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SESSION II.

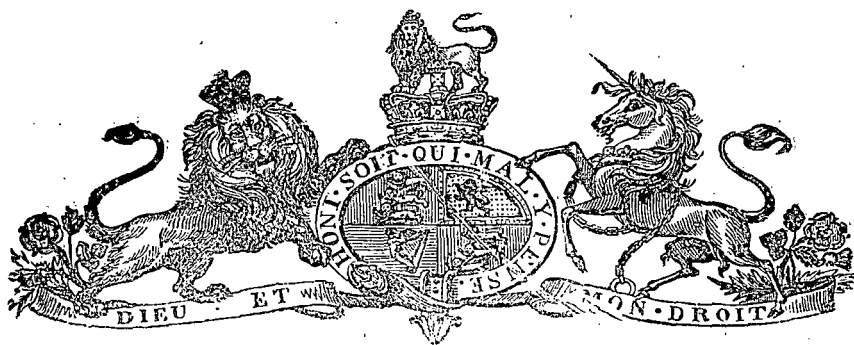
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

THE BOYS' HOME:

REPORT FOR **1876.**

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, April 24, 1877.



EIGHTH REPORT of the BOYS' HOME INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, 1876-7.

THE Governors of the Boys' Home have now the pleasure of presenting to their friends and supporters the Eighth Annual Report.

On the 31st March, 1876, there were twenty-seven boys in the Home; six have been admitted during the past year, and twelve have left.

Since the establishment of the Institution seventy-three children have been received, of which fifty-two have been either sent out to service or returned to their relatives, leaving in the Home at present twenty-one.

There is ample accommodation for thirty children in the Home; and it is desirable that that number should be maintained, as when the Institution is full the average cost of the inmates is considerably lessened.

But applications and cases for admission are not so numerous as formerly, on account of the poorer classes, if sober and industriously inclined, now obtaining more regular work.

Widows, and others with large families who have been in some cases deserted by their husbands, can now get employment part of the year for some of their children in the various factories established of late years in Hobart Town.

This is, however, by no means an unmixed good; and it would be far better for the health and future benefit of many of these children could they be sent into the country districts, away from their miserable homes, and the vice and immorality surrounding them.

But now that there is so much demand for juvenile labour in the town, some legal measures are required for the regulation of the same, more particularly as regards the ages of the children, and the number of hours they should be employed.

The great object in view when the Boys' Home was established was to check as much as possible the increase of the number of neglected children who were suffered to grow up in our midst uncared for, not under proper control, and quite uninstructed in anything good or useful for them in after life. The Governors are therefore desirous of pointing out how necessary it is that means should be provided for the education of these factory children. They consider some portion of the day should be devoted to this purpose, for night schools cannot be of much service to children wearied with their day's work.

The Government has in this matter an important duty to perform in protecting the juvenile population of the towns belonging to the poorer classes; for if well looked after in their early days they will in due time be a benefit to the community, if otherwise they will only add to the heavy burdens of the state already caused by pauperism and crime.

One boy sought to be re-admitted to the Home during the last year under peculiar circumstances. He stated to Mr. Reilly that he had left his place of service in the country and come into town for protection, alleging that the ill-treatment of his master had caused him to do so. On enquiry the Governors considered it their duty to take proceedings, and accordingly a summons was obtained, and on the hearing of the case the defendant (by advice) pleaded guilty.

