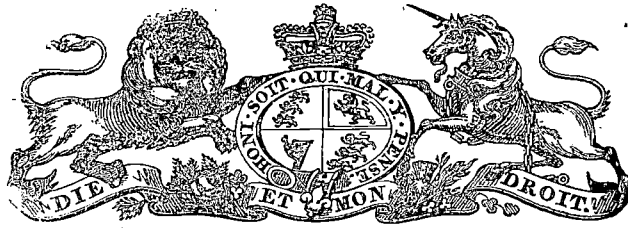


(No. 20.)



1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOYS' TRAINING SCHOOL, CASCADES :

REPORT FOR 1891.

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



REPORT of the Managers of the BOYS' TRAINING SCHOOL, CASCADES, 1891.

THE Managers of the Boys' Training School have the honor to forward herewith for the information of the Government the Report furnished them by the Superintendent for the year 1891.

During the past year the Rev. Canon Archer retired from the Board of Management, and the Rev. J. K. M'Intyre was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The Managers are pleased to report on the work of the School as continuing efficient and satisfactory, with the exception of the several cases of absconding which have occurred: these are, however, unavoidable from time to time. The new swimming bath is much appreciated by the boys, and other minor improvements on the premises have been made as opportunity offered.

The accounts herewith show the management is economical,—the cost per head being £26 10s. 8^d. (less than last year), whilst the sales from the Farm show an increase of £84 6s. 4^d.

The Managers desire to express their thanks to the Chief Secretary and the officers of his Department for their courtesy and willing assistance in all matters concerning the School.

J. W. SIMMONS,
THEOPS. CANE, } *Managers.*
F. BELSTEAD,
E. MAHER, }
JOHN MACFARLANE, *Hon. Secretary.*

SUPERINTENDENT'S Report to the Managers of the Boys' Training School, Cascades, for the Year 1891.

January, 1892.

I HAVE again the pleasure of presenting a Report on the work of the Boys' Training School for the year ending 31st December, 1891.

This is now the eighth Report I have been privileged to prepare, and it might be well on this occasion to give a brief retrospect of what has so far been accomplished. The Institution I had the honor of starting was commenced and has been continued on several well-known lines, which may be repeated. 1st. There has been an effort to inspire, as far as possible, a family feeling in the School and to create a home influence. 2nd. To give as much freedom as can be given compatible with strict discipline. 3rd. To stimulate the lads to prove themselves worthy of confidence by their conduct. 4th. To avoid, as far as possible, corporal punishment, agreeing with a great educational authority who remarks—"I am convinced that corporal punishment is almost wholly unnecessary, that it does more harm than good, and that just the proportion in which teachers understand their business they will try to dispense with it. The great triumph of school discipline is to do without punishment altogether." 5th. To exert, as far as possible, a personal and parental influence over each inmate.

Such principles as these have been at the foundation of the successful reformation of juvenile offenders in the "Old World," and so far have met with considerable success here. At all events, notwithstanding much to discourage one in such work, there is no reason why these well-tested and well-trying principles should be departed from. Since the Institution opened upwards of ninety boys have gone forth, and are now engaged in the battle of life; and although some have erred from the paths of rectitude the proportion, it is gratifying to say, is comparatively small, as out of this number some eighty are doing well. Those who may be said to have done badly for a time are bound to have benefited to some extent from the training, discipline, and good influence brought to bear upon them while here; and it is not too much to hope that they may, in years afterwards, remember and benefit from their early training.

The year 1891 commenced with forty-six boys on the roll. During the year eighteen boys were admitted and twenty-one left, leaving at the end of the year forty-three inmates.

Admissions.

Of the 18 boys admitted 6 were from Hobart, 4 from Launceston, 2 from Beaconsfield, 2 from Mount Zeehan, and 1 from each of the following places:—Glenorchy, Devonport, Kempton, and Gladstone.

Ages of Boys when admitted.

Three were aged 15, four 14, five 13, four 12, one 11, and one 10.

Periods for which the Boys were sentenced.

