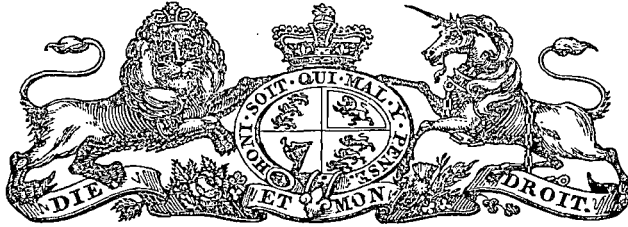


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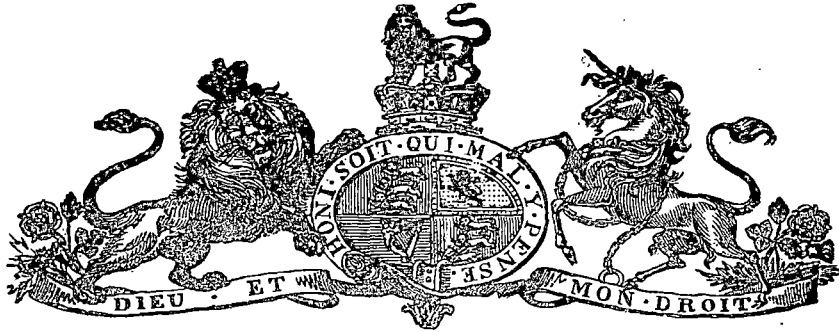
1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN :

REPORT FOR 1888.

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



BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

REPORT for 1888.

Charitable Grants Department, 26th April, 1889.

SIR, THE Central Committee for Boarding Out Destitute Children have the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1888.

At the beginning of that year the total number of children maintained under the boarding-out system was 109—boys, 61; girls, 48; viz.—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs	35	31	66
Launceston	16	3	19
Municipalities	10	14	24
	61	48	109

During the year the names of 12 children were added to the boarded-out list, and the Committee were enabled to relieve the Government of the cost of maintaining 23, under the circumstances set forth hereunder; viz.—

- 10 were apprenticed.
- 2 were adopted.
- 1 returned apprentice, again sent to service.
- 7 were taken by relatives.
- 3 died.

—
23

leaving, on the 31st December, a total of 98, residing as follows:—

	<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

eleven less than the number with which the year commenced.

The Committee held 19 meetings during the year, and also devoted four afternoons to the annual inspection of the children and their homes.

With regard to the 12 new children for whom provision was made, the Committee had no alternative but to take them under their charge. The fullest inquiry was instituted into the circumstances connected with each case, and the Committee satisfied themselves that the children were without relatives in a position to maintain them.

The Committee, before authorising the removal from their foster-parents of the 20 children who, on their apprenticeship, adoption, or return to relatives, ceased to be a charge to the Government, made careful inquiry respecting the homes to which they were going, and had every reason to believe their future guardians fully appreciated the responsibility they were about to take upon themselves, and that the children would have good homes, and be placed in the way of becoming useful members of the community.

The particulars of the three deaths that took place during the year are as follows:—An infant (female), whose mother was a patient in the Hospital at New Norfolk, was born there on the 25th October, 1887, and was placed in the care of a competent nurse without delay. On the 9th January following ($2\frac{1}{2}$ months) the child died, the cause of death, as certified by Dr. Huston, being Marasmus (emaciation). The second case was also that of a female nearly $3\frac{1}{2}$ years old. She was taken to the Hospital and treated as an out-patient. She was also attended by Dr. E. L. Crowther. The cause of death was Tabes Mesenterica (allied to Scrofula). The third case was that of a boy nearly six years old, who was admitted to the Hospital, Launceston, on the 30th April, and died there on the 10th of the next month from Caries of the Spine, from which he had suffered from infancy.

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..	1594	14	4
	<u>1774</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>4</u>
Less repayment by relatives.....	91	8	9
	<u>1683</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>
Unexpended balance.....	316	14	5
Voted by Parliament	<u>£2000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

The average cost per head amounted to £13 18s. $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.

