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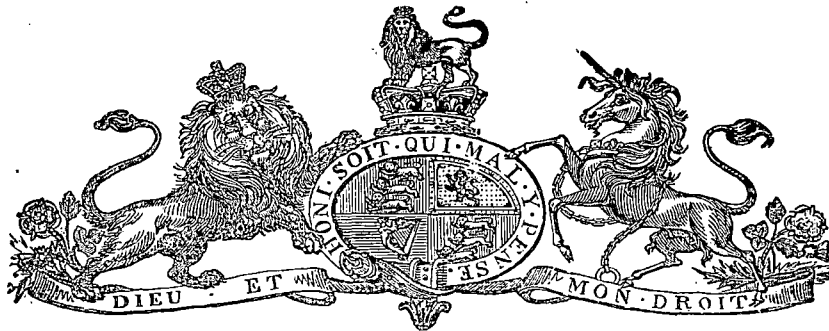
1888.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

BOARDING-OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN :

REPORT FOR **1887.**

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



BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

REPORT for 1887.

Charitable Grants Department, 16th April, 1888.

SIR,

THE Central Committee for boarding out Destitute Children have the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1887.

On the 1st January of that year the total number of children maintained under the boarding-out system was 99—boys, 55 ; girls, 44 ; viz.—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs	37	33	70
Launceston	7	3	10
Municipalities	11	8	19
	<u>55</u>	<u>44</u>	<u>99</u>

During the year additional children to the number of 40 were provided with homes, and 30 ceased to be a charge upon the Government, leaving, on the 31st December, a total of 109, located as follows :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs	35	31	66
Launceston	16	3	19
Municipalities	10	14	24
	<u>61</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>109</u>

being 10 more than the number with which the year commenced ; but the cost of the maintenance and clothing of four of these children will, it is expected, be repaid by the Curator of Intestate Estates.

In their Report for 1886 the Committee referred to the Education Act, 1885, 49 Vict. No. 15, and pointed out that, in accordance with its provisions, they would be compelled, unless under exceptional circumstances, to maintain the children until they arrived at the age of 13 years instead of 12, as heretofore ; and that there would be a consequent decrease in the number eligible for service each year. With regard to the year 1887, this change in the law necessitated the retention on the books of ten children, for whom, under other circumstances, places would have been provided, and also caused the increase in the number as returned on the 31st December.

During the year the Committee held 18 meetings, and were occupied four afternoons in their annual inspection of the homes of the children.

Respecting the 40 children whose names were added to the boarded-out list, the Committee, before authorising any outlay on their account, carefully enquired into the circumstances connected with them, and satisfied themselves they had no alternative but to provide for them at the public expense. Six of them, however, were but temporary charges, having been claimed by their parents shortly after they were boarded out.

With regard to the 30 children referred to as having ceased to be a charge upon the Government, and in which number the six above referred to are included—

11	were apprenticed.
13	were taken by relatives.
4	were admitted to Industrial Schools.
1	was adopted.
1	died.
<hr/>	
30	Total.

The particulars of the admission of the four children to Industrial Schools are as follows:—The first, a girl nine years old, who had been caught pilfering, was sent to St. Joseph's Orphanage to save her from prosecution, the owner of the stolen property having made it a condition that, if he overlooked the offence, (the second one of the kind the girl had committed), she should be placed in some Institution where she would not have the opportunity of carrying on her thieving propensities. The second, a lad nearly 12 years of age, was sent to the Boys' Home, on the strong recommendation of his foster-parent. This lad had become almost unmanageable, and was often in possession of money which there was reason to fear had not been honestly come by. The third, a girl about ten years old, was expelled from the Battery Point State School for disobedience and gross impertinence to the teachers. It having been reported that this child was very precocious, and likely to pick up with bad companions if sent to another school at a distance from her home, the Committee considered the Girls' Industrial School the best place for her under the circumstances. The fourth, a boy twelve years of age, was sent to the Boys' Home, his foster-parent having frequently complained of her inability to manage him or to make him go to school. He had contracted habits of thieving, lying, playing truant, &c., and required constant supervision and strict discipline.

The death that took place during the year was that of a male infant twenty months old—cause, asthenia. The child received every attention and was supplied with all requisites, such as cod-liver oil, port wine, extract of malt, and other medical comforts, but had no digestive powers. He was not admitted to the Hospital, Dr. Parkinson being of opinion he would do better outside with people he was accustomed to.

