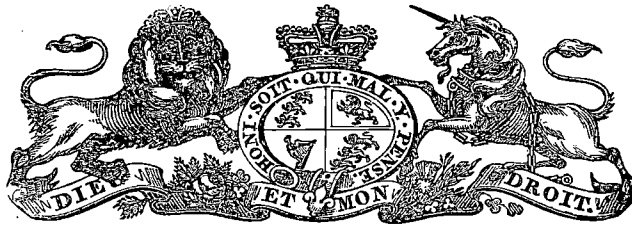


(No. 25.)



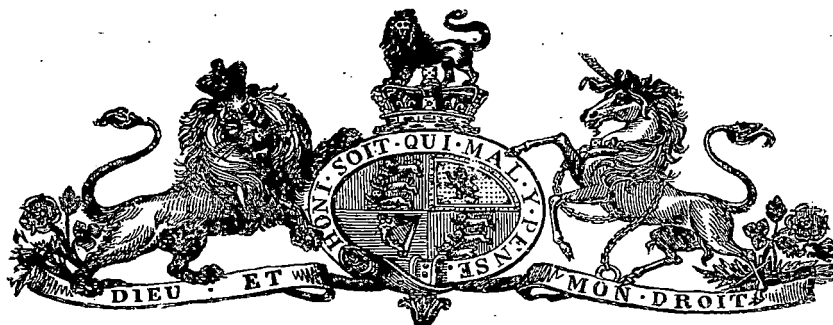
1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN :

REPORT FOR 1890.

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



BOARDING OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

REPORT for 1890.

Charitable Grants Department, 18th April, 1891.

SIR, THE Central Committee for Boarding out Destitute Children have the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1890.

At the beginning of that year the total number of children maintained under the boarding-out system was 95—boys, 57 ; girls, 38—viz., in—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs	30	23	53
Launceston.....	16	6	22
Municipalities	11	9	20
	57	38	95

The names of 21 children were added to the boarded-out list during the year, and the Committee were enabled to relieve the Government of the cost of the maintenance of 25 under the circumstances set forth hereunder ; viz.—

- 4 were apprenticed.
- 3 were admitted to Industrial Schools.
- 7 were adopted.
- 9 were taken by relatives.
- 2 died.

—
25

leaving, on the 31st December, a total of 91, residing as follows :—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart and Suburbs	32	18	50
Launceston.....	15	9	24
Municipalities	11	6	17
	58	33	91

four less than the number with which the year commenced.

The Committee held 18 meetings during the year, and four afternoons were devoted, in addition, to the annual inspection of the children and their homes.

Respecting the 21 children above referred to, the Committee made the fullest inquiry into the circumstances connected with them, and satisfied themselves that the children were in such a destitute and neglected condition as to call for their intervention.

With regard to the children who ceased to be a charge to the Government during the year by reason of their apprenticeship, adoption, or maintenance by relatives, the Committee took every precaution to ensure for them comfortable homes and trustworthy guardians before they permitted them to leave the care of their foster-parents.

Two of the three children admitted to Industrial Schools were girls who, having arrived at the age of twelve years, were received into the Girls Industrial School for two years' domestic training under a special arrangement made with the Governors. It has been the opinion of the Committee for some time that girls of the age of 12 or 13 years were too young to be sent to service without some instruction in household work, and a correspondence was entered into early in the year with the Governors of the several Industrial Schools on the subject. The desire of the Committee to have the privilege of placing girls at 12 years of age in these schools for domestic training for at least two years was favourably entertained by the Governors, and the Committee feel sure the result will be highly beneficial to the children. The training they will receive will no doubt enable them on the completion of their term to take good places at a fair rate of wages, and to give much greater satisfaction to their employers than has been the case hitherto. The other, a boy, was sent to the Boys Home, his foster-parent having found it impossible to induce him to go to school or to prevent him from running away and wandering about the streets until brought back by force.

The following are the particulars of the two deaths that took place during the year:—The first, a girl nearly six years old, under the care of her grandmother at Richmond, succumbed to lung disease on the 5th January, after an illness of twelve months, during the last six of which her case was regarded as hopeless. She had constant medical attendance, and received every care from her grandmother. The other, a boy nearly seven years of age, living in Hobart, was attended by the Government Medical Officer, Dr. Barnard, and was supplied with every necessary from the General Hospital. The cause of death, which took place on the 9th October, was mesenterica.

