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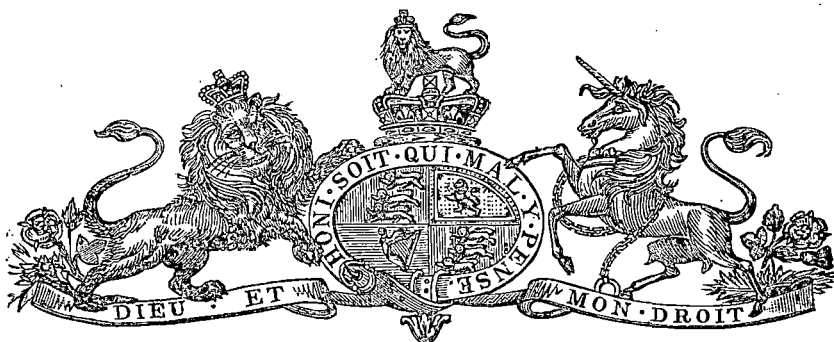
1890.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN :

REPORT FOR 1889.

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



BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

REPORT for 1889.

Charitable Grants Department, 28th April, 1890.

SIR,

THE Central Committee for Boarding out Destitute Children have the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1889.

On the 1st January of that year the total number of children maintained under the boarding-out system was 98—boys, 54; girls, 44—viz., in—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs.....	31	28	59
Launceston.....	14	5	19
Municipalities	9	11	20
	54	44	98

The Committee held 16 meetings during the year, irrespective of those connected with the annual visitation of the homes of the children.

Additional children, to the number of 18, were provided for, and 21 ceased to be a charge upon the funds at the disposal of the Committee; leaving on the 31st December a total of 95, located as follows:—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs.....	30	23	53
Launceston.....	16	6	22
Municipalities	11	9	20
	57	38	95

three less than the number with which the year commenced.

The circumstances connected with the 18 children whose names were added to the boarded-out list were carefully inquired into by the Committee, and there was no alternative but to provide for them at the public expense.

With regard to the 21 children referred to above as having ceased to be maintained under the boarding-out system—

- 9 were apprenticed.
- 5 were taken by relatives.
- 3 were admitted to Industrial Schools.
- 1 was admitted to the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind.
- 2 were adopted.
- 1 died.

Two of three children admitted to industrial schools were sent to the Boys' Home, and the other to the Industrial School for Girls, Hobart. One of the boys was addicted to pilfering, and it was considered advisable to place him where he would not be able to indulge his propensity. The other got beyond the control of his foster-parent, and she requested his removal to another home, but no one could be found willing to take him. At the request of the Committee the Governors of the school consented to receive him. The girl having contracted the habit of playing in the streets instead of going to school, the Committee, at the request of the ladies of the Visiting Committee, arranged for her admission to the school. The boy sent to the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind had almost entirely lost his sight, and the authority of the Government was sought for and obtained for his maintenance and education in the above-named institution.

The death was that of a girl in her eleventh year, who was boarded out at Maria Island, whence she was removed to the Hobart Hospital on the 25th September, and died there on the 27th from abscess in the throat (sequilæ of diphtheria). She had previously, when living at Glamorgan, been under medical treatment for convulsive disease of the limbs. This child had a very comfortable home, and there is no reason to believe that she was neglected in any way.

With respect to the other 16 children who were apprenticed, taken by relatives, and adopted, satisfactory reports were received respecting the homes to which they were going before they were allowed to be withdrawn from the care of the Committee.

The expenditure for the year was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salary of Inspecting Officer	180	0	0
Maintenance of children and cost of clothing purchased.....	1488	11	7
	1668	11	7
Less repayment by relatives.....	11	14	0
	1656	17	7
Unexpended balance.....	523	2	5
Voted by Parliament.....	£2180	0	0

The average cost per head amounted to £14 5s. 8d. per annum.

Clothing to the value of £1 1s. 3d. from stock on hand was also issued.

Although provision was made during the year for 116 children, 78 only were a charge for the full period of 365 days, one was adopted without expense to the Government, and the remainder, 37, were maintained for periods varying from 5 to 350 days. Average number of days, 307.

