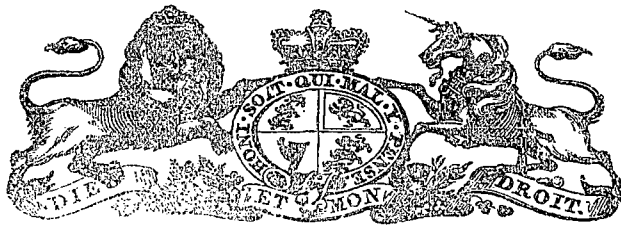


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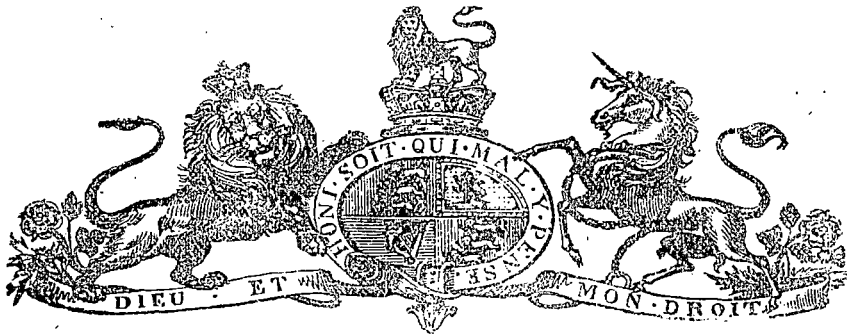
1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN :

REPORT FOR 1884.

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



BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

REPORT for 1884.

Charitable Grants Department, 1st April, 1885.

SIR,

THE Central Committee for boarding out Destitute Children have the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1884.

On the 1st of January of that year the total number of children maintained under the boarding-out system was 120—boys, 64, girls, 56—viz., in—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs	47	42	89
Launceston	4	1	5
Municipalities, &c.	13	13	26
	64	56	120

During the year the Committee held 22 meetings, irrespective of those connected with the annual inspection. Additional children to the number of 15 were provided with homes, and 23 ceased to be a charge upon the funds at the disposal of the Committee; leaving, on the 31st December, a total of 112, distributed as follows:—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs	46	38	84
Launceston	4	2	6
Municipalities, &c.	11	11	22
	61	51	112

eight less than the number with which the year commenced.

The circumstances connected with the 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 23 children referred to above as having ceased to be maintained under the boarding-out system—

- 12 were apprenticed.
- 3 were taken by relatives.
- 2 were admitted to an Industrial School.
- 2 were adopted.
- 1 was in Hospital at end of year.
- 2 died.
- 1 was sent to the Training School, Hobart.

—
23 Total.

The two children admitted to an Industrial School were girls, whose mother had been dead some months and whose father was undergoing a sentence of six months' imprisonment for refusing to comply with an order for the maintenance of his family. The children were left totally unprovided for, and the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society, Launceston,

who was acquainted with all the circumstances connected with the case, strongly recommended their admission to the school at Launceston. They were only maintained under the boarding-out system for a few weeks. The father, after his discharge from sentence, made one payment of £1 10s. and then left the colony. He was reported to be "a most worthless, drunken fellow."

The boy admitted to Hospital was suffering from inflammation of the eye, and was under treatment from the 19th November, 1884, to the 7th January, 1885, when he was discharged to all appearance well, and again became a charge under the boarding-out system.

With respect to the two deaths during the year, one was that of an infant seven months old, from thrush and diarrhoea, whose mother died in giving her birth. The child was ailing more or less from the first, and suffered from inguinal hernia, as certified by Dr. Turnley. Every attention was paid to her, and an extra sum was allowed to the person in whose charge she was. This case is well known to the Hon. W. L. Crowther, who interested himself in it, and had some correspondence with the relatives of the child's mother, who resided at Otahuhu, Auckland, New Zealand.

In the other case deceased was seventeen years old at the time of her death. She was brought up under the boarding-out system, and in due course went to service, but in about eighteen months she had to enter the Hospital, suffering, it was believed, from internal tumour. After staying there some time she was taken by a friend, who looked after her until her re-admission to Hospital became necessary. On this occasion she remained an inmate for nine months, and upon her discharge was again provided for under the boarding-out system. In three months, however, she had to return to the Hospital, and died there ten weeks afterwards, from lumbar abscess.

