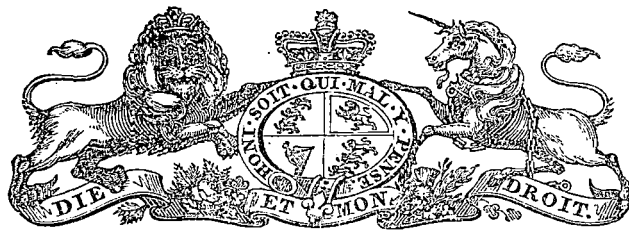


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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

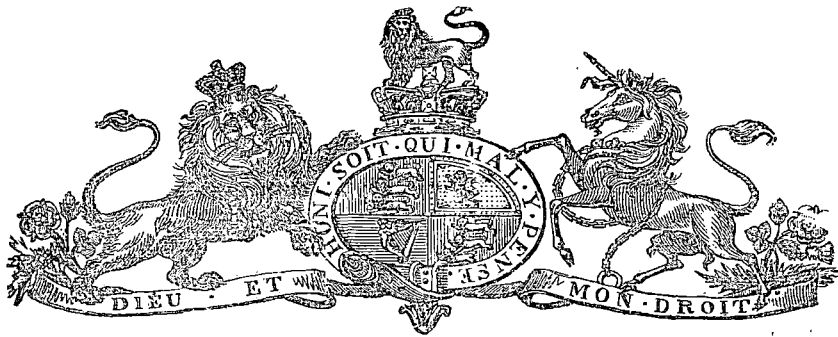
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BOYS' TRAINING SCHOOL, CASCADES :

REPORT FOR 1889.

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



*REPORT of the Managers of the Boys' Training School, Cascades, 1889.*

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THE Managers of the Boys' Training School herewith forward for the information of the Government the Report furnished them by the Superintendent of the Establishment respecting that important and useful Institution, which seems to embrace almost everything that they would wish to refer to.

Three-fourths of the year that is past was a time of almost continued trial and trouble, through the unsettlement occasioned by one restless boy; but the climax was reached when he set fire to his bedroom, hoping thereby to be able to get away, for which object he endangered his own life and the lives of others, as well as the premises. However, he did not gain his purpose, as the fire was discovered before any serious harm was done, and he was handed over to the Police. The circumstance has caused preparation to be made for any such casualty in the future, an order having been given for a Fire Engine and Reel, with all needful appliances to be provided. A shed has been prepared for housing the machines; and it is intended to train some of the boys to their use. The Superintendent of the Fire Brigade has kindly promised to give the boys some lessons, which he thinks will inspirit them for the work.

Since the removal of the disturbing spirit, everything has proceeded quietly and satisfactorily. The boys are healthy, industrious, cheerful, and happy; and the officers perform their duties well, and manifest a deep interest in their work. It is pleasing to know and to see that the boys who are licensed out look upon the School as their home; and, whenever they have an opportunity of coming to Town, they visit the Institution. They also have full confidence in the Superintendent as their friend; and they apply to him in cases of trouble or difficulty, and are generally willing to abide by his advice.

Numerous applications continue to be received from persons in the country desirous to have boys licensed to their care; and the reports from the several masters are very encouraging and hopeful.

There is an unwillingness on the part of many of the boys to remain in their situations after their sentences have expired. That may possibly arise from a somewhat laudable desire that by-gones shall be by-gones; therefore they remove to situations where they and their circumstances are not known.

The accounts herewith will show that the Establishment is worked as economically as possible, and that the rate per head is being further reduced.

The Managers are able to report that the proposed irrigation has advanced another stage. Pipes have been purchased for carrying the water off the ground. Next year they may be able to state that the water has been carried on to the ground, and that the effect is satisfactory.

The Managers would again express their obligation to the Chief Secretary for the very kindly interest he manifests in the Institution, and his readiness, and that of the officers of his department, to render any assistance that may be required.

R. MACLAREN WEBSTER, *Chairman.*

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*SUPERINTENDENT'S Report to the Managers of the Boys' Training School, Cascades,  
for the Year ending 31st December, 1889.*

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GENTLEMEN,

It again becomes my pleasant duty to submit the usual statistics and other information regarding the working of the Training School for the twelve months ending 31st December, 1889.