Since the appointment of the Central Committee in 1881, the annual expenditure 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 9 $\frac{3}{4}$	5	191
1882	1912	19	0	13 13 8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	166
1883	1852	2	11	14 1 10 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	155
1884	1900	0	11	14 1 5 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 5 for 2 months 6 for 10 months }	135
1885	1872	9	4	14 14 11	6	127
1886	1696	0	0	14 0 4	6	121
1887	1775	9	2	12 15 6	6	139
1888	1683	5	7	13 18 2 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	121
1889	1656	17	7	14 5 8	6	116

Annual Inspection.

The Committee commenced the annual inspection of the children boarded-out in and about Hobart on the 7th October, and continued it on the 8th and 10th. The result was highly satisfactory. The foster-parents had no knowledge of the intention of the Committee to visit them, and therefore there was no time for preparation. The homes were comfortably furnished, and the children well clad, and seemingly happy. Their sleeping rooms were well ventilated, and the beds and bedding clean and of good quality. The Committee had every reason to believe that the foster-parents were respectable women, and worthy of the confidence reposed in them; and it was evident, in very many instances, that feelings of strong affection existed between them and the children committed to their care. In cases in which foster-parents had children of their own the boarded-out children seemed to fare as they did, and to be regarded as part of the family. This was particularly noticeable in more homes than one, and afforded the Committee much gratification.

Attendance at School.

Such of the children as were old enough to go to school were regular in their attendance during the year; and it will be seen from the annexed report, furnished by the Principals of the several schools to which the children were sent, that they bore favourable comparison with other pupils.

The accompanying reports, furnished by the Inspecting Officer and Sergeant Higgins, of New Town, will show that the foster-parents were fully alive to their obligations with regard to the attendance of the children at Sunday School.

Health of Children.

The Committee are pleased to be again able to report the almost entire absence of sickness amongst the children during the year. The only serious case, in addition to that already reported, and which ended fatally, was that of a girl who was admitted to the Hospital on the 8th August, suffering from an affection of the thigh-bone. She was discharged on the 16th, and is compelled to use a crutch. Although old enough for domestic service, she is quite unfit for it; but arrangements have been made with one of the leading tailoring establishments in the city by which she is enabled to earn a small sum per week, and at the same time learn a trade, which in a few years, it is hoped, will place her beyond the need of help from the Government.

Changes in Homes.

In a few instances changes in the homes of children were necessary, and the following are the particulars:—

1. A boy transferred from Hobart to Campbell Town early in the year, it having been found impossible to keep him from running the streets. Three different foster-parents were tried, but each one gave him up. He was constantly leaving his home when in town; but, since his removal to the country, there have not been any complaints against him.
2. A boy transferred, his foster-parent stating he had got beyond her control.
3. A boy, whose foster-parent died, was taken by her daughter, who removed to Launceston.
4. Three children, two boys and a girl, also transferred to the daughter of their deceased foster-parent.

Visiting Committees, &c.

It affords the Committee much pleasure to bear testimony to the continued efforts of the Visiting Committees to ensure the well-being and comfort of the children in their respective Districts. Reports from the Committees are appended hereto.

On the 27th December a Visiting Committee for the City of Launceston was appointed, and it is confidently believed that much good, both to the children and their foster-parents, will result therefrom.

The Inspecting Officer, Mr. Judge, in whom the Committee have full confidence, also exercised a general supervision over the children in and about Hobart, and reported to the Committee on the subject of their treatment, clothing, &c.

The children boarded out in Launceston were visited by the Inquiring Officer there, who reported to Mr. Alfred Jones for the information of the Central Committee. In the other parts of the Colony similar reports were furnished periodically by the Chief Magistrate of the District in which the children resided, and were of a most satisfactory character.

Apprentices.

Upon the whole, the Committee have to report favourably upon the conduct of those children who have been sent out to service. A few were troublesome and caused disappointment, but many others conducted themselves in a highly creditable manner, and earned the good will and regard of their masters. The Inspecting Officer was in constant communication with such of these children as had homes in and about Hobart, and the Chairman of the Committee corresponded every quarter with the employers of those who resided in the country, and collected the amount due under the indentures. Each apprentice has a bank-book, and at the end of February last, when the books were made up at the Savings' Bank, there were 88 accounts, and the amount to the credit of the apprentices was £351 13s. 10d. Since that date payments amounting to £5 0s. 5d. have been received, making a total up to date of £356 14s. 3d. and 89 accounts.

During the year payments amounting to £87 5s. were made to 10 apprentices, whose conduct had been such as to justify the Committee in handing to them the amounts to their credit in the Savings' Bank.