The child admitted to the Training School, Hobart, was an habitual absconder from his foster-parent. He was arrested by the Police as a vagrant on the 28th November, and ordered by the Bench to be sent to the School for five years. His conduct since has been very good.

The total number of children for whom provision was made during the year was 135, but 95 only were maintained for the full term of twelve months. The remainder, 40, were a charge for shorter periods, varying from 14 to 362 days.

The expenditure for the year was as follows :—

	£	s.	d.
Salary of Inspecting Officer	180	0	0
Maintenance of children	1742	7	0
Cost of clothing purchased	9	4	3
Miscellaneous	2	16	6
	<hr/>		
	1934	7	9
Less repayments made by relatives	34	6	10
	<hr/>		
	1900	0	11
Unexpended balance	479	19	1
	<hr/>		
Voted by Parliament	£2380	0	0
	<hr/> <hr/>		

The actual cost per head amounted to £14 1s. 5½d.

In addition to the expenditure for clothing stated above, articles of the value of £3 11s. 2d. were issued from the Stores received from the Colonial Storekeeper in 1883, and for which, as shown in the Report for that year, the sum of £26 15s. 11d. was charged; also goods to the value of £2 7s. 8d. from the clothing transferred by the Storekeeper at the same time, but without charge to the Committee.

On the 1st March, 1884, the increased payment from 5s. to 6s. a week for the maintenance of each child took effect, and the foster-parents have been enabled to make better provision for the children, especially in the matter of clothing. The Inspecting Officer, upon being questioned on this point, stated that since the payment of the additional allowance he has noticed an improvement in the appearance of the children when he has met them on their way to and from school, and that he has every reason to believe they have benefited by it in other ways as well. The feeling that so long existed amongst the foster-parents that they were insufficiently paid has now been removed, and they have been placed in a position to do ample justice to the children.

Notwithstanding the extra payment the expenditure on account of the year was only £47 18s. in excess of 1883, and there remained, as previously shown, an unexpended balance of £479 19s. 1d.; thus fully bearing out the opinion expressed by the Committee in their Report for 1882, when pressing upon the Government the necessity for the better payment of the foster-parents, that the sum hitherto voted by Parliament would be amply sufficient for all purposes.

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

			<i>Cost per head.</i>	<i>Allowance per week.</i>
1881.....	£2094 6 6		£13 14 9 ³ / ₄	5s.
1882.....	1912 19 0		13 13 8 ¹ / ₂	5s.
1883.....	1852 2 11		14 1 10 ¹ / ₄	5s.
1884.....	1900 0 11 [*]		14 1 5 ¹ / ₂	{ 5s. for 2 months. } 6s. for 10 months.

Annual Inspection.

On the 23rd June the Committee commenced their annual inspection of the children boarded out in Hobart, at New Town, and Sandy Bay, and continued it on the 25th, 27th, and 30th. Thirty-six homes were visited, and the Committee were much pleased with the arrangements of the foster-parents for the comfort and well-being of the children. The foster-parents reside in decent neighbourhoods, and have ample accommodation for the children under their charge. The sleeping apartments of the children are well lighted and ventilated, and the beds and bedding clean and comfortable. The children were also found to be well supplied with clothing, made of good warm material, and their appearance afforded every indication of kind motherly care and attention. The visits were paid, as usual, without notice to the foster-parents, consequently there was no opportunity afforded them of making preparations for the reception of the Committee, or of giving to their homes an undue appearance of smartness or cleanliness. Many of them were engaged in their household duties, washing, scrubbing, or cooking, and it was very evident from their manner that the visit of the Committee was altogether unexpected,—indeed some expressed regret at not knowing of it, and apologised for their homes and selves not being as tidy as they could have wished. One of the objects of the Committee, viz., that of seeing something of the daily life and occupations of the foster-parents, was thus gained, and there was every reason to believe that the children were in the hands of respectable and well conducted women, who were doing their best to carry out the important work entrusted to them.

