

(No. 26.)



1900.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN :

REPORT FOR 1899.

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

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DEPARTMENT FOR NEGLECTED CHILDREN.

REPORT FOR 1899.

New Town, 29th June, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, in accordance with Section 6, of 60 Vict., No. 24, to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department for Neglected Children for the year 1899.

Committals.

During the year 74 children were committed under the provisions of "The Neglected Children Act," and were disposed of as follows:—

Committed to Boys' Training School.....	17
Ditto Girls' Training School	2
Ditto care of department	55
	<u>74</u>

The 55 children committed to the care of the department were disposed of as follows:—

Transferred to Boys' Training School	13
Ditto Girls' Industrial School, Hobart.....	1
Ditto, ditto, Launceston	2
Ditto House of Mercy, Hobart	2
Placed out in service.....	2
Adopted	2
Boarded out	33
	<u>55</u>

Full particulars regarding the ages, religion, and cause of committal of the children will be found in Return A.

Discharges.

During the year three boys were discharged from the care of the department by order of the Governor in Council.

Expenditure.

Return B. shows the expenditure of the department for the year, from which it will be seen that the net cost was £3538 7s. The gross expenditure was £3668 7s. 7d., or £368 7s. 7d. more than the amount provided on the Estimates; the excess was provided for upon Supplementary Estimates.

Return C. shows the expenditure of the various Industrial and Training Schools, and of the children maintained under the Boarding-out System. From this Return it will be seen that the number of children maintained on the 31st December, 1899, was 308, a decrease of 8, as compared with the 31st December, 1898, and that the net cost per head was £12 17s. 11d., or 2s. 4d. per head less than the cost in 1898.

Apprentices.

On the 31st December, 1899, there were 57 children apprenticed to various persons from the Boys' Training School, New Town, and from under the Boarding-out System ; the sums deposited in the Post Office Savings Bank to the credit of these apprentices on that date amounted to £52 17s. 6d.

I have to acknowledge the great assistance rendered this department by the Commissioner of Police in causing the police throughout the Colony to report upon, and keep under review, all neglected children licensed or apprenticed.

Reports.

Attached will be found the following Reports :—

- Appendix A.—The Boys' Home, Hobart.
- „ B.—The Industrial School for Females, Hobart.
- „ C.—The St. Joseph's Orphanage, Hobart.
- „ D.—The Industrial School for Females, Launceston.
- „ E.—The Girls' Training School, Hobart.
- „ F.—The Boys' Training School, New Town.
- „ G.—The Boarding-out System.

Staff.

On the 1st January, 1899, I had the honour of being appointed Secretary to the Department for Neglected Children ; all other officers remained as during the year 1898, and I wish to record my high appreciation of the manner in which the Inspecting Officers (North and South) have carried out their respective duties, at times under trying circumstances, but always in a most efficient manner.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
F. R. SEAGER, *Secretary.*

The Honourable the Chief Secretary.



A.

RETURN of Committals under the provisions of the Neglected Children Act for the Year 1899.

DISTRICT.	Number committed.	AGES.															RELIGION.				CAUSE OF COMMITTAL.					
		1 year.	2 years.	3 years.	4 years.	5 years.	6 years.	7 years.	8 years.	9 years.	10 years.	11 years.	12 years.	13 years.	14 years.	15 years.	16 years.	Total.	Church of England.	Roman Catholic.	Wesleyan.	Total.	Neglected child.	Larceny.	Surrendered by parents.	Total.
Hobart	21	...	3	...	2	...	1	...	2	5	1	2	1	3	...	1	...	21	16	5	...	21	15	5	1	21
Launceston	17	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	3	...	2	2	1	1	...	2	...	17	13	4	...	17	9	7	1	17
Franklin	7	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	2	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	7	4	3	...	7	7	...	...	7
Bothwell	4	...	...	1	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	4	4	...	...	4
Oatlands	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	3	3	...	...	3
Deloraine	3	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	3	3	3	...	...	3	3	...	...	3
Latrobe	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1
Longford	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
Kingston	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Ulverstone	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	1
Devonport	4	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	4	4	...	...	4	4	...	...	...	4
Queenstown	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	1
Zeehan	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	...	4	2	1	1	4	2	2	...	...	4
Pontville	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	2
Campbell Town	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
Burnie	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	1
Stanley	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	2	2	...	...	2	...	2	...	...	2
TOTALS	74	1	3	2	4	1	4	6	5	11	3	8	10	6	4	5	1	74	58	14	2	74	51	21	2	74

B

RETURN showing the Expenditure of the Neglected Children Department for the Year 1899.

