

(No. 19.)



1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOYS' TRAINING SCHOOL, CASCADES :

REPORT FOR 1890.

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



REPORT of the Managers of the Boys' TRAINING SCHOOL, CASCADES, 1890.

THE Managers of the Boys' Training School herewith forward for the information of the Government the Report furnished them by the Superintendent for the year 1890.

During the year just closed the Chairman (the Rev. R. MacLaren Webster) and the Hon. Secretary (Mr. J. B. Mather) have been removed by death. Both took a deep and warm interest in the School since its formation, and their loss is much felt by both Managers and Officials. Especially is the loss of Mr. Mather regretted, as he took such an active part in the management of the Institution. The Rev. Canon Archer was appointed Chairman, and John Macfarlane Hon. Secretary, to fill the vacancies.

The Managers are glad to report favourably on the work of the School as continuing most satisfactory. There has been no attempt on the part of the boys to abscond; and the improvements in the dormitories, the drainage, and increased accommodation have helped to bring the School to its present efficiency.

The proposed irrigation referred to in last year's Report has not been proceeded with for the present.

The accounts herewith will show that the management is economical, and the cost per head moderate—£27 5s. 1d.

The Managers desire to express their thanks to the Chief Secretary and the officers of his department for their courtesy and willing assistance in all matters concerning the School.

G. F. ARCHER (*pro* JOHN MACFARLANE), *Chairman.*

F. BELSTEAD,
THEOP. CANE,
E. MAHER,
J. W. SIMMONS, } *Managers.*

JOHN MACFARLANE, *Hon. Secretary.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S Report to the Managers of the Boys' Training School for the Year ending 31st December, 1890.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour of presenting a Report on the work performed by the Boys' Training School for the year ending 31st December, 1890.

The number on the roll on the 31st December, 1889, was 41. During the year 16 boys have been admitted and 11 discharged to situations, leaving at the end of the year 46 inmates, being the highest number as yet detained in the Institution. The average daily attendance for the year is 40.

Admissions.

Of the 16 boys admitted 9 were from Hobart, 2 from Ellesmere, and 1 from each of the following places:—Launceston, Longford, New Norfolk, Penguin, and Glenorchy.

Ages of Boys when admitted.

Seven were aged 15, one 14, four 13, three 11, and one 10.

Periods for which the Boys were sentenced.

For two years, 1; for three years, 10; for four years, 3; for five years, 2.

Family Circumstances of Boys admitted.

Fatherless, 3; motherless, 2; orphans, 1; both parents alive, 10.

Offences for which committed.

For theft, 16. All the cases received this year are for theft, several of a rather serious nature. Some of the lads sent had been convicted more than once. Two were sent from the Supreme Court. The average age is higher this year than last.

Discharges.

It is pleasing to report that, with few exceptions, the boys who have left the Institution and are now engaged in the battle of life are doing well. Up to the end of the year 70 boys had passed through the School, and of this number 5 had got into trouble: this shows the percentage of doing well to be 93. They show their interest in the Institution by frequent visits. Letters are often received from old boys, and every effort made by letter and otherwise to trace their after career. One old boy writes from a neighbouring colony, "Best respects to all at the good old school, which is ever fresh in my memory." The boys in situations, but still under the care of the Institution, are, on the whole, doing well. Several masters have written during the year and expressed satisfaction with the boys they have had. One writes: "I am very glad to be able to report to you that he has been very good, civil, and industrious, taking pains to do his work well, trustworthy with the animals and kind to them, honest, and well-behaved in the house. My household folks like him very much, and hope your school may turn out many more like him." Another says: "He is a very good, quiet boy, and suits well." And another: "P— has done very well since I have had him, and I am very sorry to lose him." Such letters as these are encouraging. It will be probably found advantageous to visit lads more frequently in their situations,—nothing equals a personal interview.

Health of the Inmates.

The health of inmates continues good. There has been no illness of any consequence throughout the year.

General Behaviour.