In connection with this matter the Committee beg to forward a letter received from Mr. Thomas S. Reed, the Chairman of the Destitute Board, South Australia, who, when visiting the colony at the beginning of this year, expressed a wish to inspect some of the homes of the children in Hobart. The testimony borne by Mr. Reed, who is thoroughly conversant with the working of the boarding-out system in South Australia, to the satisfactory manner in which that system is being carried out here, is most gratifying, and is in the highest degree confirmatory of the Committee's annual reports upon the subject.

Attendance at School.

The attendance at school of such of the children as were old enough to go was regular, and from the annexed reports from the Principals of the several schools attended by the children it will be seen that they made fair progress, and, as a rule, compared favourably with other scholars.

The duty of sending the children to Sunday-school was also faithfully discharged by the foster-parents, as far as practicable. A report on the subject from the Inspecting Officer is appended hereto.

Health of Children.

There was very little sickness amongst the children during the year. One lad living at Oatlands suffered from rheumatic fever, and was attended by the medical man residing in the district. An extra allowance of 2s. 6d. per week was given to the foster-parent during the four weeks the boy was laid up.

A girl boarded out at Bothwell was reported by the Warden to be in a very weak and delicate state with violent palpitation of the heart, and, as there was no medical man on the spot, it was considered expedient to have her admitted to the General Hospital, where she remained a fortnight. A home was then found for her in Hobart, so that she might have the benefit of medical treatment as an out-patient. She is now attending school regularly, and appears to be in better health than she has been for a long time. Three boys boarded out in Hobart were also under medical treatment during the year. One, who was 13 years old on the 4th October, 1884, has always been delicate, and his sight is now failing. He is quite unfit for any occupation, and has had to be kept from school for some time past. It is feared that he will be a permanent charge upon the Government. Two others met with accidents, by falling in the street—one injured his elbow and the other broke his arm—but they soon recovered and resumed their school duties.

Changes in Homes.

In some few instances it was found necessary to make changes in the homes of children, particulars of which are as follows :—

1. A boy, whose foster-parent, from failing health, was unable to give him proper attention.
2. Removed owing to the intemperate and dissolute conduct of his foster-parents, who resided at Campbell Town.
3. Two boys, on the marriage of their foster-parent, who asked to be relieved of the charge.
4. A lad, in consequence of the repeated neglect of the foster-parent to send him to school.
5. A lad, who was old enough to be apprenticed, but who was found to be so backward in his education that it became necessary to allow him further time to receive instruction, and he was, therefore, placed with a person who could be depended upon to send him to school, and to look well after him.
6. A boy, whose foster-parent could not control him, and requested his removal. This is the boy referred to in the report of the master of the Battery Point Public School.
7. A lad, who absconded twice from his foster-parent, and at last begged not to be sent back, as he did not like his home, and said he was not kindly treated there. He is a troublesome boy, and dislikes school. His present foster-parent complains that she cannot keep him off the streets. As he is now old enough to go out to service a suitable place is being sought for him.

Visiting Committees, &c.

The Visiting Committees have continued to interest themselves in the welfare of the children, and it affords the Committee much pleasure to acknowledge the valuable services rendered by them, and the assistance they have so generously given in securing to the children in their respective districts the advantages of the system under which they are being brought up. Reports from the various Visiting Committees are appended hereto. Periodical reports were also received by the Committee from Mr. Judge, the Inspecting Officer, who saw the children frequently during the year, and was in constant communication with the foster-parents. The children at New Town and Sandy Bay were also regularly visited by that Officer, as well as by the Sub-Inspectors of Police and every care was taken that the interests of the children were not neglected.

The condition of the children boarded out in Launceston and other parts of the colony was periodically reported upon by the Police Magistrates and Wardens, who rendered the Committee every assistance in carrying out the regulations with regard to the treatment of the children generally, and their attendance at School and Sunday-school.

Apprentices.

The children at service under the boarding-out system, and those who were living with persons by whom they had been adopted, numbered 68 at the end of the year, and the deposits in the Savings Bank to the credit of such as have accounts amounted to £245 3s. ; payments amounting to £15 13s. 4d. for the last quarter of the year were subsequently received and paid into the Bank, making the total deposits £260 16s. 4d., distributed amongst 67 accounts.