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.	RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Salaries.....		191	13	4	By Cash received for Maintenance	130	0	7	
Contingencies		5	0	4	Balance, being net cost to the State	3538	7	0	
Industrial and Training Schools—									
Boys' Home, Hobart	365	5	0						
Industrial School for Females, Hobart	259	14	9						
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Hobart.	393	17	9						
Industrial School for Females, Launceston	212	13	9						
Girls' Training School, Hobart.	147	7	1						
		1378	18	4					
Maintenance of Destitute Children under the Boarding-out System		2092	15	7					
		<u>£3668</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>					
							<u>£3668</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

	£	s.	d.
Amount expended	3668	7	7
Amount provided on Estimates.....	3300	0	0
Over Estimate	<u>£368</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

C

RETURN showing the Number of Children maintained at the Expense of the State in Training and Industrial Schools and under the Boarding-out System on the 1st January, 1899, the Number admitted and discharged during the Year, the Number remaining on the 31st December, 1899, and the Net Cost of same.

INSTITUTION.	Remaining 31 Dec., 1898.		Admitted during Year.		Discharged during Year.		Remaining 31 Dec., 1899.		Average daily number.	Cost of Maintenance.	Repayments.		Net Cost.	Net Cost per Head.
	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.			Maintenance.	Other Sources.		
Boys' Home Industrial School.....	32	...	...	...	7	...	25	...	28	£ s. d. 365 5 0	£ s. d. 7 10 0	£ s. d. ...	£ s. d. 357 15 0	£ s. d. 12 15 6
Industrial School for Females, Hobart .....	...	22	...	1	...	6	...	17	20	259 14 9	19 6 9	...	240 8 0	12 0 5
St. Joseph's Orphanage, Hobart .....	...	34	...	...	...	8	...	26	32	393 17 9	3 7 7	...	390 10 2	12 4 1
Industrial School for Females, Launceston.....	...	14	...	8	...	3	...	19	17	212 13 9	8 15 0	...	203 18 9	11 19 11
Girls' Training School, Hobart .....	...	12	...	2	...	2	...	12	12	147 7 1	...	...	147 7 1	12 5 0
Boys' Training School, New Town	60	...	37	...	49	...	48	...	54	925 3 4	21 7 0	221 6 7	682 9 9	12 12 9
	92	82	37	11	56	19	73	74	163	2304 1 8	60 6 4	221 6 7	2022 8 9 ^a	12 8 2
Boarding-out system	79	63	20	25	15	11	84	77	149	2092 15 7	91 1 3	...	2001 14 4	13 8 8
TOTAL	171	145	57	36	71	30	157	151	312	4396 17 3	151 7 7	221 6 7	4024 3 1	12 17 11

7

APPENDIX A.

BOYS' HOME INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, LANSDOWNE CRESCENT.

*Annual Report.**Hobart, 1st June, 1900.*

SIR,

HEREWITH I beg to submit to you, on behalf of the Governors of this institution, the following Report for the year ending 31st March, 1900 :—

During that period there have been no boys committed to the care and control of the Governors in the usual way, as formerly, but there are at present six boys who have been boarded out with Mrs. Shipley (the matron), by the Administrator of Charitable Grants. There are now (31st March) in the Home 24 boys committed to the Governors' care, 6 boys boarded out to Mrs. Shipley, and 1 living at the Home, who is in a situation in the City, making, in all, 31 inmates. These lads are being carefully looked after, and prepared, as far as means and opportunities allow, to go into the world to earn their own living.

The work of the boys consists in attending to the household duties, in keeping the Home and the adjacent buildings in good order and condition, and in cultivating the garden and grounds.

