

(No. 95.)



1892.

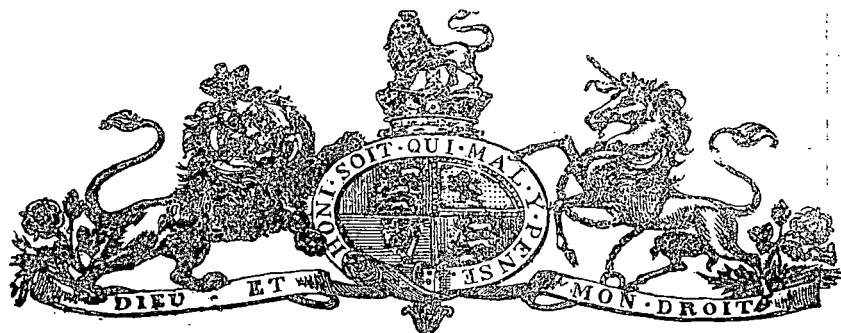
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

STATE SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

TRUANT INSPECTORS' REPORTS, &c.

Return to an Order of the House of Assembly. (Mr. Dobson.)

Laid upon the Table by the Premier, October 21, 1892, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed.



RETURN of Cases of Non-attendance noted or reported during the Three Months ending 30th June, 1892, and the action taken in connection therewith.

Ordered, That there be laid on the Table of this House a Return for the six months ending 30th June last, showing the number of Children on the roll of each School throughout the Colony, the average daily attendance of Children at each School, the number of Children at each School who infringed the compulsory Clause of "The Education Act," and the number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken in consequence of such infringement. (*Mr. Dobson.*)

SCHOOL DISTRICT.	SCHOOL.	No. on Rolls.	Average Daily Attendance.	No. of Children noted or reported.	No. of Parents or Guardians responsible for Attendance.	No. of Parents or Guardians on whom Notice was served.	No. of Children exempted or excused from Attendance.	No. of Parents or Guardians summoned for Non-attendance of Children.	No. of cases in which Fines were imposed, ranging from 1s. to 10s.
HOBART.	Bathurst-street	583	466	105	82	40	75	2	2
	Battery Point	497	396	31	19	15	18	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>
	Goulburn-street	399	313	46	24	2	56	1	1
	Macquarie-street	201	156	48	23	5	35	1	1
	Murray-street	236	164	90	26	25	34	7	7
	Trinity Hill	276	196	121	91	44	32	3	3
	TOTAL	2192	1691	441	265	131	245	14	14
LAUNCESTON.	Charles-street	630	475	105	105	32	78	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>
	Elizabeth-street	115	87	17	13	7	10	1	1
	Frederick-street	132	93	30	15	20	10	3	2
	Invermay	249	199	90	80	63	27	2	1
	TOTAL	1126	854	242	213	122	120	6	4
BEACONSFIELD.	Beaconsfield	234	169	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Flowery Gully	24	18	..	..	..	..	..	..
	TOTAL	258	187	..	..	..	..	..	..
BOTHWELL.	Apsley	28	21	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Bothwell	114	77	6	5	5	..	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>
	TOTAL	142	98	6	5	5	..	..	..
BRIGHTON.	Bagdad	38	23	5	3	2	..	..	..
	Bluff	12	10	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Broad Marsh	16	14	5	2	2	..	3	3
	Dromedary	38	25	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Elderslie	30	18	6	4	..	..	..	..
	North Bridgewater	78	57	9	6	3	..	..	..
	Old Beach	30	23	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Pontville	40	28	5	3	2	..	1	1
TOTAL	282	198	30	18	9	..	4	4	
BUCKINGHAM.	Lower Sandy Bay	37	24	4	4	3	..	1	..
	New Town	273	215	8	4	3	..	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>
	Ridgeway	25	9	11	9	4	..	4	2
	TOTAL	335	248	23	17	10	..	5	2
CAMPBELL TOWN.	Campbell Town	107	81	24	17	17
	Cleveland	40	37
	Conara	23	19
	Epping	12	6
	TOTAL	182	143	24	17	17