Up to the 31st December, 1884, 118 children had been sent out as above, but of that number 50 have ceased to be under the control of the Committee. The remainder are still living with the persons to whom they have been apprenticed, and, with the exception of a few who have given some trouble, are doing very well indeed.

During the year payments from the Savings Bank to the amount of £13 15s. 1d. were made to apprentices who had completed their term of service, and were therefore entitled to receive the amounts to their credit.

In collecting the quarterly payments from the employers residing in and about Hobart, Mr. Judge, the Inspecting Officer, who is most conscientious and painstaking, made it his business to see the apprentices, and to ascertain how they were treated, and to what extent they were giving satisfaction to their masters. Reports from that Officer and the Sub-Inspector of Police, New Town, on this subject are forwarded herewith.

With regard to the apprentices who had places in the country, the same information was obtained through the courtesy of the Wardens and Magistrates of the districts to which the children belonged.

Appointments, Resignations, &c.

On the 4th April, 1884, Colonel Bernard was appointed a member of the Committee, in the place of Mr. Alexander Riddoch, whose resignation was referred to in the Report for 1883. In

September the Hon. W. H. Burgess having accepted the office of Treasurer, retired; and on the 20th of the following month Dr. W. J. G. Bedford was appointed in his stead. During the time Mr. Burgess was a member of the Committee he took a large interest in all that pertained to the comfort and happiness of the children, and the Committee regretted to lose the aid of so valuable a member. The death of Mr. R. A. Mather caused another vacancy, which was filled by the appointment of Mr. A. M. Ritchie. The Committee desire to place on record their appreciation of the important services rendered by the late Mr. Mather, and of his untiring efforts in the cause of the boarded-out children, who by his decease have been deprived of a kind-hearted and most sincere friend.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

J. O'BOYLE, *Chairman*.
W. TARLETON.
JAMES GRANT.
A. P. GARNETT.
H. BERNARD.
A. M. RITCHIE.
W. J. G. BEDFORD.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Destitute Board Office, Adelaide, 23rd February, 1885.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING embraced the opportunity during my recent visit of enquiring into the general features of your boarding-out system, I have much pleasure in recording my testimony to the success with which your efforts in this direction have apparently been attended.

Wishing to know something more than through mere report, whether written or oral, I visited, through your kindness, and under the guidance of your Inspector, a number of Hobart homes.

The houses I saw were well furnished, and clean and comfortable throughout; the more noticeable as the visits were not anticipated, and early in the day. The children seemed bright and happy, and evidently well cared for. I looked in vain for the crushed, machine-like expression so manifest in the faces of all children massed together in large schools, and so inseparable from their routine and constraint, but happily absent from the boarded-out child, who has personal care, home affection, and individual training—advantages that were evidently enjoyed by your Hobart children; and I cannot but congratulate you on the character and judicious selection of the homes.

I have, &c.

THOMAS P. REED, *Chairman*.

J. O'BOYLE, *Esq., Administrator Charitable Grants, Hobart.*

Elboden Place, Hobart, 22nd April, 1884.

SIR,

Your Visiting Committee for South City beg to lay before you their report for quarter ending 31st March, 1884.

The children under their charge have been regularly visited, and, with one exception, have been found to be doing well, and attending school regularly.

The foster-parents appreciate the small increase of the grant-in-aid made by the Government for the support of the destitute children.

The one exception alluded to above is case No. 4025, where we found on inquiry that the boy's attendance at the day-school had been for some months past only an average of two days a week, and that, although illness was pleaded as an excuse, each day when he did attend school was curtailed by an hour and a-half on account of his services being required by his foster-parent. This, we think, should be inquired into, and the Inspector sent to report.

I have, &c.

W. H. GRAHAM.

The Chairman Central Committee Boarding-out Destitute Children, Hobart.

Hobart, 26th February, 1885.

SIR,

Your Visiting Committee for South City beg to forward you their report for the half-year ending 31st December, 1884.

The children under their charge have been regularly and frequently visited, with, on the whole, satisfactory results. They seem happy, contented, and well clothed and fed, attending both Sunday and day-school regularly; and we can confidently repeat our opinion, stated in our last year's report, that the system of "boarding-out" seems to work well.

One boy, 4025, Patrick Woods, absconded from his foster-parent, and on being placed in another home seemed still to prefer a vagrant life, and had to be sent to the Reformatory.

