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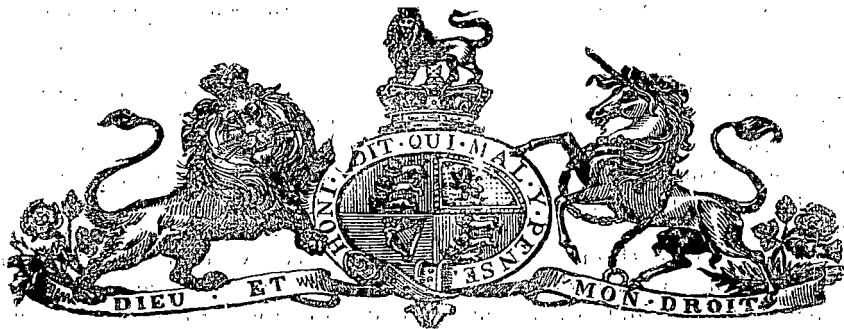
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BOARDING-OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN :

REPORT FOR 1891.

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



## BOARDING - OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

### REPORT for 1891.

*Charitable Grants Department, 12th May, 1892.*

SIR,

THE Central Committee for Boarding-out Destitute Children have the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1891.

At the beginning of that year the total number of children maintained under the Boarding-out system was 91—boys, 58; girls, 33: viz., in—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs.....	32	18	50
Launceston.....	15	9	24
Municipalities, &c. ....	11	6	17
	58	33	91

The names of 39 children were added to the boarded-out list during the year, and the Committee, under the circumstances set forth hereunder, were enabled to relieve the Government of the cost of the maintenance of 30; viz.—

- 13 were taken by relatives.
- 7 were adopted.
- 3 were admitted to Industrial Schools.
- 1 was admitted to Training School.
- 5 were apprenticed.
- 1 died.

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leaving, on the 31st December, a total of 100, residing as follows:—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs.....	38	22	60
Launceston.....	10	9	19
Municipalities.....	16	5	21
	64	36	100

an increase of nine since the commencement of the year.

The Committee held 17 meetings during the year, and four afternoons in addition were devoted to the annual inspection of the children and their homes.

With regard to the 39 new children for whom provision was made, the Committee had no alternative but to take them under their charge. The fullest inquiry was made 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 25 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 under the care of persons who would interest themselves on their behalf and pay every attention to their moral and physical welfare.

Respecting the three children admitted to Industrial Schools, the first, a girl of 13 years of age, was brought with a younger brother and sister from the Leven to Hobart. She was found to have been utterly neglected, and was so ignorant that it was considered advisable to place her in St. Joseph's Orphanage, where she would receive the education and training of which she stood so much in need. The next, also a girl, was admitted to the Girls' Industrial School Hobart, for domestic training. She was over 12 years of age, but too ignorant to be sent to service. The third, a boy, was placed in the Boys' Home owing to the difficulty experienced in obtaining a suitable foster-parent for him of his own religion. The woman who had him under her care did not keep him clean or properly dressed, and when remonstrated with and desired to pay more attention to the lad, said she could not do any better with him, and surrendered him to the Committee. The lad being 12 years old, no one willing to take charge of him for the sum allowed for his maintenance could be found; there was therefore no alternative but to send him to the Boys' Home.

The boy who was sent to the Training School would not go to school, and made a practice of frequenting public places for the purpose of begging. At last he fell into the hands of the police, and the charge of begging alms preferred against him having been proved, he was ordered to be detained in the School for a period of five years. This boy, and his two brothers, were brought from Hamilton in an almost uncivilised condition.

The death that took place during the year was that of a child boarded-out in Launceston about five and a half months old, and the cause diarrhoea. He was attended by Dr. Pike, and had previously been prescribed for by Dr. Pardey.

