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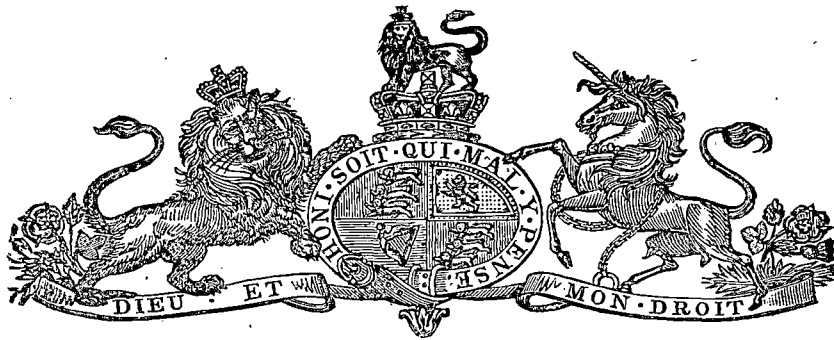
1894.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOARDING-OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN:

REPORT FOR 1893.

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



BOARDING-OUT DESTITUTE CHILDREN.

REPORT FOR 1893.

Charitable Grants Department, 22nd March, 1894.

SIR,

The Central Committee for Boarding-out Destitute Children have the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1893.

At the beginning of that year the total number of Children maintained under the Boarding-out system was 100—boys, 68; girls, 32; viz., in—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart	36	20	56
Launceston.....	14	5	19
Municipalities	18	7	25
	<u>68</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>100</u>

The names of 9 children,—boys, 5, girls, 4,—were added to the boarded-out list during the year, and 21,—boys, 13, girls, 8,—ceased under the following circumstances to be a charge upon the funds at the disposal of the Committee; viz.—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>
4 were apprenticed.....	4	—
4 were adopted	1	3
7 were taken by relatives	6	1
4 were admitted to Industrial School for domestic training.....	—	4
2 were sent to the Training School.....	2	—
<u>21</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>8</u>

leaving on the 31st December a total of 88, located as follows; viz.—

	<i>Boys.</i>	<i>Girls.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Hobart	32	14	46
Launceston.....	10	5	15
Municipalities	18	9	27
	<u>60</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>88</u>

twelve less than the number with which the year commenced.

Two of the nine children whose names were added to the list during the year had been provided for previously under the boarding-out system, but were under treatment in the General Hospital at the end of 1892, and were so accounted for in the Report for that year.

The Committee before authorising any expenditure on account of the others, seven in number, carefully investigated the circumstances connected with each case, and satisfied themselves of the necessity for provision being made for the children at the expense of the Government.

With regard to the 11 boys and 4 girls who, on their apprenticeship, adoption, or return to relatives, ceased to be a charge upon the public, the Committee, before suffering them to be removed from their foster parents, made special enquiries concerning the homes to which they were going, and had every reason to believe they would be under the care of persons who would do them justice and pay every attention to their moral and physical welfare.

The four girls admitted to the Industrial School for domestic training were brought up in Hobart, and having arrived at the age of 12 years were sent to the school, under the special arrangement made with the Governors of the school a few years ago.

One of the two boys who were sent to the Training School was placed there in order that he should receive some instruction, it having been found impossible to induce him to attend school, or to refrain from leaving his home and wandering about the streets. Being a cripple he was not eligible for admission to the Boys' Home. The other lad was also addicted to roaming, and was very troublesome. Eventually he committed theft, and was ordered to the school by the Justices before whom he was charged.

The Committee held 13 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.....	187	1	11
Maintenance, &c. of children	1480	14	4
Cost of clothing purchased	7	17	0
Medical attendance and medicine	5	17	1
Cab hire, Central Committee and Visiting Committees, Hobart and Launceston	11	9	6
	£1692	19	10
Less repayments by relatives.....	68	2	3
	£1624	17	7
Voted by Parliament.....	£1700	0	0
Unexpended balance.....	75	2	5

The average cost per head per annum amounted to £14 18s. 1½d.

Clothing to the value of 9s. 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. £ s. d.	Allowance per week. s.	Total Number of Children.
1881	2094	6	6	13 14 9½	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	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 2½	6	121
1889	1656	17	7	14 5 8	6	116
1890	1668	17	6	14 7 8½	6	116
1891	1771	3	6	13 12 5¾	6	130
1892	1753	15	4	12 17 10¾	6	136
1893	1624	17	7	14 18 1¾	6	109

Although provision was made during the year for 109 children, 82 only were a charge for the full period of 365 days. The remainder, 27, were maintained for periods varying from 9 to 364 days; average number of days 320½.

