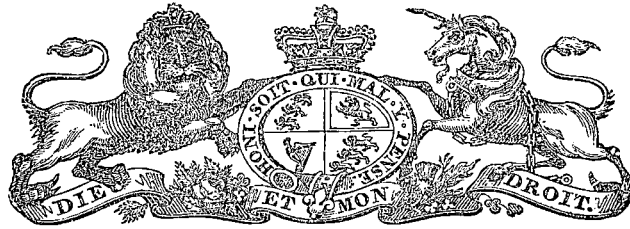


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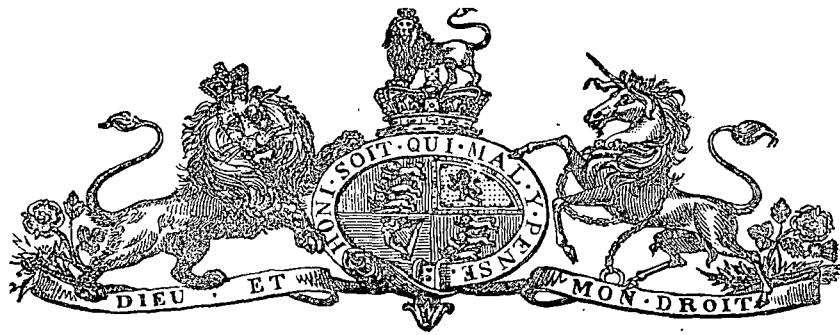
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**BOARDING-OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN :**

**REPORT FOR 1885.**

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



## BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

*REPORT for 1885.*

*Charitable Grants Department, 5th May, 1886.*

SIR,

THE Central Committee for boarding out Destitute Children have the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1885.

At the commencement of that year the Committee had 112 children under their care; viz., in—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs.....	46	38	84
Launceston.....	4	2	6
Municipalities, &c.....	11	11	22
	—	—	—
	61	51	112

The Committee held 16 meetings during the year, exclusive of four days set apart for the annual visitation of the children. Fifteen additional children became a charge upon the funds placed at the disposal of the Committee, and the names of 24 disappeared from the boarded-out list, under the circumstances hereunder set forth; viz.—

- 15 were apprenticed.
- 1 returned apprentice again sent to service.
- 2 were adopted.
- 2 died.
- 4 were claimed by relatives.

—  
24

leaving on the 31st December a total of 103, located as follows.—

	<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

nine less than the number to be provided for at the beginning of the year.

With regard to 14 of the 15 additional children to whom reference has been made, the Committee, before authorising any expenditure on their account, satisfied themselves that they were legitimate objects of charity, and such as should be taken charge of and maintained by the Government. The remaining one was an apprentice afflicted with ophthalmia, who was under treatment in the General Hospital for some time. Upon his discharge he was placed with the foster-parent who brought him up, and, owing to the care and attention he received, the lad's sight was preserved, and he is now earning his own living.

In like manner the children who, by their apprenticeship, adoption, or restoration to relatives, ceased to be a charge to the public, were not permitted to be withdrawn from the care and protection of the Committee until every precaution had been taken against the possibility of their introduction to homes in which their comfort and happiness would not be ensured.

Of the two deaths the first was that of a male child, 3½ months old, and delicate from birth. Every care was taken of him, and he was under treatment at the General Hospital, but died of marasmus on the 25th April. The other case was that of a female aged 3½ years, who died of anasarca on the 2nd May. She was attended to at the General Hospital as an out-patient, and her foster-parent was exceedingly kind and attentive to her. The child never had the use of the lower extremities, and had to be carried about. The Visiting Committee, in their report of the 20th July, express their satisfaction at the careful treatment the child received.

Provision was made during the year for 127 children, but 92 only were a charge for the full period of 12 months. The remainder, 35, were maintained for shorter periods, varying from 14 to 358 days. Average number of days, 325.