For three years, 13; for four years, 3; and for five years, 2.

Family Circumstances.

Fatherless, 6; motherless, 1; orphans, 3; both parents alive, 8.

Offences for which sentenced.

For theft, 13; for being idle and disorderly, 3; for housebreaking, 1; for uttering a forged cheque, 1. Among the cases admitted this year are some of a rather serious character; and show the lads to be of a daring and determined disposition. One lad admitted has shown a most determined inclination to get away, and has, unfortunately, been the means of unsettling several others. There were two admissions from the Supreme Court, one being a lad who has graduated in gaol, and has shown from previous convictions to be of a remarkably cunning and deceitful disposition. Probably he may benefit from his sojourn, although the chances are he may contaminate others. Two boys have been received who had only reached Tasmania a short time previously from a neighbouring Colony, where one, if not both, had been convicted of theft and imprisoned. There are several others admitted who had previously been convicted, and there are some who were fast drifting to a criminal career, who it is to be hoped will be checked in their downward course and benefit from being placed under the influence of the Institution.

Discharges.

Coming next to the twenty-one boys who have this year gone from the Institution, I shall adopt a new plan, and deal with each case individually. For obvious reasons the names of the lads will be suppressed; but, by using the initials of their names, each individual boy who has left during the year can be readily traced.

- T. S.—This lad continues in his place, and is doing very well.
- J. W.—Still in his place, also doing well.
- W. C.—Went to a trade, did fairly well, now with his friends.
- D. S.—Has done well, still in his place.
- F. C.—Continues in his first place, report of his conduct very favourable.
- W. P.—This lad has given every satisfaction, and is still in his first place.
- R. W.—Went to a trade, report fairly good.
- D. C.—Went to a situation, has got on well.
- H. B.—Has gone to a trade, doing well, frequently visits.
- J. L.—Stayed in his situation some time after the expiry of his sentence, did well, now with his friends.
- R. W.—This boy has done well, and continues so.
- J. M.—The boy has gone to a second situation, report favourable.
- C. B.—This lad has left his situation, and his whereabouts are at present unknown.
- F. B.—Has kept his first place, report very favourable.
- H. N.—This boy has got on well and continues in his first place.
- F. N.—In his second situation, report fairly good.
- G. C.—This lad continues in his first place, and the report by his master is very favourable.
- J. S. and A. S.—Two brothers, discharged by order of Chief Secretary. Were both very ignorant; would probably have benefited from a short sojourn in the Institution.
- J. B. and A. H.—Two lads absconded, and at the end of the year had not been recovered.

It will be seen from the above Report that, of the twenty-one boys who have left the Institution during the year, sixteen are known to be doing well, two were discharged shortly after their admission, one has left his place and his whereabouts are unknown, and two have absconded. On the whole, there is every reason for satisfaction with the conduct of the boys who have left this year; and if the good reports continue one will feel that their labour has not been in vain.

Health of the Inmates.

There has been no illness of any sort throughout the year. The services of Dr. Barnard, the medical attendant, have not once been required.

General Behaviour.

Last year I was able to report that not a single case of absconding had occurred during the previous eighteen months. This year, I regret to say, several attempts have been made to get away. I attribute all the attempts to the influence of a new comer, who from the very first appeared determined to clear out. His influence has had a bad effect on several boys who previously behaved well. Situated as we are it is a difficult matter, however vigilant the officers are, to prevent this if several boys are so determined. The general behaviour has been good,—there being nothing of a serious character throughout the year.

Educational Condition.

Of the boys received during the year eight of them were quite ignorant, in fact the alphabet was unknown to them; five could read and write a little, and five fairly well. The class of lads received show little cleverness in scholastic attainments, and to give them even a smattering of the three R's is very up-hill work. The Senior Inspector of Schools (Mr. Rule) paid his usual visit of inspection in December, and his report is annexed.

Industrial Departments.