Annual Inspection.

The Committee commenced their annual inspection of the children and their homes on the 27th November and continued it on the 28th November and 4th December. According to practice the Committee paid their visits to the dwellings of the foster parents without previous notice, and thus an opportunity of seeing them in their ordinary aspect was afforded them. With one exception

the Committee were fully satisfied with the general arrangements and the accommodation provided for the children. Cleanliness and good order prevailed. The bedding was ample and of good quality, and so far as the Committee were able to judge, the children were treated as members of the families with whom they were living. In the solitary instance referred to it was evident the foster parent's age and increasing infirmities rendered it impossible for her to do justice to the children under her care, and directions were given for their removal to another home.

Changes in Homes.

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

1. Five children, owing to the departure from the Colony of their foster parent.
2. Two boys, the foster parents having become too old to have the care of them.
3. A boy from Hobart to Glenorchy to live with his brother, who had been adopted.
4. A boy, referred to in the last report in connection with the annual inspection. Although placed with a good foster parent, nothing could be done with him. He would not stay at home, and having been detected in stealing, was committed to the Training School as previously stated.
5. A boy from Launceston to Hobart, the Visiting Committee feeling dissatisfied with the manner in which he was being brought up by his foster parent. Difficulty having been experienced in finding another home for him in Launceston on account of his antecedents, he was brought to Hobart, and has done well since.
6. Three boys transferred from Hobart to Oatlands. These boys, who had contracted the habit of playing truant and absenting themselves from home for days, were removed to the country, where they have behaved themselves very well and have attended school regularly.
7. A girl, whose foster parent had given notice of her intention to leave the Colony.

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 that their teachers were satisfied with their progress, conduct, and appearance.

The Inspecting Officer's report on the subject of the attendance of the children at Sunday school is also of a satisfactory character.

Health of Children.

A large number of the children suffered from the prevailing epidemic, measles, but no serious cases were reported. At Launceston a lad was attended by Dr. Drake for sores on the face. Another at New Norfolk was ill and under medical treatment for a short time. At Campbell Town two boys were treated by Dr. Tofft, one for hæmorrhage from the nose, the other for diarrhœa and vomiting. A girl at Oatlands was under the care of Dr. Butler for pneumonia; and from the 7th to the 15th May a girl was an inmate of the Hospital at Launceston suffering from diphtheria.

There were no deaths during the year.

Visiting Committees, &c.

The Committee have much pleasure in again acknowledging the valuable assistance rendered by the Visiting Committees in their respective districts.

Reports from these Committees are forwarded herewith.

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

The interests of the children boarded-out in the other parts of the Colony were watched over by the Police Magistrates, Wardens, and Superintendents of Police, who reported periodically, and afforded the Committee every assistance in their efforts to secure good homes for the children, and to ensure their regular attendance at school and Sunday school.

Apprentices, &c.

The Committee had very little trouble with the apprentices during the year, and nothing serious was alleged against any of them. The replies to a circular addressed to the Police authorities of the districts in which children who had been apprenticed or adopted were living, and asking for a report upon the nature and extent of the work they were called upon to perform, also as to the food, clothing, and bedding supplied to them, and the sleeping accommodation provided for them, as well as the answers given by the children themselves, who were also questioned on these points, were of a most satisfactory character.

Apprentices and adopted children who resided in and about Hobart were frequently seen by the Inspecting Officer, and each quarter the Chairman placed himself in communication with the employers, at the same time collecting the payments due to the children under their indentures for deposit in the Savings Bank.

These deposits are made until the apprentices are 18 years old, to which age they are bound by indenture, when, if they have conducted themselves well, the amounts to their credit are paid to them.

During the year payments under this head were made to eight apprentices, amounting to £53 1s. 2d.

The deposit books of the remaining apprentices, 46 in number, were made up at the end of February, and the amount to their credit was £220 18s. 4d. Since that date payments amounting to £2 13s. have been made, making a total up to date of £223 11s. 4d.

Fox's Bequest.

The sum of £7 13s. 10d., 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, has been received and equally divided amongst the children throughout the Colony, whose number at the time was 82.

Resignations, Appointments, &c.