The health of the boys has been good on the whole, though a number have been on the sick list; but with constant care and attention serious results have been averted. Dr. Ireland has attended the cases of illness gratuitously, and the hospital authorities have always most willingly attended to those sent for treatment.

The education of the boys is attended to in a satisfactory manner by the schoolmistress, Mrs. Spratt, physical drill being also taught.

A drum and fife band has been formed, and the boys are taught the music regularly by Mr. Watkins. They have made satisfactory progress.

Accounts.

The accounts for the year have been duly audited, and show, as per balance-sheet annexed :—

	£	s.	d.
Receipts.....	770	7	5
Expenditure	704	0	7
Surplus for the year.....	66	6	10
Debit balance last year.....	33	3	4
Credit balance	£33	3	6

The interest on the Guesdon Bequest, £2500, amounts to £75 per annum.

It is understood that there is a further amount to be invested for this institution, but the definite sum is not yet known.

General.

The apprenticed boys, on the whole, are doing well. Several old Home boys have visited the institution, and some have contributed to its funds. There were two who went with one of the contingents for service in South Africa. Cases are continually coming under notice where lads are turning out a credit to themselves and to the Home.

The condition of the Home, the neat and cleanly appearance, and the uniform courteous behaviour of the lads, reflect credit upon those who are directly responsible.

The thanks of the Governors are again tendered to all who have so willingly and generously assisted the Home in various ways.

Signed on behalf of the Governors,

G. W. SHOBRIDGE, *Chairman.*

To the Secretary of the Department for Neglected Children.

APPENDIX B.
INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL FOR FEMALES, HOBART.

Annual Report.

SIR,

THE Committee, in presenting their 31st Annual Report, feel that there is very little to say. The work of the School during the past year has been carried on satisfactorily, the health of the children being very good.

There has been a change of teachers during the past year, Miss Sinclair, who faithfully discharged her duties for a period of 17 years, having resigned. The Committee, at present, have not quite decided as to her successor.

The amount, £256 3s. 10d., earned by needlework, mangling, and washing, shows an increase on the sum received last year, accounted for by the accounts for the year being made up to 28th February, instead of 1st December, 1899.

To Rev. Dean Kite and Rev. G. W. Sharp, who regularly give religious instruction, the young ladies who attend and have classes on Sunday afternoon, also to those who have drill and singing classes through the week, the Committee desire to tender their sincere thanks.

The Matron and Sub-matron have also fulfilled their duties faithfully, and to the satisfaction of the Committee.

The presents of cakes, fruit, Christmas cards, silver coins, &c., have proved very acceptable to the children, and have given them much pleasure.

In looking back upon the last year's work the Committee desire to record their thanks for the help they have received from donors and subscribers, and trust that God's blessing may attend all their future efforts in training the children to become useful women and good members of society.

No. of Girls 1st January, 1898	35
Admitted	4
	39
	39
Left for service	3
To friends	2
Hospital	1
Remaining 31st December, 1899.....	33
	39
	39

Only one girl has been sent to the School by the Government during the year; the other three have been girls coming to the home on leaving their situations.

F. J. SALIER, *Hon. Treasurer.*

The Secretary Neglected Children Department, Hobart.

APPENDIX C.
ST. JOSEPH'S ORPHANAGE AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, HOBART

Annual Report.

SIR,

THE Governors of St. Joseph's Orphanage have much pleasure in presenting their Report for the year ending 31st December, 1899, being the Twenty-first Annual Report of the institute.

The number of children in the Orphanage on 1st January, 1899, was forty-nine. Four were admitted during the year, two were discharged, one died, leaving fifty in the institute on 31st December, 1899.

No children have been sent in by Government during the year.

The same attention continues to be bestowed on the domestic training of the girls, and favourable reports have been received of those in service.

The health of the children during the year has been good.

Through the kindness of Mr. Back, General Manager of Railways, the girls had a very enjoyable trip to the River Plenty.

The Governors have not been able to commence the work of the required accommodation for the Sisters and the children.

The thanks of the Governors are specially due to those kind benefactors and friends who continue from year to year to render valuable service to the institute. The Hon. E. Mulcahy, notwithstanding the responsible position he now fills, has not allowed his interest in the welfare of the Institution to diminish. Doctor Butler and Mr. Rodway, dentist, still give their valuable services.

