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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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BOYS' TRAINING SCHOOL, CASCADES:

REPORT FOR 1888.

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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, 1888.*

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THE Managers of the Boys' Training School have much pleasure in reporting on this interesting Institution. With the exception of some cases of absconding, instigated in each instance by one restless boy, everything has proceeded most satisfactorily. The farming operations have been successful, the crops are looking very well, and the boys and officers seem to take an interest in their work.

It is gratifying to be able to report that marked success has thus far attended the efforts put forth for the help and reclamation of our juvenile delinquents. Since the establishment of this Institution, four years and a half ago, 40 boys have been licensed, most of whom have behaved well, excellent reports having been received from several of their masters, three only having again fallen into crime. The Managers hope that for the future there may be still more satisfactory results.

The following valuable Report from the Superintendent gives further particulars, to which the Managers have pleasure in directing attention.

The Managers had hoped to be able to report upon the success of the irrigation proposed some months since, but, with the exception of some timber having been supplied for the construction of fluming, nothing further has been done.

The Managers would again express their obligation to the Chief Secretary and his officials for their invariable kindness and courtesy. Also to the Police for the assistance accorded them in many ways.

R. MACLAREN WEBSTER, *Chairman.*

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*SUPERINTENDENT'S Report to the Managers of the Boys' Training School, Cascades.*

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GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE again the pleasure of presenting a Report on the working of the Boys' Training School for the year ending 31st December, 1888.

The number on the roll on the 31st December, 1887, was 36; admitted during the year, 15; total, 51. There were licensed or discharged, 17; died, 1; total, 18; leaving, at the end of the year, 33 inmates. It will be thus seen that 51 individual cases have been dealt with, which is in excess of any previous year.

*Admissions.*

Of the 15 boys admitted, 7 were from Hobart, 2 from Launceston, and 1 from each of the following places; viz.—Carnarvon, Fingal, Evandale, New Norfolk, Ulverstone, and Oatlands.

*Ages of Boys when admitted.*

Four were aged 15; three, 14; two, 13; two, 12; and four, 11.

*Periods for which the Boys were sentenced.*

For two years, 1; three years, 7; four years, 7.

*Offences for which committed.*

For theft, 9; criminal assaults, 3; fire raising, 1; idle and disorderly, 2.

*Family circumstances of Boys admitted.*

Orphans, 2; fatherless, 6; motherless, 1; both parents alive, 6.

*Present number in the School.*

On the roll 31st December, 1887, 36; admitted during the year, 15. Discharged or licensed, 17; died, 1; total, 18. Remaining in the school 31st December, 1888, 33.

*Discharges.*

Institutions of this nature are judged, and rightly so, by results. It is very pleasing when boys show by their after career that they have benefited from their sojourn here, and it is just as displeasing when any return to the old paths they have for a time been weaned from. What, then, is our position? How many boys discharged since the institution was opened four a half years ago have turned out well? and how many have again been convicted of crime? These are pertinent questions, and I shall endeavour to answer them. Up to the end of the year 40 boys have been licensed to employment, and of those 24 have been finally discharged. Of this latter number 19 are known to be doing well, 2 are unknown, and 3 have been convicted of crime. Of the 16 boys at present on licence, and whose time is still unexpired, 15 are doing well; several very gratifying letters have been received from their employers in reference to them. One has left his situation, but is not known to be doing badly. It will thus be seen that out of the whole of those who have left three have been convicted of crime; and testing this in the usual way, gives a proportion of 7.5 per cent. as doing badly, on the other hand, 92.5 as doing well. If we deduct in addition to this the two boys returned as unknown, although, of course, that does not necessarily mean bad, we will find the percentage reduced to 87.5. The figures on which these results are based have been carefully verified. It might be instructive to compare the results attained here with those attained elsewhere; and taking the most recent Report of the well-managed Victorian Reformatory, we find that the proportion of good results of all passed out up to the end of the year 1887 was 70.000, and for three years only, ending 31st December, 1887, the percentage was 84.848. If we go to the Old Country we find the percentage over all Boys' Reformatories reported as doing well is 78. From this it will be seen that so far our results are quite equal to those elsewhere, and, it is to be sincerely hoped, may be maintained.