An extra allowance of 4s. per week had to be paid to the foster-parent, as the child required constant nursing and attention, and was very dirty in his habits.

Provision was made during the year for 139 children, but 68 only were a charge for the full period of twelve months. The remainder, 71, were maintained for shorter periods, varying from 12 to 360 days. Average number of days, 272.

The expenditure for the year was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salary of Inspecting Officer	180	0	0
Maintenance of children.....	1576	0	0
Cost of clothing purchased.....	39	5	9
Medical attendance, Oatlands	1	0	0
	1796	5	9
Less repayment by relatives	20	16	7
	1775	9	2
Unexpended balance	604	10	10
Voted by Parliament	£2380	0	0

The actual cost per head amounted to £12 15s. 6d.

Clothing to the value of £4 7s. 10d. from stock on hand was issued in addition to that purchased as shown above.

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

	£	s.	d.	<i>Cost per Head.</i>			<i>Allowance per Week.</i>	<i>Total Number of Children.</i>
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	s.	
1881.....	2094	6	6	13	14	9 $\frac{3}{4}$	5	191
1882.....	1912	19	0	13	13	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	5	166
1883.....	1852	2	11	14	1	10 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	155
1884.....	1900	0	11	14	1	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	{ 5 for 2 months 6 for 10 months }	135
1885.....	1872	9	4	14	14	11	6	127
1886.....	1696	0	0	17	5	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	121
1887.....	1775	9	2	12	15	6	6	139

Annual Inspection.

The annual inspection of the children boarded out in Hobart and at New Town commenced on the 24th October, and was continued on the 2nd, 15th, and 16th November. According to practice, the Committee paid their visits to the dwellings of 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 were, however, three cases with which the Committee were not satisfied. In one it was discovered that the father of the boys was in the habit of enticing the eldest from his home, and so rendering it impossible for the foster-parent to exercise proper control over him. To remedy this, the children were removed to New Town, where they would not be so accessible to their father, who is a drunken, idle fellow, and from whom it has been found impossible to obtain any payment towards the cost of their maintenance. In another case the foster-parent had of necessity to be so much from home, in the exercise of her calling as charwoman, that she could not pay proper attention to the child under her care, besides which the accommodation was not regarded as sufficient. This child was also removed, and provided with another home at New Town. The household arrangements in the third case were not to the satisfaction of the Committee; but, as the foster-parent was known to be much attached to the child, and as she promised faithfully to effect improvements, which have been carried out, she was not deprived of her charge.

Attendance at School.

Such of the children as were old enough to go to school were regular in their attendance; and it will be seen from the reports of the masters of the several schools to which the children were sent, that their progress was satisfactory.

The foster-parents also attended to the duty of sending the children to Sunday-school. A report from the Inspecting Officer on this subject is forwarded herewith.

Health of Children.

The health of the children was, upon the whole, good during the year, but there were a few exceptions, the particulars of which are as follows:—In Hobart, a girl a little over 11 years of age, suffered from nervous debility, and on the advice of the doctor was kept from school for a time. Another girl was sent to the hospital to be treated for typhoid fever, which, however, was of a mild character. A third, who appeared to be developing hip disease, was also a patient for a time; and it has been found necessary to provide her with a pair of crutches. In Launceston, two children, brother and sister, suffered from fever, and were sent to hospital; and at Oatlands, two children, also brother and sister, were under medical treatment for a short time for skin disease.

Changes in Homes.

In addition to the two cases already referred to, it was found necessary to order the removal of children from their foster-parents, under the following circumstances:—

1. Two boys, on account of their delicate appearance, were transferred to New Town, and benefited by the change.
2. Four boys, owing to the health of their foster-parent breaking, and her inability in consequence to attend to them. She died subsequently; and the Committee had reason to regret the loss of one who was truly a mother to the children entrusted to her care.
3. Three boys and a girl, in consequence of the drunken habits of the husband of the foster-parent, and a strong suspicion that he had illtreated one of the children, when under the influence of liquor.
4. A boy removed from Swansea to his aunt at Glenorchy, who desired to have the care of him, but who was unable to keep him without assistance.
5. A girl in Launceston, on the recommendation of Dr. Thompson and the Chairman of the Benevolent Society, the state of the foster-parent's health rendering her unfit for the charge.
6. A girl at Swansea, whose foster-parent resided too far from the State School to enable the child to attend regularly, was removed, on the recommendation of the Warden.