The number on the roll on the 31st December, 1888, was 33; admitted during the year, 20; total, 53. There were licensed or discharged, 11; sent to gaol, 1; total, 12: leaving at the end of the year 41 inmates, which is the largest number we have yet had.

*Admissions.*

Of the 20 boys admitted 6 were from Hobart, 3 from Launceston, 2 from Beaconsfield, 2 from Longford, and 1 from each of the following places—viz., Moorina, Cambridge, St. Mary's, Franklin, Ulverstone, Waratah, and New Norfolk.

*Ages of Boys when admitted.*

One was aged 15, five 14, four 13, three 12, four 11, and three 10.

*Periods for which the Boys were sentenced.*

For one year, 1; for two years, 1; for three years, 11; for four years, 3; for five years, 4.

*Family circumstances of Boys admitted.*

Fatherless, 4; motherless, 3; both parents alive, 13.

*Offences for which committed.*

For theft, 16; idle and disorderly, 3; housebreaking, 1. The bulk of admissions are for theft, none of them being of a particularly serious character, with the exception of one big lad who was said to be the leader of a gang of smaller boys who were systematically pilfering from shops. There is one rather serious case of housebreaking. Idle and disorderly is a rather elastic term, which may mean a good deal or very little. The cases sent under this section of the Act are undoubtedly deserving ones, two of them being of a rather serious nature. There is every reason to hope that the lads admitted this year, with the exception of, perhaps, two, are likely to turn out well, and be a credit both to themselves and the Institution.

*Discharges.*

The boys who have left the Institution this year, as a whole, are doing well. It is pleasing to note that there is no difficulty in finding suitable situations for the boys. Of course, it sometimes happens that the lads may not suit their places, or the places may not suit them, but, with the power of cancelling licences at any time—a most useful power—it is seldom a place is not found where both parties are satisfied. On four occasions during the year licences have been cancelled and other situations found. Farmers who have had boys in their employment are anxious for others. There is a somewhat regrettable disinclination on the part of some of the lads to continue in the situations secured for them by us after the expiry of their sentence. It is difficult to account for this, unless the boys feel that they are better in a situation secured by themselves. Some have, however, continued in the situations they were sent to long after our control over them had ceased, and have done well; others have left and gone elsewhere, generally to a farm. This is a feature of our work worth emphasizing; we have given lads from our cities a taste of country life while they have sojourned with us in the Institution, and our experience, so far, has been that they have generally continued at farming. In this respect it must be admitted we have done some good. Boys have been removed from their old haunts and led to start an entirely new life under more pleasant surroundings than many of them had previously experienced. Gratifying letters have been received from several masters speaking highly of the boys in their employ.

*Health of the Inmates.*

Whatever may be said by some as to the Institution occupying an unhealthy position, it is not borne out by our experience. It is nearly six years since the school was opened, and it is gratifying to say that we have never had a really serious case of illness. During the whole of the year now closed it has been unnecessary to call in the assistance of a medical man. In this respect we have much to be thankful for.

*General Behaviour.*

To deprive a lad of his privileges is one of the best punishments it is possible to inflict. To cure small failings or misdemeanours, give encouragement by small rewards. To prevent lads falling into mischief keep them fully employed, and give them sufficient occupation to absorb all their energies. Following out these principles as closely as possible has had the effect of preventing anything in the shape of severity of punishment or much misbehaviour, certainly not more than would be found in an ordinary family. One lad mentioned in previous report as being of a restless disposition, and who absconded on several occasions, set fire to his room during the night. The attempt was providentially frustrated, and not much damage done. The lad was tried before the Supreme Court and sentenced to imprisonment. There has been one case of absconding from the Institution during the twelve months, and a boy out on leave failed to return, and is still at large. This is only the second case of the kind that has occurred during six years. For the last six months of the year there has been no attempt to get away.

### *Educational Condition.*

The ignorance shown by new arrivals, which has been referred to in previous reports, continues. The twenty boys received during the year are, so far as their ability to read and write is concerned, about as ignorant as has yet been received. Five could read and write fairly well, eight could read and write a little, and seven were quite ignorant. One big lad did not know a single letter in the alphabet, and one, the son of a drunken father, was even worse, his ignorance being really deplorable. Mr. Rule, Chief Inspector of State Schools, paid his usual visit of inspection in December, and his report states that thirty-eight boys were examined. In the Upper First all justified their classification, three showing fitness for promotion. In Class II. all passed as qualified for their position; five reached the full standards. Class III. likewise had no failures; two reached the full standards for promotion. In Class IV. both boys were found up to the full standard in reading and writing, and both passed in arithmetic, one to the full standard. Very fair intelligence was shown by all who had passed through the several classes.