The Governors again appeal to the public for a continuance of their support, so that the good work of the Institute may be continued.

We have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

PHILIP HENNEBRY,
MARY EMILIAN O'CONNOR, } *Governors.*

The Secretary Neglected Children Department.

APPENDIX D.

GIRLS' INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, LAUNCESTON.

Annual Report.

SIR,

THE Governors and Committee have again the pleasure of submitting the Annual Report, which differs but little from many that have preceded it, unless it be in the fact that the work of the past year has, on the whole, presented more encouraging features than usual.

The health of the children has been remarkably good. The care and attention they receive, and the plain wholesome food provided, contribute largely to this result, for it is observed that when delicate children are admitted it is not long before a marked physical improvement is manifest.

The educational work, in all its branches, has been of a fairly satisfactory character, though we have not had the opportunity, for the past two or three years, of seeing the Report of the Government Inspector. The usual week-day Bible Class has been conducted, alternately, by the Rev. Canon Berresford and the Rev. J. R. Harcourt, B.A., and these gentlemen express themselves as greatly encouraged by the intelligence and attention of the children. The Sunday School Classes have also been regularly held.

Two girls have been placed at service in country situations, and of these we receive very satisfactory accounts. Three have been returned to relatives. We continue to receive excellent reports of many of the older girls in service.

Important improvements have been made in the household arrangements, by which another room has been made available as a school-room, leaving the other large room for the purposes of dining-room, the holding of special classes, &c. The whole of the rooms are undergoing a process of cleaning and painting, and the lavatory arrangements are greatly improved. The exterior of the older building is to be repaired and painted, and extensive improvements have already been made in the grounds, so that when all these works we now have in progress are finished, the institution will be rendered much more complete, as well as more attractive.

From the statement of accounts it will be seen that we have already expended under this head £73 5s. 5d., and expect the cost of completion will be about as much more. We have only been able to undertake this work because of our having come into possession of the first year's interest on the "Guesdon Charities Bequest," £75.

We are greatly indebted to Dr. Parker, Mr. Hall, dentist, clerical and lay friends, for the valuable services they have rendered, and ask them, one and all, to accept our most cordial thanks.

The Governors and Committee express the hope that the public who have all along so generously supported this institution, will not allow its funds to suffer diminution, because of the exceptional demands made upon them during the past few months, occasioned by the famine in India and the war in South Africa.

We trust that the Divine blessing may continue to rest upon this work, which has for its primary object the holding out a helping hand to those who, from various causes, would, but for such help, be placed at enormous disadvantages in the battle of life.

Number of girls in the School, January 1st, 1899	17
Admitted during the year	8
	25
Died	None
Discharged	3
Remaining in School, 31st December, 1899.....	22
Average daily number during the year	19

Signed on behalf of the Governors and Committee,

F. STANFIELD.

The Secretary, Neglected Children Department, Hobart.

APPENDIX E.

GIRLS' TRAINING SCHOOL REFORMATORY.

Annual Report.

SIR,

THE Ladies' Committee of Reformatory, in presenting their Nineteenth Report, are pleased to be able to say that the work of the Institution has gone on quietly and steadily throughout the year.

At the beginning of the year there were sixteen girls: two were received, four left, fourteen remaining at the end of the year. Their conduct, on the whole, was very good.

The service is still held on Sunday morning by Mr. Lake; also classes for Bible instruction on Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons.

The girls are employed in washing, housework, cooking, and needlework, and receive instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The amount received for washing was £195 10s. 8d.

The Committee wish again to record their appreciation of the work of the Matrons, which helps so much towards the success of the Institution.

Amount remaining in Bank, £71 7s. 1d.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

M. WRIGHT, *Hon. Sec. G.T.S.R.*

The Secretary, Neglected Children Department, Hobart.

APPENDIX F.

BOYS' TRAINING SCHOOL, NEW TOWN.

MANAGERS' REPORT for 1899.

New Town, 29th June, 1900.

