

(No. 21.)



1893.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOARDING-OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN :

REPORT FOR 1892.

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

In like manner the children who by their apprenticeship, adoption, or restoration to relatives ceased to be a charge to the public, were not permitted to be withdrawn from the care and protection of the Committee until every precaution had been taken against the possibility of their introduction to homes in which their comfort and happiness would not be ensured.

The two children who were ordered to be sent to the Boys' Training School, Cascades, became very troublesome, were constantly absconding from their foster-parents, and would not attend school. In addition, one of them was arrested for appropriating certain money to his own use which had been entrusted to him, and having pleaded guilty was committed for four years. The other, after repeated efforts had been made to induce him to behave better, was apprehended by the police, charged with vagrancy, and ordered to be detained in the school for three years. The lad for whom temporary provision was made in the school until he could be received into the Boys' Home also became unmanageable, would not remain at home or go to school, and strong measures had to be resorted to to prevent him doing as he pleased. He is now in the Boys' Home.

The three children who were admitted to an Industrial School were boarded out in Launceston, but the Visiting Committee were not satisfied with their foster parent, and there being a difficulty in procuring another home of a suitable character the admission of the children to St. Joseph's Orphanage was recommended by the Visiting Committee, and assented to; the eldest is a delicate girl and requires great care and attention, and the second is described by the Visiting Committee as "an inveterate truant from school."

Respecting the four children who were admitted to Industrial Schools for domestic training, two were sent to the Girls' Industrial School, Hobart, and two to St. Joseph's Orphanage, under the special arrangement made with the Governors of the Schools as set forth in the Committee's Report for the year 1890.

The two admissions to the General Hospital were those of boys, one of whom had a deformed foot, and it was considered probable that an operation would have the effect of removing the lameness from which he suffered. Sufficient time has not elapsed since the operation to judge of the result, but there is every reason to hope it will prove successful. The other boy injured his ankle when attempting some gymnastic exercises practised at the circus, and needed special treatment. He has since been discharged and sent to service in the country.

With regard to the three deaths that took place during the year, the first was that of a female child seven months old, from diarrhoea and vomiting. The child was visited by Dr. Barnard and received every attention. The mother has been an inmate of the Contagious Diseases Hospital since the 10th December, 1891, and is likely to remain there some months yet.

The next was a boy 13½ weeks old, also from diarrhoea and vomiting. This child died at New Norfolk, and was attended by Dr. Neale two or three days before death. At the time of the child's birth the mother was a patient in the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.

The third child was a girl seven weeks old. Cause of death, thrush, inflammation of bowels and stomach. This child was born in the Hospital at New Norfolk a month after the admission of the mother, and during illness was attended by Dr. Neale.

The Committee held 15 meetings during the year, and three afternoons in addition were devoted to the annual inspection of the children and their homes.

The expenditure for the year was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Salary of Inspecting Officer	200	0	0
Maintenance, &c., of Children	1633	7	0
Cost of clothing purchased	16	2	0
Medical attendance and medicine	0	19	2
Cab hire, Central and Visiting Committees, Hobart and Launceston	8	0	6
			<hr/>
			£1858 8 8
Less repayment by relatives	£50	11	7
Ditto payments to Treasury by Central Committee of money forfeited by appren- tices for misconduct	£54	1	9
			<hr/>
			104 13 4
			<hr/>
			£1753 15 4
			<hr/>
Voted by Parliament	£1700	0	0
			<hr/> <hr/>

The average cost per head per annum amounted to £12 17s. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Clothing to the value of 13s. 1d. from stock on hand was also issued.

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

	£ s. d.			Cost per head.			Allowance per week.	Total Number of Children.
	£	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	14	0	4	6	121
1887.....	1775	9	2	12	15	6	6	139
1888.....	1683	5	7	13	18	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	121
1889.....	1656	17	7	14	5	8	6	116
1890.....	1668	17	6	14	7	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	6	116
1891.....	1771	3	6	13	12	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	6	130
1892.....	1753	15	4	12	17	10 $\frac{3}{4}$	6	136

Although provision was made during the year for 136 children, 74 only were a charge for the full period of 366 days. The remainder, 62, were maintained for periods varying from 13 to 362 days—average number of days, 283.

Annual Inspection.