Clothing to the value of £1 4s. 3d. from stock on hand was also issued.

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

	£			Cost per head.			Allowance per week.	Total number of
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	s.	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

Although provision was made during the year for 121 children, 89 only were a charge for the full period of 366 days. The remainder, 32, were maintained for periods varying from 9 to 361 days. Average number of days, 311.

Annual Inspection.

The annual inspection of the children boarded out in Hobart, at New Town, and South Glenorchy commenced on the 8th October, and was continued on the 11th, 15th, and 16th, and was, upon the whole, highly satisfactory. As a rule the children looked well and happy. Their homes appeared to be all that could be desired, and the foster-parents evidently took an interest in the children, little, if anything, short of that which would have been expected from them if they had been bound to the children by the closest ties of relationship. The foster-parents had no warning of the inspection, consequently no special preparations were made for the reception of the Committee, as was evident from the ordinary work going on and the appearance and manner of the foster-parents, some of whom apologised for being caught busily engaged in the performance of their household duties, and regretted they did not know of the intended visit, so that they might have had everything tidy and in its place. In one instance, however, the children did not look very healthy or strong, but as the foster-parent is known to be a most trustworthy woman, the Committee dismissed from their minds all idea of neglect on her part, and inclined to her opinion that the children were constitutionally delicate, and would probably improve as they grew older.

Attendance at School.

Care was taken that such of the children as were old enough attended school regularly during the year, and the reports attached hereto from the masters of the several schools to which the children were sent bear testimony to this fact, as well as to the satisfactory progress of the children. A report from the Inspecting Officer on the subject of the attendance of the children at Sunday School is also appended.

Health of Children.

The Committee are pleased to be able to report that, with few exceptions, particulars of which are given below, the children enjoyed very good health during the year. The exceptions were:— Two children, brother and sister, boarded-out at Oatlands, were treated for a short-time by Dr. Butler for sores over the hands and bodies, but there did not appear to be anything very serious the matter with them. The girl was subsequently attended by Dr. Butler, having been taken suddenly ill, but she was soon restored to health. A girl at Glamorgan was under treatment in July, August, and October, for chorea, a convulsive disease of the limbs, to which she would appear to be subject. Two other children, boy and girl, residing in Hobart, were treated at the Hospital as out-patients, the former for a bad foot and the latter for incontinence of urine. In neither case was admission considered necessary. On the 21st May a girl was admitted to the Hospital suffering from fever, and remained until the 30th June, when she was well enough to be discharged; and from the 8th to the 27th April a boy was an inmate for treatment for a broken arm.

Changes in Homes.

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

1. Five children (three boys and two girls) who were boarded-out at Battery Point, were removed at the request of their foster-parent on account of the marriage of her daughter, and her inability in consequence to give them proper attention.

2. Two girls and a boy, owing to the cruel treatment of the husband of the woman in whose charge they were. The matter was placed in the hands of the police, but the Superintendent (Mr. Pedder) reported that sufficient evidence could not be obtained to procure a conviction against the man.

3. A lad who, there was every reason to believe, was neither well treated nor properly fed or clothed by his foster-parent.

4. A girl, taken by her foster-parent to Launceston with the consent of the Committee, but the provision made for the child there was not satisfactory, and her removal to another home was therefore directed.

5. A girl, on account of the foster-parent having taken a common lodging-house, in which the accommodation for the child was regarded as insufficient.

6. Three boys, who, the Committee considered, were not properly looked after by their foster-parent, and it having been found necessary to separate the children on account of the bad example and unruly conduct of the eldest.

7. A girl transferred to her aunt, the grandmother, in whose care she was, having sustained a compound fracture of the leg.

Visiting Committees, &c.

Owing to the departure from the Colony of several of the ladies and gentlemen who have hitherto taken a great interest in the welfare of the children boarded-out, two of the Visiting Committees have lapsed, but the other two have continued their visitation, and have forwarded reports, which are appended hereto.

Periodical reports were also received from Mr. Judge, the Inspecting Officer, who retains the confidence of the Committee; and the accompanying report from the Sergeant of Police, New Town, will show that the supervision of the children in that locality was not neglected.