SIR,

THE Managers of the Boy's Training School, New Town, in submitting their Annual Report, note with much pleasure the marked improvement in the conduct and usefulness of the boys during the past year, which they believe to be due to the very careful, kind, but firm treatment they have received at the hands of the Superintendent and his staff, who all show that they take a great interest in the welfare of the boys.

With very few exceptions, the boys who have been licensed, or indentured, have given great satisfaction to their masters; this we learn from letters received from them, and also from the great demand for boys, which far exceeds the supply.

The system of classification, and the granting of leave of absence for good conduct, has improved the tone of the boys, and proved to be a wonderful incentive to obedience and good behaviour.

Many of the boys have so much improved by the instruction and training, that they are now in good positions, and doing well for themselves.

Two who had finished their time during the year, have very warmly expressed their gratitude for the care and training they received in the school, and stated that "had it not been for their treatment while in the school, the gaol would most likely have been their home."

The health of the boys has been very good, two only having been sent to the hospital.

Most of the boys have been instructed in ploughing, fencing, milking, and other farm work, also in carpentering, tailoring, and blacksmithing.

The Managers venture to hope that the proposal to build cow-sheds, on a modern, up-to-date plan, on the land near the school, will be carried out with as little delay as possible, so that the boys may be instructed in the work of a model dairy-farm.

The report of the Inspector under the Education Department is satisfactory.

The Managers desire to express their approval of the very efficient and satisfactory way in which the Superintendent and Staff have carried out their duties.

We have, &c.

THEO. CANE, *Chairman*.
ARTHUR CASS.
M. W. GILLERAN.
W. PERRY HART.
J. O'BOYLE.
GEO. RICHARDSON.
F. R. SEAGER.
FRED. T. WHITINGTON, *L.L.B.*

The Secretary the Neglected Children Department, New Town.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Boys' Training School, New Town, for the year 1899.

Strength.

The number of boys on the books during the year was 127, and the number remaining on the 31st December, 48.

The highest number of boys in the School at any one time was 61, and the lowest, 48.

The average daily number was 54. As compared with 1898, this shows a decrease of 4.

Admissions.

The number admitted during the year was 37; viz.—

Committed to Training School.....	17
Ditto care of Department for Neglected Children, and transferred to Training School.....	13
Returned from service	1
Transferred from Boarding-out System	6
	<hr/>
	37
	<hr/>

Discharges.

The number discharged during the year was as follows:—

Licensed to masters	26
Ditto Parents	14
Transferred to Boys' Home	2
Ditto General Hospital.....	1
Ditto New Town Charitable Institution.....	1
Abandoned	3
Discharged, time expired.....	2
	<hr/>
	49
	<hr/>

Religious and Secular Instruction.

The boys have regularly attended their respective churches, Sunday schools, and religious instruction classes during the year. In consequence of the early harvest Mr. Lovell, Inspector of Schools, held the annual examination on the 10th November. Annexed is a copy of his report.

Recreation.

The boys were allowed to attend the various entertainments given in the concert hall of the New Town Charitable Institution during the year. Upon the invitation of the Manager of the Mascotte Opera Company they attended a pantomime at the theatre, and the Manager of Fitzgerald's Circus also invited them to an afternoon entertainment, which they much enjoyed. On Queen's Birthday the majority of the boys were allowed out to witness the review in the Domain, and in the evening they were all taken out on to the hill adjoining the School, where a large bonfire was lighted, and a liberal supply of fireworks given them. On Regatta Day 38 of the boys were granted leave of absence. During the year the boys not out on Saturday afternoons were permitted to attend the Show Ground to play and witness football and cricket matches. On the other public holidays the boys were taken for pic-nics in the bush.

Industrial Department.

The usual farm work has been carried on at the Government Farm and Derwent Park. The old buildings at the Government Farm, used for cow-sheds, &c., are dilapidated, and very much out of keeping with the requirements of the Training School. New cow-sheds, &c., built according to modern plans, are very urgently required.

Improvements have been effected at the Derwent Park Farm by the erection of a shelter-shed for carts and agricultural implements; several rods of fencing, with entrance-gates, have been erected, and the appearance of the Park Farm has been generally improved.

Physical Drill.