The expenditure for the year was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salary of Inspecting Officer.....	180	0	0
Maintenance of children .....	1758	13	6
Cost of clothing purchased.....	2	4	3
Cab hire, inspection .....	1	11	6
	1942	9	3
Less repayments made by relatives .....	69	19	11
	1872	9	4
Unexpended balance .....	507	10	8
Voted by Parliament .....	£2380	0	0

The actual cost per head amounted to £14 14s. 11d.

Clothing to the value of 8s. 3d. from stock received from the Storekeeper, and for which the sum of £26 15s. 11d. was paid in 1883, and articles of wearing apparel, valued at 14s., from goods transferred by the Storekeeper at the same time, without charge, were also issued.

Since the appointment of the Central Committee in 1881, the annual expenditure has been as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	Cost per Head.	Allowance per Week.	Total Number of Children.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	s.	
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

#### Annual Inspection.

The Committee commenced the annual inspection of the children boarded out in Hobart and at New Town on the 13th July, and continued it on the 20th, 23rd, and 28th. In accordance with the usual practice of the Committee, the homes were visited without previous intimation to the foster-parents, and the Committee were much gratified at the result. The houses occupied by the foster-parents were comfortably furnished, and afforded ample accommodation for the children. The rooms in which the children slept were light and airy, and the beds and bedding of good quality, clean, and wholesome. The children also appeared to be well fed; were comfortably and warmly clad, and their bright and cheerful looks denoted happiness and content. As has been reported on previous occasions, the character, general fitness, and disposition of foster-parents are fully inquired into before children are placed under their charge; and the Committee are also careful to select persons who reside in localities in which there is the least possible danger of the children being exposed to the influence of evil example. The foster-parents are women of excellent character, and the Committee have every reason to believe they do their duty to the children to the very best of their ability.

#### Attendance at School.

The attendance of such of the children as were old enough to go to school was regular, and from the annexed reports received from the Masters and Mistresses of the several schools to which the children were sent it will be observed that their progress and general conduct bear favourable comparison with other pupils.

With regard to the attendance at Sunday School, the accompanying reports furnished by the Inspecting Officer and Sub-Inspector Collett will show that the foster-parents in this respect also were faithful to their charge, and complied with the regulations approved by the Governor in Council.

*Health of Children.*

The Committee have again the pleasure to report that there was very little sickness of any kind amongst the children during the year. A lad was in Hospital from the 4th to the 13th April, suffering from measles, another had fever and was a patient from the 26th May to the 19th June, and a third was admitted on the 17th of November suffering from his knee, which he hurt by a fall when climbing, and discharged on the 1st December. Beyond these cases, and the returned apprentice previously referred to, the children were well in health, and caused no undue anxiety to their foster-parents.

*Changes in Homes.*

Changes in the homes of certain of the children were necessary for the reasons hereunder stated:—

1. Four children whose foster-parent became so ill as to be unable to attend to them. The necessity for this change the Committee much regretted, the foster-parent being a most desirable person, and one in whom the utmost reliance could be placed.

2. A boy whose attendance at school the foster-parent could not guarantee, the girl who lived with her and who had been in the habit of accompanying him having been taken and provided for by her brother.

3. Two boys whose foster-parent wished to be relieved of the charge.

4. A girl who had contracted a habit of wandering from home and begging, and for whom a change of residence became desirable. Her new foster-parent has succeeded in curing her of her propensity.

5. A girl at Burnie, Emu Bay, whose foster-parent it was discovered was making her work beyond her strength, and in direct opposition to the conditions upon which the girl was placed in her care.

6. Two children whose foster-parent's health failed to such an extent as to render her unable to attend to them.

*Visiting Committees, &c.*

The Committee have once more the pleasing duty to bear testimony to the interest shown by the Visiting Committees in all that pertains to the well-being and careful training of the boarded-out children under their supervision, and to the important aid given by the Committees in the working of the system since their appointment. The reports received from the Committees are hereto appended. The Inspecting Officer also paid frequent visits to the homes of the children, and reported periodically to the Central Committee. The children at New Town were under the constant observation of the Sub-Inspector of Police, Mr. Collett, who afforded very material assistance to the Committee in their efforts to secure the welfare of the children residing in that locality.