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CARNARVON.	Carnarvon	11	6	} Nil.	Nil.
	Long Bay	13	8	1	2		
	Koonya	56	43		
	Nubeena	26	20	7	4	4	..		
	TOTAL.....	106	77	7	4	5	2	..	..
CLARENCE.	Bellerive	62	45	3	2	2	..	} Nil.	Nil.
	Cambridge	23	13	..	..	Nil.	..		
	Rokeby	26	21	..	..	Nil.	..		
	Sandford	24	14	13	6	..	..
	South Arm	16	11	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL.....	151	104	16	8	2	..	..	..
DELORAINÉ.	Brookhead.....	31	32	..	..	} Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Brookside	37	26	..	..		
	Chudleigh	55	42	3	3				
	Deloraine	132	90	56	31				
	Dunorian	72	42	16	11				
	Golden Valley.....	37	16	12	5				
	Mole Creek.....	23	13	..	..		
	Parkmam	44	25	..	..		
	Red Hills	35	31	..	..		
	Rubicon Bridge	23	21	..	..		
	Tongataboo	13	7	6	5				
West Meander	30	18	..	..			
TOTAL.....	532	353	93	55	..	..	..	..
DEVON, EAST.	Green's Creek.....	47	34	5	2	2	} Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Thirlstane	18	11	6	3	3			
	Latrobe	98	72	4	4	4			
	New Ground.....	32	24	..	..	..
	Northdown	37	26	3	2	2			
	Railton	54	39	..	..	..
	Sassafras	57	39	30	23	10			
TOTAL.....	343	245	48	34	21	..	..	..
KENTISHBURY.	Barrington	48	33	10	6	6	..	..	..
	Nook	53	40	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Paradise	25	17	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Sheffield.....	142	103	6	4	3	..	..	..
	Stoodley	12	9	1	1	..	..	..	..
	West Kentish	27	20	3	2	3	..	1	1
TOTAL.....	307	222	20	13	12	..	1	1	
MERSEY.	Barrington Junction	24	19	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Devonport, East.....	60	44	23	13	..	..	..	..
	Devonport, West.....	125	102	3	3	..	..	..	..
	Don	43	36	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Melrose	33	24	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Spreyton	17	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
TOTAL.....	302	237	26	16	..	..	..	..
DEVON, WEST.	Abbotsham	59	50	..	..	} Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Forth	68	45	..	..		
	Kindred	59	31	5	2				
	North Motton.....	16	8	7	3				
	Penguin.....	90	55	17	11				
	Pine Road.....	23	17	..	..		
	Sprent	54	42	8	7				
	Sulphur Creek	18	13	6	3				
	Ulverstone.....	94	58	..	..		
	TOTAL.....	481	319	43	26				
EMU BAY.	Burnie.....	157	122	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cam Road.....	17	11	5	4	Nil.	..	Nil.	Nil.
	Jacobs' Boat Harbour.....	40	26	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Romaine	33	23	6	3	..	..	Nil.	Nil.
	Somerset	51	42	4	3	Nil.	..	Nil.	Nil.
	Waratah	188	104	14	9	7	..	Nil.	Nil.
	Wynyard.....	146	107
TOTAL.....	632	435	29	19	7	