On the 17th July a circular was addressed to the Police Magistrates and Wardens of the several districts in the Colony in which there were apprentices, requesting a report as to their behaviour and the treatment they received at the hands of those with whom they had been placed, and the replies received were such as to afford every satisfaction to the Committee.

Fox's Bequest.

The sum of £8, the share of this bequest apportioned to the boarded-out children in compliance with the Resolution of both Houses of Parliament last Session, was received about Christmas time, and equally divided amongst the children throughout the Colony, numbering at that time 92.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

J. O'BOYLE, *Chairman.*
W. TARLETON.
W. H. BURGESS.
W. LOVETT.
J. S. LAURIE.
W. BENSON.
J. G. PARKER.
JOHN BAILY.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Murray-street Free State School, 10th March, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to lay before you our report on the boarded-out children for 1889. It is pleasing to think how many of the girls who have gone out from us have proved very good needlewomen, in addition to other attainments. Their attendance has been very regular,—coming clean and suitably dressed for the season. Supplied with books, slates, &c., they have all made fair progress during the year.

I have, &c.

CHARLES HALL.

The Director of Education.

Report of Boarded-out Children from the Central State School for 1889.

Address.—Lincoln, Louisa, 4, Brisbane-street. *Attendance.*—176½ days. *Progress—Appearance.*—About equal to the general average.

W. J. J. REYNOLDS.
11. 3. 90.

Report on Boarded-out Children, State School, New Town, 1889.

Attendance.—Good on the whole. A want of punctuality on the part of those under the care of Mrs. Cearns.

Progress.—Quite equal to the other children attending the school. Very good in the case of Florence Keefe.

Appearance.—There is nothing in their appearance to distinguish them from the other scholars. The four sent by Mrs. Cearns are very clean and tidy. The two sent by Mrs. Tucker, and the one from Mr. Aherne, are very fair.

RICHARD SMITH, *Head Teacher.*
12th March, 1890.

Cascades Free School, Hobart, 17th March, 1890.

SIR,

THREE boarded-out children have attended this school during the year 1889. Their attendance was as follows:—Rebecca Priest, 79½ days; James White, 72 days; John Lawson, 94 days. As R. Priest and J. White left the school before I took charge of it, I am unable to give any particulars regarding them. John Lawson's conduct was good; appearance very clean and tidy; progress fair.

I have, &c.

S. E. HUNT.

NOTE.—Rebecca Priest went to service 20th May, 1889; James White was taken by his mother, 22nd May, 1889; John Lawson only commenced attending this school third week in July.—J. O'B.

Watchorn-street Ragged School, 17th March, 1890.

DEAR SIR,

WE have at present five boarded-out children attending this school, all living with Mrs. Doran, in Molle-street. I have much pleasure in telling you that they attend regularly, are well clothed, and in cleanliness they set an example to all the other children. Their progress so far has been satisfactory; and they are evidently taught at home to be respectful and well behaved.

I have, &c.

MARION L. HEDBERG, *Head Teacher Watchorn-street Ragged School.*

Lower Collins-street School, Hobart, 18th March, 1890.

DEAR SIR,

ON receipt of your note as regards the appearance, attendance, conduct, and progress of the boarded-out children attending this school, I beg to say that we only had two—viz., George Beasley and Ada Simmons—for the year 1889. George Beasley left in October last. Up to that time his conduct and attendance were both good, and he made very fair progress, and always appeared to be well looked after. Ada Simmons was promoted as Monitor of the school in March last, her conduct and attendance, &c. being all that could be desired.

I remain, &c.

H. M. MOOR.

NOTE.—George Beasley has attended the Murray-street Free State School since.—J. O'B.

Presentation Convent, 31st March.

DEAR SIR,

I MUST apologise for not having replied sooner to your note of the 14th instant *re* the boarded-out children. May Lyons was the only one we had last year. She was most satisfactory in every respect.

Truly yours,

MARY DE SALES BOYLSON.

Tasmanian Academy, Upper Murray-street, 31st March, 1890.

I HEREBY certify that George Beasley has been regular in his attendance at my school during the last twelve months, during which period his conduct has been good and creditable, also in appearance, whilst his progress in reading, writing, arithmetic, and orthography is most satisfactory.