In Launceston and other parts of the Colony the regulations were carried out under the immediate supervision of the Police Magistrates and Wardens, who forwarded periodical reports to the Committee on the subject of the health and appearance of the children, their attendance at school, and the care and attention paid to them by their foster-parents.

*Apprentices, &c.*

At the end of the year the children apprenticed under the Boarding-out System, inclusive of those living with persons by whom they had been adopted, numbered 76. A few of them gave some trouble to their employers and to the Committee, but upon the whole there was very little to complain of. The masters are required by the indentures to pay quarterly to the Chairman a sum calculated at the rate of sixpence per week for deposit in the Savings' Bank for the benefit of the children on the expiration of their term of apprenticeship, and on the 1st of March last, when the bank books were made up, there was a sum of £311 18s. 7d. to the credit of the fund. Payments for the last quarter of the year 1885 amounting to £6 4s. 6d. have been received since and deposited in the bank, making a total, with interest added, of £318 3s. 1d.

The sum of £36 8s. 8d. was drawn from the bank during the year on account of apprentices whose Indentures had expired. One girl received £9 5s. 7d., and was married shortly afterwards, another £7 1s. 6d., and to one of the boys was paid the sum of £7 2s. 10d. accumulated payments at the rate stated above.

One apprentice, a girl, died on the 23rd February. The late Hon. W. L. Crowther reported "that the disease from which the girl suffered in the first place was that of the hip, which came on slowly, and ended in consumption. The disease was accompanied by abscess and necrosis." Mr. Henry Hinsby also certified as follows:—"I hereby certify to have known that Ethel Jackson, resident with Mrs. Hopkins, 92, Warwick street, was supplied by her, through the assistance of friends, with all needful nutriment and medical requirements during her long illness."

Another apprentice, a boy, absconded from his master on the 16th May, and has remained undiscovered notwithstanding the efforts of the police to trace him.

The payments on account of apprentices in Hobart and its vicinities were collected by Mr. Judge, the Inspecting Officer, who availed himself of the opportunity thus afforded to enquire into the condition and treatment of the children, and the manner in which they conducted themselves towards their masters. A report from that officer is forwarded herewith. The Committee have much pleasure in again placing on record their satisfaction with the manner in which Mr. Judge discharged the important duties connected with his office during the past year.

Information respecting the children apprenticed to persons residing in the Country was courteously supplied by the Chief Magistrate of the District in which the children resided, and was of a highly satisfactory character.

We have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

J. O'BOYLE, *Chairman.*  
W. TARLETON.  
JAMES GRANT.  
H. BERNARD.  
W. J. G. BEDFORD.  
A. M. RITCHIE.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Battery Point State School, Hobart, 7th April, 1886.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report, with respect to the boarded-out children attending this school, that there is nothing special to be said concerning them.

Their attendance is better than the average of the whole school for the year 1885, and there is nothing in their appearance, conduct, and progress to distinguish them from the other children attending the school.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. the Minister of Education.*

M. M'PHEE.

*Murray-street Free State School, 5th April, 1886.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to lay before you my report on the boarded-out children who attended this school during 1885. The number in attendance was about the same as in past years, namely, an average of about 24. The papers filled in weekly certify how regularly they attend. They come in nearly every case very clean, hair and boots looking very nice, clothing suitable for the season and comfortable. With few exceptions lessons are prepared at home. Another year one of the girls has made a complete shirt, and got Mrs. Swan's prize, being the best out of six. All have made very fair progress.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. the Minister of Education.*

CHARLES HALL.

*State School, New Town, 6th April, 1886.*

MEMO.