Under this heading it is pleasing to report a continuation of the good behaviour referred to in previous reports. Discipline has been strictly maintained without any resort to severity in punishment. Any other punishment than a withdrawal of a privilege is of a rare occurrence. The usual half-holiday allowed at intervals is much appreciated, and has been continued throughout the year without infringement of the rules. Boys out on leave have returned at the proper time, and their behaviour when out has been exemplary. The rule of allowing this privilege only to well-behaved boys is strictly enforced, and has an admirable effect on the general conduct. During the whole 12 months—and, in fact, for 18 months—not one boy has attempted to abscond.

Educational Condition.

Of the boys received four were pretty well educated, four could read and write fairly, and eight were ignorant. The educating of the class of children sent as a rule to these Institutions is a difficult matter, as they generally arrive so lamentably ignorant. Want of education is not the reason of some juveniles falling into crime, but rather they are uneducated because they have a tendency in that direction. Boys who should be at school and remain away in order to associate with idle and vicious companions must of necessity grow up in ignorance and degradation. All that can be attempted is to give them a knowledge of the three R's, which give some, at all events, a start in life they would not otherwise have. On the whole, fair progress has been made in the school work throughout the year. Chief Inspector Rule, of the Education Department, paid his annual visit on the 8th December, 1890, and his report is as follows:—

Present—45 Boys.

These were examined in five Classes; viz.—Lower First, Upper First, Second, Third, and Fourth.

Lower First Class.—Number examined, 5. These—recently admitted—were found doing fairly well.

Upper First Class.—Number examined, 12. All passed in three subjects, eight up to the full standards.

Second Class.—Number examined, 17. All passed in three subjects, ten reaching full standard in Reading and Writing, six doing so in Arithmetic.

Third Class.—Number examined, 9. All passed in three subjects, eight reaching full standards.

Fourth Class.—Number examined, 2. Both passed in three subjects, both reaching full standards in Reading and Writing, one doing so in Arithmetic.

The answering was good in Scripture History, and very fair in Geography.

The progress of 22 boys was found traceable from the previous examination: that of 10 had been good, that of 4 fair, that of 7 moderate, that of 1 slow.

The results on the whole are very satisfactory.

Industrial Departments.

Boys admitted to this and kindred institutions are lazy—many, in fact, fall into crime through laziness. The first duty is to attempt and knock this out of the lad, which can only be accomplished by a strict attention to the industrial departments, and by keeping them busily employed. There has been no lack of work throughout the year. A very extensive drainage scheme was carried out by the farm boys under the supervision of Mr. Mault, of the Public Health Department. A regular and plentiful supply of milk has been provided for various public institutions throughout the year. Potatoes, vegetables, and fruit have been sold in considerable quantities. The live stock now belonging to the Institution consist of 16 animals. As a good deal of milk and vegetables have now to be conveyed to the Gaol and other institutions in Hobart, it would be of advantage to have a horse and cart for this purpose. The horse could also be used in ploughing. With a plough the lads could receive a training they at present lack. All land now in use is dug, but more could be cultivated if a plough was available. The training of the lads in the carpenters' shop is very practical for a country life; putting up fences, erecting sheds, making barrows, painting, and general repairs were among the occupations of the lads during the year. The training of the boys belonging to the garden division has been equally as practical and useful. The garden never looked better than it does now, and the income from the sale of fruit and vegetables is larger than it has yet been. In addition to the work performed by the farm boys, the carpenters, and the gardeners, there are the house boys, the kitchen boys, and the washing boys, who are as far as possible trained in their various duties by the matron. The income from all sources amounts this year to the sum of £206 3s. 9d., being more than £50 over last year's earnings, and the highest yearly amount yet reached.

Recreation.

This year the boys have had several additional amusements provided for them. A trip down the river to Denne's Point was an event which will not soon be forgotten. A similar outing, it is hoped, may be an annual event. The boys' fire brigade took part in the annual demonstration of the Hobart Fire Brigade. The lads showed considerable smartness in their movements and the benefit of the instruction so kindly given them by Mr. Maher. The annual entertainment by the boys themselves was quite as successful as on previous occasions. The chairman was Mr. Justice Dodds. The hall at the Institution is far too small for the numbers who attend this gathering, and it is worth while considering whether a hall in Hobart should not be engaged for this annual event. A magic lantern entertainment was kindly provided by Mr. Macfarlane. Books have been sent for the boys' library by Mr. W. H. Burgess and Mr. M. W. Simmons. The boys have had an occasional ramble through some of the picturesque gullies in the neighbourhood.