The general health has been good. One boy, Newton, 2412, has been in Hospital with an injury to his eye, but is getting better.

I have, &c.

W. H. GRAHAM.

The Chairman Central Committee Boarding-out Destitute Children.

Hobart, 25th April, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that Mrs. G. Salier and myself visited the homes of the boarded-out children last Saturday. We found that all the children were attending day and Sunday-school regularly, and that they were well conducted and well behaved in all particulars.

The children, the foster-parents said, were exceptionally good, and were all that could be wished for in conduct. This is very satisfactory, as indicating that the training they had received was telling upon them.

I have the honor further to report that the children are generally well behaved, and that there is no especial fault chargeable upon any of them.

I have, &c.

R. ANDREW MATHER, *Chairman of North City.*

J. O'BOYLE, *Esq., Administrator of Charitable Grants.*

27th March, 1885.

SIR,

SINCE April, 1884, Mrs. Miller and myself have visited the boarded-out children in our district regularly, Mr. Mather's feeble health preventing his accompanying us. The children have all been remarkably well during the year, and we have been much pleased with the improvement in many of them. The bedding is sufficient, clothing in good order, and the homes comfortable, speaking well for the care of their foster-parents.

I have, &c.

HARRIET SALIER.

Hobart, 10th April, 1885.

SIR,

THE Visiting Committee for Central Hobart beg to report that they visited the various homes, and found the children on the whole looking well and healthy.

The foster-parents speak satisfactorily of the children's conduct. They are also very thankful for the additional weekly stipend; and the children, we have no doubt, will greatly benefit by it. They are sent regularly to church and school.

I have, &c.

HENRY HUNTER, *Chairman.*

To the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

DURING the year I have frequently visited the children in my district. With the exception of a few things I have mentioned to Mr. O'Boyle I have been quite satisfied that the children are carefully and kindly treated. They are all in good health, and are sent regularly to school and Sunday-school.

C. S. PARSONS,
Member Visiting Committee, Central Hobart.

New Town, Tasmania.

DEAR SIR,

YOUR Committee for New Town desire me to report that all is satisfactory, both in regard to the children themselves and the foster-parents who have charge of them. They have no complaints to bring under your notice.

They regret that from unavoidable causes the children have not been visited as frequently as they would have liked, but trust that the year 1885 will enable them better to fulfil this duty.

I have, &c.

R. J. ELLIS.

J. O'BOYLE, *Esq., Hobart.*

Battery Point Public School, Hobart, 21st February, 1885.

SIR,

CONCERNING the boarded-out children attending this school during the year 1884, I have the honor to report that their attendance was regular, being much above the average of the whole school; that their appearance has always been respectable, clothing clean and whole, skin and hair clean.

With regard to conduct, I regret not to be able to speak in unqualified terms of praise. The boys living with Mrs. Easy have somewhat deteriorated during the latter part of the year, and I have accounted for it to myself by the coming amongst them of a boy named Henry Cooper.

Their progress has been satisfactory. As a rule they are promoted from class to class at the same intervals as the other children.

I have, &c.

M. MCPHEE.

Public School, New Town, 4th March, 1885.

ANNUAL Report of the attendance, appearance, conduct, and progress of the boarded-out children attending this school:—

1.—Attendance, regular; appearance, neat and clean; conduct, good; progress, fair. 2.—Attendance, regular; appearance, neat and clean; conduct, good; progress, fair. 3.—Attendance, fairly regular; appearance, neat and clean; conduct, fairly good; progress, fair. 4.—Attendance, regular; appearance, slovenly at times; conduct, troublesome; progress, middling. 5.—Attendance, regular; appearance, neat and tidy; conduct, troublesome; progress, middling. 6.—Attendance, regular; appearance, neat and tidy; conduct, good; progress, unsatisfactory. 7.—Attendance, regular, but sometimes late; appearance, slovenly, but now improving; conduct, good; progress, satisfactory.

STEPHEN HUGHES, *Conductor.*

Murray-street Free Public School, 28th February, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report very favourably respecting the boarded-out children attending this school during the past year. At the daily inspection I have very seldom to send any to wash themselves—they come clean; and, as a whole, their clothing is suitable, and, in many cases, very much better than some of the children living with their parents. They make good progress in their school work, putting forth as much diligence as can be expected. Two families come very often late to school, but a word from the Relieving Officer will have a good effect—namely, Woods and Elwill.

