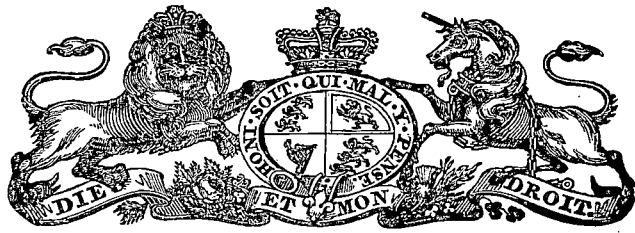


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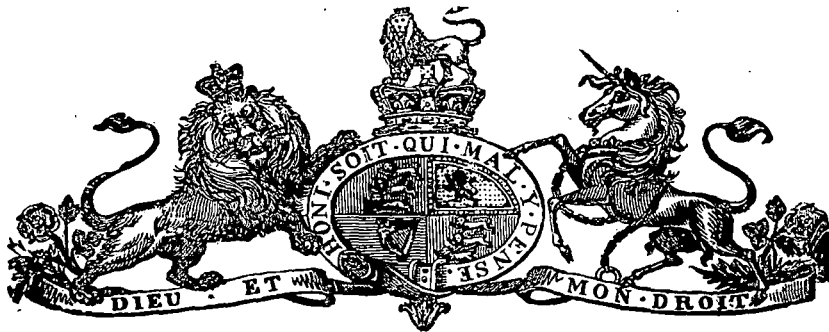
1887.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN

REPORT FOR 1886.

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



BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

REPORT for 1886.

Charitable Grants Department, 3rd May, 1887.

SIR,

THE Central Committee for boarding out Destitute Children have the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1886.

On the 1st January, 1886, there were 103 children under the care of the Committee; viz., in—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs.....	39	33	72
Launceston.....	5	4	9
Municipalities, &c.....	11	11	22
	55	48	103

During the year the names of 18 children were added to the boarded-out list, and the Committee were enabled to relieve the Government of the cost of maintaining 22, under the circumstances set forth hereunder; viz.—

- 11 were apprenticed.
- 5 were adopted.
- 4 were sent to Industrial Schools.
- 1 died.
- 1 was claimed by his mother.

—
22

leaving on the 31st December a total of 99, residing as follows:—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs.....	37	33	70
Launceston.....	7	3	10
Municipalities, &c.	11	8	19
			99

four less than the number with which the year commenced.

The Committee met 14 times during the year, and also devoted four afternoons to the annual inspection of the children and their homes.

Before authorising any expenditure on account of the 18 children referred to above, the Committee carefully investigated the circumstances of each case, and felt they had no alternative but to accept the responsibility of providing for the children under the boarding-out system.

With regard to the 17 children who, on their apprenticeship, adoption, or return to relatives, ceased to be a charge upon the Government, the Committee, before removing them from their foster-parents, were careful in their inquiry respecting the homes to which they were going, and satisfied themselves that the children would be under the care of persons who would interest themselves in their behalf, and pay every attention to their moral and physical welfare.

The admission of four children to Industrial Schools became necessary, for the following reasons:—A girl, over 12 years of age, who had been at service about three months, was becoming

so forward that it became necessary to place her under close supervision ; and three boys, who were constantly absconding from their foster-parents, and would not attend school, were in danger of growing up in ignorance unless some restraint such as that afforded by the discipline of an institution of the character of the Boys' Home was put upon them.

The death that took place was that of an infant aged eight months. The child resided in Launceston, and was attended by Dr. Pike, who certified the cause of death to be diarrhœa and wasting.

Provision was made during the year for 121 children, but 80 only were a charge for the full period of twelve months. The remainder were maintained for shorter periods varying from 5 to 364 days. Average number of days, 296½.

The expenditure for the year was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salary Inspecting Officer	180	0	0
Maintenance of children.....	1531	14	4
Cost of clothing purchased.....	21	8	4
Allowance to <i>locum tenens</i> during illness of Inspecting Officer.....	2	10	0
Medical attendance child at New Town	0	12	6
	1736	5	2
Less repayments made by relatives.....	40	5	2
	1696	0	0
Unexpended balance	684	0	0
Voted by Parliament	£2380	0	0

The actual cost per head amounted to £17 5s. 1½d.