*General Conduct and Health of the Boys.*

The conduct of the boys during the whole year has been good. There has been nothing like serious misconduct, although on three different occasions boys have attempted to get away. The first was different to anything of this nature yet experienced, as two lads out on leave failed to return at the proper time. The other two cases—although several boys were involved—were really attributable to one lad, who has ever since his admission shown a restless and cunning disposition. The health of the inmates has been very satisfactory. There has been no disease of any sort. A very sad and unfortunate accident has to be recorded, by which one of the boys, named George Peck, lost his life. Peck, with a number of other lads, were under the personal supervision of the gardener removing some stones in a hand-cart. A jolt of the cart caused one of the stones to roll out, which fell on the poor lad's head, killing him almost instantly. The usual coroner's inquest was held, and a verdict of accidental death returned.

*Educational Condition.*

The admissions during the year were not, educationally, of the brightest. Seven of those received were quite ignorant, four could read and write a little, and three very fairly. Mr. Rule, Chief Inspector of State Schools, paid his annual visit on the 14th December, and examined the classes. His report stated that 33 boys were examined in four classes, and that the classification was in accordance with what is prescribed for State Schools. The lower first consisted of eight boys, who were not far advanced with their reading, but most were up to their full standard in arithmetic. The upper first consisted of fourteen boys; all passed, eight reaching the full standards. The second class consisted of eight boys; all passed, seven reaching the full standards. The third class consisted of three boys; all passed, two reaching the full standards. The Inspector considers the results creditable, considering the limited time available for school work.

*Industrial Departments.*

Probably of all features of such an Institution as this the Industrial Departments are the most important. It is well known that many fall into crime from a disinclination to work, and it is very observable both here and elsewhere that new-comers are, with few exceptions, lazy and unwilling to work. To change a lazy disposition into a diligent one, and by regular and steady employment give lads an encouragement and a liking for honest labour, is a difficult but a very necessary part of the duty devolving upon those who have to do with the practical management of the Institution. The object of the training here is to give lads some knowledge of work likely to benefit them in after life. With this in view there is an endeavour to train them up as practical farmers, gardeners, and carpenters. There were at the end of the year 11 boys being trained as farmers, 11 as gardeners, 6 as carpenters, and the remaining 5 were kitchen, scrubbing, and message boys.

The hay crop is a very good one, in some places being over seven feet in height. The mangolds and potatoes also look well. The garden never looked better than it does now, and of vegetables of all sorts there is a splendid crop. The carpenters have put up a good deal of fencing, built an addition to a cottage, and many sundries. It will be seen elsewhere that the actual money earned by the Industrial Departments is considerably in excess this year of any previous one.

*Recreation.*

The boys, as usual, have had considerable attention devoted to their recreation and amusement. Several kind friends have provided magic-lantern entertainments. The annual entertainment by the boys themselves

was very successful. The Hon. B. S. Bird (the Treasurer) presided, and delivered an interesting address to the lads. The proceeds of the entertainment were the means of purchasing a large number of interesting volumes for their library. At Christmas, Mr. M. W. Simmons (solicitor) very kindly and thoughtfully provided cakes and buns. Well-behaved boys enjoy the usual privilege of an afternoon once a month to visit their friends.

*Religious Instruction.*

The Protestant boys have had careful attention paid to their religious instruction by the Rev. Leigh Tarleton, and the Roman Catholics have been regularly visited by the Rev. Dr. Gleeson and Rev. B. Murphy. Eight of Mr. Tarleton's boys have tried the written examination annually arranged by the Diocesan Inspector of the Sunday Schools connected with the Church of England. One of them did well; the others fairly. The Inspector in his report stated that "the boys were evidently unaccustomed to express themselves in writing, but that their papers showed they were anxious to do their best."

*The Officials.*

The Officials have each and all performed their duties faithfully and well.

*General Remarks and Suggestions.*

An event of considerable importance in the annals of the Institution was the visit of inspection paid by the Royal Commission which recently sat to take evidence on Charitable Institutions generally. This visit was made without any previous notice, so that things were found in their everyday garb. The Official Report issued by the Commission is an interesting document, and contains several gratifying remarks on this Institution. For instance, the Report states that "the healthy appearance, good manners, and cleanliness of the lads assured us that the School does now, and will to a greater extent in the future, prove a boon to the Colony by training and turning out useful, honest citizens from a class which, if unrescued and untaught, would certainly occasion additional charges on the expenditure in our penal establishments." "The farm and outbuildings thereon are the picture of neatness." "The dormitories were well arranged, and, with bedding contained therein, comfortable and clean." The Report closes with the following sentence:—"From personal inspection we are able to give our unqualified approval of the manner in which this Institution is conducted, and feel confident that it is a great benefit to those boys whose offences have caused them to be placed within its walls."

