

District Inspector of Schools
For inquiry report

D.O. 6. 10. 83

Mr. Joseph Collins
Cornwall

For attention.

83.3220

11-10-83.

RECEIVED
11-10-83

Returned for filing 11 JAN 1884

District Inspector of Schools

Miss M. Williams, formerly a Public
Teacher in the National Superior Public School,
gave birth to a child some seven months
ago. Rumour ascribes the paternity to
Henry Thomas, a Public Teacher in the Public
School at Nantab. Both are members of
the same Church choir, and are occasionally
seen in company. Immediately on hearing
the report I visited Thomas, and in presence
of the Principal Teacher questioned him on
the matter. He solemnly denied the truth
of it. I then saw his father, who is
so satisfied with his son's avowal that
he has publicly avowed to take legal action
against any person circulating the slander, though
there is no tangible evidence forthcoming against
Thomas, I am strongly disposed to believe that
he is guilty. His father is in good circumstances
and he is a farmer and a very worthy man. His
wife's parents are very respectable, but poor, and
his sister and brother are both teachers in the
service of the Department. It seems to me that the
influence of Thomas' father and the evident desire
on the part of the wife's parents to keep the matter
as quiet as possible for the sake of their other children,
especially those employed in teaching, prevent disclosure.

19. 10. 83.

Chief Inspector: Same of opinion that suspicion
has been correctly stated the circumstances of this case
warranting that no action be taken at present.

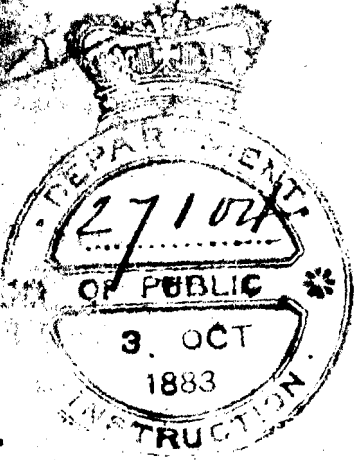
Under Secretary
J. J. J.
29. 10. 83.

D.C.: 3340

20. 10. 83.

Returned
2. 1. 84

Submitted for
3. 11. 83



Respecting Harboured Immigrants
Mr. J. P. H. Thomas
& forwarding copy of Newspaper
which contains

10th October 1883
His Public Service -

Sir,

It having been reported to me on last Wednesday the 26th ultimo, that H. Thomas, a pupil teacher at North Warrak Public School was the father of an illegitimate child - In company with a member of the Board, Mr. Robert Justice, went to the said school in the afternoon for the purpose of making enquiries -

The Teacher, Mr. Gillis, informed me that the Inspector of Public Schools had been there two or three weeks previously, and had spoken to the young man on the subject, who denied the paternity. I had him called in to the Teacher's private parlour, and in the presence of Mr. Justice, and the Teacher, informed him that were reports in circulation about him, and that the sooner he cleared his character the better - He declared he was innocent of any such conduct, and that he would take the course indicated - I have therefore now the honour in forwarding this communication for your information to enclose a copy of the Newcastle Morning Herald, in which a notice appears relative to this matter, signed by H. Thomas, Pupil Teacher of North Warrak Public School.

I have the honour to be

Sir your Obedient Servant

John Bennett
Nov. Dec. 1883

Yours faithfully
J. P. H. Thomas

3.10.83.

Chief Inspector.

Forwarded for your report as you wish to make in connection with the matter.

31.10.83
10.3.10.83.

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The Minister of Public Instruction