WITH regard to the boarded-out children attending this school, I beg to observe that ten such children were connected with it during 1885. Two were discharged to service some time since. Of the remaining eight, the particulars requested are given as follows:—

1. Name and residence of foster parent, Mrs. Carns, Roope-street, or New Town Place; attendance, fair; appearance, clean; conduct, fairly good; progress, not satisfactory. 2. Name and residence of foster parent, Mrs. Carns, Roope-street, or New Town Place; attendance, fair; appearance, clean; conduct, fairly good; progress, not satisfactory. 3. Name and residence of foster parent, Mrs. Carns, Roope-street, or New Town Place; attendance, fair; appearance, clean; conduct, fairly good; progress, fair. Though regular in daily attendance, these children, as a rule, are unpunctual as to time, both morning and afternoon. [The attention of the foster parent has been called to this.—J. O'B.] 4. Name and residence of foster parent, Mr. Tucker, Roope-street, or New Town Place; attendance, very good; appearance, clean; conduct, good; progress, good; this child has been recently transferred to the care of a gentleman residing on one of the river settlements. 5. Name and residence of foster parent, Mr. Tucker, Roope-street, or New Town place; attendance, very good; appearance, clean; conduct, good; progress, fair. 6. Name and residence of foster parent, Mr. Tucker, Roope-street, or New Town Place; attendance, very good; appearance, clean; conduct, good; progress, fair. 7. Name and residence of foster parent, Mr. Tucker, Roope-street, or New Town Place; attendance, very good; appearance, clean; conduct, good; progress, good. 8. Name and residence of foster parent, Mrs. Bates, Roope-street, or New Town Place; attendance, occasionally absent; appearance, clean; conduct, middling; progress, not satisfactory; occasionally a truant,—would be more frequently so but that prompt action is taken when such an occurrence takes place.

STEPHEN HUGHES, *Conductor.*

*St. Joseph's Girls' School, 12th April, 1886.*

THE Sisters of Charity present their compliments to Mr. O'Boyle, and herewith forward report of boarded-out Children attending St. Joseph's Girls' School for the year 1885 :—

1, 2, 3, 4. Conduct, good ; attendance, regular ; progress, satisfactory ; appearance, tidy.

*Lower Collins-street Ragged School, 13th April, 1886.*

DEAR SIR,

DURING 1885 A. S. was regular at school ; clean in person and attire. She made good progress in her studies, and though not under my immediate supervision, her conduct appeared entirely satisfactory. I cannot write more definitely, as her teacher has died.

I am, &c.

JOHN PIERCE.

THE Sisters of the Presentation Convent are happy to report that such of the boarded-out children as have received instruction in their school during the year 1885 were regular in their attendance, and neat and healthy in appearance. Their progress was satisfactory, and their conduct excellent.

*Watchorn-street School, 6th April, 1886.*

REPORT of attendance, progress, &c. of boarded-out children attending Watchorn-street school during the year 1885 :—

1. Attendance, excellent ; conduct, very good ; appearance, very good ; progress, satisfactory. 2. Attendance, excellent ; conduct, good ; appearance, very good ; progress, very fair. 3. Attendance, excellent ; conduct, very good ; appearance, very good ; progress, good. 4. Attendance, excellent ; conduct, very good ; appearance, very good ; progress, fair.

ALICE WILLIAMSON *Head Teacher.*

*St. Joseph's School, 7th April, 1886.*

SIR,

As requested, I have much pleasure in supplying the following information *re* boarded-out children who have attended St. Joseph's school during the year 1885 :—

1 and 2. Attendance, regular ; appearance, tidy ; conduct, good ; progress, satisfactory. \*Michael M'Intyre attended in the early part of the year for 44½ days.

Yours faithfully,

T. MITCHELL, *Master.*

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq., Hobart.*

*21st April, 1886.*

MEMO.

I BEG to report, for the information of the Central Committee for boarding out destitute children, that during the year 1885 there were three boarded-out children attending the Cascade Free School.

The attendance, conduct, and progress of these children were most satisfactory during the above year. In appearance they are very neat and clean, and are evidently well cared for by Miss Smith, in whose charge they are.