Visiting Committees.

The Committee have again the pleasure to acknowledge the services of the Visiting Committees; whose Reports will be found appended hereto. During their annual visitation the Committee were much gratified to learn that the foster-parents highly appreciated the interest taken in them by the members of the several Visiting Committees, who they stated aided them very materially in the management of the children under their care. Periodical Reports were also received by the Committee from Mr. Judge, their zealous and painstaking Inspecting Officer, on the subject of the treatment and health of the children. The children at New Town were also under the constant supervision of the Sub-Inspector of Police; and every care appeared to be taken by that officer that their interests were not neglected.

In Launceston, and the other parts of the Colony in which children were maintained under the Boarding-out System, the Police Magistrates, Wardens, and Superintendents of Police exercised a careful watch over them, and saw that they were properly cared for and sent regularly to school.

Apprentices.

The conduct of the apprentices was, with a few exceptions, satisfactory. Some of them have done very well indeed, and others are in a fair way of becoming intelligent and useful members of the community. Such of them as reside in and about Hobart were visited quarterly by the Inspecting Officer when collecting from their masters the payments at the rate of 6*d.* per week for deposit in the Savings' Bank, for the benefit of the apprentices on the completion of their indentures, also at other times when in the neighbourhood of their residences. The masters of the apprentices in the country were communicated with by the Chairman every quarter, when the demands for payment of the above sum were sent out. These payments, as a rule, are made with great regularity; and a bank book is kept for each apprentice. At the end of February last, when the bank books were made up, there were 84 accounts, and the amount to the credit of the apprentices was £321 5*s.* Since that date, payments for the last quarter of 1887, amounting to £11 5*s.*, have been received, making a total of £332 10*s.*

During the past year payments amounting to £77 12*s.* 6*d.* were made to 11 apprentices who had completed their term of service to the satisfaction of the Committee, and were thus provided with funds to enable them to enjoy a holiday on their becoming their own masters, or to remove to some other part of the Colony, as their inclinations prompted them.

In conclusion, the Committee desire to express their thanks to the Honorable the Premier for his courteous memorandum addressed to the Chairman on the 16th June last, as follows:—

“I have perused with much gratification the Report, dated May 3rd, 1887. The Country is to be congratulated upon the most satisfactory results which have attended the adoption of this practice. There does not appear to be any room for suggested improvement.

“The Government tender to the gentlemen who gave their valuable services, which have secured such results, thanks for their labour, and commend you for that contribution thereto which your attention has secured.”

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

J. O'BOYLE, *Chairman.*
JAMES GRANT.
W. TARLETON.
A. M. RITCHIE.
J. S. LAURIE.
W. LOVETT.
WILLIAM BENSON.

Education Office, Hobart, 19th April, 1888.

MEMORANDUM to Mr. REYNOLDS, *State School, Bathurst-street.*

MR. REYNOLDS is requested to furnish to the Director, with as little delay as possible, a brief report on the attendance, progress, and appearance of the boarded-out children in the school during the past year, for the information of the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

T. STEPHENS, *Director of Education.*

ONE girl attended 207 days during 1887. Appearance very tidy and clean; conduct good; progress satisfactory.

W. J. J. REYNOLDS.
30. 4. 88.

Report of Boarded-out Children attending State School, New Town.

SIR, IN accordance with your letter of the 19th instant, I have now the honor to report as follows about the attendance, progress, and appearance of the boarded-out children.

There are 12 children in attendance:—six from Mrs. Caerns, four from Mrs. Tucker, and two from Mrs. Onner.

1. Attendance bad; progress very slow.
2. Attendance very good; progress very good.
3. Attendance very good; progress fair.
4. Attendance excellent; progress very good.
5. Attendance good; progress very good.
6. Attendance good; progress fair.
7. Attendance very fair; progress fair.
8. Attendance very fair; progress very good.
9. Attendance very fair; progress good.
10. Attendance very fair; progress fair.
11. Attendance fair; progress fair.
12. Attendance pretty fair, truant-playing occasionally; progress fair.

} On the whole fairly looked after, and come to school tidy. I have had to reprove one for untidiness.

