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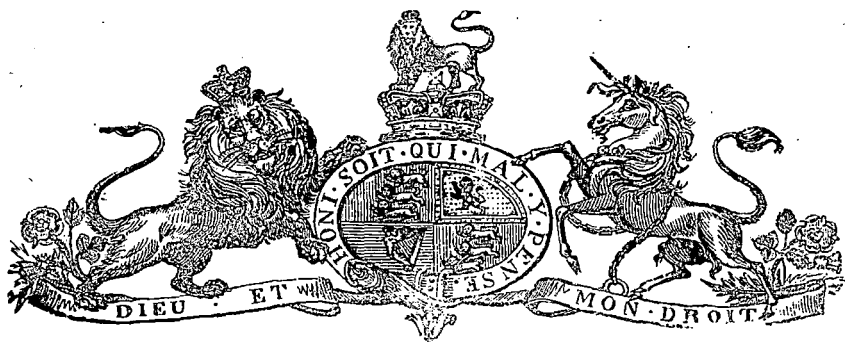
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

BOARDING-OUT SYSTEM.

REPORT OF ADMINISTRATOR OF CHARITABLE GRANTS.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Chapman, and ordered by the Council to be printed;
August 24, 1875.



Hobart Town, 30th July, 1875

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report to you that, during the course of the current month, I have made a thorough examination of the children supported by the Government under the Boarding-out System in Hobart Town and its suburbs. My visits to the houses where they are placed were made without notice of my intention, thus no opportunity was afforded for preparation of any sort; and I saw both the children themselves, their domiciles, their food, their clothes, and their bedding, in their usual every day state.

You will be pleased to learn that the result of my inspection was, on the whole, exceedingly satisfactory. In some few cases the measles, which has run through the greater number of these children, has left signs of weakness, and in others constitutional delicacy is apparent; but in the majority the physical appearance betokens strong health, and gives unmistakable evidence of their being well fed.

The accommodation afforded by the Guardians, although of course homely, was generally very fair; in some instances the sleeping arrangements seemed slightly crowded, but the ventilation was good, the rooms tidy and clean, and the bedding in all cases clean and amply sufficient. More than this cannot be expected; nor indeed, if the conditions essential to health and a fair degree of comfort are fulfilled, is it desirable that these children should be brought up in any luxury above that enjoyed by their own class. The clothing was in every case in good order, no raggedness observable, the boots good, and the whole suitable to the season. In most cases a neat Sunday suit had been provided. In some few instances the quantity of clothing was insufficient to permit of the necessary changes; but on inquiry it was explained to me that the children had been handed over to the Guardian most scantily clad, and that the allowance for their maintenance did not suffice for the supply of their requirements all at once.

When the Regulations which I have submitted to you are approved, provision will be made for the gift in the first instance of proper clothing to boarded-out children when handed over to the Guardian. In the meantime I have authorised the expenditure of small sums, where needful, to assist in obtaining the necessary clothing. Medical attendance where needful is provided by the Surgeon Superintendent of the Hospital. So far then as the material wants of the children are concerned, I feel fully justified in stating that they are amply supplied, and that they are far better attended to in a physical point of view than they were in the homes of their own parents.

In regard to the moral and intellectual aspect of their condition, the result of my inspection has but tended to confirm my previous opinions of the superiority of this method of dealing with destitute children. The relations between the children and their Guardians appeared to be of the most satisfactory nature, maternal on the one side and filial on the other; indeed in many instances, especially amongst the younger class, I heard the children call their Guardian "mother," an address which the care and attention bestowed on them certainly appeared to justify. The bright and cheerful faces, the unconstrained manner free from any appearance of undue timidity, testified no less than their own assurance, given in unhesitating manner, without the smallest reticence, and in the absence of their Guardians, that the treatment of the children had been kindly, and free from all unnecessary severity, and that they were contented and happy. Their conduct was reported to me by their Guardians to be generally good, the exceptions being (singularly it may be thought) in those cases where the children were domiciled with relatives. In the majority I was told, "Well you know, Sir, children will be children, and they are troublesome at times, but on the whole they are very good."

The payment of the allowance to the Guardians is dependent upon the production of certificates of the attendance of the children at school, and I found on enquiry that these had been regularly furnished.

Under this system, therefore, children have the advantage of education being provided for them under the best public schoolmasters. I received from the Guardians assurances that their wards were regularly sent to Church or Chapel and Sunday School, and thus their religious training is also in some measure secured. On this subject I may add that the most scrupulous care has been exercised in placing children with Guardians of their own denomination, and that proselytising in any shape or direction has been strictly discouraged and forbidden.