During the year just closed the boys have been kept quite busy at their various industries. The income from all sources has reached the sum of £291 16s. 6d., being £85 12s. 9d. in advance of last year, and is the highest yearly amount yet earned. Among the items sold are some 25,000 pints milk, and 13 tons potatoes, fruit, and vegetables. The income from the first is £191 6s. 1d., and from the other £66 5s. 1d. Sale of pigs and various sundries make up the remainder. The carpenters have performed the usual and necessary repairs, and have also carried out several improvements. The school-room has been increased in size and removable partitions erected between the carpenter's shop and the dining-room. This allows a large room to be got ready at any time it may be required. They also assisted in the construction of a swimming bath in the adjoining yard. This is a most useful adjunct to the Institution, and has already proved a great boon to the lads, who are fast becoming proficient in the art of swimming. It is a substantially built bath of brick and cement, and measures 45 ft. × 25 ft. It has a depth of 4½ ft. at one end, and 3 ft. at the other. The bricks were got from several old buildings which were demolished. The boys' ordinary washing-bath has also been increased in size, and built of brick and cement. Several minor improvements have also been carried out. The farm-boys have had plenty of work in the usual occupations of the farm, such as milking, planting potatoes, digging, sowing, cutting hay, feeding pigs, attending the horses, and many other odd jobs. The training of the lads in this department is very practical, and cannot fail being useful. The gardeners have been fully employed keeping the garden in order, pruning the trees, gathering fruit, sowing the various seeds and other necessary occupations about a garden. It may be mentioned that at the end of the year fourteen boys were employed on the farm,—twelve in the garden, six in the carpenters' shop, and the remainder as washing, scullery, and kitchen boys. Their hours of labour are from 7 A.M. to 8 A.M., 10·45 A.M. to 1 P.M., and 2·30 P.M. to 5 P.M.

Recreation.

Various plans have been adopted to amuse the lads: the old adage "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy" has not been forgotten. Among the leading events of the year must be mentioned the annual entertainment, which passed off with the usual success—the trip to Denne's Point—an exceedingly interesting event, and enjoyed by all. Several magic lantern entertainments have been given during the year by Mr. Macfarlane, the Hon. Secretary, and other kind friends. Football and cricketing requisites were provided, and everything done to make the boys' life in the Institution a happy and pleasant one.

Religious Instruction.

The boys have had careful attention in this important part of their training. They show on arrival a remarkable lack of religious knowledge,—the simplest facts of Bible history being in many cases quite unknown to them. The Protestant boys have had frequent visits from the Rev. Mr. Wayne, the officiating clergyman at "All Saints." This gentleman has also conducted public worship in the school-room on several Sunday afternoons. The Roman Catholic boys have had religious instruction imparted to them at regular intervals by the Rev. Fathers Gilleran and Grant, as well as the Sisters of Charity.

The Officials.

There has been one change in the staff of officials during the year. The gardener, Mr. James Scott, after four years' faithful service, having left, Mr. John Tagg was appointed his successor. The other officials, Mrs. Farquhar, matron, Mr. Thomas Hone, carpenter, and Mr. Alfred Langtree, farm overseer, continue as last year, and perform their respective duties faithfully and well.

General Remarks.

I have sometimes thought it would be beneficial to the lads to have drill introduced. Perhaps in time it might be possible to form a company of cadets; and, if the Government allowed sufficient money to purchase instruments to form a brass band, would be to some an admirable training, and be in accordance with what exists in almost every reformatory institution for boys. Speaking on drill, a gentleman of large experience writes—"The health and bearing is better, their habitual mental tone is improved, common disciplinary difficulties have been diminished or well nigh removed, and the military government of a Reformatory seems now almost indispensable to satisfactory management."

I consider assistance in the school-room necessary to give the boys the attention required in the short time devoted to school teaching. There has been on an average over forty boys in daily attendance throughout the year; and with this number, which might be increased at any time, it is impossible for a Superintendent, with the multifarious duties, clerical and otherwise, of his office, as well as frequent detentions by visitors, &c., to devote that attention to school duties which is really required. I am not aware of any Reformatory where the Superintendent is required to do the teaching, and in this case without a single qualified assistant he can fall back upon in an emergency, which may occur at any moment. It is customary in many Reformatories to have a young man under training for such work, which really requires a special training, there being a tact and aptitude necessary which can only be acquired by experience. I think such a young man could be found, who would assist in the school-room and in any other direction required of him.