The Committee commenced their annual inspection of the children and their homes in Hobart on the 21st November, and continued it on the 24th and 28th of the same month. As is customary, visits were paid without notice to the foster parents, so that the Committee should have the opportunity afforded them of seeing the homes in their ordinary aspect. The result upon the whole was most satisfactory.

The children wore a happy and contented look, were well clad, and appeared to be much attached to their foster parents. The homes were comfortably furnished and the sleeping arrangements for the children excellent. The rooms were well ventilated, and the bedding and beds clean and ample.

The greatest possible care is taken in the selection of foster parents, and it afforded the Committee much pleasure to find that their efforts to secure kind and respectable persons to look after the children had been so successful. There was one instance, however, in which the home, from its untidy appearance, was not to the satisfaction of the Committee, and three out of the four children who were living there have been removed since. For the fourth it has been found impossible to procure another home, as people object to take lads of his size and age, nearly 12, unless extra payment is offered. This difficulty, however, the Committee are doing their best to overcome. In the meantime the lad's interests are carefully looked after.

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 accompanying reports of the Principals of the several schools to which the children were sent that their progress and appearance were satisfactory. As payment for maintenance depends upon the regularity of the children's attendance, the foster parents are careful in their compliance with the regulations in this respect.

From the annexed Report of the Inspecting Officer it will be seen that the attendance of the children in Hobart at Sunday-school was also of a satisfactory character.

Health of Children.

It affords the Committee much gratification to be in a position to report that as a rule the children enjoyed good health during the past year. One boy was an inmate of the Hospital, Hobart, for 11 or 12 days in January suffering from congestion of the lungs, and the same lad was admitted again in December, having hurt his ankle. The eldest of the three girls who were admitted to St. Joseph's Orphanage was a patient in the Hospital, Launceston, from the 7th July to the 6th August, symptoms of consumption having manifested themselves. The lad already referred to who was sent to the Hospital for operation remained there from the 23rd November, 1892, to the 9th January, 1893. A child at Franklin was attended by Dr. Anderson for croup; in Hobart, one, and in Launceston, five children received treatment as out-door patients. One of the latter was dangerously ill from bronchitis with consumptive tendency. The Visiting Committee reported that this child was "splendidly cared for" by her foster-parent.

Changes in Homes.

In several instances it was found necessary to make changes in the homes of the children, the particulars of which are as follows :—

1. Two children were removed from Invermay to Launceston, the Visiting Committee having reported that they were not properly attended to by their foster-parent.
2. Four children, on the death of their foster-parent.
3. A boy, on account of the delicate state of his health, the distance his foster-parent resided from the State School, and the belief that he would improve if placed in a home with other children.
4. A girl, transferred from Oatlands to Hobart to be brought up with her three brothers.
5. A girl, at the request of her foster-parent, who became too ill to attend to her.
6. Four boys, on account of the failing health of their foster-parent.
7. A boy, transferred from Hobart to Campbell Town, he having become unmanageable, and would not go to school.
8. A boy, the woman with whom he lived being strongly suspected of keeping a house of ill-fame.
9. A boy, transferred from Hobart to Campbell Town; he was only 8 years old, but had contracted such a habit of roaming about the streets before he was boarded out that his foster-parent could not do anything with him.
10. Two children, owing to the age and infirmity of their foster-parent.
11. A girl, on the recommendation of the Visiting Committee, Launceston, who were not satisfied with the foster-parent.
12. A boy, at the request of his foster-parent, who found herself unable to control him.

Visiting Committees, &c.

The Committee have again much pleasure in bearing testimony to the efforts of the Visiting Committees in Hobart and Launceston to promote the well-being of the children in their respective Districts. Reports from the Committees are hereto appended.

Supervision was also exercised over the children in Hobart by the Inspecting Officer, Mr. Judge, who discharged his duties to the satisfaction of the Committee. In Launceston the Inquiring Officer, Mr. Wakeham, performed a similar duty in a satisfactory manner.

In the other parts of the Colony the Police Magistrates, Wardens, and Superintendents of Police guarded the interests of the children, reported at regular intervals as to their treatment, and aided to the utmost of their power in having the regulations for the attendance of the children at school and Sunday-school complied with.

Apprentices, &c.

