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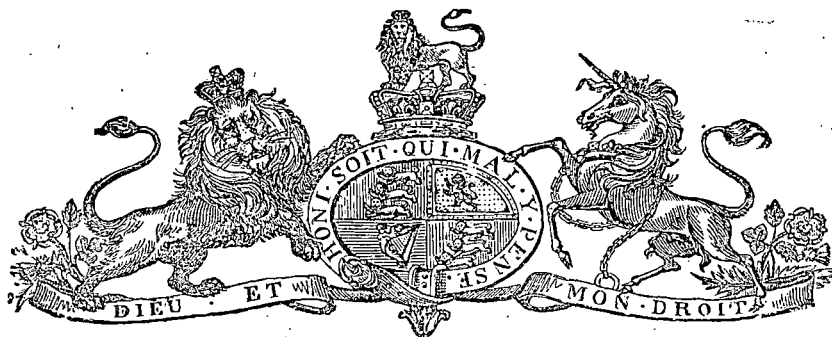
1862.

T A S M A N I A.

INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

MEMORANDUM OF THE COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Laid on the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
6 August, 1862.



MEMORANDUM of the COLONIAL SECRETARY on INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS, &c.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 4th August, 1862.

THE term Industrial Schools has, in effect, the same meaning as Ragged Schools. Perhaps, at the first, Ragged Schools did not comprise industrial teaching, but now the objects of the training are identical. The only real distinction between the Ragged and Industrial Schools is, that the first are Day Schools, the Industrial are Boarding Schools.

The similarity of the objects should be borne in mind, because it will be apparent that the Boards of Management of the Ragged Schools already established are at once available for the Industrial Schools which are now proposed.

The Act now introduced embraces also the kindred subject of Reformatories. These are an affair for the Government; and, should the Parliament decide on establishing one for boys, there can be little doubt that it can be made to serve also as a receptacle for a large portion of the boys who are committed to an Industrial School.

In Scotland, under Dunlop's Act, the two classes are maintained in the same Institution; and, in this Colony, very little difference will ordinarily be found between the juvenile pilferers sentenced to three or six months' imprisonment, and the neglected children coming within the definition contained in Clause 3.

It will be seen, however, that no power is intended to be given to compel boys (not criminals) to be sent to a Reformatory, except with the assent of the Managers of an Industrial School.

Taking the classes in order, for whom, under this Bill, provision is proposed to be framed, we have—

I. THE REFORMATORY FOR BOYS FOR THE TWO DIVISIONS OF THE ISLAND.

The old Convict Buildings at Ross seem well adapted, both for economy and from situation. They are not in a bad state of repair. A sum of £500 being perhaps sufficient, with the labor of the inmates in fencing, to restore them.

The following Staff List shows that an Annual Expenditure of £1000 would probably suffice:—

ESTIMATE for a REFORMATORY for 40 Boys.

	£
Superintendent and Purveyor, quarters, fuel, and water.....	150
Gardener	50
Cook, &c.	30
Allowance for Laundress	30
Medical attendance, &c.	30
Rations for two	30
Rations for boys	400
Clothing, bedding, and stores.....	200
Fuel, light, water	80
Incidental expenses, forage, tools, &c.	50

£1050

From this should be deducted the estimated expense of keeping same inmates, if in the Gaol under the present Law, for the usual brief periods of their imprisonment.

If the land attached to the buildings is not sufficient for the occupation of the boys, and for raising produce, some few acres should be hired.

It is desirable to have married Officers, as far as practicable; and also to obtain the coöperation of a local body of visitors, both male and female.

At Mettrai, and other places, the children are divided into groups, and boarded in separate cottages; the person in charge of each being a family man. The valuable influence of females and family training is thus best secured, with the view of inducing home feelings and attachments.

Digging, especially, and all other country occupations, should be fostered, both to initiate the boys as useful Farm Laborers, and also to give an attractive character to that mode of life. They would thus be acceptable as Apprentices at an early date on the farms around; the plan for which could be adopted in their entirety from the Regulations of T. B. Baker, Esquire, of Hardwicke Court, in Gloucestershire.

Of course careful discrimination should be used in selecting Masters for the Apprentices, to see what class of companions the lads are likely to be placed with.