In the City of Launceston and other parts of the Colony the Police Magistrates and Wardens were relied upon to see that the children were well treated and sent regularly to school, and the Committee have every reason to believe this duty was faithfully discharged.

Apprentices, &c.

Such of the apprentices as resided in and about Hobart were visited quarterly by the Inspecting Officer when collecting from their masters the payments at the rate of 6*d.* per week covenanted for in the indentures for deposit in the Savings Bank for the benefit of the apprentices on the completion of their indentures, and the employers of those who lived in the country were communicated with quarterly by the Chairman when applying for similar payment. The information received respecting the conduct and treatment of the apprentices was, upon the whole, of a satisfactory character. In some instances, however, the behaviour of the apprentices was not such as it should have been, but, as the annexed report of the Inspecting Officer shows, the complaints were few and

trivial in character. The accounts with the Savings Bank at the end of February last, when the books were made up, numbered 82, and the sum to the credit of the apprentices amounted to £304 9s. 9d. Payments for the last quarter of 1888, amounting to £15 17s. 8d. have been received since that date, making a total of £320 7s. 5d.

During the year payments amounting to £112 7s. 10d. were made to 17 apprentices whose term of service had expired, and whose conduct during apprenticeship had been such as to give satisfaction to the Committee.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

J. O'BOYLE, *Chairman*.
W. TARLETON.
JAMES GRANT.
W. LOVETT.
J. S. LAURIE.
W. H. BURGESS.
W. BENSON.
A. M. RITCHIE.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Battery Point State School, Hobart, 25th April, 1889.

SIR,

IN compliance with your request to be furnished with a report on the attendance, progress, and appearance of the boarded-out children attending this school, I have the honor to state that, in these respects, as in all others, there is absolutely nothing to distinguish them from the average of the children who live with their parents.

M. M'PHEE, *Head Teacher*.

Central State School.—Boarded-out Children, 1888.

1. *Attendance*.—431 times (or half days). *Progress*.—Satisfactory. *Appearance*.—As tidy as the majority of the children.

W. J. J. REYNOLDS.
25. 4. 89.

Goulburn-street State School, 25th April, 1889.

Boarded-out Children—Attendance, 1888.

	2nd Quarter.	3rd Quarter.	4th Quarter.	Total days.
1.....	54	45	45½	144½
2.....	52	6	43½	101½
3.....	41½	6	44½	92
4.....	37½	36½	30½	104½
5.....	27½	6	45½	79

These children are all young, and in the infant department; their attendance, therefore, may be considered satisfactory. Three were absent during third quarter on account of illness. They have made fair progress considering their age. They always come to school clean and tidy.

C. H. RULE.

Murray-street Free State School, 26th April, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to lay before you a brief report on the boarded-out children for the year 1888. The number in attendance has not been so large as in some past years. All have attended very regularly. In one case I had to draw the attention of the Relieving Officer to a family coming always late; improvement followed. They come to school clean, their clothing in all cases comfortable and suitable for the season.

CHARLES HALL.

State School, New Town, 9th May, 1889.

Report on Boarded-out Children.

Attendance.—Very good on the whole, with a great want of punctuality in those coming from Mrs. Cearns. The average attendance is quite equal to any others in the school.

Progress.—In most cases satisfactory. One or two are doing remarkably well. They are keeping abreast of others of the same age. There is no provision for the purchase of school requisites for home work, though most of them manage to get copy-books, &c.

Appearance.—Occasional instances of untidy habits and neglect of cleanliness, which I have reported to the guardians, and have always found an attempt made at improvement. There is nothing, however, so noticeable as to distinguish boarded-out children from their classmates.

RICHARD SMITH, *Head Teacher*.

Presentation Convent, Hobart, 20th April, 1889.

THE three boarded-out destitute children attending the Convent School during the year 1888 have been regular in their attendance, in appearance neat, conduct and progress satisfactory.

MARY B. HICKEY.

Lower Collins-street School, 25th April, 1889.