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EVANDALE.	Blessington	27	20	2
	Evandale	142	109
	Lymington, North	41	31	2	2	2	..	1	1
	White Hills	45	36	..	..	..	..	..	..
	TOTAL	255	196	2	2	2	2	1	1
FINGAL.	Avoca	57	41	5	4	..	..	4	4
	Cornwall	49	34	12	9	..	..	8	8
	Falmouth	23	18	..	..	..	..	..	..
	German Town	23	16	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Fingal	87	55	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Gray	21	15	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Mangana	63	60	1	1	..	..	1	1
	Mathinna	86	50	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Mount Nicholas	27	19	8	5	..	..	5	5
	St. Mary's	81	61	..	..	..	..	..	..
	TOTAL	517	369	26	19	..	..	18	18
FRANKLIN, NORTH	Castle Forbes Bay	57	40	2	2	3	..	<i>Nil.</i>	<i>Nil.</i>
	Chitty's Road	22	16	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Cradoc	20	15	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Franklin	121	80	52	30	2	..	2	2
	Gardiner's Creek	48	40	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Geveston	114	92	1	1	..	..	..	..
	Lower Longley	36	27	4	4	..	..	..	..
	Lymington, South	30	22	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Mountain River	18	7	8	4	4	..	4	4
	Port Cygnet	98	65	16	10	5	..	3	2
	Surges Bay	35	27	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Upper Huon	36	25	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Victoria	88	60	2	2	1	..	..	..
	Wattle Grove	25	9	13	6	..	..	..	..
TOTAL	748	525	98	59	16	..	9	8	
FRANKLIN, SOUTH	Dover	47	37	4	3	9	1	..	..
	Hastings	91	54	23	15	3	20	..	..
	Ida Bay	17	12	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Raminea	41	37	..	..	1	..	..	..
	Recherche	32	22	4	3	1	..	..	..
	Southport	47	35	8	4	1	5	..	..
	TOTAL	275	197	39	25	15	26	..	..
GEORGE TOWN.	George Town	41	30	11	8	11	} <i>Nil.</i>	} <i>Nil.</i>	} <i>Nil.</i>
	Lefroy	177	136	4	2	<i>Nil.</i>			
	Lower Piper's River	11	11	..	..	<i>Nil.</i>			
	Low Head	35	28	12	6	6			
	TOTAL	264	205	27	16	17	..	..	..
GLAMORGAN.	Glen Gala	23	13	2	2	2	..	..	..
	Lisdillon	25	20	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Swansea	58	40	24	18	18	..	..	..
	TOTAL	106	73	26	20	20	..	..	..
GLENORCHY.	Bismarck	45	35	..	..	..	} <i>Nil.</i>	} <i>Nil.</i>	} <i>Nil.</i>
	Claremont	29	18	3	2	..			
	Glenorchy	63	47	11	8	..			
	TOTAL	137	100	14	10	..	..	..	..
GREEN PONDS.	Constitution Hill	35	26	3	2	2	} <i>Nil.</i>	} <i>Nil.</i>	} <i>Nil.</i>
	Green Ponds	66	52	9	6	6			
	TOTAL	101	78	12	8	8	..	..	..
HAMILTON.	Ellendale	34	19	4	3	2	..	..	..
	Fentonbury	26	17	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Hamilton	74	51	12	6	12	..	..	..
	Maryborough	16	14
	Native Tier	25	20
	Onse	18	14	2
	Rocky Creek	18	9	4	3
	TOTAL	211	144	20	12	16

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KINGBOROUGH.	Garden Island Creek.....	25	16	4	3	1
	Gordon	18	8
	Long Bay	37	24
	Kingston	66	40	12	10	2
	Little Oyster Cove	43	28	11	7	6	..	..	..
	Margate	29	18	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Peppermint Bay	35	26	2	1	1	..	..	..
	Sandfly Basin	34	22	3	2	2	..	..	..
	TOTAL.....	287	182	32	23	12	..	..	..
LONGFORD.	Bishopsbourne	23	19	..	..	..	..	} Nil.	Nil.
	Cressy	95	62	7	7	7	6		
	Iveridge	36	23	13	8	..	..
	Longford	148	118	8	5	..	..
	Pateena	29	22	..	..	..	..
	Perth	95	75	15	5	5	..		
	Upper Liffey	43	28	14	6	5	..		
	TOTAL.....	469	347	57	31	17	6	..	..
MACQUARIE.	Strahan	64	34	19	16	..	..	..	..
	Zeehan	144	79	28	20	..	..	..	..
	TOTAL.....	208	113	47	36	..	..	..	..
NEW NORFOLK.	Back River	26	17	14	9	Nil.	8	Nil.	Nil.
	Glenora	79	56	3	2	1	} Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Lachlan	37	28	..	..	8			
	Macquarie Plains	55	41	3	1	Nil.			
	Molesworth	13	10	..	..	Nil.	..	..	..
	New Norfolk	197	150	12	11	4	Nil.	7	6
	Glen Fern	8	5	10	5	4	6	} Nil.	Nil.
	Plenty	25	19	13	8	3	8		
	Uxbridge	30	20	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	TOTAL.....	470	346	55	36	20	22	7	6
OATLANDS.	Antill Ponds	14	13	3	2	Nil.	2	} Nil.	Nil.
	Tunbridge	28	25	3	1	1	Nil.		
	Inglewood	11	6	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Jericho	31	22	1	1	..	Nil.	1	..
	Mount Seymour	32	24	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Oatlands	106	74	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Parattah	77	52	2	2	2	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Rhyndaston	20	16	1	1	..	Nil.	..	..
	Tunnack	36	14	14	9	9	} Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
	Whitefoord	27	25	4	2	2			
	TOTAL.....	382	271	28	18	14	2	1	..
PORTLAND.	Blue Tier	27	13	Nil.	Nil.	} Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	..
	Gould's Country	32	22	..	..		
	Pyengana	36	34	..	..		
	St. Helen's	57	44	..	..		
	Weldborough	38	30	..	..		
	TOTAL.....	190	143	..	..	..	..	..	..
RICHMOND.	Campania	46	35	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Dulcot	24	16	8	5	3	..	Nil.	Nil.
	Jerusalem	67	49	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Kangaroo Gully	25	16	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Richmond	81	63	4	3	3	..	} Nil.	Nil.
	Upper Tea Tree	26	24	2	2	2	..		
	TOTAL.....	269	203	14	10	8	..	..	..
RINGAROOMA, E.	Branxholm	43	26	8	4	..	..	..	..
	Derby	90	67	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Gladstone	22	21	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Moorina	23	13	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Ringarooma	58	46	3	2	..	..	..	..
	TOTAL.....	236	173	11	6	..	..	..	..
RINGAROOMA, W.	Ellesmere	101	73	1	1	..	..	1	..
	Jetsonville	40	30
	Springfield	32	21
	West Scottsdale	20	12
	TOTAL.....	193	136	1	1	Nil.	..	1	..

