The Register

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A FRESH ISSUE OF EDUCATION REGULATIONS.

The discovery that higher fees must now be paid for pupils in the fifth classes at the State schools would appear to have come as a surprise to many of the parents. It is natural that every one who is able to appreciate closely the proceedings in Parliament and note every resolution which may have a possible bearing on his own interests; and accordingly the decision of the Assembly that all fifth classes must be closed out the colony must be self-supporting has seemed to many a very large expense overlooked by the public. Some pupils attended as usual on Monday, but on informing their parents that the future would be so high they were promptly taken away from school altogether. One cannot help regretting that promising boys and girls should have their educational careers cut short so unnecessarily. But times are hard and it is not surprising that some parents cannot afford to pay high school fees at present.

The policy of the State in South Australia has hitherto been to offer every encouragement to parents to give their children the best possible start. The age of fourteen or fifteen is the time at which the most rapid progress towards habits of thinking can be made. If a parent by keeping his son at school shows his foresight, he may fail to get any earnings that he might bring in if put to work at the earliest possible age it has generally been thought to be a good policy for the Government to encourage such sacrifices by little extra outlay on the higher branches at the schools. Expenditure of this kind extends over a wider area of usefulness than the money spent even on such admirable institutions as the University, the School of Mines, and the School of Agriculture.