Religious Instruction.

Religious instruction has received due attention during the year. The Protestant boys have had regular lessons from the Rev. L. Tarleton. The Examiner in Religious Knowledge for the Church of England Schools throughout the colony reports that he is pleased with the result of the Christmas examination, and that it shows improvement on the previous year. Occasional services have been held by members of the Hobart Ministers' Association. The Roman Catholic boys have been visited regularly by the Rev. M. Gilleran and other clergymen, as well as weekly visitations from the Sisters of Charity.

The Officials.

There has been no change of officials during the year. All continue to show the same praiseworthy attention to their duties as they have always done.

General Remarks.

In the death of the esteemed Honorary Secretary (Mr. J. B. Mather) the Institution has lost one who took a deep and sincere interest in its welfare. The last letter he wrote and the last intelligible words he uttered were in reference to the School. His visits were frequent, and his matured advice and counsel were at all times available and acceptable. Officials and boys feel that in Mr. Mather's death they have lost a real personal friend.

The structural alterations carried out during the year have been the means of rendering the Institution increasingly compact and suitable. The dining-room has had a removable partition constructed, the one half being now used as a dining-room and the other as a laundry. A reading-room has also been added. A door has been cut through the wall into the building adjoining formerly used as a hospital. This has been the means of providing additional and necessary storage accommodation, a room for drying clothes in wet weather, a back kitchen, and various other useful rooms. A swimming bath—a very necessary adjunct to the Institution—could be conveniently constructed. Owing to the removal of the Insane Hospital more land is now available, which has been cropped and brought under cultivation. Altogether the various improvements and additions have much increased the conveniences, and have made the Institution more and more suitable for the successful carrying on of the work to be performed.

The sum of £11 13s. 8d. has been collected from the parents of the boys during the year. The amount is not large, but is larger than previous years. The great bulk of parents are unable to contribute. This power of compelling parents when able is an admirable one, and prevents the abuse of such Institutions.

In conclusion, I have only to add that the work of the School has proceeded quietly and pleasantly throughout the year. It may be said to have been a year utterly devoid of anything beyond the usual quiet routine, but, nevertheless, quite as successful and useful as any of the previous six years.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Seryant,

JAMES LONGMORE, *Superintendent.*

January, 1891.

ACCOUNT Current of the Boys' Training School, Cascades, 1890.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Funds provided by Government, as per				Salaries	393	10	0
Annual Estimates of Expenditure...	1161	0	0	Clothing, bedding, and stores	177	0	2
Provided by Supplementary Estimates	5	0	0	Provisions	320	10	4
				Washing, fuel, and light	71	18	0
				Petty expenses, rewards, and ex- cursions	28	1	8
				Stationery, printing, and school-books	7	16	9
				Alterations and repairs	68	2	9
				Furniture and material	23	1	10
					1090	1	6
				Unexpended balance	75	18	6
	<u>£1166</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£1166</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Current Maintenance.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Clothing, provisions, &c.....	605	6	11				
Salaries	393	10	0				
					998	16	11

Permanent Works.

Alterations and repairs.....	68	2	9				
Furniture, &c.	23	1	10				
					91	4	7
					<u>£1090</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>

Cost of each inmate on net expenditure—£27 5s. 1d.

FARM Expenses.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Funds provided by Government, as per				Salary, farm labourer	91	5	0
Annual Estimates	211	5	0	Tools.....	22	16	0
				Seed, straw, bran.....	35	6	1
				Manure	1	7	0
				Balance available for permanent work	60	10	11
	<u>£211</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£211</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

Current Maintenance.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Salary, farm labourer	91	5	0				
Tools, &c.....	22	16	0				
Manure.....	1	7	0				
Seed, straw, bran.....	35	6	1				
					150	14	1

Permanent Works.

Fencing and repairs.....	6	3	6				
Irrigation, drains, &c.	49	7	9				
Balance unexpended	4	19	8				
					60	10	11
					<u>£211</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

Working Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To current maintenance	150	14	1	Sale of milk, butter, fruit, and vege- tables	194	10	1
Balance	43	16	0				
	<u>£194</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>£194</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>

Credit balance, £43 16s., besides crop of hay, maize, mangolds, and potatoes.