E. MITCHELL, *Head Teacher.*

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq., Chairman of Committee Boarded-out Children.*

*Argyle-street, 9th April, 1886.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that the attendance of the boarded-out children at Sunday-school during the year 1885 was most regular. No child who was old enough to attend was absent, unless through illness.

I have, &c.

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

GEORGE JUDGE.

\* Was apprenticed 16th April.

*New Town, 24th April, 1886.*

SIR,

I BEG to report, for the information of the "Central Committee" that, from inquiries made from Sunday-school teachers I find that the attendance of boarded-out children at Sunday-school during the year 1885, at New Town, has been very good throughout the year; and also, that the conduct of the apprentices in this District, with the exception of one, has been on the whole fair, nor have they any complaints to make.

The exception above referred to was sent to the reformatory for two years on 22nd September, 1885, for petty theft from her employer.

I remain, &c.

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

THEODORE B. COLLETT, *Sub-Inspector Police.*

*Elboden Place, Hobart, 20th July, 1885.*

SIR,

YOUR Visiting Committee for South City beg to forward you their report for the half-year ending 30th June, 1885.

The children under their charge have been frequently visited, and are fairly well.

F. Newton, 2412, mentioned in our last report as being in hospital with an injury to his eye, returned to his home, but with permanent damage to his sight; he will be old enough in August next to go to a situation.

Complaints were made by Mr. M'Phee, Battery Point School, in his report of last year, and at the beginning of this year, of the conduct of Henry Cooper, 2704; but since April last, we are glad to say, the boy's general conduct has improved, and there have been no further complaints.

James Lumsden, 2166, had been a little troublesome with Mrs. Saville; but on his going to service to Mr. Gleeson has been giving satisfaction.

Two lads named Sly had been placed in Miss Sadler's charge; but their mother proving troublesome, they had to be removed to a distance from her influence.

The boy, James Whyte, 2514, has improved in conduct since he was placed under Mary Smith's charge.

The infant, R. Smith, 3013, died in May last. This child had always been delicate, suffering from infantile paralysis, and if it had lived would have been a cripple. The foster-parent, Mrs. Alums, is to be commended for her careful treatment of this sickly child.

I have, &c.

W. H. GRAHAM.

*The Chairman Central Committee Boarding out Destitute Children,  
Hobart.*

*Hobart, 18th February, 1886.*

SIR,

YOUR Visiting Committee for South Hobart beg to lay before you their report for the half-year ending 31st December, 1885.

The children under their charge have been frequently visited, and the Committee are glad to report favourably on their condition and well doing generally.

There has been little sickness, only two boys having a slight attack.

One girl and one boy have been apprenticed, and other small changes have taken place in the way of new children being placed with the foster-parents.

The conduct has been good on the whole, there being only one case of a boy getting into trouble at the Battery Point school.

I have, &c.

W. H. GRAHAM.

*The Chairman  
Central Committee Boarded-out Children, Hobart.*

*Hobart, 8th April, 1886.*

DEAR SIR,

Mrs. Miller and myself have visited the boarded-out children in our district throughout the year, and have been well satisfied with the general appearance of the children. They have attended both day and Sunday-schools regularly, and the foster-parents state that their conduct, with few exceptions, has been good. We have examined their clothes and bedding, and found both in good order.

Believe me, &c.

J. O'BOYLE, *Esq., Administrator of Charitable Grants.*

HARRIET SALIER.

*New Town.*

SIR, THE working of the boarding-out system continues satisfactory, the children being happy and well cared for. We have no faults to report.

I have, however, to tender you the resignation of myself and Mrs. Ellis, as we are leaving the district.

I remain, &c.

R. J. ELLIS,  
*For the New Town Committee.*

J. O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

*Argyle-street, 9th April, 1886.*

SIR, I HAVE the honor to report that, having seen the apprentices from the boarding-out system at various times during the past year, I can safely say that they are as well treated and cared for in every way as can be desired.

The case, 2225, lately transferred, appears to have benefited by the change.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq., Chairman.*