Upon the whole the Committee have to report favourably upon the children who have been sent out to service. The few complaints made were of a trifling character, and the causes were easily removed. The apprentices who resided in and about Hobart were as usual under the supervision of the Inspecting Officer, whose report is forwarded herewith, and the masters of those residing in the country were communicated with every quarter by the Chairman of this Committee, who also collected the payments due under the indentures for deposit in the Savings Bank. These payments are at the rate of sixpence per week, with two exceptions, in which half the boys' wages are received and paid to the Savings Bank, where they accumulate until the apprentices reach the age of 18 years, up to which they are bound by indenture, when, if they have faithfully served their apprenticeship, the sums to their credit are paid to them.

During the year payments on this account were made to 21 apprentices, amounting to £118 1s. 8d.

The deposit books of the remaining apprentices, 43 in number, were made up at the end of February, and the amount to their credit was £214 5s. 7d. Since that date payments amounting to £2 19s. 2d. have been made, making a total up to date of £217 4s. 9d., and 44 accounts.

In the month of May the sum of £54 1s. 9d. deposited in the Savings Bank in the names of several apprentices, was withdrawn by the Committee and paid to the Treasury. This amount has been taken into account in estimating the expenditure for the year and the annual cost per head. Many of these accounts have been kept open for years, but as no claim had been made by the apprentices in whose names they were, the Committee decided to close them and appropriate the money as above. The apprentices referred to had either absconded from their places or misconducted themselves during their apprenticeship to such an extent as to render them unworthy of payment being made to them.

Fox's Bequest.

The share of this bequest apportioned to the boarded-out children, in accordance with the Resolution of both Houses of Parliament in the year 1889, amounting to £6 3s. 5d., has been received and equally divided amongst the children throughout the Colony, whose number at the time was 105.

Resignations, Appointments, &c.

Mr. Moses Ward having returned to Queensland, tendered his resignation as a Member of the Committee, and Mr. Thomas Bennison was appointed by His Excellency the Governor to the vacancy.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Chairman.*

W. TARLETON.

W. LOVETT.

FRED. J. SALIER.

J. G. PARKER.

CHARLES HARBOTTLE.

FRANCIS J. YOUNG.

THOS. BENNISON.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Watchorn-street School, 9th February, 1893.

THE boarded-out children that attended the Watchorn-street School for the year 1892 were very regular in their attendance; tidy in their appearance. Their conduct is very good, one of the children having won a prize for good conduct last Christmas. Their progress, also, is very satisfactory.

FREDERIKA HAUTH, *Head Teacher.*

Report of the Boarded-out Children who attended the Cascades Free School during the Year 1892.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Conduct.</i>	<i>Appearance.</i>	<i>Attendance.</i>	<i>Progress.</i>
1.	Very good.	Very good.	Very good.	Very good.
2.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
3.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
4.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.
5.	Very fair.	Good.	Good.	Fair.

T. E. HUNT, *Teacher.*
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Macquarie-street State School, 17th February, 1893.

I BEG to inform you that two boarded-out children attended the Macquarie-street State School during the year 1892. They attended very regularly, made good progress, and their appearance was everything that could be desired, and reflected great credit on the lady in charge of them.

A. HARLEY.

Battery Point State School, Hobart, 17th February, 1893.

ONLY one boarded-out child, a little girl, attended this school during the year 1892. She was in no respect distinguishable from the average of the children in her class.

M. M'PHEE, *Head Teacher.*

Murray-street Free State School, 20th February, 1893.

I HAVE the honor to present our Report on the Boarded-out Children attending this School during the year 1892. The attendance was very regular, being reported every week to the Relieving Officer. I have had no reason to complain; all come clean, suitably and comfortably clothed for the season. Their conduct in school very good, and progress in education very fair.

CHARLES HALL.

Boarded-out Children attending the Goulburn-street State School.

<i>Attendance, 1892.</i>		<i>Attendance, 1892.</i>	
1.	210 $\frac{1}{2}$ days.	7.	225 days.
2.	218 "	8.	233 "
3.	232 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	9.	113 "
4.	232 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	10.	44 " Left April 1, 1892.
5.	231 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	11.	161 " " Oct. 10, 1892.
6.	218 "	12.	176 $\frac{1}{2}$ " " Dec. 2, 1892.