Articles of clothing to the value of £3 16s. from stock received from the Storekeeper in 1883, and for which the sum of £26 15s. 11d. was paid, and wearing apparel, valued at £1 1s. 11d., from goods transferred by the Storekeeper at the same time without charge, were also issued.

The annual expenditure since the appointment of the Central Committee in 1881 has been as follows:—

	£	s.	d.	Cost per Head. £ s. d.	Allowance per Week. s.	Total Number of Children.
1881.....	2094	6	6	13 14 9½	5	191
1882.....	1912	19	0	13 13 8½	5	166
1883.....	1852	2	11	14 1 10½	5	155
1884.....	1900	0	11	14 1 5½	{ 5 for 2 months 6 for 10 months }	135
1885.....	1872	9	4	14 14 11	6	127
1886.....	1696	0	0	17 5 1½	6	121

Annual Inspection.

On the 20th September the Committee commenced the annual inspection of the children boarded out in the City and at New Town, and continued it on the 23rd and 27th of that month and the 13th October. As the Committee desired to inspect the homes of the children in their every-day aspect, no intimation was given to the foster-parents of the intended visit. The foster-parents were, therefore, seen as employed in their ordinary household duties, and the Committee had every reason to be satisfied with the general arrangements and the accommodation provided for the children. As a rule the foster-parents were found to be residing in respectable and healthy neighbourhoods, and the houses they occupied were good and substantial. The sleeping-rooms set apart for the children were light and airy, and were provided with every requisite, and all were clean and comfortable throughout. The greatest care is taken in the selection of persons to fill the position of foster-parents, and the Committee were much gratified to find that their efforts to secure respectable and kindly-disposed women for so important a duty had been attended with so much success.

Attendance at School.

Reports from the principals of the several schools attended by the children during the year are appended. The foster-parents, in order to entitle them to the payment of the allowance for the maintenance of the children under their care, are required to produce weekly to the Inspecting Officer certificates from the masters of the school of the presence of the children during the week. There is, therefore, little or no difficulty in securing a very fair attendance.

Prior to the passing of the Education Act, 1885, 49 Vict. No. 15, the Committee were empowered to apprentice children as soon as they reached the age of 12 years, and that power the Committee exercised in the cases of such children as were found to be strong enough to go to service; but, as the law now stands, the Committee are compelled to maintain the children until they are 13 years old; unless they are sufficiently advanced in their education to pass an examination exempting them from further attendance at school. In some instances children have succeeded in doing this, and have been provided for accordingly, but others of the same age failed, and could not be sent out. This change in the law will, no doubt, be attended with beneficial results to the children; but the Committee desire to point out that, as it will be the cause of a decrease in the number eligible for service each year, a corresponding increase in the annual expenditure for maintenance must necessarily follow.

Reports from the Inspecting Officer and Sub-Inspector of Police, New Town, on the subject of the attendance of the children at Sunday-school are also annexed hereto, and are of a satisfactory character.

Health of Children.

It affords the Committee much gratification to be able to report the almost entire absence of sickness amongst the children during the past year.

In addition to the infant already referred to, a child at New Town was taken ill in the night, and was attended by Dr. Payne. The illness, however, did not prove of a serious character. Two boys were also under medical treatment,—one in the hospital, Launceston, for a broken thigh bone, from the 21st January to the 1st March, when he was discharged cured; the other was in the Hobart institution, for deformity of foot, from the 30th October to the 21st December. When he left it was found he had derived considerable benefit from the operation that had been performed upon him. Three girls, whose mother, a widow, died at Macquarie Plains, were brought to Hobart and boarded out. They were found to be suffering from itch, and were inmates of the Hospital from the 30th July to the 23rd August.

Changes in Homes.

It was found necessary, in a few instances, to make changes in the homes of children, the particulars of which are as follows:—

1. Two children, brother and sister, who were boarded out with their grandmother at New Norfolk, were reported by the Warden to be neglected, owing to the intemperate habits of their guardian. They were therefore removed at once, and placed under the care of a most respectable person in Hobart, who has done full justice to them.
2. A lad, whose foster-parent could not control him, and whose removal from the neighbourhood was desirable. He has since been apprenticed, and has a good home and kind master.
3. A girl, owing to the death of her foster-parent, to whom she was much attached.
4. Another girl, whose foster-parent could not keep her from running about the streets, was transferred to another part of the town in the hope of causing a change in her habits. She, however, misconducted herself to such an extent that she was placed in St. Joseph's Orphanage, where she could be kept under strict control.