Considerable attention has been given to physical drill, and it has had a marked effect upon the carriage of the boys; the boys themselves much enjoy the exercise.

Conduct of the Boys.

The conduct of the boys, on the whole, has been good. Of the three boys shown as absconded, one ran away from the School, and is still at large; another, who had been taken in as a temporary measure, was sent to a place of service, but absconded as soon as he reached it; the other, though absent on the 31st December, was returned to the School a few days afterwards.

Apprentices.

There are 42 boys apprenticed to various masters throughout the Colony, and, as a rule, they are progressing very satisfactorily. Each boy has his banking account, and the sum of £43 2s. 5d. is now held by me in trust for them. Many of the boys communicate with me, and those living near Hobart, when granted a holiday, visit myself and the School, and, I am glad to state that many of the boys express their gratitude for the care and training they received in the School.

Finance.

Return A. shows that the expenditure for the year was £925 3s. 4d.; the receipts, from all sources, amounted to £242 13s. 7d., leaving a net expenditure of £682 9s. 9d.

The cost per head on the net expenditure was £12 12s. 9d., or £2 7s. 7d. more than in 1898. This increase is accounted for by the institution being charged its share of the cost of administration, consequent upon the redistribution of the salary of the Administrator of Charitable Grants from 1st January, 1899, and by minor increases to some of the staff, and also in consequence of the decreased average strength.

Telephone Communication.

The School has been placed in telephonic communication with the Central Office, thereby facilitating work, and securing prompt attention to any case of emergency.

Farm.

Return B shows the operations of the Farm for the year. The result would have been more satisfactory but for the dry season, and the low prices ruling for grain, &c.

The following stock was exhibited at the Southern Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society's Show held on the 18th and 19th of October, 1899:—1 draught mare, 3 milch cows, 1 two-year-old bull, 2 Ayrshire cows, 1 fat calf, 1 boar over 12 months, 2 boars under 12 months, 1 sow over 12 months, 1 sow under 12 months, and 2 two-year heifers; and succeeded in securing the following prizes:—First for fat calf, First for sow and pigs, Second for boar over twelve months, Second for draught mare, Second for two-year-old heifer, and First for milch cow. The boys take an active interest in the care of the stock.

B.

RETURN showing Operations of the Farm in connection with the Boys' Training School, New Town, during the year, 1899.

EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.	RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.
Purchase of seed.....	19 16 6	Cash received for sale of milk.....	66 2 2
Ditto bone-dust.....	4 10 0	Ditto stock	57 16 7
Ditto binders' twine.....	6 18 10	Ditto grain	59 13 0
Ditto harness.....	7 14 0	Ditto fodder	1 17 6
Ditto corn-sacks	5 0 0	Ditto services of beasts.....	7 0 0
Ditto tarpaulin	3 10 0	Ditto ploughing, &c., at cemetery....	8 5 0
Ditto ironwork for carts.....	2 13 7	Ditto cutting and binding grain at cemetery	1 10 0
Ditto plough-shares	0 18 0	Milk supplied to H.M. Gaol.....	18 19 10
Ditto firewood	1 4 0	Ditto N.T.C. Institution.....	174 15 4
Insurance of hay	2 0 0	Potatoes supplied ditto.....	23 5 0
Threshing grain	10 18 8		
Shoeing horses and blacksmith's work ...	9 15 9		
Balance credit.....	344 5 1		
	<u>£419 4 5</u>		<u>£419 4 5</u>

REPORT on Annual Examination, 1899.

Boys' Training School, New Town.

The examination was held on the 10th November. Present forty-nine (49) boys, in classes ranging from Lower First to Fourth (inclusive).

Lower First Class:—Number examined, seven (7); average of four, 12 years 6 months. In the same class at previous examination, 1; not present, 6. The work was found satisfactory on the whole.

Upper First Class:—Number examined, six (6); average age of three, 12 years 10 months. In a lower class at a previous examination, 1; not present, 5. Reading:—5 passed, none being up to the full standard, the reading, on the whole, was moderate. Writing (including spelling):—4 passed, none being up to the full standard, and the work, on the whole, moderate. Arithmetic:—6 passed, one being up to the full standard. The work, on the whole, was moderate. In all three subjects 4 passed, none being up to the full standard.