During the year provision was made for 116 children, but 76 only were a charge for the full period of 12 months. The remainder were maintained for shorter periods, varying from 7 to 352 days. The average number of days was 304½.

The expenditure for the year was as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Maintenance of children.....	1504	2	11
Cost of clothing purchased.....	20	14	0
Salary, Inspecting Officer.....	180	0	0
	<hr/>		
	1704	16	11
Less repayments made by relatives.....	35	19	5
	<hr/>		
Unexpended balance.....	1668	17	6
	511	2	6
	<hr/>		
Voted by Parliament.....	£2180	0	0
	<hr/> <hr/>		

The average cost per head per annum amounted to £14 7s. 8½d.

Articles of clothing to the value of 9s. 2d. from stock received from the Colonial Storekeeper in 1883 were 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	9¾	5	191
1882	1912	19	0	13	13	8½	5	166
1883	1852	2	11	14	1	10¼	5	155
1884	1900	0	11	14	1	5½	} 5 for 2 months 6 for 10 months }	135
1885	1872	9	4	14	14	11		
1886	1696	0	0	14	0	4	6	121
1887	1775	9	2	12	15	6	6	139
1888	1683	5	7	13	18	2½	6	121
1889	1656	17	7	14	5	8	6	116
1890	1668	17	6	14	7	8½	6	116

Annual Inspection.

On the 8th December the Committee commenced the annual inspection of the children boarded out in the city of Hobart and suburbs, and continued it on the 11th, 15th, and 18th. The foster-parents had no knowledge when the Committee would visit them, consequently they had no opportunity afforded them of making any special arrangements for the cleanliness or tidiness of their homes. The Committee therefore found them in their ordinary condition, as they desired to do, and, with one exception, had every reason to be satisfied with the appearance they presented. The children were well and comfortably clad, and seemed to be happy and contented. The foster-

parents reside in respectable localities, and the provision made for the sleeping accommodation of the children met with the approval of the Committee. The food supplied also appeared to be of good quality and sufficient for the wants of the children. Every possible precaution is taken in the selection of the foster-parents, and the Committee were much gratified at finding their efforts in this direction had resulted so favourably. In the exception referred to, the Committee found the foster-parent's residence, although a comfortable looking house, and situated in a good neighbourhood, very far from being as clean as it should have been, and the rooms set apart for the children were close, ill-ventilated, and a great contrast to those met with in the other homes. Under these circumstances, the removal of the children to more congenial surroundings was directed.

Attendance at School.

The rule requiring foster-parents to produce satisfactory weekly certificates of the attendance at school of the children under their care was, as usual, rigidly enforced, and on the whole resulted very satisfactorily. In some cases a little trouble was given, but it was perhaps as much the fault of the children as the foster-parents; however, it is known that payment for maintenance depends upon the regularity of the children's attendance, and, as a consequence, the foster-parents are careful not to incur the penalty that would be imposed upon them for systematic neglect of this duty and the certainty also of being deprived of the custody of the children.

Reports from the Principals of the several schools attended by the children are appended.

From the annexed reports of the Inspecting Officer and Police-Sergeant Higgins, New Town, it will be seen that the attendance of the children at Sunday School was also of a satisfactory character.

Health of Children.

It is gratifying to the Committee to be able to report the almost entire absence of sickness amongst the children during the past year. One boy suffered from a swollen foot and a rash over various parts of the body, and was an inmate of the Hospital from the 6th August to the 19th September. In other respects the health of the children was exceptionally good.

Changes in Homes.

It was found necessary, in some few instances, to make changes in the homes of the children, the particulars of which are as follows:—

1. A lad who got beyond the control of his foster-parent was placed with a younger person who could compel him to obedience.
2. A boy given to pilfering was removed to another home in which it was considered he would be less likely to have opportunities of indulging his propensity.
3. Three boys, whose foster parent had been detected in stealing a pair of boots. This woman had the care of boarded-out children since the inauguration of the system, and was highly thought of.
4. Three children, at the request of the Visiting Committee, Launceston, who did not consider the home they were in suitable.
5. A girl removed from Franklin to Hobart, in consideration of the circumstances connected with her birth, and in order that she might be afforded the opportunity of growing up amongst people to whom her history would not be fully known.
6. A boy who was constantly leaving home, wandering about the town, and inducing other boys in his neighbourhood to play truant from school. This breaking up of old associations has resulted in good, for he has not given any trouble since his removal to Campbell Town.
7. Three children, on the recommendation of the Visiting Committee, Launceston, their foster-parent not being able to keep them any longer.
8. Two boys, on the departure from the colony of their foster-parent.
9. A boy, his home not being satisfactory to the Central Committee on the occasion of their annual inspection. Two other children to be removed when suitable homes have been found.