} Come to school clean and neat, and evidently well cared for.

} Very untidy in appearance, and often dirty-looking.

I have, &c.

RICHARD SMITH.

* Were street arabs before being boarded out. It will be some time before anything good can be made of them.—J. O'B.

Battery Point State School, Hobart, 21st April, 1888.

SIR, I HAVE the honor to report concerning the boarded-out children in attendance at this school during the year 1887, that there is nothing special to be noted with regard to their attendance, progress, or appearance.

On the whole, they cannot be distinguished in these or other respects from the other children attending the school.

I am, &c.

M. M'PHEE.

T. STEPHENS, *Esq., M.A., Director of Education.*

Murray-street Free State School, 23rd April, 1888.

SIR, I HAVE the honor to lay before you report on boarded-out children for 1887.

The number in attendance has not been so large as on some former years. The papers sent in weekly testify to their regular attendance. Only in one instance has one been made to clean himself. I have good reason for believing he left home clean. Their shoes in most cases are shining, dress comfortable and suited for the seasons. Progress in their classes very satisfactory. Some of the girls take great pains with their sewing, and do it exceedingly well.

I have, &c.

CHARLES HALL.

The Director.

Presentation Convent, Hobart, 21st March, 1888.

SIR, I HEREBY certify that three boarded-out children attended the Convent School during the year 1887, and that their attendance was regular, appearance neat, conduct good, and progress satisfactory.

I am, &c.

MARY BAPTIST HICKEY.

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

Watchorn-street, 27th March, 1888.

SIR, I HAVE pleasure in reporting that the attendance, appearance, conduct, and progress of the boarded-out children attending Watchorn-street school during 1887 were highly satisfactory.

ALICE WILLIAMSON, *Head Teacher.*

St. Joseph's School, 21st March, 1888.

SIR,

I HEREBY certify that five boarded-out children attended St. Joseph's Boys' School regularly during the year ended 31st December, 1887; that they made fair progress, and were always neatly clad.

I have, &c.

T. MITCHELL.

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

MEMO.

4th April, 1888.

Miss Mitchell begs to report that during the year 1887 there were three boarded-out children attending the Cascade Road Free School.

The attendance, conduct, appearance, and progress of these children were most satisfactory, and reflected the greatest credit on Miss Smith, with whom they were boarded.

E. MITCHELL.

83, Argyle-street, 23rd April, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that the certificates from clergymen and Sunday School teachers show that the attendance of the boarded-out children at Sunday School during the year 1887 was most satisfactory.

There is one case, however, in which the foster-parent could not be prevailed upon to send the children regularly. I allude to No. 2514 and No. 4308, who, as you are aware, have been lately removed to another home.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

9th April.

MY DEAR SIR,

OWING to domestic and other trials, Mrs. Miller and myself did not visit our district for the boarded-out children so frequently as we ought to have done. On the whole, we found the children well, and apparently cared for; clothing also in good order.

I have, &c.

HARRIET SALIER.

J. O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

Hobart, 6th April, 1888.

DEAR SIR,

THE Central Visiting Committee for Boarded-out Children beg to state that the children were visited during the past year, and were found to be generally in a good state of health.

They appeared also to be happy and contented. Those old enough attended school regularly; and the foster-parents are satisfied with the children's general conduct.

I have, &c.

HENRY HUNTER, *Chairman.*

The Administrator of Charitable Grants.

19, Colville-street, Battery Point, 17th April, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE to report that during the year 1887 I visited the boarded-out children at their respective homes monthly, and they seemed well cared for, so far as I was able to judge. The children above referred to are those resident on Battery Point, residing with Mrs. Easy, Miss Saddler, and one at Mrs. Mackay's. As Mrs. Easy has given up the charge of the children she had, and they have been sent to various parts of the Town, I shall not be able to again visit them; but I have no doubt some one will do so, I presume by your appointment, my health being such as not to allow of my walking any distance, so that when the children leave Battery Point I must give up visiting them.

I have, &c.

M. PERRIN.

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

83, Argyle-street, 23rd April, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that during the year 1887 all the apprentices from the Boarding-out System, as well as their masters or mistresses, as the case may be, have been seen and interrogated by me; and that, with the exception that in a few instances employers complained of a want of truthfulness in their apprentices, there was no fault to be found on either side.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

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