Visiting Committees, &c.

The Committee have again much pleasure in bearing testimony to the kind supervision and generous assistance on the part of the Visiting Committees in promoting the happiness and comfort of the children. Reports from these Committees are hereto appended.

Mr. Judge, the Inspecting Officer, also reported periodically to the Committee; and such children as resided at New Town were frequently visited, and their condition reported upon by the Sub-Inspector of Police.

In Launceston and other parts of the Colony in which children were boarded out, the Committee were indebted to the Police Magistrates and Wardens for the important aid they rendered in carrying into effect the regulations for the treatment of the children and for their regular attendance at school and Sunday-school.

Apprentices, &c.

At the end of the year the children at service under the Boarding-out System, and those who were living with persons by whom they had been adopted, numbered 88. A few complaints were made during the year, but upon the whole the conduct of the apprentices was fairly satisfactory. One, a lad who was under indentures at Campbell Town, was convicted of larceny, and sent to the Training School for three years. This lad had a very good place, and was learning the trade of shoemaker, when he committed the offence above referred to.

The payments by the masters at the rate of 6d. per week were collected quarterly, and paid to the bank to the credit of the children who were under indentures. On the 1st March last, the date to

which the bank books were balanced, the sum to the credit of the fund amounted to £312 13s. 6d. ; since that date additional payments have been made to the bank on account of 1886, amounting to £8 9s. 3d., making a total of £321 2s. 9d. During the year the sum of £90 17s. 3d. was paid to 15 apprentices whose indentures had expired. A lad who had served two terms (3 years and 2 years) of apprenticeship in one service received the sum of £20 19s. accumulated payments made by his master on his account.

The apprentices in and about Hobart were under the supervision of the Inspecting Officer, Mr. Judge, whose report is attached. The Committee desire to express their satisfaction with the conscientious and diligent manner in which Mr. Judge has continued to discharge the duties of his office. The progress of the children apprenticed to persons residing in the country was ascertained every quarter, when the payments for deposit in the Savings Bank were received from the masters ; and in very many instances the reports furnished were such as to afford much satisfaction.

Resignations, Appointments, &c.

Colonel Garnett and Dr. W. J. G. Bedford being about to leave the Colony, tendered their resignations as members of the Committee, and Messrs. B. T. Solly and J. S. Laurie having consented to give their services, were appointed to the vacancies. The Committee desire to bear testimony to the kindly interest the retiring members took in the children during their term of office, and the assistance they afforded the Committee in their efforts for the well-being and comfort of the children entrusted to their care.

Christmas Gift.

Before concluding their Report the Committee have to acknowledge the receipt for three years past, through the agency of the *Mercury* Office, of a donation of £3 per annum to the boarded-out children. The donor is unknown to the Committee, but they beg to tender their best thanks for the kind gift. The amount on each occasion was equally divided and paid into the children's own hands by the Inspecting Officer as a Christmas present from a friend interested in their welfare.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

J. O'BOYLE, *Chairman.*
W. TARLETON.
JAMES GRANT.
H. BERNARD.
A. M. RITCHIE.
B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
J. S. LAURIE.

Battery Point State School, Hobart, 5th May, 1887.

SIR,
I HAVE to report of the boarded-out children in attendance at this school during the year 1886, that, as a whole, they are in no way distinguishable, as regards their appearance, conduct, and progress, from other scholars.

I have, &c.

M. M'PHEE.

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

New Town, 10th May, 1887.

HONORABLE SIR,

ADVERTING to a request to hand that I report upon "boarded-out" children who attended the State School, New Town, during 1886, I desire to state that their "attendance, appearance, conduct, and progress" were, on the whole, very satisfactory.

I have, &c.

S. HUGHES, *late Head Teacher.*

The Honorable the Minister of Education, Hobart.

Murray-street Free State School, 3rd May, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to present my report on the boarded-out children for the year 1886.

The work of the school goes on so regularly that even new children soon learn what is required, and get into order without much difficulty.

One thing has occurred worthy of noticing—the large number who have been sent away, without being exempted, under the age named in the Act.

The number in attendance at the beginning of this year is small. Attendance, very regular; come with clean faces and hands, shoes brushed, clothing comfortable and suitable for the season. We have plain sewing daily, and copy-books are provided for all. They have made fair progress in their education.