Visiting Committees, &c.

The Committee have much pleasure in tendering their thanks to the Visiting Committees in Hobart and Launceston for their supervision and care of the children in their respective districts, and to express their belief that the Committees have continued to do much towards promoting the happiness of the children and the comfort of their homes. Reports from the Visiting Committees are appended.

The Inspecting Officer, Mr. Judge, who discharged his duties to the entire satisfaction of the Committee, also reported periodically to the Committee, and the children boarded out at New Town were frequently visited and reported upon by the District Police Officer.

In the other parts of the Colony the Police Magistrates, Wardens, and Superintendents of Police exercised a careful supervision over the children, reported at regular intervals as to their treatment, and rendered valuable aid in having the regulations for the attendance of the children at school and Sunday-school complied with.

Apprentices, &c.

The Committee experienced very little trouble in connection with the children at service. Their conduct upon the whole was good, and during the year very few complaints were received. There was one case, however, in which a girl, aged 14, who would not stay at service, had to be sent to St. Joseph's Orphanage, as it was feared harm would come to her if not placed under strict supervision. Constant communication was kept up with the employers, and the Inspecting Officer, whose report is hereto attached, looked after the interests of the children who had homes in and about Hobart. A report from Sergeant Higgins on the condition of the apprentices at New Town is also forwarded. Masters residing in the country were corresponded with every quarter by the Chairman of the Committee, who also collected the payments due under the indentures for deposit in the Savings' Bank.

On the 19th August a circular was addressed to the Police Magistrates and Wardens of the several districts in the colony in which there were apprentices, requesting inquiry to be made into the manner in which they were being treated by those to whom they were apprenticed, and the nature and extent of the work they were called upon to perform; also as to the food, clothing, and bedding supplied to them, as well as the sleeping accommodation provided for them. It was also requested to be ascertained from the children, uninfluenced if possible by the presence of their employers, if there was anything they desired to be made known to the Committee with regard to the treatment they were receiving. To this circular very satisfactory replies were received by the Committee.

During the year payments amounting to £131 14s. 8d. were made to 18 apprentices who had arrived at the age of 18 years, and whose conduct during apprenticeship had been such as to entitle them to receive the amount standing to their credit in the Savings' Bank.

The children's deposit books, 77 in number, were made up at the end of February, and the amount to their credit was £313 18s. 4d. Since that date payments amounting to £13 8s. 3d. have been made, making a total up to date of £327 6s. 7d

Fox's Bequest.

The sum of £10 9s. 6d., the share of this bequest apportioned to the boarded-out children, in accordance with the Resolution of both Houses of Parliament in 1889, has been received and equally divided amongst the children throughout the Colony, whose number at that time was 86.

Resignations, Appointments, &c.

Messrs. W. Benson and J. S. Laurie being about to leave the Colony, tendered their resignations, and Messrs. C. Harbottle and F. J. Salier were appointed by His Excellency the Governor to the vacancies.

The Committee consider it due to the above-named gentlemen to acknowledge the interest they took in the work of the Committee during their term of office, and the valuable services they rendered in promoting the well-being of the boarded-out children throughout the Colony.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

J. O'BOYLE, *Chairman.*
W. TARLETON.
W. LOVETT.
FRED. J. SALIER.
J. G. PARKER.
JOHN BAILY.
W. H. BURGESS.
CHAS. HARBOTTLE.

83, Argyle-street, 20th March, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report, for your information, that during the year 1890 the attendance of the boarded-out children at Sunday-school was so punctual that I do not believe there is in the community a like number of children attending any of the schools who can compare with them in regularity.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

New Town, 28th March, 1891.

THE boarded-out children at New Town have been very regular in their attendance at Sunday-school during the year 1890, with one exception, who has not been so regular as others during the year. His foster-parent stated that he would send him regularly in future, and that the boy was kept at home owing to the illness of his foster-mother.

