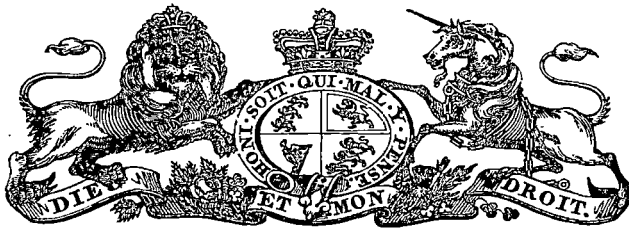


(No. 14.)



1887.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TRAINING SCHOOL FOR BOYS, CASCADES :

REPORT FOR 1886.

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



REPORT of the Managers of the Boys' Training School, Cascades, 1886.

ANOTHER year having run its course, the Managers of the Boys' Training School feel it their duty to report as to the working of the Institution under their care.

Meetings are held monthly,—oftener if required,—to which the Superintendent sends a report of all that has transpired during the intervening period ; when, whatever may require attention is duly considered. Visitors are appointed at each monthly meeting, who are expected to see that everything in connection with the Establishment is carried forward in a proper manner.

Upon the whole all has been conducted satisfactorily. The boys have behaved well, and have manifested interest in their work. The officers are attentive to their duties, and the various operations have proceeded with a fair amount of success, and with due regard to economy. An excellent cowshed has been erected by the school staff, also some more fencing, and some necessary repairs to the buildings have been executed.

The Managers have thought that the services of the extra carpenter might suitably be dispensed with ; accordingly, though an excellent officer, he was discharged at the end of November. There has also been a change in the Matron. The one who had occupied the position for the past two years resigned, consequent upon her intended marriage ; but her place has been filled by a widow who was well recommended, and thus far the conduct and discipline of the Institution has not appeared to suffer from the changes.

The supply of Milk to the several Establishments at the Cascades has been well sustained ; which, with about 70 lbs. butter, represents the amount of £120 15s. 6d.

	£	s.	d.
The whole earnings of the Farm have been	144	5	9
After deducting the wages of farm labourer, with other expenses of that portion of the Establishment, including two cows, which cost £18 10s.	141	2	3
A credit balance remains of.....	£3	3	6

with a fine stack of hay, and a crop of maize and mangolds for the use of the stock.

The Managers regret that there is so small a quantity of land suitable for cultivation : were more ground available, it would be a great advantage to the Institution and very helpful to the boys.

Early in the year there was much thought and discussion as to the desirability of licensing some of the boys ; but before that could be accomplished, a form of licence had to be decided upon which would be satisfactory to employers, as well as tending to protect the boys. Eventually the Solicitor-General was consulted, and all necessary arrangements were made. An advertisement was then inserted in the newspapers north and south of the island, which resulted in 45 applications being received, *nearly all being for lads having some knowledge of agriculture.*

Licensing the boys has been felt to be a most important part of the Manager's duty, so much of the after-life of the boys being largely dependent upon the kind of masters selected. Happily, thus far, success has crowned the care that has been exercised, both masters and boys being satisfied. The reports received from time to time have been very encouraging, excepting in one case, in which, though the master was well pleased with the industry of the youth (now 19 years old), yet the temptation of the public-house was too strong for him, and when under the influence of liquor he committed an act which brought him again into trouble. The master wrote to the Secretary as

follows :—"I rode 30 miles to attend the trial, but could do him no good. I am very sorry ; it is a great loss to me, as he was always most civil and obliging to me and my family, and a quick and good worker. On my premises I could not find any fault with him ; but drink has been his ruin."

The Managers would respectfully suggest that a fund be provided for the purpose of rewarding the boys who give satisfaction to their employers, and remain at least twelve months in their situations. Although rewards are now given for good behaviour in the school, yet it is thought that much good would result if the stimulus were carried into after life, thus showing them that their conduct was noticed by those who had hitherto cared for them, and were still anxious to encourage them to industry and good behaviour.

It seems unnecessary to add anything further, but to refer to the subjoined report of the Superintendent.

R. MACLAREN WEBSTER, *Chairman.*

To the Hon. the Chief Secretary.

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

GENTLEMEN,

It again becomes my duty to report on the progress and operations of the Boys' Training School during another period of twelve months, which ended with the close of the year 1886.

