

**CITY OF COUNTY OF EXETER.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.
REPORT ON SECONDARY AND
HIGHER EDUCATION IN EXETER**

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City of County of Exeter. Education Committee. Report on Secondary and Higher Education in Exeter by Michael E. Sadler

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MICHAEL E. SADLER

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City and County of Exeter.

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Education Committee.
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Report

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Secondary and
Higher Education in Exeter

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

This report is the outcome of an inquiry made by me in 1904 on the invitation of the Education Committee of the City and County of Exeter. The following is a copy of the resolution, passed at a meeting of the Committee on December 17th, 1903, in pursuance of which the inquiry was instituted :—

RESOLVED,

"That in order to ensure a complete system of education in the City of Exeter, it is desirable that a return should now be obtained of all those institutions and schools, whether public or private, which are giving Secondary Education, and that an expert opinion should be obtained as to the best manner of co-ordinating and developing the work of both Primary and Secondary Schools, so as to avoid waste of effort, money, etc., and of supplying such further educational facilities as the City may be considered to require."

In carrying out the task which was thus entrusted to me, I received valuable assistance from the members of the Education Committee, and especially from Councillor Dunn (Chairman of the Committee), Councillor J. A. Loram (Vice-Chairman), the ex-Mayor (Mr. F. J. Widgey), Alderman Wreford, Councillor Perry, Councillor Stocker, Councillor Tolson, Mr. A. W. Clayden, Mr. W. A. Cunningham, Mr. Domville and Miss Montgomery. Great help was given to me in my investigations by the Town Clerk (Mr. G. R. Shorto) and by the Secretary of the Education Committee (Mr. H. J. Morgan). I am further indebted to the kindness of the Bishop of Exeter, of Archdeacon Sandford, of the Rev. T. J. Ponting, of the Rev. Dr. Dangar, of Mr. J. F. Young (Secretary of the Education Committee of the Devon County Council), and of Mr. F. H. H. Orchard (Clerk of the Governors of the Exeter Episcopal Schools Trust). From the late Mr. Willey, by whose death more than one educational undertaking in Exeter has lost a liberal and eager friend, I received information on manual training and on the teaching

of domestic science. The headmasters and headmistresses of the various schools furnished me with all the statistical and other information for which it was necessary for me to ask in order to form a judgment upon the work and needs of the institutions under their care, and I take this opportunity of thanking them for the courtesy with which they received me at the various stages of my work. In the course of my inquiry I had the assistance of Mr. J. L. Holland (now Secretary for Education to the Northamptonshire County Council), Mr. G. F. Bridge and Miss M. S. Beard, and desire to express my thanks to them for the help which they have given me.

One who is permitted, as I have been, to study the educational system of the historic City of Exeter, of which Freeman said that none other in England can trace up a life so unbroken to so remote a past, concludes his work with a sense of vivid contrast between things old and new, sometimes estranged and yet in their true essence not irreconcilable. And he brings his labours to a close with a deepened feeling alike of the greatness of our debt to those who have gone before, and of the new obligation, which presses upon us with insistent force, to provide, while there is yet time, the best education which it is in our power to plan for those who, whether rich or poor, will grow up to bear part in the work and government of the England of the future.

CHAPTER II.

STATISTICAL SURVEY OF SECONDARY EDUCATION IN EXETER.

The present chapter discloses the striking fact that in the Spring Term 1904 there were more boys and girls, per 1,000 of the population, receiving education in public and private secondary schools in Exeter than, so far as is at present known, in any city in this country. This is due, in no small measure, to the educational improvements which were carried out in Exeter about thirty years ago, largely under the influence of Dr. Temple, who was then Bishop of the Diocese.

The County Borough (or, to speak more correctly, the City and County) of Exeter contained in 1901 a population of 47,185.* The total number of boys and girls in PUBLIC AND PRIVATE secondary schools in the City in the Spring Term, 1904, was 1,174 or 24.8 per 1,000 of the population. Of these 526 were boys (11.14 per 1,000 of the population), and 648 were girls (13.73 per 1,000 of the population). Girls formed 55.19 per cent. of the total number of pupils receiving secondary education.

The total number of pupils in PUBLIC secondary schools was 724 (352 boys and 372 girls), or 15.34 per 1,000 of the population. The total number of pupils in PRIVATE secondary schools was 450 (174 boys and 276 girls) or 9.45 per 1,000 of the population.

The pupils in private schools were 38.3 per cent. of the total number of those receiving secondary education. In the private secondary schools the girls were 61.3 per cent. of the total number of pupils; in the public secondary schools they formed 51.3 per cent.

About 10.5 per cent. of the pupils in secondary schools in Exeter are boarders.

* The produce of a rate of one penny in the pound, for purposes of Higher Education is, approximately £1,050. The residue under Section 1 of the Local Taxation (Customs and Excise) Act, 1890, applicable to the purposes of Higher Education in the City, actually received during the year ended March 31, 1904, amounted to £1,222 16s. 4d.