The expenditure for the year was as follows:—

Salary of Inspecting Officer .....	£	s.	d.
Maintenance of children.....	200	0	0
Cost of clothing purchased.....	1573	8	7
Medical attendance.....	52	14	2
	0	10	6
	<hr/>		
	1826	13	3
Less repayment by relatives .....	55	9	9
	<hr/>		
	1771	3	6
Voted by Parliament .....	1700	0	0
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Excess .....	£71	3	6

The average cost per head amounted to £13 12s. 5½d. Clothing to the value of £1 7s. 9d. from stock on hand was also issued.

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

	£ s. d.			Cost per Head.			Allowance per Week.	Total Number of Children.
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.		
1881 .....	2094	6	6	13	14	9½	5	191
1882 .....	1912	19	0	13	13	8½	5	166
1883 .....	1852	2	11	14	1	10½	5	155
1884 .....	1900	0	11	14	1	5½	{ 5 for 2 months } { 6 for 10 months }	135
1885 .....	1872	9	4	14	14	11		
1886 .....	1696	0	0	14	0	4	6	121
1887 .....	1775	9	2	12	15	6	6	139
1888 .....	1683	5	7	13	18	2½	6	121
1889 .....	1656	17	7	14	5	8	6	116
1890 .....	1668	17	6	14	7	8½	6	116
1891 .....	1771	3	6	13	12	5½	6	130

Although provision was made during the year for 130 children, 73 only were a charge for the full period of 365 days. The remainder, 57, were maintained for periods varying from 5 to 363 days. Average number of days, 294.

### Annual Inspection.

The annual inspection of the children boarded-out in Hobart and at New Town commenced on the 7th December, and was continued on the 8th, 14th, and 15th. According to practice the Committee paid their visits to the foster-parents without previous notice, and thus an opportunity of seeing them, as they desired, in their every-day aspect was afforded them. Upon the whole the Committee were much pleased with the homes of the children, and the arrangements of the foster-parents for their comfort. Cleanliness and good order prevailed, and the sleeping accommodation was excellent. The bedding was ample and of good quality, and, so far as the Committee were able to judge, the foster-parents were paying every attention to the children, and treating them as though they were their own offspring. There was one case, however, in which the appearance of the child, a boy  $7\frac{1}{2}$  years of age, was not entirely satisfactory. The Committee had reason to believe he had a good home, with a kind and attentive foster-parent, but he looked so ill and fragile that the Committee ordered him to be kept from school for a time, as they thought the distance he had to go might be too much for him. Notwithstanding this the boy continued to decline, and on the 31st of December, in consequence of his wasted appearance, as though he had not received sufficient food, he was sent to the Hospital. He remained there until the 17th February, when he was discharged and placed in a home in which there are other boys about his own age. He is now much better and brighter, and it is perhaps owing to the fact of having companions instead of being alone as he was before that to some extent the change in him has been brought about. The House Surgeon was of opinion that want of food was the cause of the child's condition, but Dr. Naylor, who attended the foster-parent, saw the boy some time before his removal to hospital and prescribed for him for *tabes mesenterica*.

### Attendance at School.

Reports from the Principals of the several schools attended by the children during the year are appended. The foster-parents, in order to entitle them to the payment of the allowance for the maintenance of the children, are required to produce weekly to the Inspecting Officer a certificate from the master of the school of the presence of the children during the week. There is, therefore, little or no difficulty in securing a very fair attendance.

A report on the subject of the attendance of the children at Sunday-school is also annexed, and is of a satisfactory character.

### Health of Children.

It was found necessary to send six children to Hospital during the year. One, a lad, was admitted on the 2nd February for treatment for convulsive disease of the limbs, but he only remained five days.

On the 29th March, a girl suffering from diphtheria was admitted, and was an inmate until the 4th May. Two boys, one of whom was attended by Dr. Barnard at his home prior to admission, were treated for low fever, one from the 23rd July to the 4th September, and the other from the 17th August to the 10th October. A girl, who had been an out-patient for some time was also an inmate from the 25th August to the 5th November for a bad knee, and on her discharge the Committee procured a pair of crutches for her. She is getting better, but is still compelled to use her crutches. The other case was that of the lad previously referred to, who appeared to be suffering from want of sufficient food.