T. H. BROMFIELD.

St. Joseph's Boys' School, 31st March, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the under-mentioned boys attended the above-named school during the year ended 31st December, 1889, regularly, progressed satisfactorily, and were well conducted—viz., D'Arcy Smith, Horace Lonigan, and George Brooks.

I am, &c.

T. MITCHELL, *Master.*

To the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

THE Sisters of Charity certify that Amy Nelson has attended St. Joseph's Girls' School regularly for the year 1889. Has made fair progress with her studies, and has also been well behaved and cleanly in appearance.

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.
St. Joseph's Convent, 2nd April, 1890.

The Administrator of Charitable Grants, Hobart.

83, Argyle-street, 14th March, 1890.

SIR,

I BEG to report, for your information, that I have most satisfactory accounts from teachers of the different Sunday-schools throughout the city as to the regularity with which the boarded-out children have attended Sunday-school during the year 1889. Not one missed a day unless through illness or very bad weather.

I have, &c.

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

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

New Town, 3rd April, 1890.

THE boarded-out children in this district have been very regular in their attendance at Sunday school during the year 1889.

M. HIGGINS, *Sergeant.*

DEAR SIR,

I HAVE frequently visited the boarded-out children in New Town during the past year, and have found them well cared for, always neatly clad, and attending school and church regularly. In fact, they seem better off than many children in similar circumstances who have both parents living.

M. FAGG.

Hobart, 14th March, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that the Committee regularly visited the boarded-out children in the district under their charge during the past year, and found them generally in good health and well clothed and cared for.

I have, &c.

The Administrator of Charitable Grants.

ALBERT REID, *Chairman.*

83, Argyle-street, 20th March, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that during the year 1889 I visited the different apprentices from the boarding-out system who reside in or near the city, and questioned them as to their treatment, &c. I have also spoken to their masters or mistresses; and, with the exception of complaints as to untruthfulness and want of more energy in the performance of their work, the employers seemed to be satisfied, and the apprentices generally are content.

There have been, however, some noted exceptions; foremost amongst these is the elder case, 2544, who committed various acts of larceny, but having been discovered by her mistress in April last, she promised to never do the like again, and appears to have so far kept her promise and redeemed her character that she is now in a responsible situation, her employers being aware of her former misconduct.

The girl, case 2940, would not be kept in her first situation on account of her general filthy habits and inclination to play practical jokes of a rather annoying character, and, after having been discharged from there, all that could be done would not induce her to stay in any other place, although several were tried; and on one excuse or another she would go out at night and not return till brought back. She was therefore committed to Catholic Orphanage.

The next exception is case 2174, who would not stop anywhere, so that at last people refused to have anything to do with her; she has been, however, for three or four weeks in the Dépôt, where she was put to such laborious drudgery that she came to this office and said if I could find her a place she would go there for nothing rather than go back to the Dépôt again. I have found a situation for her, and she will be taken on trial on the 22nd instant.

The last case, 2519, would not remain in any place, although she has had several nice situations, where her work was not heavy. She is now in the service of a greengrocer, who keeps a small shop, and is in much the same position in life as her late parents. She is quite happy and contented, and has, for the most part of the day, charge of the shop, of which she appears to be proud. She is, however, inclined to be dirty, and I had to speak to her to-day for not having her face and neck clean.

So far as the boys are concerned, we have had little trouble with them. The only one who caused any bother being case 2255, who has been in four different situations, from three of which he had to be removed, as his employers said he was no good, and from the fourth he absconded, but returned three days afterwards.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

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

New Town, 25th March, 1890.

Government Apprentices at New Town.

SERGEANT Higgins reports, for the information of Mr. Superintendent Hedberg, that he visited the Government apprentices at Mr. Klug's, New Town, on 24th instant, and received the following particulars from them:—

William Webber, aged 16 years, stated that he was well treated, not over worked, and had no complaint to make.

Stephen Johnson, aged 16 years—This boy has only been with Mr. Klug since November, 1889. He absconded once, owing to the influence of his friends, but is now well-behaved and contented, and stated that he is well treated.

William Porter and James Woodruffe.—Their time expired during 1889. Porter is now working for Mr. Klug, and getting wages; Woodruffe was of weak intellect, and absconded before his discharge. Mr. Klug states that they are well behaved, and he has no complaint to make.

Apprentices were well and comfortably dressed and appeared in good health, as if they were well cared for.

MATTHEW HIGGINS, *Sergeant of Police.*