It is gratifying to be able to state that the work begun nearly three years ago continues to progress, and that, so far as one can judge in the limited experience, with fair results, several very promising lads have left to situations during the year.

In my first report, the means I intended to pursue in the management of the Institution were stated ; and the experience of another year has strengthened me in the belief that such schools can be conducted without recourse to corporal punishment, unless in very extreme cases. My aim has always been to make the boys feel at home,—to give the school as little as possible the appearance of a mere institution,—and to allow the boys as much freedom as can be given without in any way impairing the discipline of the establishment. Upon these lines good has been accomplished in the past, and there does not appear to be sufficient reason for innovations in the immediate future. I now propose to deal with the operations of the year under the usual headings.

Admissions.

Nineteen boys were admitted during the year, being seven in excess of the admissions of the previous year. Eight of these were from Hobart, six from Launceston, one from Longford, one from Franklin, one from Campbell Town, one from Ulverstone, and one from Burnie.

Ages of Boys admitted.

Three were aged 15 ; six, 14 ; four, 13 ; two, 12 ; two, 11, and two, 10.

Periods for which the Boys were sentenced.

For 2 years, one ; for 3 years, eight ; for 4 years, four ; for 5 years, six.

Offences for which committed.

For theft, 15 ; for being idle and disorderly, 4. The thefts include one of horse-stealing, and two of the thefts of a considerable sum of money ; the others are minor cases, although several show much daring.

Family Circumstances of Boys admitted.

Fatherless, 4 ; motherless, 2 ; both parents alive, 13.

Educational Condition.

It is a deplorable fact that the great bulk of the boys admitted during 1886 show greater ignorance in the mere rudiments of education than those previously admitted. Of the nineteen admissions no fewer than thirteen could neither read nor write ; only three could read and write fairly, and three well.

Discharges.

Institutions of this description are judged, and rightly so, by their results. The question is, how many can be saved from a life of crime and degradation and trained up useful and honorable citizens ? It is useless to look for an entire reclamation of all lads committed to such institutions, as there are some who appear quite irreclaimable, who cannot resist temptation when placed in their way, and are quite unable to control themselves, unless they are continually watched. It is too early to speak definitely on the discharges for 1886 ; still it is pleasing to know that the great bulk of those licensed out give every satisfaction to their employers. One of them wrote to the Hon. Secretary thus : "I am glad to say the boy suits me well, and if he is a sample of the boys in the school, so far he is a credit to the institution." During the year one boy has been discharged to his friends in Melbourne though his sentence had not fully expired. This lad gave every satisfaction while in the institution, insomuch that the Managers thought it expedient to recommend his case to the favourable consideration of the Chief Secretary. Ten boys were licensed out to situations, principally with farmers in the country.

Present Number in the School.

On the roll 31st December, 1885, 26. Admitted during the year, 19. Discharged, 1; licensed, 10; died, 1; total, 12. Remaining in the School 31st December, 1886, 33.

General Conduct and Health of the Boys.

It is gratifying to be able to report that the conduct of the boys during the whole of the year has been very good. Anything like serious offences have been conspicuous by their absence. There were two cases of absconding, but as the boys were speedily secured, others were deterred from making similar attempts. The health throughout the year was exceedingly good. From the month of May there was not a single case of illness. Dr. Coverdale, resident physician at the Insane Hospital, has been very attentive when his professional services have been required. I regret to say that one of the lads who had been in the school for about six weeks died in the Hobart Hospital.

Industrial Department.

The boys have been kept fully occupied throughout the year. The carpenters have built an excellent cowshed, and have put up a quantity of fencing. They have also manufactured various articles for the use of the school. The gardeners and farm boys have been always busy in their respective departments. In connection with the farm upwards of 15,000 pints of milk have been sold, as well as 70 lbs. butter, also a quantity of potatoes. The garden has supplied the institution with an abundance of excellent vegetables. During wet weather there has been a difficulty in keeping all the lads fully occupied. To prevent this netting has been introduced, and already several of the boys are fairly proficient.

Amusements and Privileges.

The amusement and recreation of the lads both in summer and winter have received due attention. The boys have played several football matches with neighbouring clubs, and have won several of them. A magic lantern entertainment was provided by John Macfarlane, Esquire, a gentleman who has always taken a lively interest in the welfare of the institution. The annual entertainment given by the boys was quite as successful as formerly: the Hon. W. H. Burgess, Treasurer, kindly presided. Among those present was the Acting Chief Justice (the late Mr. Giblin). The boys enjoy the privilege of visiting the city at stated intervals, which is granted upon their obtaining a certain number of marks. This privilege is a wonderful incentive to good conduct, and, I am pleased to report, has never once been abused.