In October a girl was attacked with influenza, and was attended at her foster-parents by Dr. Barnard; and in December the Visiting Committee, Launceston, reported that one of the children boarded-out in that city had been at death's door from lung disease, but was better.

With these exceptions, the children enjoyed very good health.

### Changes in Homes.

In several instances the Committee were obliged to make arrangements for the removal of children to other homes, the particulars of which are as follows:—

1. A lad, whose foster-parent being aged could not control him.
2. A lad, at the request of his foster-parent, a widow, who stated he "required a man's hand over him."
3. A lad, on the recommendation of the Visiting Committee, Launceston, who reported that the child was delicate, and his foster-parent had not sufficient affection for him.
4. A girl, the Central Committee not being satisfied with the accommodation provided.
5. A lad, in consequence of his irregular attendance at school, and the discovery that his foster-parent had tampered with the school certificates to enable her to draw the allowance. In the new home found for this boy he was impatient of control and would not go to school. He was then removed to Campbell Town, and is now doing well and going regularly to school.
6. A lad, whose foster-parent did not clothe him properly or give him the attention he needed. This lad was afterwards sent to the Boys' Home for reasons already stated.
7. A lad who constantly played truant from school and ran away from home was sent to Campbell Town, but he absconded from there and returned to South Glenorchy, where, having promised amendment, he was allowed to remain until his apprenticeship at the end of November.

8. A child, two years old, delicate, needing great care and good nursing, which she did not receive at the hands of her foster-parent as reported by the Visiting Committee, Launceston.

9. A girl, transferred from New Norfolk in consequence of her pilfering propensities. This is the girl who was admitted to Hospital on the 25th August suffering from a bad knee.

10. Four children, owing to sickness in the family of the foster-parent, who was thereby unable to attend to them or to spare the necessary rooms for their accommodation.

11. A lad, at request of his foster-parent, on account of family matters.

12. A lad, whose foster-parent was unable to manage him.

#### *Visiting Committees.*

It again affords the Committee much pleasure to bear testimony to the valuable assistance rendered by the Visiting Committees in Hobart, New Town, and Launceston in the promotion of the happiness and comfort of the children.

Reports from the Committees are hereto appended.

Mr. Judge, the Inspecting Officer, who has continued to discharge the duties of his office in a diligent and conscientious manner, also reported periodically to the Committee, and exercised a general supervision in conjunction with the Visiting Committees over the children residing in and about Hobart.

In the other parts of the Colony in which children were boarded out, the Committee were indebted to the Wardens and Superintendents of Police for the important aid they rendered in carrying out the regulations for the treatment of the children, and for their regular attendance at school and Sunday-school.

#### *Apprentices, &c.*

With a very few exceptions the conduct of the apprentices was satisfactory. Many of them have done very well indeed, and others are in a fair way to become intelligent and useful members of the community. One lad, the Committee regret to report, was convicted at the Supreme Court of larceny, but no sentence was passed upon him. His master declined to take him back, and another place was found for him, in which he is doing fairly well. A girl who was adopted by her aunt became so unmanageable that she had to be placed in St. Joseph's Orphanage to keep her out of harm's way. Another adopted child in the Mersey District died from injuries received from accidentally falling off a dray.

The interests of the apprentices in and about Hobart were watched over by the Inspecting Officer, and those residing in the country by the Chairman of the Committee, who corresponded with the masters every quarter when the payments were received for deposit in the Savings' Bank for the benefit of the apprentices when they arrive at the age of 18 years.

On the 1st March last the Bank books having been made up to the 28th February, there were 74 accounts, and the deposits amounted to £300 9s. 2d. Since that date the sum of £4 4s. 9d. has been paid on account of last year, making a total of £304 13s. 11d.