Second Class:—Number examined, eleven (11); average age of eight, 11 years 2 months. In a lower class at previous examination, 2; not present, 9. Reading:—8 passed, 3 being up to the full standard, and the pupils acquitting themselves moderately well. Writing (including spelling):—7 passed, 3 being up to the full standard. The handwriting is moderate, the spelling, weak. Arithmetic:—11 passed, 5 being up to the full standard. The work was good, on the whole. In all three subjects taken together, 7 passed, 2 being up to the full standard.

Third Class:—Number examined, 15; average age, 13 years 1 month. In a lower class at previous examination, 3; not present, 12. Reading:—15 passed, 10 being up to the full standard; the reading was good, on the whole. Writing (including spelling):—12 passed, 4 being up to the full standard. The handwriting is fair, and the spelling moderate. Arithmetic:—14 passed, one being up to the full standard. The work, on the whole, was moderate. In all three subjects taken together, 11 passed, none being up to the full standard.

Fourth Class:—Number examined, 10; average age, 14 years 10 months. In a lower class at a previous examination, 5; in the same class, 2; not present, 3. Reading:—10 passed, 7 being up to the full standard. The reading was good generally. Writing:—8 passed, 1 being up to the full standard. The handwriting is fair, and the spelling moderate. Arithmetic:—9 passed, four being up to the full standard. The work, on the whole, was moderate. In all three subjects taken together, 8 passed, 1 being up to the full standard.

Progress traced individually:—The progress of 14 pupils was found traceable; that of 7 being good; of 4 fair; of 2, moderate; of 1, slow.

S. O. LOVELL, *Inspector of Schools.*

APPENDIX G.

BOARDING-OUT SYSTEM.

REPORT for 1899.

The number of children maintained under the Boarding-out System on the 1st January, 1899, was 142—boys, 79; girls, 63.

The number admitted during the year was 45—20 boys and 25 girls; and 26—15 boys and 11 girls, were struck off the list; leaving 84 boys and 77 girls on the roll at the end of the year. These children were located as follows:—

	Boys.	Girls.
Hobart and Suburbs.....	61	54
Launceston and Suburbs	11	7
Municipal and Police Districts.....	12	16
Total	<u>84</u>	<u>77</u>

Expenditure.

The expenditure for the year was £2092 15s. 7d., or £160 3s. 11d. more than in 1898; this increase was caused by there being a greater number of children maintained in 1899 than in 1898.

The expenditure for the year was £442 15s. 7d. in excess of the amount voted on the Estimates; this excess was provided for by a Supplementary Estimate.

The sum of £91 1s. 3d. was received as repayments by relatives, as against £87 3s. 3d. received in 1898.

The daily average number of children maintained during the year was 149, as against 126 in 1898, and the net cost per head, £13 8s. 8d. as compared with £14 12s. 6d. in 1898; this is for maintenance only, but if the cost of administration were added the net cost for 1899 would be £14 1s. 2d.

Fox's Bequest.

The sum of £6 7s. 3d. was received from the Honourable the Chief Secretary on account of this bequest for the year 1899, and was distributed amongst the children throughout the Colony at the rate of 9d. each.

Apprentices.

The amount to credit of the Chairman of the late Central Committee in the Hobart Savings Bank, of apprentices under the Boarding-out System on the 31st December, 1899, was £130 14s. 9d.

Inspection.

The reports of the Visiting Committees and Inspecting Officers for the year 1899 are appended hereto, and I wish to record my sincere thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who have acted as Visiting Committees during the year, for their supervision over the boarded-out children and their foster-homes; their work, together with that of the Inspectors, is all-important, and a most influential factor in the successful working of this Department, and, in my opinion, cannot be given undue prominence to in the yearly report of the Department. I am pleased to note their most satisfactory reports upon the working of the boarding-out system of the Colony.

F. R. SEAGER, *Secretary*
Neglected Children Department.

REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE, CENTRAL AND SOUTH HOBART.

