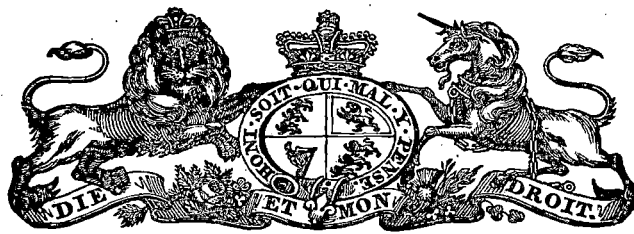


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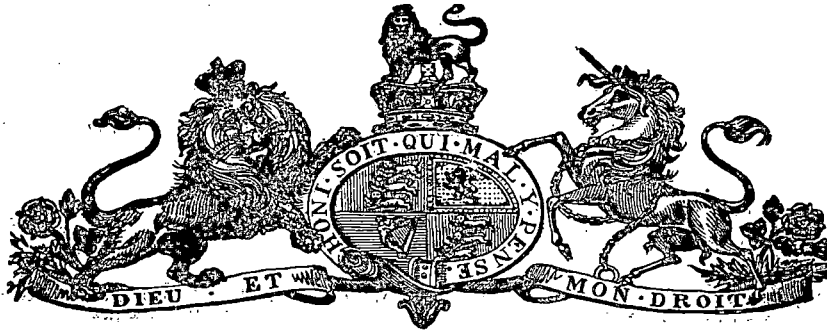
1888.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOYS' TRAINING SCHOOL, CASCADES :

REPORT FOR 1887.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



REPORT of the Managers of the Boys' Training School, Cascades, 1887.

At the termination of another year it becomes the duty, as it is also the pleasure, of the Managers of the Boys' Training School, again to report respecting their youthful charge; and they are glad to be able to say that the work of the Institution has proceeded satisfactorily.

The number of young lads thus brought under their care, whose present and future welfare calls for constant thought and attention, entails serious responsibility; and as years roll round a constantly increasing interest attaches itself thereto.

The experience of the past year has been gratifying. Whilst some of the boys in the Institution have been occasionally restless and almost unmanageable, most of those who have been licensed out have conducted themselves well, and good reports have been received from their employers, who express their desire to retain them by the renewal of the licence. But there is much trouble in connection with their parents, who, as soon as they find their children are doing well and earning money, strive to get hold of them so that they may have the advantage of their earnings, apparently regardless of any other consideration. The Managers have lately had several painful instances of the kind, which they would like, if possible, to remedy.

Two boys were licensed to their parents, after being only a few weeks in the Institution. One had to be recalled at the expiration of three months. The second remained with his parents for three months, when they expressed a wish that he might be apprenticed to a tradesman in the neighbourhood. He was licensed to a tinsmith for three months; but the duties proved too heavy for him, consequently he had to leave, though his master gave him a good character. Subsequently another situation was found for him, which, it is to be hoped, he will be able to retain. The Police Magistrate of the District, when writing on the subject, says—"I think he is lucky to get such a master."

The Managers have to thank the Police for their kind and prompt assistance whenever their services have been solicited. They have again also to express their hearty thanks to the Chief Secretary and the Officers of his Department for their kindness and courtesy in giving consideration and attention to matters brought before them, and rendering such assistance as might be required in the interests of the Institution.

It seems needful that something should be done that will tend to discourage absconding. At present if a boy absconds from the School, the time he is away is reckoned part of his sentence. The Managers think that if the boy became aware that he would be required to serve two days for every one he is unlawfully absent from the School, it would tend greatly to diminish the desire to escape.

The Managers would again refer to the advantage that would attend the establishment of Telephonic communication with the Institution, as information could then be immediately conveyed to the City in case of need, which might be a means of saving much trouble and expense.

The Superintendent has furnished a full Report to the Managers as to the progress of the Institution for the past twelve months, forwarded herewith, in which he refers to matters that have frequently engaged the attention of the Managers. It is pleasing therefore to find that the person who is immediately concerned with the every day care and training of the boys has had his practical experience and warm sympathies actively enlisted in considering the various matters tending to

promote their welfare ; and that he has offered suggestions which the Managers hope may not be without effect. The Government will perceive that there is still room for improvement in "The Training Schools Act;" particularly would the Managers urge the desirability of assimilating the Act of this Colony with that of Victoria respecting giving the Managers control of the boys until they attain the age of twenty-one years. The Managers are sensible that such a power would occasion much additional trouble and responsibility but they believe it would be attended with great advantage to many of the poor lads.

The accounts herewith show that every care has been exercised to carry on the Institution economically ; and it will be seen that with an increase in the number of boys the cost per head has been reduced.

The farm operations have been attended with fair success ; and there is a crop of potatoes, mangolds, hay, and maize still to gather.

In conclusion, the Managers heartily endorse what is said by the Superintendent in the accompanying Report as to the Officers of the Institution. They believe that one and all feel an interest in their work and in the boys, and that they strive earnestly to do their duty.