During the year payments amounting to £72 18s. 3d. were made to 11 apprentices who had completed their term of service to the satisfaction of the Committee, and who had arrived at the age when by law they were at liberty to make their own arrangements for the future.

#### *Fox's Bequest.*

The sum of £7 13s. 11d., the share of this bequest apportioned to the boarded-out children in accordance with the Resolution of both Houses of Parliament passed in the year 1889, was received from the Hon. the Chief Secretary and equally divided amongst the children, whose total number at the time was 100.

#### *Resignations, Appointments, &c.*

Messrs. W. H. Burgess and J. Baily tendered their resignations, and Messrs. F. J. Young and M. Ward were appointed by His Excellency the Governor to the vacancies.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

J. O'BOYLE, *Chairman.*

W. TARLETON.

W. LOVETT.

FRED. J. SALIER.

J. G. PARKER.

CHAS. HARBOTTLE.

FRANCIS J. YOUNG.

MOSES WARD.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

Watchorn-street School, 21st April, 1892.

SIR,

THE boarded-out children attending the Watchorn-street School (4), who are under the guardianship of Mrs. Glover, Goulburn-street, are very tidy and clean in appearance; behaviour, on the whole, good, their attendance regular, and progress favourable.

FREDERIKA HAUTH, *Teacher.*

St. Joseph's Boys' School, 21st April, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward the following information *re* boarded-out children who have attended this school during the year ended 31st December, 1891:—

1.	Attendance—Regular.	Conduct—Good.	Appearance—Creditable.	Progress—Fair.
2.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
3.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
4.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.

St. Joseph's Girls' School—1. Attendance—Regular. Conduct—Very good. Appearance—Excellent. Progress—Fair.

I am, &c.

F. MITCHELL, *Master.*

To the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

Report of the Attendance, Appearance, Conduct, and Progress of the Boarded-out Children who have attended the Cascades Free School during the year 1891.

	Attendance—	Appearance—	Conduct—	Progress—
1.	Good.	Very neat and clean.	Good.	Fair.
2.	Good.	Very neat and clean.	Good.	Very good.
3.	Good.	Very neat and clean.	Very good.	Fair.
4.	Good.	Very neat and clean.	Good.	Very good.
5.	Very good.	Very neat and clean.	Very good.	Excellent.
6.	Very good.	Very neat and clean.	Very good.	Excellent.
7.	Very good.	Very neat and clean.	Very good.	Good.
8.	Very good.	Very neat and clean.	Very good.	Very fair.
9.	Very good.	Very fair.	Very fair.	Very fair.

S. E. HUNT, *Head Teacher.*  
25th April, 1892.

Report of the Boarded-out Children attending the Goulburn-street State School during the year 1891.

	Times present	
1.	27	Fairly regular. Bad health.
2.	206½	Regular.
3.	222½	Ditto
4.	213½	Ditto
5.	223	Ditto
6.	177½	Some time in hospital.
7.	54	Regular.
8.	4½	Left the neighbourhood.
9.	66½	Regular. Left in April.
10.	199½	Ditto
11.	60	Present one quarter. Left in September.
12.	59	Ditto
13.	104	Fairly regular, but some time in hospital; also gave trouble by playing truant.
14.	78½	Regular.

I have had no complaint to make for untidiness, and all have made fair progress except one (3); this boy's conduct is very bad, but he appears to have very little mental capacity.

C. H. RULE, *Head Master, Goulburn-street State School.*  
9th May, 1892.

*Murray-street Free State School, 10th May, 1892.*

SIR,

I have the honor to present my report on the attendance, progress, and general conduct of the Boarded-out Children for 1891.

The attendance in every case has been very regular, as reported weekly by the Certificates to the Relieving Officer. When inspected in the morning they were clean, suitably, and comfortably clothed. Their conduct in school, in most cases, very good. Progress in their education, very fair.

I have &c.