Mr. F. J. Young having tendered his resignation as a member of the Committee, Mr. C. J. Atkins was appointed by His Excellency the Governor to the vacancy.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

J. O'BOYLE, *Chairman.*
W. TARLETON.
W. LOVETT.
FRED. J. SALIER.
J. GOLBY PARKER.
CHARLES HARBOTTLE.
THOS. BENNISON.
C. J. ATKINS.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

Hobart, 9th March, 1894.

SIR,

IN reference to your letter of the 6th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith the Annual Reports for 1893, on the attendance, progress, &c. of boarded-out children attending the Murray-street and Goulburn-street State Schools.

T. STEPHENS, *Director.*

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

Murray-street Free State School, 7th March, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to present my Report on the attendance, progress, and general conduct of the boarded-out children for 1893. The attendance in all cases has been very regular, as reported weekly to the Relieving Officer. When inspected daily as to cleanliness, I have seldom to find any fault. They come comfortably and suitably clothed, and their conduct in school, in nearly all cases, is very good. Progress in their education has been very fair.

CHARLES HALL.

Goulburn-street State School, March 8th, 1894.

SIR,

I BEG to state, in the absence of Mr. C. H. Rule, that the attendance of the boarded-out children for the year 1893 has been very regular; that they have made very fair progress in their several classes; and, in general, have been clean and neat in their appearance.

SARAH E. RULE.

Watchorn-street School, 8th March, 1894.

THERE were only two children boarded out that attended this school last year. They were always clean and tidy in appearance, attended regularly, and made very fair progress. Their behaviour on the whole was fairly good.

FREDERIKA HAUTH, *Teacher.*

CASCADES ROAD FREE SCHOOL.

REPORT of the Boarded-out Children who have attended the above-named School during the Year 1893.

No.	Attendance.	Appearance.	Conduct.	Progress.
1.	Very good.	Very good.	Very good.	Very fair.
2.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Ditto.	Good.

S. E. HUNT, *Head Teacher.*
12th March, 1894.

83, *Argyle-street, 17th March, 1894.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that during the whole of last year the attendance of the boarded-out children at Sunday-school was very regular indeed, none having absented themselves unless through illness, and the Superintendents of the different schools in their reports to me have spoken highly of their good conduct.

There was one case, however (4642), who, on account of his youth and distance from the Sunday-school, did not attend once during 1893; he, however, has been regular since the first of this year.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

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

10th March, 1894.

MRS. Baily and I have visited the boarded-out children several times during the year, and with one exception found them well cared for, comfortably clad, and happy with their foster parents.

HARRIET M. SALIER.

Hobart, 20th March, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the members of the Committee, Mrs. Reid and the Misses Bennison, have, during the past twelve months, regularly visited the boarded-out children in the Hobart Central District, and have had no fault to find with the manner in which the foster parents have attended to their duties.

I have, &c.

ALBERT REID, *Chairman.*

The Administrator Charitable Grants.

Hobart, 21st March, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE much pleasure in informing you that the condition generally of the boarded-out children in the District under the charge of Miss Kelsh, Mrs. Brown, and myself is very satisfactory.

I am, &c.

WILLIAM T. H. BROWN.

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

Prince's Square, Launceston, March 13th, 1894.

DEAR SIR,

IN reply to yours of the 3rd March, I beg to state, that since the last yearly Report was sent in one boy has been apprenticed ; three more have been returned to their guardians : one transferred to Hobart ; another has been adopted by her foster parent. This leaves 15 in care of the Visiting Committee, and we are glad to state that of those old enough to attend school the teachers report satisfactory progress, according to the capacity of the children, two or three of whom have very little brain power. They are sent clean and tidy, specially so considering the small remuneration received by the foster parents. The six younger ones are improving very much, are excellently cared for, and all were in good health when visited. In September, Mrs. Soltau visited several of those whom she had been the means of getting adopted ; found all well and in most excellent homes.

Yours faithfully,

LYDIA STANFIELD, *Sec. L.V.C.*

J. O'BOYLE, *Esq.*

83, Argyle-street, Hobart, 17th March, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report for your information that during the last year I visited the apprentices from the Boarding-out System who were in service in the city or suburbs, and found that they were in every instance well and kindly treated, and, in fact, on account of the care exercised in the selection of masters or mistresses, as the case may be, they were better off than the ordinary run of servants. In the case of 2544, she had to be removed from two different situations, as she was making undesirable acquaintances ; she has been now some months in her present place, and appears to be giving satisfaction.

I have, &c.

GEORGE JUDGE, *Inspecting Officer.*

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