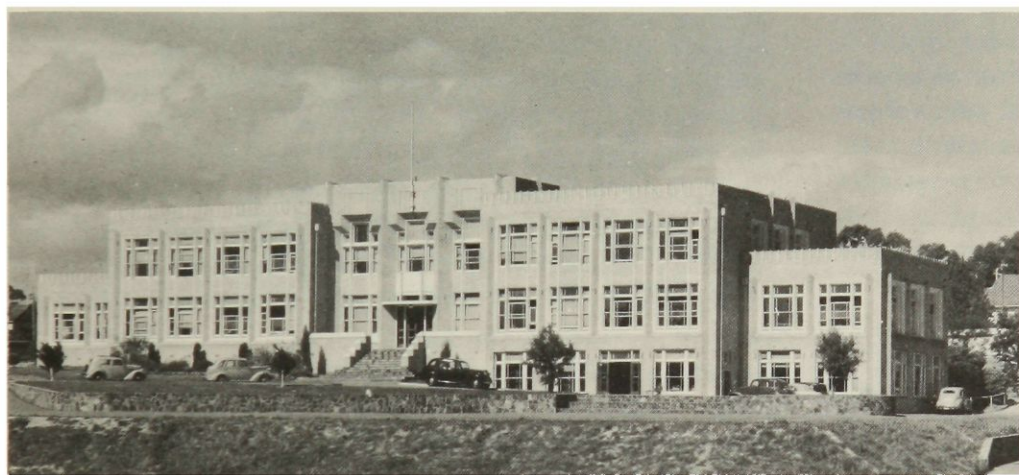




*A State subsidised kindergarten*

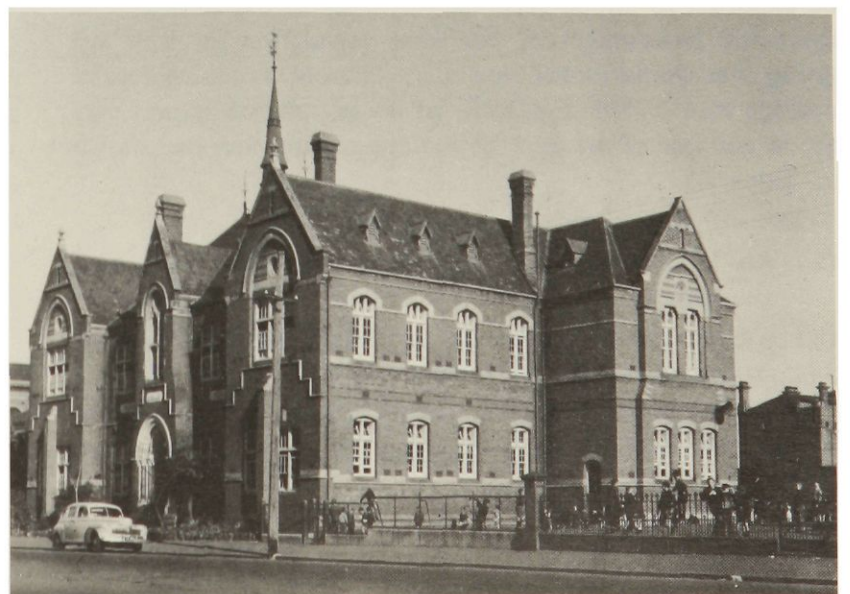


*A modern State primary school in the eastern suburbs*



*A State secondary school*

*Typical old State primary school with inadequate space and located on a busy highway*





but for long-range planning this would appear to be a reasonable anticipation.

#### *Primary Schools*

On the basis of 1.75% being the average for any primary school year in the future, the total figure for the primary school age group expressed as a percentage of total population would be 12.25% as compared with the existing figure of 11.55%. As education is compulsory for all ages in this group, with the exception of children five years old, the figure of 12.25% indicates a maximum potential number of primary students for Australia as a whole.

However, when considering figures for Melbourne, allowances must be made for the following. Firstly, on present figures at least one-third of the five-year-old age group do not commence at primary schools until they reach the age of six. Secondly, the proportion of children to total population tends to be lower in the large cities than in the country, and thirdly, there is always a proportion of children in each age group who for various reasons do not attend regular schools. The present figure for Melbourne pupils attending primary schools is 10.5% of total population. This figure, however, includes a proportion of sub-primary pupils. After taking all these factors into account it would seem that a figure of 11% of any future population attending primary schools is adequate for long-range planning when estimating school site requirements.

#### *Secondary Schools*

Because, at present, compulsory education in Victoria applies only up to the age of 14, the number of pupils from any one age group from 14 years old onwards who attend secondary schools, declines progressively. It is necessary, therefore, to make some estimate of the percentage in each successive age group after 14 who are likely to attend secondary schools.

The second column of Table 65 gives the estimated proportion of pupils in each age group from 13 years onwards expressed as a percentage of the pupils in the 12 to 13 year age group. These estimates are based on the 1950 school census figures for Victoria and have been taken as the basis for estimating the proportion of the population that might be expected to attend secondary schools in the future. The estimated percentages of the total population in each age group that would attend secondary schools, assuming on the average that 1.75% and 2.0% of the population respectively are in any one of the appropriate age groups, are also shown in Table 65.

These figures could be increased by:

- (a) An increase in the compulsory age limit for school attendance.
- (b) An increased demand for secondary education in age groups above the compulsory limit.

If the compulsory school leaving age were increased to 15 and the percentage of other age groups moved forward

accordingly, the percentage of the population attending secondary schools would rise from 5.55% and 6.35% to 7.30% and 8.35% respectively.

If the compulsory school leaving age were increased to 15 and the proportion of other age groups remain as at present the figures would increase to 6.24% and 7.14%.

From this table it can be seen that the probable minimum figure based on a continuance of existing conditions is 5.55%, but that a figure of over 8% could be reached on present trends.

This table, however, takes no account of the general world trend for an ever-increasing percentage of the total population to receive secondary education. Melbourne and Victoria are already considerably behind some overseas countries, both with regard to the compulsory age limit and the percentage of total population receiving secondary education. In Britain and indeed in some other Australian States the school leaving age has already been raised to 15. In the United States the normal school-leaving age is from 16 to 18 years, and there are over 80% of people in the 14-17 year age group who attend secondary schools compared with under 30% in Victoria. Moreover, 15% of the 18-21 age group attend either a University or secondary school in the United States compared with 2% in Britain and about 4% in Australia.

There is therefore considerable scope for our figures to rise and every reason to expect they will do so if adequate facilities are made available. In these circumstances it is essential that, in planning for a long period, allowance should be made for a gradual increase in the percentage of each age group over the compulsory age limit receiving secondary education in some form. Taking all these factors into account it would seem reasonable to work on a long-range figure of not less than 7% of the population requiring secondary education. In fact, with an increase in the school leaving age to 15 this will be reached within the next 10 years as a result of the high birth rate over the past 5 to 10 years. Although the present number of secondary students expressed as a percentage of total population in Melbourne is only 3.5% this is primarily because of the very low birth rate between 1930 and 1939 which is showing its effect today.

This situation will change rapidly as the present primary school age groups move into the secondary school age groups. In the next ten years the percentage of the population requiring secondary education will nearly double the present figure.

Taking a figure of 7% of total population for long-range planning, therefore, the next step is to endeavour to estimate what proportion of this number will require technical education as distinct from normal secondary school education. At the present time the proportion of full-time technical school students to secondary school students is about 25%, suggesting that if technical school education continues to grow as it has been during recent years, it may be necessary,