CHARLES HALL.

*State School, New Town—Report of Boarded-out Children for 1891.*

There are only four now attending this school, and they reside with Mrs. Cearns.

*Attendance.*—Good on the whole. They are kept at home sometimes to help the old lady, who is very feeble, but, except in the case of illness, they do not fall below the minimum of three days in a week. I am glad to be able to report a marked improvement in their punctuality.

*Appearance.*—There is nothing to distinguish them from the other children in attendance. They appear well and warmly dressed, and have the look of being cared for at home.

*Progress.*—Satisfactory. One is in the V. class, two in the IV., and one in the III. Florence Keefe, in the V. shows great intelligence, though but a little girl.

RICHARD SMITH, *Head Teacher.*

May 10th, 1892.

*Mildmay Cottage, Launceston, 4th May, 1892.*

*To the Central Committee for Boarded-out Children.*

GENTLEMEN,

Our Committee here are of opinion that there is but little to add to the report given last year of the condition of the children boarded-out in this town. We consider that the changes effected in removing three or four children have been decided improvements, and believe every child is now thoroughly well cared for.

We have at intervals visited the State Schools and Convent School, at which the greater number of boarded-out children are educated, and have therefore learned from the teachers as well as from the foster-parents their views of the children's growth and progress.

I am hoping shortly to have an opportunity of seeing several of the children adopted in the North-Western Districts, and shall then send you a further report. I sincerely hope the practice of adopting children may be more extensively carried out, as, with care, I think it would prove a most happy arrangement. I have two or three applications for little girls, which I have not been able to respond to.

I have &c.

GRACE ELIZABETH SOLTAU, *Hon. Sec. L.V.C.*

*Sunderland, South Glenorchy, 5th May, 1892.*

DEAR SIR,

During the year several changes have taken place in the New Town District for boarded-out children. The boy who was with Mrs. Aherne was apprenticed, also the boy who was with Mrs. Tucker; the little girl having previously been admitted to the Industrial School, left Mrs. Spong and myself only one family to visit, viz., that of Mrs. Cearns.

Poor old Mrs. Cearns had a rather bad fall, and since has kept her bed. Her adopted daughter, Louisa Shields, left her place of business and went home to attend to her foster-mother and the boarded-out children under her care.

The children, we believe, are faithfully cared for by Louisa.

Yours faithfully,

M. FAGG.

*Hobart, 12th May, 1892.*

SIR,

I have the honor to report that the Committee have visited regularly the children boarded-out in their district, and in the majority of cases found them in good health and well cared-for. It was found necessary in some cases to recommend a change in the homes of the children.

I have, &c.

ALBERT REID, *Chairman.*

*The Administrator of Charitable Grants.*

12th May, 1892.

Owing to ill-health and Mrs. Miller's death the boarded-out children were not visited as regularly as they ought to have been; but when we did visit we found the children in good health, and well cared-for by their foster-parents.

Mrs. Baily having consented to visit with me this year, I trust to have a better report for 1892.

HARRIET SALIER.

83, Argyle-street, 10th May, 1892.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for your information that, with one exception, all the boarded-out children attended regularly at Sunday-school during the year 1891. The exception mentioned is 4542, who, from some misunderstanding on the part of the foster-parent, did not attend in the early part of the year.

I have, &amp;c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer*.JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

83, Argyle-street, 10th May, 1892.

SIR,

I have the honor to report for your information that, as regards the conduct of the apprentices from the Boarding-out System during the year 1891, there were no complaints from either masters or servants. Some of those apprentices whose term expired during the year have been remarkably well-conducted, and others, still in service, appear to be equally well-disposed.

On the whole there is a marked improvement in their conduct, and I feel sure that—although we occasionally meet with one who baffles all the good intentions of the Central Committee, like 2519—the prospect of having a little money to start with when they are out of their time is a great inducement to many of them to remain in their situations.

I have, &amp;c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer*.JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*