M. HIGGINS, *Police Sergeant.*

Sunderland, South Glenorchy, 17th March, 1891.

DEAR SIR,

AFTER Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Benson, of New Town, left for Melbourne, there was rather a long break in the visiting, owing to the fact that no one else was appointed in their places; but since Mrs. Spong was appointed we have visited the children in their homes, seen them at play, and enquired into their general conduct. Everything we have felt it necessary to report to you has been promptly attended to. We think the children receive due care and attention.

Yours faithfully,

M. FAGG.

Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Salier's Report.

21st March, 1891.

WE visited the boarded-out children during the past year, and, with one exception,* found them well cared for and comfortably clad.

HARRIET SALIER.

Hobart, 17th April, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the boarded-out children in that part of the City of Hobart under the charge of the Committee have been visited regularly by the ladies of the Committee, who report that they found the children in good health, well fed and clothed, and that they have not had occasion to find any fault with their foster-parents.

I have, &c.

ALBERT REID, *Chairman.*

The Administrator of Charitable Grants.

Local Visiting Committee, Launceston, 25th March, 1891.

DEAR SIR,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant, which I delayed replying to until the Committee had paid their monthly visits, which we did yesterday, so I now enclose the quarterly Report.

The Committee are, on the whole, well satisfied with the condition of things, and feel there is much to be thankful for in the homes secured for the children. In almost every case the foster-parents are giving the children genuine care and interest such as could not be purchased by the small amount of profit that is made, and in some cases the children's appearance and clothing indicate that more than six shillings weekly must be expended on them. There can be no question in the minds of our Committee that for the most part these children are more suitably placed in the homes of working people than they would be in Orphan or Industrial Schools. The care of a motherly woman, the discipline of a father's presence, the contact with boys and girls, in fact the whole circumstances of a natural family life—which is the Divine institution—are much more helpful to most children, especially the more degraded ones, than the best school is.

Take, for example, the ———, who have, I imagine, worse antecedents than any other children under our care. I had visited them when the youngest child was born, and provided clothing for it. So terribly low was the woman's character that the Secretary of the Benevolent Society had the greatest difficulty to get any one to admit her to their house, the dirt and misery was extreme, and the outlook for the three poor children so hopeless that I felt helpless and depressed. Yesterday, in consequence of conflicting statements

* Action has been taken by the Central Committee in this case.—J. O'B.

which had reached us, we made special and searching enquiries about these children. We first visited the youngest (whose birth I have alluded to), found him playing in the verandah of a comfortable house, neatly dressed, clean, and nice-looking; the woman, who is childless, evidently loves him, and care has overcome the very weakly condition he was in for months, which obliged us to place him under Dr. Pike's medical care. The other two children we saw in the State-school after visiting their foster-parents, and the testimony of the head master and their own teacher was most encouraging. They notice decided improvement in them, and speak of the clean and tidy way in which they are sent to school.

I have dwelt thus at length on one case because personally I have known them for three years, know that father, mother, and grandmother are bad, and rejoice to think that the State has accepted the parental responsibility which the parents are utterly unable to bear.

I may mention that we purpose in future paying periodical visits to the schools where the children are educated, as well as to their foster-parents.

Faithfully yours,

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

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

83, *Argyle-street*, 20th March, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that, with the exception of some trouble experienced in the early part of the year by two of those cases mentioned in my Report for 1889, there were no complaints from either masters or apprentices during the whole of 1890.

The transferred case, 2477, is scarcely an exception, as neither master nor maid understood each other.

I remain, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

JOHN O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

New Town, 28th March, 1891.

ON the 26th instant I visited the Government apprentices at Mr. Klug's, New Town, and received the following particulars from them:—No. 1 stated that he was well treated, not overworked, and had no complaint to make. No. 2 stated he was well cared for and not overworked; he spoke highly of the treatment he received from Mr. and Mrs. Klug. No. 3 said he was quite comfortable, and liked his place very much.

When I visited those boys they were at work in the orchard, were clean, comfortably dressed, and appeared in the best of health. There were no members of Mr. Klug's family present at the time, and all the boys were unanimous with regard to the kind treatment they received from Mr. Klug and family. They so stated that they were allowed to attend the Church of England (to which they belong) in their turn. From my own personal observation of the character of these lads, I must say that they compare favourably with the best boys in this district.