Frederick-street, Hobart, 1900.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to report that the ladies of the Visiting Committee have regularly visited the homes of the boarded-out children in Central and South Hobart during the past year. They were very pleased, on the whole, with the manner in which the children were fed, clothed, and cared for. In one or two cases faults of a trivial nature were noticed, but which were soon remedied on being pointed out.

I have, &c.,

ALBERT REID, *Chairman*
Central and South Hobart District,

The Secretary Neglected Children Department,

REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE, NORTH HOBART.

SIR, WHEN the boarded-out children in North Hobart were last visited all were well, and appeared happy and comfortable with their foster-parents. Our usual gifts were distributed at Christmas, and were much enjoyed by the children.

We have, &c.

H. SALIER.
S. C. BAILY.

The Secretary Neglected Children Department.

REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE, NEW TOWN.

St. John's Parsonage, New Town, 29th June, 1900.

SIR, WE have the honour to report as follows upon the children boarded out in New Town :—

The Committee have frequently visited the homes of the children and have always found them clean and neat, and the children themselves have always appeared well-fed and cared for. They attend school regularly, and are, we believe, making fair progress.

K. L. WHITINGTON.
C. E. PROPSTING.
F. M. BROWNELL.

The Secretary Neglected Children Department.

REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE, LAUNCESTON.

Local Visiting Committee, Launceston, 24th April, 1900.

SIR, DURING the past year six children have been given over to their fathers, one has been adopted by his foster-mother, two sent to the Training School, Hobart, and two to Girls' Industrial School, Launceston. One of these is weak in intellect, and, though 11 years of age, cannot speak plainly, but has greatly improved since she has been in the School, though never likely to be able to earn her own living; the other was said to be troublesome and disobedient, but no fault has been found with her since she was admitted.

We endeavour, as much as possible, to keep in touch with those who are apprenticed, and two of these, who are in the suburbs, we visit occasionally, and so endeavour to show them that we still take an interest in their welfare.

We visit the homes once a month, and the schools quarterly, and the reports from the teachers are, on the whole, satisfactory, in one case, particularly so.

There are now 17 children under our care, and, we believe, they are all well done by, specially noting the small remuneration received by the foster-parents.

I am, &c.,

LYDIA STANFIELD, *for Committee.*

The Secretary Neglected Children Department.

REPORT OF INSPECTING OFFICER, HOBART.

83, Argyle-street, 20th March, 1900.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to report, for your information, that during the year 1899 I made at least one visit a month to the homes of the foster-parents of boarded-out children in order to inspect the children placed in their charge; I have made as many as four visits a month to some of the homes. I make it a rule to drop into any home to see the children, when near them; I also make it a rule to see the children when coming from or going to their different schools. I find them very well kept by their foster-parents. They are sent to school looking clean and tidy, and their attendance at day and Sunday schools is very regular, unless prevented by sickness, and their conduct, as a whole, has been very good.

During the year there were several treated by Dr. Crouch, and others taken to the General Hospital, and attended to as out-patients, suffering from influenza, measles, coughs, &c., not any of a very serious nature, and, I am pleased to state, that there were no deaths during the year.

I hold a check over every foster-parent that they must produce the school certificate, signed by the master, on the 1st of every month, prior to being paid.

I have, &c.

JAS. PEARCE, *Inspecting Officer.*

The Secretary Neglected Children Department.

REPORT OF INSPECTING OFFICER, LAUNCESTON.

Launceston, 31st March, 1900.

SIR,

IN conformity with your instructions, dated 15th instant, I have the honour to submit my return for your information.

I visited the residences of foster-parents, and found everything satisfactory.

The health of the boarded-out children has been good, with the exception of a girl and boy, the former having caused the foster-mother a deal of anxiety during the year, in consequence of the delicate state of her health; but I am pleased to report now that the child is progressing very favourably indeed.

The children have been very regular in their attendance at school; in fact, as Truant Inspector, I have no fault to find with them; they are bright, intelligent, neatly dressed, and well cared for.

The Ladies' Committee are exceedingly attentive to the children, and most especially so the secretary, Mrs. Stanfield.

I have, &c.,

WM. WELSH, *Inspecting Officer.*

The Secretary Neglected Children Department.