Viewing the boarding-out method of dealing with deserted infants; therefore, in all its features, whether moral or material, I can conscientiously say that I believe that it is already working well; and that with more perfect organisation it will of all others best secure the happiness of the children in their early years, and best provide the means of training them up to become honest and useful members of society hereafter. But I should fail in my duty if I omitted to represent the urgent necessity of providing a more systematic and regular supervision of these wards of the State. Individually I cannot pretend to visit them with any frequency, and the time of the Inquiring Officers of out-door relief is so much taken up with other descriptions of pauperism that they are unable to afford the regular constant inspection which is essential to prevent abuse. Visiting Committees of ladies and gentlemen are greatly required for the performance of this work.

Furthermore, some of the boys and girls thus supported are rapidly becoming of an age to be apprenticed out; and it is essential that some legal machinery should be established, not only for the mere purpose of signing indentures, but for the all-important duty of exercising a watchful care over their welfare until they become of an age to take charge of their own interests. I would venture, therefore, to express a hope that no long period will be allowed to pass without the promulgation of rules for the regulation of these as well as other minor matters; and then, when this has been done, and the whole system has been placed on the basis of well-defined regulations, providing needful supervision and wholesome checks, I am persuaded that the Government will find no cause to regret having preferred the Boarding-out method of dealing with pauper children, to the plan heretofore in operation of massing them together in one large unwieldy Institution.

I am,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. TARLETON.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary:

Number of children Boarded-out in Hobart Town.....	94
Ditto, in Country Districts as per annexed Return.....	28
Total.....	<u>122</u>
Average expenditure per month for the maintenance of the above.....	£120

NOMINAL Return of Children boarded-out beyond the limits of Hobart Town and who have not been visited personally by the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

NAME.	Age.	District.	When boarded out.	Date of last Report.	By whom Report made.	Nature of Report.
Donnelly, or Enwright, Angelina	years. 5½	Franklin	1 May, 1872	11 May, 1875	Stipendiary Magistrate	Satisfactory.
Cowdrey, Mary Ann... } Cowdrey, Elizabeth... }	10 twins.	Green Ponds	27 Mar. 1874	24 Mar. 1875	Warden	Ditto.
Cowdrey, Ellen } Cowdrey, Alice }	5 2					
Martin, Arber.....	2	Oatlands	1 May, 1873	29 April, 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
Shaw, Emily A.....	10	New Norfolk	26 Oct. 1865	4 May, 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
Brown, Ellen.....	5	Ditto	5 Oct. 1873	18 June, 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
Page, Susan.....	10½	Launceston	1 May, 1866	19 June, 1875	Police Magistrate	Ditto.
M'Cafferty, Maurice ...	8½	Ditto	22 Sept. 1868	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Cuthbertson, Mary Ann.	10	Ditto	1 May, 1869	19 April, 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
Cuthbertson, Harriet ...	7½					
Ackerman, Frederick ...	13½	Ditto	17 Sept. 1871	19 Mar. 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
Regan, Michael*.....	13½	Ditto	1 Dec. 1871	19 May, 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
Gibbs, Arthur Henry ...	9	Ditto	1 Feb. 1872	19 July, 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
Gibbs, Alfred Ernest....	6					
M'Auley, Robert.....	10	Ditto	26 Dec. 1873	7 April, 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
M'Auley, Eliza.....	7					
Handley, Percy Edward	4	Ditto	1 Aug. 1873	19 July, 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
Cannon, Richard.....	12	Ditto	1 Oct. 1873	10 April, 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
M'Phillips, Henry.....	7½	Ditto	8 Dec. 1874	19 May, 1875	Ditto	Ditto.
M'Phillips, Thomas ...	6					
Faber, Charles ...	12½	Longford	1 Oct. 1869	23 June, 1875	Warden	Ditto.
Williams, John.....	9	Ditto	25 May, 1875†			
Williams, Elizabeth....	7					
Summers, Eliza ‡.....	17½	Torquay	1 Jan. 1875	21 June, 1875	Police Magistrate	Ditto.
Smith, William Henry ..	2½	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto	Ditto.
Knight, George Thomas.	9	Campbell Town	1 May, 1867	26 July, 1875	Warden	Ditto.

* Arrangements are being made to relieve the Government of the cost of this lad's maintenance by placing him out at service.

† No report received since the children were boarded out.

‡ This girl is consumptive, and lives with her brother-in-law.

W. TARLETON, *Administrator of Charitable Grants,*
July 30th, 1875.