing so. The appearance of the Scholars was nevertheless cheerful and healthy.

Clothing.

The clothing appeared to me insufficient for the season, which was cold, wet and tempestuous. That of the Boys consisted of Dungaree trousers, checked shirts, and jersey frocks—two suits. The Girls' clothing consisted of two cotton garments and a small flannel—also two suits.

Bedding.

The Girls' bedding was tolerably good; and if the dormitory had been lined and in good repair it might possibly have been sufficient for warmth; it consisted of a straw mattress and pillow on an iron bedstead, two blankets and a rug, of which one blanket was provided by the Scholar.

The Boys' bedding was insufficient, being merely one blanket each and those generally provided by themselves; they are consequently obliged to sleep several together for warmth, which is very objectionable.

Cooking Utensils.

There is a great want of proper cooking utensils, as well as of those for cleaning—washing—food—personal cleanliness, &c.; and although, notwithstanding all these wants of common necessities, a decent appearance is maintained, yet an air of poverty and effort to carry on a great work with inadequate means is but too evident.

Hours of Instruction.

The hours of instruction, &c., are as follows:—

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| a.m. 6½ to 7½ | - | - | Prayers and Religious Instruction |
| “ 7½ to 9 | - | - | Breakfast and Play |
| “ 9 to 12 | - | - | School |
| p.m. 12 to 2 | - | - | Dinner and Play |
| “ 2 to 5 | - | - | Industrial Work |
| “ 5 to 7 | - | - | Supper &c., |
| “ 7 to 8½ | - | - | Evening School and Bed |

The whole of the instruction and management are performed gratuitously by the Missionary and his wife and family, assisted only by a Matron with a salary of £50 per annum, provided by the Church of England Board of Education.

Industrial Occupation.

The industrial occupations are those of farming for the Men and Boys, and housekeeping, knitting, making mats, sewing, washing, &c., for the Women and Girls;—all the clothing for the Girls and most of that for the Boys being made on the establishment.

School Estate.

The School Estate consists of 9 acres of poor land about the Mission House under rough pasture.

Also 100 acres of moderately good land at Pepepe two miles above the Mission House and on the same bank of the Waikato.

And about acres on the other side of the river exactly opposite to Pepepe. These last may in fact be considered as one property.

Most of the land at Pepepe has been under cultivation, and now produces but poor crops; there is a Native Teacher's house and some poor out houses on it.

Of the acres opposite to Pepepe one third may be considered good land, one third indifferent, and one third swamp land, most of which is reclaimable and would then be very rich; Mr. Ashwell has lately enclosed (by contract) about 400 acres, which he hopes to be able to lay down in grass for sheep or cattle if funds can be provided. A tolerably good house has been erected here for the Teachers and Boys employed upon the Farm, out of funds furnished by the Bishop, and Mr. Ashwell's most anxious desire is to remove the Mission Station from its present isolated and unprofitable position to this Farm, which he conceives, if stocked and furnished with the necessary implements, would soon make the school self supporting.