II. REFORMATORY FOR GIRLS.

As no central place exists, a building in each of the two Towns will be requisite. It is fortunate that in Hobart Town the Female Factory at the Cascades has large spare accommodation, with an abundance of apartments built especially for the Separate System. Sufficient of these are available to be separated or partitioned off from the Gaol portion of the establishment; and thus, by economically availing itself of the staff now in force, the Government, on simply issuing a Proclamation to dis sever the necessary portion of the building from the Gaol, can at once establish this Female Reformatory, without any or more than trifling expense.

It is due to the authorities to notice, that all native or young prisoner girls sent here have been hitherto carefully preserved from all communication with other Convicts, and when detained under sentence long enough, have been instructed in useful work. Few, however, have ever been sent for so long a period as Twelve Months, a mistaken impression appearing to prevail that the discipline was necessarily dangerous to their habits and character.

For the Female Reformatory at Launceston it is difficult to know what can be done, from the defective accommodation in the Gaol and Female Factory. As, however, Parliament, it is understood, will be applied to for an enlargement of these buildings, it may be hoped that an arrangement similar to that indicated for Hobart Town may be practicable.

III. INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

An Industrial School will be required for both Hobart Town and Launceston.

The first consideration is, the amount of the expense, and how it is to be provided; but this should not prove a great difficulty.

In England such Institutions are not established by the Government, the Legislation is permissive only; and they are, it is said, chiefly indebted for their initiation and establishment to the exertions of the charitable and well-disposed. To some extent, the Government can lend its aid by a rateable contribution, thus encouraging the local efforts; but it would be unjust that the General Revenue should be regarded as liable for the whole charge of children that will come, in chief part, from the neglected population of the two Towns.

How the contributions are to be made is an open question; but no doubt the feeling of the public will be, that the Municipalities should be entrusted with a share of the management, and of the liability of Institutions whose inmates are so peculiarly a local charge.

The chief management of these Schools will fall, naturally, under the care of those individuals who have hitherto interested themselves in Ragged Schools. The objects are identical; and the two being united under one organization will be an economy of means and labor.

To set such Institutions on foot, it would be a mistake to suppose that expensive buildings or a large staff are necessary.

As far as the girls are concerned, any common house, with a good managing woman, are all that are required. Security and protection are the first things, industrial teaching next, and the

intellectual last. The two first can, no doubt, be found in the Manager; and for the last, reliance must be placed on Volunteer Teachers.

Many successful Industrial Homes or Schools of this character, but generally for a class perhaps a little higher, exist elsewhere.

One important element in the question is, whether such Schools shall comprise both boys and girls under one roof. Economy would dictate such an arrangement; but, unless the superintendence were under a married man and his wife, it would be rather doubtful, except where the boys are under the age of ten or thereabouts.

The question then arises, might not boys be apprenticed by the time they attain that age? Not in the ordinary way of apprenticeship—to a trade, or handicraft—but to any family man whose occupation would give them habits of industry, combined with decent care and protection. This system of economical management by early apprenticeships can, it is believed, be carried to much greater lengths than hitherto.

If boys attain the age of 10, whose dispositions are too unruly to enable places to be found for them, what reason is there why they should not be sent to the Reformatory at Ross, the Managers of the Institution which sends them being responsible for the expense?

From these considerations, it is believed that the initiation of Industrial Schools can be undertaken in the Towns at a comparatively moderate expense.

One other variation in the management of such Institutions may be mentioned, in passing—that for the care of English orphan children in Paris, who are maintained by the English residents by contract with the Superintendent at a certain rate per head; of course under strict visiting and inspection. The site of the building is about 20 miles distant from Paris.

IV. THE PENITENTS' HOME.

There will be no difficulty in the Managers having their Institution certified to, and placed under the proposed Act.

The chief advantage will be, the power given to the Managers to apprentice the inmates. This will, of course, be only done with the consent of the proposed Apprentice.

V. APPRENTICESHIP.

Throughout these various Institutions, the most important element or aid in the management is that of apprenticeship. It not only tends to relieve the Institution from expense at an early stage of the pupil's career, but it is—under fair circumstances, after habits of industry have been imparted,—the best means of controlling and advancing the children. There will always be a great difficulty in finding adequate Superintendents for such Establishments under moderate or low salaries in these Colonies; whilst apprenticeship gives a chance of family associations of a new field away from old haunts, and of a total change of life. Without such a severance from old habits and old companions, not one of the contemplated Institutions is likely to effect any large amount of good, except in the case of infant children.