R. MACLAREN WEBSTER, *Chairman.*

To the Hon. the Chief Secretary.

ACCOUNT Current of the Boys' Training School, 1887.

DR.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Funds provided by Government	1162	12	0	By Salaries	373	16	4
				Provisions	284	3	4
				Clothing, Bedding, and Stores	195	8	4
				Washing, Fuel, and Light	68	17	9
				Stationery and Printing	5	14	0
				Petty Cash and Rewards	15	5	11
				Alterations and Repairs	36	13	8
				Laying on Gas	39	1	0
				Furniture and Materials	6	10	3
				Unexpended Balance	137	1	5
	<u>£1162</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£1162</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Current Maintenance.</i>						
Salaries	373	16	4			
Clothing, Provisions, &c.	569	9	4			
	<u>948</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>			
Less Contribution for Maintenance	7	10	2			
				935	15	6

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Permanent Works.</i>						
Alterations and Repairs	36	13	8			
Laying on Gas	39	1	0			
Furniture, &c.	6	10	3			
				82	4	11
Contribution, as above				7	10	2
				<u>£1025</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>7</u>

DR.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Funds provided by Government	211	0	0	By Salary	91	0	0
				Coals, Farm Labourer	3	3	0
				Material for Fencing	19	8	6
				Seed, Hay, &c.	34	18	6
				Two Pigs.	1	0	0
				Unexpended Balance	61	10	0
	<u>£211</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£211</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Current Maintenance.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salary	91	0	0						
Seed, Hay, &c.	38	1	6						
Stock	1	0	0						
				130	1	6			

Permanent Works.

Fencing	19	8	6						
				149	10	0			
Unexpended Balance				61	10	0			
				£211	0	0			

Working Account.

To current Maintenance	130	1	6						
CR.									
By Sales Milk and Butter	101	2	4						
Two Pigs	4	10	2						
Potatoes and Fruit	14	8	9						
				119	16	3			
Debit Balance	£10	5	3						

Crop of Potatoes, Mangolds, Hay, and Maize yet to gather.

R. MACLAREN WEBSTER, *Chairman.*

Hobart, 9th March, 1888.

SUPERINTENDENT'S Report to the Managers of the Boys' Training School, Cascades.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor of presenting a Report of the operations of the Boys' Training School for the year ending 31st December, 1887.

From this it will be seen that there were at the commencement of the year 33 inmates ; admitted during the year, 17 ; number of individual boys dealt with, 50. Of this number 14 left ; leaving at the end of the year, 36 boys.

Under various headings I shall supply all necessary information on the progress and present position of the Institution.

Admissions.

There have been 17 boys admitted during the year ; six from Hobart, three from Franklin, one from Campbell Town, one from Pontville, one from Evandale, one from Ellesmere, one from New Norfolk, one from Latrobe, one from Glenorchy, one from Swansea.

Ages of Boys when admitted.

Two aged 16 ; one aged 15 ; five aged 14 ; three aged 13 ; one aged 12 ; five aged 11.

Periods for which the Boys were sentenced.

For three years, eight ; for 4 years, seven ; for 5 years, two.

Offences for which committed.

For theft, 13 ; for being idle and disorderly, 2 ; for housebreaking, 1 ; for fire raising, 1.

Family circumstances of Boys admitted.

Orphans 3 ; fatherless, 4 ; motherless, 1 ; had both parents alive, 9.

Present number in the School.

On the Roll, 31st December, 1886, 33. Admitted during the year, 17. Discharged or licensed, 12. Absconded and unrecovered, 31st December, 1887, 2. Remaining in the School, 31st December, 1887, 36.

Discharges.

Twelve boys have been licensed during the past year, and on the whole have done well. Several letters have been received from gentlemen who have employed the boys. One writes—"I am glad to say that he is going on very satisfactorily indeed, and I trust will yet prove himself a good member of society." Another—"I thought so much of him that I treated him as my own. He was, without exception, the most trustworthy boy I ever met."

The aim from the outset has been to find situations for the lads in the country, away from the temptations of town life. There has been some difficulty in finding places in all respects suitable, but on the whole, thanks to the carefulness of the Honorary Secretary, there is no reason to be dissatisfied.

In two instances parents persuaded their boys to leave capital situations, where they were doing exceedingly well, and return to Hobart, simply because their time had expired. There is no reason to believe that in either case the boys will fall into crime, still there was a far better prospect of their success in the country than in the town.

The boys discharged in previous years are doing well. In one or two instances boys have been licensed to their friends. This plan is adopted in Victoria, and, from recent returns, appears to answer well.

I have endeavoured as far as possible to keep up correspondence with the old boys, and this, I believe, has had a good effect.

General conduct and health of the Boys.

The boys have behaved well throughout the year. There have been several cases of absconding; two of the lads managed to elude the vigilance of the police, and up to the end of the year were still at large. The health of the inmates has been excellent. It has not been necessary to call in medical assistance during the whole year.