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ROSS.	Ross	82	60	4	4	Nil.	..	Nil.	Nil.
RUSSELL.	Black River	20	12	} Nil.
	Forest	65	44	6	4	6	4	Nil.	
	Irish Town	19	13	
	Smithton	38	30	
	Montagu	37	24	1	1	1	
	Rocky Cape	15	11	
	Stanley	98	77	
	TOTAL	292	211	7	5	7	4	..	Nil.
SELBY.	Bangor	50	34	11	8	}	Nil.	Nil.
	Hadspen	36	21	4	3				
	Karoola	41	28	11	7				
	Lebrina	38	25				
	Lilydale	78	59				
	Lisle	15	7	6	4				
	Newnham	25	17	14	8				
	Patersonia	20	10	10	6				
	Ravenswood	27	18				
	St. Leonard's	81	66	5	5				
	St. Michael's	26	19				
	St. Patrick's River	16	14	3	2				
	Underwood	32	21				
	Young Town	54	31				
	TOTAL	537	370	64	43
SORELL.	Bream Creek	34	26
	Dunalley	33	35	4	2
	Forcett	50	40
	Kellevie	71	52
	Nugent	21	15
	Orielton	18	12
	Sorell	89	60	14	10	8	..	Nil.	Nil.
	Wattle Hill	21	14	3	1	1	..	Nil.	Nil.
	TOTAL	337	244	21	13	9
SPRING BAY.	Buckland	15	12	} 8	5	5	5
	Orford	15	13						
	Spring Bay	30	20						
	Woodsdale	32	29						
	TOTAL	92	74	8	5	5	5
WESTBURY.	Bracknell	62	46	} Nil.	..	Nil.	Nil.
	Bridgenorth	22	17	5	3				
	Carrick	55	36				
	Exton	48	29	9	5				
	Fern Bank	18	14				
	Frankford	21	20				
	Glengarry	41	28	13	7				
	Hagley	39	18				
	Reedy Marsh	14	9	3	2				
	Rose Vale	18	13				
	Westbury	98	73	13	10				
	Whitemore	40	29	8	5				
	Winkleigh	42	29				
		TOTAL	518	361	51				
	GRAND TOTAL	14,537	10,536	1712	1199	522	434	72	63

APPENDIX.

RETURN of Cases of Non-Attendance noted during the Quarter ending 30th June, 1892, of Children connected with Private Schools in Hobart and Launceston, and of Children not on the Rolls of either Public or Private Schools.