I have, &c.

CHARLES HALL.

Williamson-street, 17th March, 1885.

SIR,

AGNES Elbert attends my school. She is clean and tidy, and makes fair progress with her lessons.

ANNIE PAYNE.

Presentation Convent, Hobart, 4th March, 1885.

DEAR SIR,

WITH regard to the boarded-out children, I am happy to say that the four who attended our school during the year 1884 have been, in every respect, most satisfactory; their attendance regular, appearance healthy and neat, conduct excellent, and progress satisfactory.

I have, &c.

MARY DE SALES BOYLSON.

Cascade Free School, 7th March, 1885.

SIR,

WITH reference to the memo. sent me on 23rd February, I have to report for your information as under, viz.—That during the year 1884 there were three boarded-out children attending this school. Their attendance has been most regular, appearance neat and clean, conduct and progress most satisfactory.

I have, &c.

E. MITCHELL, *Head Mistress.*

St. Joseph's Girls' School, 25th February, 1885.

THE Sisters of Charity's compliments, and herewith furnish the required information respecting the boarded-out children who have attended St. Joseph's Girls' School during the year 1884.

1.—Conduct, very good; attendance, very regular; appearance, creditable; progress, satisfactory. 2.—Conduct, very good; attendance, very regular; appearance, very creditable; progress, good. 3.—Conduct, very good; attendance, regular until August; appearance, very creditable; progress, fair. 4. (blind)—Conduct, good; attendance, very regular; appearance, creditable.

Watchorn-street School, 26th February, 1885.

SIR,

ERNEST and Herbert Myatt were admitted into this school in June, 1884, and from that time to the end of the year their attendance, order, and appearance was very satisfactory. Their progress was also fair.

J. PROCTOR, *Mistress.*

Lower Collins-street Ragged School, 26th February, 1885.

SIR,

WE have two children now in the school, from different homes. They are both regular in attendance, clean in person, and diligent in their studies. One appears delicate in constitution, but is well cared for.

Three children attended during part of the year 1884, all boarded at one house. They were regular in attendance, clean in person, and evidently well cared for. Their conduct was not satisfactory, and it was thought better to change their surroundings by sending them to another school. The School Committee paid considerable attention to the case.

I have, &c.

JOHN PIERCE.

Southern Star Hall Day School, 9th March, 1885.

ARTHUR Smith has been a pupil of this school during the year 1884. During that period his conduct has been good, attendance regular, and improvement fair.

W. F. MULHALL, *Master.*

St. Joseph's School, 25th February, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor of furnishing the following *re* boarded-out children who have attended St. Joseph's Boys' School during the year 1884, for the information of the Central Committee for boarding-out destitute children:—

1.—Attendance, very regular; appearance, most creditable; conduct, good; progress, fair. 2.—Attendance, very regular; appearance, creditable; conduct, good; progress, very fair. 3.—Attendance, very regular; appearance, creditable; conduct, good; progress, but slight.

I have, &c.

T. MITCHELL.

To JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq., Hobart.*

Argyle-street, 14th March, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that, as regards the attendance of the boarded-out children at Sunday-school, the certificates supplied by clergymen and others in charge of the different schools show that all those children who were old enough have been unremitting in their attendance at religious instruction during the year 1884.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq., Chairman, &c.*

Argyle-street, 14th March, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that, having visited all the apprentices from the boarding-out system in town and Sandy Bay, I am in a position to say they are, in every particular, as well treated as can be desired. In some three or four instances the employers complain that the children are untruthful, and a few others that they are dilatory when running messages; but these seem to be the only causes of complaint. The lad 1065 is, however, an exception to the general rule, and still gives his master a deal of trouble and annoyance.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq., Chairman, &c.*

MEMO.

WITH reference to this matter, I beg to report for your information that the apprentices in this district appear, from inquiry, to be comfortably fed and clothed, and, on the whole, are giving satisfaction to their masters and mistresses.

T. B. COLLETT, *S.I.*
New Town, 25. 2. 85.