SIR, I AM glad to inform you that the two boarded-out children who attended the above school during the year 1888 were well behaved, and always seemed tidy and well cared for. Their attendance was good, both gaining prizes for good attendance and good conduct. They also progressed favourably with their studies.

H. M. MOOR, *Head Teacher.*

Watchorn-street School.

SIR, I HAVE the honor to report on the attendance, appearance, &c. of the boarded-out children attending Watchorn-street School during 1888, and have pleasure in stating that their appearance, conduct, and regularity are very good, and the children are evidently well cared for.

ALICE WILLIAMS, *late Head Teacher of Watchorn-street School.*

To the Administrator of Charitable Grants, Hobart.

Hobart, 14th May, 1889.

MEMO.

Mrs Mitchell begs to report that during the year 1888 there were two boarded-out children attending the Cascade Free School. The attendance, conduct, appearance, and progress of these children were most satisfactory to me, and reflected the greatest credit on Miss Smith, with whom they were boarded.

E. MITCHELL, *Head Teacher.*

83, Argyle-street, 12th April, 1889.

Sunday School Attendance of the Boarded-out Children.

SIR, I HAVE the honor to report, for your information, that, according to the reports furnished to me by clergymen and Sunday School teachers, the attendance of the boarded-out children has been very regular during the year 1888.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

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

30th April, 1889.

DEAR SIR,

Mrs. Miller and myself have visited the boarded-out children in our district at intervals during this year. We feel satisfied that the foster-parents are trustworthy, and take every care of those committed to their charge. The children healthy, and clothes in good order.

I have, &c.

HARRIET SALIER.

New Town, 16th April, 1889.

SIR, ON behalf of the New Town Committee having the oversight of the destitute children who are located in this district, I may say that children and homes have been duly inspected, and that everything appears satisfactory. I should add, however, that no visit has been paid for some weeks, ill-health having prevented my undertaking it.

The Administrator of Charitable Grants.

E. E. BENSON.

New Town, 4th April, 1889.

Boarded-out and apprenticed Children at New Town.

SIR, I BEG respectfully to report that the boarded-out children at New Town have attended day and Sunday schools regularly during the year 1888, and are well behaved both in and out of the schools. I frequently visit the foster-parents, and find them very attentive to these children, and keep them clean and orderly. The children apprenticed at New Town are not so attentive in attending Sunday-school as the boarded-out children, with the exception of one, who is very regular; but the other two girls attend church every Sunday, and are well behaved. The master and mistresses of these children speak highly of their character, and the apprentices state that they have been kindly treated.

I have, &c.

MATTHEW HIGGINS, *Sergeant.*

Mr. Superintendent HEDBERG.

83, Argyle-street, 12th April, 1889.

SIR, I HAVE the honor to report for your information that during the year 1888 there were fewer complaints from masters or mistresses respecting the behaviour of their apprentices than there has been in any year since the Central Committee first took charge of the boarding-out system. The faults principally complained of are untruthfulness and stubbornness, with, in some instances, want of memory.

There is one case in which the mistress complained to me of the stubborn temper of her apprentice; but when I came to inquire into the matter, I found the mistress as bad as the servant, and she acknowledged the fact to me. They are very fond of each other, yet they sometimes have a disagreement and do not speak for a couple of days. But this coolness very soon wears off, and they make friends again by mutually bursting into tears and kissing each other immoderately. I was present on one of these occasions, and must say that the joy and pleasure displayed in the features and actions of each at the renewal of their friendship had to be seen to be appreciated.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

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

THE Sisters of Charity hereby certify that one boarded-out child attends St. Joseph's Girls' School. Her conduct is good, appearance cleanly, and attendance regular.

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY, *St. Joseph's Convent.*
11th June, 1889.

St. Joseph's Boys' School, Hobart, 10th June, 1889.

SIR, I HAVE the honor of furnishing you with the following information *re* boarded-out children who attended the above-named school during the year 1888:—

Four boys regularly attended school during the year, were well conducted, always neatly and comfortably clad, and made fair progress in their school work.

Yours, &c.

F. MITCHELL, *Master.*

The Administrator of Charitable Grants.