### *Industrial Departments.*

This year the earnings by the farm and garden boys has reached the goodly sum of £154 9s. The amount of work done by our carpenters, although quite as valuable, does not appear as real money earnings. They have altered and enlarged a cottage for one of the workmasters, have put up a quantity of fencing, have built a large hay-shed, and have done all the painting and repairs for the establishment. As regards earnings by the boys, it might be well to add that there is not the scope to increase it as might be supposed. Milk is sold to the other institutions at the Cascades, as well as those officially employed, but what they require is limited, and until some plan is adopted to allow the disposal of more milk and vegetables the earnings of our industrial departments will not increase so rapidly as is in some respects desirable. Still it must not be forgotten that our main object is to train boys practically to fight the battle of life, and, although it is desirable to show as good an income as possible, it is not the one thing needful. Agricultural labour, gardening, and rough carpentry are our industries, and more suitable ones for this class of Institution it would be difficult to suggest. There is an excellent turning-lathe on the premises, which it might be well to have put into working order so as to give the lads a knowledge of turning, as such instruction could not fail to be both interesting and beneficial. Our live stock is increasing, which makes it necessary to provide more shed accommodation.

### *Recreation.*

The lads have had ample opportunity for active out-of-door games. They are given every encouragement to let off their spirits in a natural and healthful manner, and, it must be admitted, do so with considerable zest. In the playground they are not prevented from making plenty of noise if kept within the bounds of moderation. The annual entertainment given by the boys was, as usual, quite a success. The chairman on this occasion was Sir Lambert Dobson, the Chief Justice. A walk in the bush is now and then indulged in by all the boys, and much appreciated. The privilege of visiting Hobart is given to well-behaved boys in accordance with our rules, and is found most useful. There is a good deal of personal anxiety in the granting of this privilege, but the beneficial results derivable from it outweigh any other consideration, and I should be loath to give it up.

### *Religious Instruction.*

This most important part of our duty receives every attention. The Protestant boys have been regularly visited by the Rev. Leigh Tarleton, who writes thus:—"The boys under my care have made good progress, and shown considerable attention and a desire to learn and improve themselves. Their behaviour in my presence has invariably been very good; they are always civil, and try to do their best." The Rev. M. J. O'Regan has been equally attentive in his visitation of the Roman Catholic boys.

### *The Officials.*

There has been no change in the staff of officials throughout the year. All have conducted themselves satisfactorily, and taken a praiseworthy interest in their work.

### *General Remarks.*

The alteration in the law relating to juvenile offenders is a step in the right direction. It is not so advanced as in Victoria and elsewhere, but perhaps it is well to travel slowly, and not attempt too much at a time. The Governor in Council has now the power, on application to the Managers, of granting control over lads up to the age of twenty. This power is given for the purpose of preventing worthless parents interfering with a boy and spoiling his prospects. In reference to the alteration, it would appear as if there is no power to act after the lad's time has expired. This is a pity, as it is generally after the expiry of the sentence that parents *do* interfere. There could be nothing objectionable in power being given over all boys up to a certain age, on the distinct understanding, when sent, that they were under the control of the department until they had attained that age. This has been found to be a perfectly workable plan in other countries.

Mr. Tallack, the venerable Secretary of the world-famed Howard Association, has recently issued a very comprehensive, valuable, and thoughtful work on "Penalogical and Preventive Principles." Reference is made to this Institution, and a quotation is given from the 1887 Report, where the hope is expressed that the Legislature would grant a certain control over boys until they had attained the age of twenty-one years. This is highly approved of, and reasons given for the adoption of such a course.