		No. of Children noted or reported.	No. of Parents or Guardians responsible for Attendance.	No. of Parents or Guardians on whom Notice was served.	No. of Children exempted or excused from Attendance.	No. of Parents or Guardians summoned for non-attendance of Children.	No. of Cases in which Fines were imposed ranging from 2s. 6d. to 10s.
HOBART.	Private Schools.....	126	93	52	33	11	9
	Not on the Rolls of any School.....	62	31	31	62	..	..
	TOTAL	188	124	83	95	11	9
LAUNCESTON.	Private Schools.....	100	100	30	70	2	2
	Not on the Rolls of any School.....	200	175	112	88	4	2
	TOTAL	300	275	142	158	6	4
	GRAND TOTAL...	488	399	225	253	17	15

(In continuation of Paper No. 95.)

MEMORANDUM OF DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION.

THE Return of non-attendance of children at the State Schools during a stated period, and the action taken in connection therewith, comprises (1) the Reports of the Truant Officers under the direct control of the Department in Hobart and Launceston, and (2) the information supplied by the School Boards of Advice in the rural districts. To this is added a Supplementary Return giving some particulars of the action taken by the Truant Officers in cases of non-attendance of children claimed as scholars by the teachers of private schools, and of those whose names were not on the rolls of any school.

The first two columns of the Return give the number of children on the rolls, and the average daily attendance at the State Schools, as ascertained from the official statistics compiled for the month of June. Comparing these with the Returns for March, I find that the average daily attendance rose in three months from 10,314 to 10,536. This is a somewhat abnormal increase for the time of year, and an analysis of the detailed statement of attendance at the State Schools shows that it was due to the special action taken in the Launceston district, where there was no satisfactory provision for neglected children until after the 31st March. The third column gives the number of children noted or reported as having failed, in any one week during the period specified, to complete the minimum attendance prescribed by the Act; and the fifth column the preliminary action taken by the several authorities responsible for the enforcement of attendance; while the sixth column should show the number of cases in which, after due enquiry, the absence was found to have been unavoidable or at least excusable. This preliminary enquiry, if conducted so as to show that a vigilant supervision will be exercised over all cases of non-attendance, and that frivolous excuses for absence will not be entertained, is the most effective part of the whole business, and frequently obviates the necessity of taking further proceedings.

It is to be regretted that some of the Returns from the rural School Districts supply so little information as to what has been done in the matter of the enforcement of attendance; but it is only right to say that the absence of definite information does not necessarily mean that the Board of Advice has failed to take an active interest in the education of the children in its district. In some districts which furnish but scanty information as to the action which has been taken, I know that the cases of non-attendance which come under the notice of the Board receive attention, though they are sometimes dealt with in an informal manner, and sufficient care is not taken to keep an official record of the proceedings.

Some of the Boards report that there were special reasons for not taking action during the period specified, and others, that the attendance is satisfactorily regular except where the children are hindered by sickness, bad weather, or distance from the nearest school. In some cases it is stated that the absence of the children reported has been caused by their services being required at home; but provision is made in the Act for temporary exemption of children under certain conditions, and if the proper course had been adopted they would not have been reported as absentees by the teachers.

Two of the Boards report that the Monthly Returns of non-attendance were not received from some of the schools in their Districts, and that those received included, in some instances, the names of children who would have been seen to have a genuine excuse for absence if their cases had been inquired into by the teacher. When particulars of any such case are furnished by a Board of Advice the Department can easily deal with it, but a general statement of irregularity can lead to no useful result.

Speaking generally on the whole question, I may say that where there are responsible officers to carry out the provisions of the Act the enforcement of attendance is fairly satisfactory, and that, if the rural police were under one uniform system of management, so that their services could be utilised for the final proceedings under the Act, without being employed in that preliminary business which is the special function of the local educational authority, the compulsory system might be as effectively carried out as the circumstances of the country and the interests of the children alike demand.

There are some cases of non-attendance which the law cannot reach effectually, for reasons which I have mentioned in my General Report for 1891. There are others which should be dealt with by amending the "Women and Children Employment Act, 1884," so as to introduce a half-time system for children of school age, and some such measure for limiting the employment of such children is very much needed. As a general rule, unless the hearty co-operation of the Magistrates who decide on the cases brought into Court is secured, the action taken by this Department is of little avail. A fine of one shilling for a second or third offence is almost less effective than no penalty at all.

T. STEPHENS, *Director of Education.*

Education Department, 20th October, 1892.