Religious Instruction.

The Protestant boys have occasionally had religious instruction from various ministers, and the Catholic portion by Ministers of their church. In addition to this the boys have regular Bible instruction given them by myself.

General Remarks.

It is pleasing to know that magistrates are becoming more and more convinced that a preliminary imprisonment before being sent to the Training School is in many cases quite unnecessary. The majority of those committed during the year have been sent direct to the institution.

It is quite evident that as years roll on this institution will become more and more a farm school, where youths who have gone a little astray may be led back again to the right path, and trained as practical agriculturists. Workmen of this description are much wanted in the colonies, and the demand for such is practically unlimited.

It is much to be regretted that the level land at the Cascades is not more plentiful, so that the lads might have more opportunity of learning to plough, as well as other operations connected with a farm.

The classification of the inmates of Reformatory Institutions at Home is a question which is at present being much discussed by those engaged in the work. Several serious cases of insubordination and mutinous behaviour have occurred during the year, principally on Reformatory training-ships. The most serious was the outbreak on board the *Oceana*, at Liverpool. Thirteen of the ringleaders were tried by Mr. Justice Grantham, who, in addressing the jury, used the following words:—"I ask you to consider what must have been going on on board this ship for the last four or five years. This ship must of necessity have been a school for crime to all those brought into contact with these lads. Can you imagine anything more certain to create mischief amongst boys than to take thirteen lads just as they stand and place them in contact with 192 other lads with nothing to prevent them leavening the whole mass?"

From a considerable experience in large institutions I have no hesitation in asserting that it is an utter impossibility to classify properly the inmates of such schools. The plan adopted here, and the one likely to be followed in the Old Country, is the only sound one,—viz., to keep the institution small, so as to enable those in charge to thoroughly understand each inmate, and to license out as early as possible.

My best thanks are due to the Honorary Secretary (Mr. Mather) for the counsel, advice, and encouragement given me in the important trust and responsibility attaching to the management of this institution.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

JAMES LONGMORE, *Superintendent.*

ACCOUNT Current of the Boys' Training School, Cascades, 1886.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Funds provided by Government	1078	0	0	By Salaries	367	8	5
				Clothing, Bedding, and Stores	140	19	0
				Provisions	323	15	10
				Washing, Fuel, and Light	79	6	4
				Petty Expenses and Rewards	17	10	11
				Stationery and Printing	7	19	6
				Repairs to Buildings	37	18	8
				Furniture and incidental expenses	16	7	6
				Unexpended Balance	86	13	10
	<u>£1078</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£1078</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Current Maintenance.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Clothing, Provisions, &c.	569	11	7			
Salaries	367	8	5			
	<u>937</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			
Less Contribution for Maintenance	10	0	0			
				927	0	0

Permanent Works.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fencing, Repairs to Buildings, &c.	54	6	2			
Contribution as above	10	0	0			
				64	6	2
				<u>£991</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>

FARM Expenses, Boys' Training School, Cascades, 1886.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Funds provided by Government	261	5	0	By Salary to Farm Labourer	91	5	0
				Stock purchased	18	10	0
				Fencing and Buildings	119	9	8
				Seed, Hay, &c.	31	7	3
				Unexpended Balance	0	13	1
	<u>£261</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£261</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

Current Maintenance.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salary of Farm Labourer	91	5	0			
Two Cows, at cost price	18	10	0			
Seed, Hay, &c.	31	7	3			
				141	2	3

Permanent Works.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Fencing and Repairs	119	9	8			
				<u>£260</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>

Working Account.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
To Current Maintenance (brought forward)	141	2	3	By sale of Pigs	6	19	1
Balance	21	13	6	Sales Milk and Butter	120	15	6
				Fruit and Vegetables	16	11	2
				Two Cows (cost price)	18	10	0
	<u>£162</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>		<u>£162</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>9</u>
				By Balance	£21	13	6

Besides a fine stack of Hay and a crop of Maize and Mangolds for the Stock.

R. MACLAREN WEBSTER, *Chairman.*