The Commissioners make the three following recommendations:—(1.) That some of the boys be sent to the Government Farm for instruction in farming. (2.) That the boys be made wards of the Managers of the School until they attain the age of 21. (3.) That to discourage the habit of absconding, provision be made to detain boys two days for every one on which they are unlawfully absent from the School.

It would be difficult and undesirable to carry out the first recommendation, for several reasons: 1st. The old men from the Invalid Depôt who assist with the work of the farm would probably have an injurious effect on the lads; 2nd. They are really trained here in everything pertaining to farm work, with the exception of ploughing; and 3rd. The work here takes all our available strength, the whole of our land being entirely cultivated by spade labour.

The second recommendation of the Commissioners is one which, if carried out, would be of decided benefit. It is following out a suggestion made in the last Report, and is in accordance with the law in the neighbouring Colony of Victoria, which states that all neglected and reformatory children are wards of the State, *i.e.*, under control in their situations until they attain the age of 18, with power in the Executive to extend the term of supervision in special cases to the age of 20.

The third recommendation, in the event of the second becoming law, would be unnecessary.

It would be an advantage to all concerned if the law relating to juvenile offenders was consolidated into one Act, and so improved as to be brought into touch with the system now adopted in various other countries. Several instances have occurred where Magistrates, on looking at the main Act, and seeing that previous imprisonment was compulsory, sentenced the offender to imprisonment in addition to his detention in a Training School, whereas one of the amending Acts—there are several—makes imprisonment optional, and Magistrates almost invariably dispense, and very wisely too, with previous imprisonment.

It is worth noting that several of the alterations in the Training Schools Act recently adopted here have been incorporated into the new Bill for the amending of the Reformatory Act now before the Imperial Parliament. In this and in some others we are in advance of the Old Country.

I would again urge the importance of being in telephonic communication with the City.

To the Honorary Secretary, Mr. Mather, my heartiest thanks are again due for much wise counsel and kindly advice tendered in the management of the important trust committed to my charge.

I have the honor to be,  
Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient Servant,

JAMES LONGMORE, *Superintendent.*

January, 1889.

*ACCOUNT Current of the Boys' Training School, 1888.*

DR.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.
To funds provided by Government.....	1140 16 6	By Salaries .....	384 10 0
		Clothing, &c. ....	165 7 10
		Provisions .....	315 0 11
		Washing, &c. ....	77 15 0
		Petty Expenses, &c.....	12 7 0
		Stationery, &c.....	8 3 5
		Furniture, &c. ....	15 9 6
		Medicines .....	1 3 7
		Alterations and Repairs.....	57 3 0
		Unexpended balance .....	103 16 3
	£1140 16 6		£1140 16 6

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Current Maintenance.</i>		
Salaries .....	384 10 0	
Clothing, Provisions, &c. ....	579 17 9	
	£964 7 9	
Less Contribution for Maintenance.....	5 11 10	
		958 15 11

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Permanent Works.</i>		
Alterations and Repairs.....	57 3 0	
Furniture, &c. ....	15 9 6	
Contribution as above .....	5 11 10	
		78 4 4
		£1087 0 3

*Farm Expenses.*

Dr.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.
To funds provided by Government.....	211 10 0	By Salary, Farm Labourer.....	91 10 0
		Stock purchased.....	15 0 0
		Seed, Hay, &c. ....	51 9 4
		Timber for Irrigation .....	16 16 9
		Timber for Shed .....	15 17 2
		Fencing Wire, &c. ....	9 3 8
		Bone Dust .....	10 14 6
		Unexpended balance.....	0 18 7
	£211 10 0		£211 10 0

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Current Maintenance.</i>		
Salary .....	91 10 0	
Stock .....	15 0 0	
Seed, Hay, &c. ....	51 9 4	
Manure, &c. ....	10 14 6	
		168 13 10

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Permanent Works.</i>		
Timber for Irrigation .....	16 16 9	
Timber for Shed .....	15 17 2	
Fencing Wire, &c. ....	9 3 8	
		41 17 7
Unexpended balance .....	...	0 18 7
		£211 10 0

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
<i>Working Account.</i>		
Current Maintenance brought forward .....	...	168 13 10
Credit balance.....	...	0 12 5
		£169 6 3
Sale of Stock .....	17 17 3	
Milk and Butter.....	113 19 0	
Fruit and Vegetables .....	23 10 0	
Stock on hand .....	14 0 0	
		169 6 3

Credit balance, 12s. 5d., besides 2 Cows, purchased for £14, crop of Hay, Maize, Mangolds, and Potatoes yet to gather.

R. MACLAREN WEBSTER, *Chairman.*

*Hobart, 14th February, 1889.*