MATTHEW HIGGINS, *Police Sergeant.*

Report of Boarded-out Children who have attended the Cascades Free School during the Year 1890.

1. *Attendance*—Very good. *Appearance*—Very good. *Conduct*—Moderate. *Progress*—Fair.
2. *Attendance*—Very fair. *Appearance*—Very good. *Conduct*—Moderate. *Progress*—Fair.
3. *Attendance*—Very fair. *Appearance*—Very good. *Conduct*—Fair. *Progress*—Fair.
4. *Attendance*—7 days in the early part of the year. *Appearance*—Good. *Conduct*—Bad.

S. E. HUNT, *Teacher.*

St. Joseph's School, Feb. 24th, 1891.

THE Sisters of Charity hereby certify that one child has attended St. Joseph's Girls' School regularly for the year 1890. Her conduct has been good, and her appearance cleanly.

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.

The Administrator Charitable Grants, Hobart.

Watchorn-street School, 26th February, 1891.

Report of the Boarded-out Children attending Watchorn-street School in the year 1890.

THE four children in the charge of Mrs. Doran attended school regularly, and made good progress, though rather slow. They were always clean and neat, and very well behaved. They reflect great credit on their guardian. A boy in the charge of Mrs. Ward attended school regularly, but was often very late. He made good progress last year, and in appearance was tidy.

FREDERIKA A. HAUTH.

St. Joseph's Boys' School, 26th February, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish the following Report *re* Boarded-out children who attended St. Joseph's Boys' School during the year ended 31st December, 1890 :—

- | | | | |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Attendance—Regular. | Conduct—Good. | Appearance—Cleanly. | Progress—Fair. |
| 2. Attendance—Regular. | Conduct—Good. | Appearance—Cleanly. | Progress—Very good. |
| 3. Attendance—Regular. | Conduct—Good. | Appearance—Cleanly. | Progress—Very fair. |
| 4. Attendance—Regular. | Conduct—Good. | Appearance—Cleanly. | Progress—Fair. |
| 5. Attendance—Regular. | Conduct—Good. | Appearance—Cleanly. | Progress—Fair. |

T. MITCHELL, *Master.*

J. O'BOYLE, *Esq., Chairman of the Committee for Boarding-out Destitute Children.*

St. Luke's School, 2nd March, 1891.

SIR,

We have much pleasure in stating that the attendance, appearance, conduct, and progress of Mary Ann Stewart during the year 1890 has been most satisfactory.

Yours respectfully,

THE SISTERS OF CHARITY.

Trinity Hill State School, 11th March, 1891.

SIR,

In reply to Memo. of 9th inst., I have to report that, after careful enquiry throughout the school, I can find only one case of a boarded-out child :—Attendance—Admitted 26th September, attended 72 days. Conduct—Good. Appearance—Clean, tidy, and well-cared for. Progress—In Class VI.

I have, &c.

GEO. ROBERTS.

The Director of Education.

Murray-street Free State School, 11th March, 1891.

SIR,

I have the honour to lay before you a short report on the boarded-out children for 1890. Throughout the year our attendance has not been very large. I have pleasure in stating that their conduct and behaviour has been good, and would compare favourably with any class of children. With only one exception* they have been regular in attendance, neat and clean, suitably and comfortably clothed for the season, and have made very fair progress in their school work.

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES HALL.

The Director of Education.

15th March, 1891.

The Sisters of the Presentation Convent beg to state that the attendance of the child May Lyons during the year 1890 has been regular ; her appearance neat and healthy ; her conduct excellent, and her progress satisfactory.

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

There are five boarded-out children now in attendance—four from Mrs. Cearns, and one from Mr. Aherne.

Appearance.—On the whole they come to school fairly tidy. I have had on one or two occasions to draw attention to carelessness in this matter.

Attendance.—The attendance is good, comparing favourably with the other pupils. I have had considerable trouble to make Mrs. Cearns' children come early to school. They live only a few yards away, and were often late. There has been some improvement lately.

Progress.—I can report favourably of their progress in school work. One of them has done remarkably well, and, though quite a little girl, has got into the fifth class. Two of the others have been promoted a class this quarter.

RICHARD SMITH, *Head Teacher.*
3rd April, 1891.

* This is the exceptional instance referred to by the Visiting Committee.—J. O'B.