I have now endeavoured to lay before you all the necessary facts and figures relative to the working of the Institution during the past year. In some respects the year just closed has been a more anxious one than some of its predecessors, still there is much to be thankful for. Although the work has been carried on quietly and unobtrusively, it has been none the less real, and, let us hope, lasting in its results.

In conclusion, I must cordially acknowledge Mr. Macfarlane's frequent visits and kind sympathy and assistance in the work of the Institution and the welfare of the boys.

JAMES LONGMORE, *Superintendent*.

ABSTRACT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year ending 31st December, 1891.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Reimbursement by parents of boys in Training School.....	13 0 1	Salaries	396 0 0
Net profit on working Farm	67 15 3	Provisions	336 13 6
Balance net cost of Establishment ...	1087 18 7	Clothing, bedding, and stores	219 7 10
		Washing, fuel, and light	79 8 2
		Travelling, excursion, and petty expenses	23 18 8
		Medicines	2 8 0
		Stationery, printing, and school-books	11 4 9
		Alterations and repairs	74 19 3
		Furniture and material	24 13 9
	<u>£1168 13 11</u>		<u>£1168 13 11</u>

FARM Account.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Sale of milk, &c.....	191 6 1	Salary, farm labourer	91 5 0
Sale of potatoes, fruit, and vegetables...	66 5 1	Tools, &c.....	5 0 0
Service of bull	6 14 0	Bran, straw, hay, and seeds	89 7 9
Sale of pigs, &c.	7 15 0	Live stock	8 17 6
Other receipts	6 16 3	Fencing and repairs	16 10 11
		Balance, profit.....	67 15 3
	<u>£278 16 5</u>		<u>£278 16 5</u>

The daily average of inmates in the Institution in the year 1891 amounted to 41, and the net cost of the Establishment, as shown in the above Abstract, is £1087 18s. 7d., or an average amount per inmate per annum of £26 10s. 8¼d. An alteration has been made this year in the manner of stating the Accounts,—the items for permanent works such as alterations and repairs, furniture and material, both for the Institution and Farm formerly being excluded from the calculation, but these have now been included,—the total of such permanent works for 1891 amounting to £116 3s. 11d. The average cost includes supervision, teaching, maintenance, clothing, &c.; and, in addition to the net profit of £67 15s. 3d. from working the farm, there was at the end of the year a crop of hay, maize, mangolds, and potatoes, as well as a number of young live stock on hand.

JAMES LONGMORE, *Superintendent*.

BOYS' TRAINING SCHOOL.

Report of Annual Examination, 17th December, 1891.

THE number of boys examined was 43. The classification was as follows :—

Lower First Class	7
Upper First Class	11
Second Class	16
Third Class	3
Fourth Class	6

In the Lower First one boy was found up to the full standards for promotion in all three elementary subjects.

In the Upper First all passed in Reading, 5 reaching full standard ; all passed in Writing, 6 reaching full standard ; while all passed up to the full standard in Arithmetic.

In the Second Class all passed, 5 reaching full standards in all three subjects.

In the Third Class all passed, reaching full standards in Reading and Writing, passed also in Arithmetic below full standard.

In the Fourth Class all passed in three subjects, 5 to full standard in Reading, 4 in Writing and Arithmetic.

The progress of 25 boys is found traceable. That of 5 has been good ; that of 3 has been fair ; that of 13 has been moderate ; that of 4 has been slow.

Under the special circumstances of the School, these results ought to be considered creditable.

I found the demeanour and conduct of the boys during examination very satisfactory.

J. RULE, *Senior Inspector of Schools.*
27th January, 1892.

The Honorable the Minister of Education.