Mr. Tallack gives three reasons to show why, in his opinion, British Reformatory Institutions have not been quite so successful as they might have been. The opinion of such an authority is of considerable importance, and I think it is well to briefly test our work here by the objections so ably urged by Mr. Tallack. In the first place, he contends that too little regard is paid to the responsibility of parents as regards the wrong-doing of their children, and that such responsibility is not brought home to them in a severe enough manner. I do not know if more can be done here than we are doing. The amount contributed is certainly very small, but every case is dealt with on its merits, and parents who are considered in a position to do so are made to contribute towards their son's support. The second objection

urged is the want of classification in numerous Institutions, and the demoralizing effect such crowding together of the young and tender with older and more vicious boys has had. There is much truth in this, and if any real and practical mode of classification could be suggested for such Institutions it would be most beneficial. Attempts have been made in various places to solve the problem, but with little success. You cannot classify with any accuracy by age, and it is just as difficult to classify in accordance with the size of the lad or the fault he has committed. I cannot see that our plan can be much improved upon. We keep our numbers small in order to thoroughly understand each case, we license out early, and we endeavour to keep a strict individual supervision. Large institutions are not advisable, and are sometimes positively injurious. There is an inclination to keep the institutions of the Old Country large in numbers, simply because Government allows so much per head, and the more inmates the larger the income. This would appear fair, but has the effect I mention, because of the necessity to make ends meet. The third objection is one we have been urging for some time—viz., the necessity of protecting young people from their own parents, who, in some cases, have proved their worst enemies. To quote again from Mr. Tallack's work—"These fathers and mothers have repeatedly undone all the good and costly work achieved in the schools, and have urged the boys to theft, and the girls to prostitution. By a perversity of sentimental folly, the imaginary so-called 'rights' of such parents have been allowed to sacrifice the real rights of their children, and to ruin the latter for life in body and soul." In Tasmania during the past year we have advanced a considerable step in the direction indicated, and have much to be thankful for.

We are now connected with the Telephone Exchange in Hobart, which we find most useful.

The operations of the school during the year have been characterised by steady, quiet, and unobtrusive progress. We have every reason to cherish the hope that many of those under our care will become true and faithful men, intelligent in thought, and earnest in purpose.

It only remains for me once more to acknowledge my deep indebtedness to Mr. Mather, the Honorary Secretary, for the remarkable personal interest he continues to take in the welfare of the Institution, and the wise counsel he so readily and cheerfully gives.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

JAMES LONGMORE, *Superintendent.*

January, 1890.

#### *ACCOUNT Current of the Boys' Training School, Cascades, 1889.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Funds provided by Government, as per				Salaries .....	391	0	0
Annual Estimates of Expenditure...	1136	0	0	Clothing, bedding, and stores .....	181	4	9
Provided by Supplementary Estimates	1	4	9	Provisions .....	325	14	7
				Washing, fuel, and light .....	79	2	1
				Petty expenses and rewards .....	19	2	7
				Stationery and printing.....	5	1	0
				Alterations and repairs .....	49	13	3
				Furniture and material .....	7	13	11
					1058	12	2
				Unexpended balance .....	78	12	7
					£1137	4	9
	£1137	4	9				

#### *Current Maintenance.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Clothing, provisions, &c. ....	610	5	0			
Salaries .....	391	0	0			
				1001	5	0

#### *Permanent Works.*

Alterations and repairs .....	49	13	3			
Furniture, &c. ....	7	13	11			
				57	7	2
				£1058	12	2

*FARM Expenses.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Funds provided by Government, as per				Salary, farm labourer .....	91	5	0
Annual Estimates .....	211	5	0	Stock purchased.....	2	0	0
				Seed, hay, &c. ....	58	12	6
				Balance available for permanent work	59	7	6
	<u>£211</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£211</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

*Current Maintenance.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salary, farm labourer .....	91	5	0			
4 young pigs .....	2	0	0			
Tools.....	3	18	3			
Manure.....	6	18	0			
Seed, hay, &c. ....	47	16	3			
				151	17	6

*Permanent Works.*

Fencing and repairs.....	19	7	3			
Pipes for irrigation, &c. ....	39	19	8			
Balance unexpended .....	0	0	7			
				59	7	6
				<u>£211</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

*WORKING Account.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To current maintenance .....	151	17	6	Sale of stock.....	5	17	9
Balance.....	2	11	6	Sale of milk and butter .....	111	1	5
				Sale of fruit and vegetables .....	37	9	10
	<u>£154</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£154</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>

Credit balance, £2 11s. 6d., besides crop of hay, maize, mangolds, and potatoes.

R. MACLAREN WEBSTER, *Chairman.*