There has been no untidiness to complain of, and all have made fair progress. No. 1 is somewhat deficient in intellect, and No. 8 is very slow.

C. H. RULE, *Head Teacher, Goulburn-street State School.*

February 21, 1893.

St. Mary's, Hobart, March 4, 1893.

THE SISTERS of the Presentation Convent have much pleasure in furnishing a Report of the four boarded-out children attending their Schools during the year 1892. They have been regular in their attendance, progress satisfactory, appearance neat and healthy, and conduct good.

Liverpool-street, Hobart, January 31, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that four boarded-out children attended St. Joseph's Boys' School during the year ended 31st December, 1892.

T. MITCHELL, *Master.*

<i>No.</i>	<i>Attendance.</i>	<i>Appearance.</i>	<i>Progress.</i>	<i>Conduct.</i>
1.	Good.	Creditable.	Fair.	Good.
2.	"	"	"	"
3.	"	"	"	"
4.	Fair.	Fair.	"	Fair.

To the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

83, Argyle-street, 10th January, 1893.

SIR,

I BEG to report for your information that the teachers or clergymen who have control of the different Sunday Schools at which the boarded-out children have been instructed during the year 1892 have given me most satisfactory accounts of their attendance at religious instruction during that year. There is, however, one little fellow; 4642, who, being then under five years of age, did not attend very regularly.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

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

Local Visiting Committee, Launceston, 1st March, 1893.

DEAR SIR,

IT is not easy to write in general terms any report that will be interesting about the children who are visited by our Committee.

Three girls have been transferred to St. Joseph's Orphanage and one little boy to Hobart, but the remaining 19 children who are boarded out are all in good health and undoubtedly well cared for. There are only one or two whose circumstances we are not quite satisfied about, and one of these will have to be apprenticed in a few weeks. While still holding firmly to the opinion expressed in last year's report that children on the whole are better placed in families than in Industrial Schools, we are inclined to modify this opinion in regard to boys over eight or ten years. When the foster-mother has not got a husband who will exercise a wise and firm control, the boys are apt to get too much of their own way.

Faithfully yours,

GRACE ELIZABETH SOLTAU, *Hon. Sec. L.V.C*

J. O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

Hobart, 13th March, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the boarded-out children in the Hobart Central District were visited each month during the past year by Mrs. Reid and the Misses Bennison, members of the Committee, who expressed themselves as being well pleased with the manner in which the foster-parents had attended to their duties, the children being in good health, well clothed and fed.

I have, &c.

The Administrator Charitable Grants.

ALBERT REID, *Chairman.*

Lands and Works Office, Hobart, 24th March, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report, on behalf of the ladies and myself, that the boarded-out children in the district which has been committed to our charge have been well cared for, and are very creditable to those in whose care they have been placed.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM H. T. BROWN.

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq., Administrator Charitable Grants, Hobart.*

March 28th, 1893.

DEAR SIR,

VARIOUS circumstances last year prevented Mrs. Baily and myself from visiting the boarded-out children in North Hobart as regularly as we would have wished to do, but from the few visits we were able to make we were satisfied with the appearance of the children. They were comfortably clad, well fed, and appeared to be receiving proper attention from their foster-parents.

Believe me, &c.

HARRIET M. SALIER.

The Administrator Charitable Grants.

83, Argyle-street, 27th February, 1893.

SIR,

I BEG to report for your information that there has been less bother with the apprentices from the boarding-out system during the year 1892 than at any other time since the system was inaugurated; employers are satisfied, and the apprentices are equally so.

One case only, 2544, as usual a girl, had made herself so disagreeable to her mistress that it was found necessary to transfer her to a country place; but her conduct there was of such a nature that to save her from ruin she had to be removed to the Charitable Institution at New Town. She is at present in the hospital, but a place of service is awaiting her, to which, on her discharge, she will be sent, and where she will not have an opportunity of misconducting herself in the manner she formerly did.

The lad, 2510, who was reported from Impression Bay to be dishonest, has been in a situation in town, where he has had every opportunity to commit himself were he so inclined; but though he has been in his present situation since 1st June, 1891, there has not only been no complaints against him, but his master speaks in high terms of his steadiness and uprightness, and will endeavour to re-engage his services when his time expires on 1st March next.

I am, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

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