I have, &c.

CHARLES HALL.

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

Charitable Grants Office, 11th May, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of reports from the Masters of the Battery Point and Murray-street State Schools on the subject of the attendance, &c. of boarded-out children during the year 1886, and I should be glad to have the report asked for from the Master of the school at New Town, to enable the Central Committee to complete their Annual Report to the Government.

The following paragraph in the report of the Master of the Murray-street School does not appear to be borne out by the records in this office; and I should feel much obliged if you would request Mr. Hall to furnish the names of the children referred to by him, and the dates they left school:—

“One thing has occurred worthy of noticing—the large number who have been sent away, without being exempted, under the age named in the Act.”

I have, &c.

J. O'BOYLE.

T. STEPHENS, *Esquire, Director of Education.*

Education Office, Hobart, 12th May, 1887.

MEMORANDUM to Mr. C. HALL, *Murray-street.*

MR. HALL will be good enough to furnish without delay a list of the names and dates of leaving of the children referred to in his report, an extract of which is subjoined.

GEO. RICHARDSON, *pro Director.*

“One thing has occurred worthy of noticing,—the large number who have been sent away, without being exempted, under the age named in the Act.”

THE children are taken away—I hear nothing more of them. Information received, “They are at a place.” It is difficult to give a list of names. As an instance, H. Nossiter, 9 years on our books, was said to be sent to Mr. Koerbin, confectioner. By the papers I see they want him admitted to the Boys' Home, 9 or 10 months after he left us.

Roderick Evans, 25th September; Harry Bailey, 8th November; Mary Ann Murphy, 23rd November; Ann Painter, 1st August, (suppose she got exemption); Henry Nossiter, June, (already referred to); Dan. Woods, October; John Booth, February, 1887; Theresa Pearce, February, 1887; Joseph Hands, March, 1887.

C. HALL.

14. 5. '87.

TRANSMITTED to the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

T. STEPHENS, *Director.*
16. 5. '87.

Charitable Grants Office, 17th May, 1887.

MEMORANDUM.

THE following particulars will show how little justified Mr. Hall was in inserting the paragraph above referred to in his report:—

H. Nossiter was 12 in October, 1875—not 9—and was sent out on the 23rd January, 1886. It was believed to be useless to keep this boy at school, as he made no progress, and was considered of weak intellect. A good place offered, and he was allowed to go to it, his mistress having undertaken to impart instruction to him every evening with her own children. She has done her best to teach him, but her efforts have not been successful. There is no doubt the lad's intellect is much impaired. He is not the lad referred to by Mr. Hall in connection with the Boys' Home.

Roderick Evans was 12 years old on the 28th July, 1886. Sent out 24th September following. Was passed in July by Mr. Inspector Rule with fair credit in Class IV., and was therefore exempted from further attendance at school.

J. H. Bailey was 13, 29th October, 1886. Sent out 21st November. His age justified his withdrawal from school.

M. Murphy was 12, 27th June, 1886. Sent out with approval of Minister of Education and Director, subject to instruction by mistress, which she undertook to impart.

M. A. Painter was 12, 29th April, 1886. Sent out 1st August, 1886, with approval of Director of Education.

D. Woods, aged 11, was sent to the Boys' Home 9th July, 1886, to prevent his mother from interfering with him and enticing him away. She is a bad character, and had induced him to abscond from his foster-parent on two occasions.

John Booth was 12 on the 7th May, 1886. Sent out on the 26th of February, 1887. Examined and passed for exemption from further attendance by Mr. Rule.

Theresa Pearce was 12 in August, 1876. Sent out 19th February, 1887. Also examined and passed by Mr. Rule.

Joseph Hand, still at school—attending Cascade Free School. Was transferred to another foster-parent, consequently removed from the neighbourhood of Mr. Hall's school.

J. O'BOYLE.

MEMO.

Cascade Free School, 2nd May, 1887.

MISS Mitchell begs to report, for the information of the Central Committee, that all the boarded-out children attending this school during the year 1886 have been regular in attendance, tidy and well-kept in appearance, conduct and progress very satisfactory.

E. MITCHELL, *Teacher.*

J. O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

St. Joseph's Boys' School, 16th May, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward you the following information *re* boarded-out children who attended the school during the year 1886.