Educational Condition.

Of the seventeen admitted, seven could neither read nor write; six could read and write a little, and four fairly. From this it will be seen that the material received is not of the brightest or most promising description, and to make much impression is a task beset with difficulties.

The boys receive a fair rudimentary education in reading, writing, and arithmetic. They are in school rather more than two hours daily, and on the whole are anxious to learn.

Chief Inspector Rule, of the Education Department, visited the School on the 18th July, and carefully examined the classes. His Report, *inter alia*, states—"That thirty boys were examined in three classes. In the highest class (second), the reading of several is clear, fluent, and fairly intelligent, and would justify their position in a third class, while their writing and arithmetic are equally satisfactory. In Class I. the majority showed that they had been working fairly up to the standards." Credit is given for the educational work achieved under unfavourable conditions. The discipline is reported as being mild in tone.

Industrial Departments.

The training of the lads in habits of industry has gone on side by side with their School instruction. They are at work six hours each day. There are three departments,—carpenters, gardeners, and farm boys; and they have been kept fully occupied throughout the year.

A good deal of work has been accomplished which it is unnecessary to specify here. The cultivated land around the Institution amounts to about ten acres, and as it is nearly all dug by the boys, means very fair practice in the use of the spade. The milk sold has, as usual, been the main source of the revenue, although a good many potatoes and apples have also been sold.

Recreation.

The amusements of the inmates have not been neglected. At the Jubilee the great bulk of them enjoyed a whole day's outing.

The annual entertainment by the boys themselves under the Presidency of the Premier (Mr. Fysh), was, as usual, very successful. The collection at the close was the means of purchasing several books for the boys' library. A course of lectures and entertainments was held during the winter months, with gratifying success.

Messrs. Clemes, William Benson, A. J. Taylor, Alexander Morton, John Macfarlane, and others deserve the heartiest thanks for their assistance in this matter.

Religious Instruction.

The boys, both Protestant and Roman Catholics, have been carefully and regularly taught in religious truths; the former by the Rev. L. Tarleton, and the latter by Dr. Gleeson. The Protestant boys attempted the written examination which is annually arranged for the Sunday Schools of the Anglican Church, and one of them was successful in gaining a prize.

The Officials.

The Officials, who consist of the Matron, Mrs. Farquhar, the carpenter, Mr. Thomas Horne, the gardener, Mr. James Scott, and the farm grieve, Mr. Alfred Laughler, have performed their duties in a highly satisfactory manner.

General Remarks.

The result of such Schools as these in the Old Country has been very marked. In a recent Report of the Government Inspector (Colonel Inglis), it is stated that there were in 1856, 99,755 commitments of adults, and 13,981 of juveniles, in England and Wales; and that now there were 4879 juvenile commitments; whereas had it marched on *pari passu* with adult crime, it would have been 24,000.

The Managers may remember that some years ago a proposal was made to the Government to increase in some way the power over lads committed to the Training School until they had attained the age of twenty-one years. This at the time was not granted; still it seems the only plan likely to prevent such things happening as are referred to under the heading of discharges.

It may also be mentioned that in the last Session of the Victorian Parliament a Bill was passed giving this power, and that in England, at a recent important Conference of Reformatory and Industrial School Managers, the following Resolution was passed, viz. :—"That this Conference of Reformatory and Industrial Schools think that the Government should be asked to amend the law so as to make the Managers of the Schools to which a child may be sent the legal guardians of the children until they attain the age of twenty-one years."

Magistrates are, it would appear from a recent case in the North, loath to commit boys to the Training School. From a newspaper report it appeared that several boys were on the second conviction, and for the second time sent to gaol for a short period. This is undoubtedly a mistake, as all competent authorities who have had any experience agree that the sending of juvenile offenders to gaol has a very injurious effect.

The late Lord Dalhousie—no mean authority—and who sat on the Royal Commission appointed to enquire into the management of Reformatory and Industrial Schools, says—"No man who has been imprisoned in a common gaol, even as a boy, is ever likely to forget the fact, or to feel himself quite on an equality with those who have not. Nothing should be done to create any obstacle to the growth of self-respect in after life."

Magistrates should also remember that the Managers have now the power, subject to the approval of the Chief Secretary, to license out boys at any time; and I believe it might be well, where Magistrates were convinced on hearing the evidence, that the juvenile offender was likely in the future to be better cared for by his parents, to recommend that he be licensed out early. The fact that the boy, while his sentence is running, would be liable to return to the School, would, I believe, in some cases be a sufficient preventive to wrong-doing on his part, and would also give parents more power over sons inclined to disregard parental authority.

I must again, in conclusion, express my great indebtedness to Mr. Mather, the Honorary Secretary, for the wise counsel and continuous personal interest he at all times and under all circumstances evinces in the welfare of the boys, and also of the Officials belonging to the Institution.

I am,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

JAMES LONGMORE, *Superintendent.*

January, 1888.