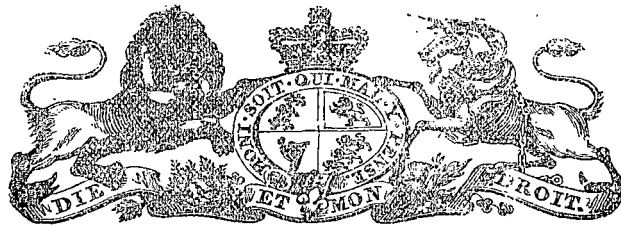


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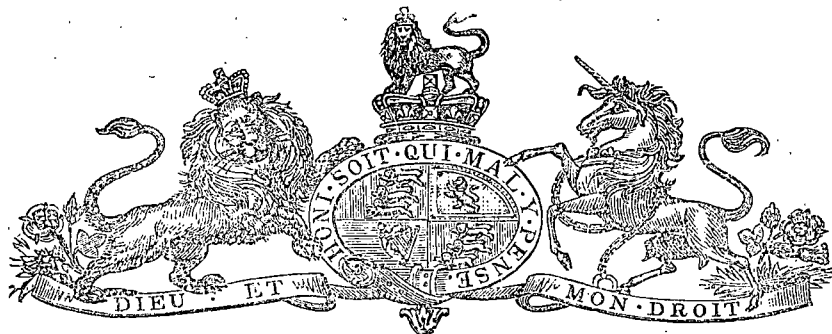
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOARDING-OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN:

REPORT FOR 1894.

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

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BOARDING-OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

REPORT FOR 1894.

Hobart, 23rd May, 1895.

SIR,

The Central Committee for Boarding-out Destitute Children have the honour to submit the following Report for the year 1894.

At the close of the year 1893 the total number of Children maintained under the Boarding-out system was 88—boys, 60; girls, 28; viz., in—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart	32	14	46
Launceston.....	10	5	15
Municipalities.....	18	9	27
	<u>60</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>88</u>

but on the 1st January, 1894, five of these, viz., 1 boy and 4 girls, were taken by their relatives, who were well able to provide for them, leaving on that date 83, viz., 56 boys and 27 girls.

The names of 13 children—boys 9, girls 4—were added to the boarded-out list during the year, and 20—boys 11, girls 9—ceased under the following circumstances to be a charge upon the funds at the disposal of the Committee; viz. :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>
8 were apprenticed	8	—
3 were adopted	1	2
2 were taken by relatives	1	1
4 died	2	2
1 was admitted to the Boys' Home.....	1	—
1 was admitted to the Girls' Industrial School for domestic training	—	1
1 was admitted to the Boy's Training School.....	1	—
<u>20</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>6</u>

leaving on the 31st December a total of 76, located as follows; viz. :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart	31	10	41
Launceston.....	11	4	15
Municipalities.....	12	8	20
	<u>54</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>76</u>

seven less than the number with which the year commenced.

The Committee, before authorising any expenditure on account of the 13 children referred to, carefully investigated the circumstances connected with each case, and satisfied themselves of the necessity for provision being made for the children at the expense of the Government.

With regard to the 10 boys and 3 girls who, on their apprenticeship, adoption, or return to relatives, ceased to be a charge upon the public, the Committee, before suffering them to be removed from their foster-parents made special enquiries concerning the homes to which they were going, and had every reason to believe they would be under the care of persons who would do them justice and pay every attention to their moral and physical welfare.

The girl admitted to the Industrial School for domestic training was brought up in Launceston, and having arrived at the age of 12 years was sent to the School under the special arrangement made with the Governors a few years ago.

The lad sent to the Training School was unfit, owing to deformity, for ordinary service, and was placed in the School in order that he should receive special instruction.

The admission of the lad to the Boys' Home was rendered necessary in consequence of the habit he had acquired of running away from home and absenting himself from school.

Of the deaths, four in number, two were girls living at New Norfolk, one of whom was 8 months old, and was attended by Dr. Deans; the cause of death was diarrhoea. The other, prematurely born, was also attended by Dr. Deans, who certified that her death was owing to emaciation. The mothers of these children were patients in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk. The other children resided at Launceston and Fingal respectively. In one case the cause of death was stated by the Medical Attendant, Dr. Pardy, to be inflammation and convulsions, doubtless the result of teething. In the other case an inquest was held upon the body and a verdict of "natural causes" was returned.

The Committee held 14 meetings during the year, and three afternoons in addition were devoted to the annual inspection of the children and their homes.

The Expenditure for the year was £1355 19s. 2d., less repayments amounting to £20 6s. 2d. made by relatives, a total of £1335 13s., leaving an unexpended balance of £284 7s.

The average cost per head per annum amounted to £13 18s. 3d.

Although provision was made during the year for 96 children, 65 only were a charge for the full period of 365 days. The remainder, 31, were maintained from periods varying from 21 to 350 days; average number of days, 304½.

Annual Inspection.

The Committee commenced their annual inspection of the children and their homes on the 26th November, and continued it on the 27th and 28th. The Committee had every reason to be satisfied with the general arrangements and accommodation provided for the children. The homes were found to be clean and in good order. The bedding was also of good quality and ample, and the children appeared to be treated by their foster-parents as if they were their own.

Changes in Homes.

In four instances it was found necessary to make changes in the homes of the children, but no serious causes of complaint arose during the year.

Attendance at School.

Such of the children as were old enough attended school regularly, and care was also taken that the attendance of the children at Sunday-school was not neglected.

Health of Children.

There was very little sickness amongst the children during the year, and the few cases that occurred had prompt attention at the hands of the resident Medical Practitioners.

Visiting Committees, &c.

It again affords the Committee much pleasure to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered by the Visiting Committees in Hobart and Launceston.

Supervision was also exercised over the children in Hobart by the Inspecting Officer, Mr. Judge, to the satisfaction of the Committee, and in Launceston a similar duty was performed by the Inquiring Officer, Mr. Lamb. The interests of the children boarded out in other parts of the Colony were watched over by the Police Magistrates, Wardens, and Superintendents of Police, who reported periodically, and afforded the Committee every assistance in their efforts to secure good homes for the children, and to ensure their regular attendance at school and Sunday-school.

Apprentices, &c.

The conduct of the apprentices and adopted children was good, and such of them as resided in and about Hobart were frequently seen by the Inspecting Officer.

The Chairman also communicated with the masters at the end of each quarter and collected the amounts due to the children under their indentures for deposit in the Savings Bank. These deposits are made until the apprentices are 18 years old, to which age they are bound by indenture, when, if they have conducted themselves well, the amounts to their credit are paid to them.

During the year payments under this head were made to 14 apprentices, amounting to £91 10s. 11d.

The deposit books of the remaining apprentices, 38 in number, were made up at the end of February, 1895, and the amount to their credit was £148 19s. 5d. Since that date payments amounting to £8 14s. 1d. have been made, making a total up to date of £157 13s. 6d.

Fox's Bequest.

The sum of £7 11s. 4d., the share of this bequest apportioned to the boarded-out children in accordance with the Resolution of both Houses of Parliament in the year 1889, has been received, and equally divided amongst the children throughout the Colony, whose number at the time was 76.

Resignations, Appointments, &c.

Mr. C. Harbottle having tendered his resignation as a member of the Committee, Mr. George Richardson was appointed by His Excellency the Governor to the vacancy.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

J. O'BOYLE, *Chairman.*

W. TARLETON.

FRED. J. SALIER.

J. G. PARKER.

THOS. BENNISON.

C. J. ATKINS.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.