There were five such children; one attended the whole year, two for nine months, and two for six months. I have much pleasure in stating that they were kept neatly clad, were well behaved, attended regularly, and made satisfactory progress.

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

I have, &c.

T. MITCHELL.

Watchorn-street School, Hobart, 29th April, 1887.

Report of Attendance, &c. of Boarded-out Children for 1886.—I have much pleasure in stating that the appearance, attendance, and conduct of the boarded-out children attending Watchorn-street school during 1886 was very good, and their progress satisfactory.

ALICE WILLIAMSON, *Head Teacher.*

St. Joseph's Girls' School, 3rd May, 1887.

THE Sisters of Charity hereby certify that three boarded-out children have attended St. Joseph's Girls' School for the year 1886. Their attendance has been regular, appearance neat and cleanly, progress and conduct satisfactory.

Lower Collins-street Ragged School, 28th April, 1887.

SIR,

ADA Simmonds is the only boarded-out child attending this school. She is uniformly regular and punctual in attendance, clean in person and clothing, very well behaved, and is making rapid progress in her lessons. She was in regular attendance during the year 1886.

I have, &c.

JOHN PIERCE, *Head Teacher.*

Mount St. Mary, Hobart, 3rd May, 1887.

THE Sisters of the Presentation Convent beg to state that the attendance of the four boarded-out destitute children during the year 1886 has been regular, their appearance neat and healthy, their conduct excellent, and their progress satisfactory.

Hobart, 28th April, 1887.

SIR,

YOUR Visiting Committee for South Hobart have the honor to lay before you their Report for the year ending 31st December, 1886.

The children under their charge have been all well cared for during the year, have kept in tolerably good health, and the system generally seems to work well and satisfactorily.

One boy had a slight sunstroke and was under medical care for some three weeks; another boy was several weeks in the General Hospital undergoing an operation for deformed feet, and a girl was kept from school for some little time owing to her being of a delicate constitution with weak chest. The latter is now getting stronger.

Some little trouble was experienced with two boys who repeatedly absconded from their respective homes, and finally had to be sent to the Boys' Home.

A report that a child had been harshly treated by being kept from school and given laborious work to do was carefully enquired into, and found to be totally without foundation.

One girl has been apprenticed to her foster-parent. This is considered to be a judicious step, and an evidence of the domesticating influence of the boarding-out system.

It is with regret that intimation has been received from Miss Nutt that she is obliged, through ill health, to send in her resignation as a member of this Committee.

The sincere thanks of the Committee are due to Miss Nutt for her cordial and valuable assistance, and they beg to testify to the deep interest she took in the work and the faithfulness with which she performed her duties. The children and foster parents will also regret losing so kind a friend and adviser.

I have, &c.

W. H. GRAHAM.

The Chairman Central Committee Boarded-out and Destitute Children.

IN consequence of sickness in the family and other home duties, Mrs. Miller and myself did not visit so regularly as we could have wished; but when we did so found the children healthy and well cared for; clothing good, and foster-parents kind, and we believe trustworthy.

H. SALIER.
E. MILLER.

83, Argyle-street, 5th May, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that, from certificates of Sunday School teachers and others in my possession, I am in a position to say that, with one exception, all the boarded-out children who were of an age to do so attended Sunday School regularly during the year 1886.

The exception I allude to is the child No. 2901, who is reported by the Sisters of Charity as not having attended Sunday School regularly. The Central Committee's disinclination to board out children with their relatives has been found on various occasions to be well founded. This child is under the care of her grandmother.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer*.

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

THE grandmother has been cautioned.

J. O'BOYLE.

*District of New Town and Queenborough, New Town Station,
28th April, 1887.*

Re **BOARDED-OUT CHILDREN ATTENDING SUNDAY SCHOOL.**

CONSTABLE Mummery reports, for the information of Sub-Inspector Cavanagh, that he has made strict inquiry into this matter, and finds that all the boarded-out children have been very regular in their attendance at Sunday School for the year 1886.

W. J. MUMMERY.

Sub-Inspector CAVANAGH.

83, *Argyle-street*, 27th April, 1887.

SIR,

I BEG to report for your information that, at the end of each quarter of the year 1886, I made it my business to enquire as to the general behaviour of the apprentices from the Boarding-out system, and I feel glad to have to inform you that, with two exceptions, there have been no complaints. The exceptions were for telling lies, and things of a trifling nature.

I am, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer*.

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*
