

(No. 13.)



1880.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

BOYS' HOME:

REPORT FOR 1879.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 10, 1880.



ELEVENTH REPORT of the Boys' Home INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, 1879-80.

THE year ended on the 31st March last was the Eleventh since the foundation of the Boys' Home

During the year 18 boys were admitted, 11 of whom were from the Queen's Asylum. The Governors regret to find that the report given of these latter boys is unfavourable, with two exceptions. There are, however, indications that these boys are not unsusceptible of improvement, and that they have feelings which are capable of being worked upon by judicious treatment; but the strength and persistency of early habit is a formidable obstacle in the way of their moral progress, which, under such circumstances, can only be slow and difficult. Two of the Queen's Asylum boys are favourably reported of, as exceptions to the general rule.

Eight boys were apprenticed during the year, and one was accidentally drowned on New Year's Day, at Pipe-clay Bay, whilst bathing with the rest of the boys, who were on a picnic there.

The accident appears to have occurred solely through the boy's own foolhardiness in exceeding the limits assigned to the bathers.

Thirty-one boys were in the Home on the 31st March, 1880. The average daily number during the year was $29\frac{1}{2}$; and the average cost, £17 8s. per head.

The ages of the boys, on 31st March, were as follows:—4 between 10 and 12, 10 between 11 and 12, 12 between 12 and 13, 4 between 13 and 14, and 1 between 14 and 15.

Since the commencement, 57 boys have been apprenticed, and 10 returned to their parents or friends.

The health of the boys has, as usual, been excellent. Not a death (with the exception mentioned) has occurred since the institution was first opened—a period of eleven years; nor, as the Governors are informed, has a medical man ever been called in. A few of the boys have been taken to the Hospital for advice, or treatment of slight accidents, but nothing more has been required. This is the best testimony that could be given, both as to the healthiness of the situation, and to the care and attention bestowed on the boys by Mr. and Mrs. Reilly.

With the view of inducing them to regard the institution as a real home, and of promoting kindly feelings in the boys towards those placed in charge of them, excursions or picnics have occasionally been arranged for during the year; the means being partly provided by the kindness of friends who take a warm interest in the boys.

That the master and mistress do succeed, notwithstanding the unpromising material they have to work upon, in winning the affection of many of the boys, the following extracts from letters received from some of them after they have left the institution will show:—

“I had often wished I was out of the Home, but now I wish I was in it again.” “I do not forget all the trouble you took with me. I often think of it now. I will never be able to express my thanks to you.” “It was one of the best things that ever happened to me when I was sent to the Home.” “I hope I have left off a good many of the nasty habits that I was subject to at the Home, but I can see them now. I did not know what the Home was until I left it, and then I very soon found it out.” “I am trying to do all you told me.”

Most of them speak in the most affectionate terms of their late masters and mistress; and some of the letters show that the religious and moral teaching imparted to them in the Home has not been forgotten, but is bearing most gratifying fruit.

The following was written from Christchurch, New Zealand:—"I should think I would never forget the kindness you showed to me when in the dear Home so far away: it would be very ungrateful on my part to do so. If you had not taught me how to read and write, what would I have been? Why, just like the beasts of the field. I would not know that there was a God above on high. I am sure the hours you spent in teaching me the good things which you taught me are without number; but God will reward you some day for it all, and I can, in my little way, in trying to walk in the way you told me. I know that you would be pleased to think that I have not forgotten your lessons to me. If the boys were your own you could not have done more than you did do."

Some of the letters are freely and well expressed, much better than is usual among boys of the same age and class.

It may also be mentioned that some of these boys are indebted to the Home for all the schooling they have ever had, most of them when admitted being unable to read or write.

When discharged from the Home they are generally sent into the country. They are eagerly sought after; and the reports of their conduct from the masters to whom they are apprenticed are, in the majority of cases, satisfactory.

The amount contributed towards the maintenance of the Home by private subscriptions, since its establishment, is shown below:—

<i>Year ending March 31.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>Year ending March 31.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>Year ending March 31.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1870.....	119	9	0*	1874.....	145	18	6	1878.....	124	4	0
1871.....	171	16	6	1875.....	114	15	0	1879.....	96	15	0
1872.....	160	8	6	1876.....	137	19	6	1880.....	88	12	0
1873.....	154	9	0	1877.....	147	5	6				

*Also donations, £282 4s.

It will be seen that there is a considerable falling off in the last two years.

In the report for 1878-9, it was stated that the sum of £50 required by the trust deed to be annually placed to the credit of the Endowment Fund could not be appropriated to that purpose, and the same was the case in the past year. The Governors therefore appeal to the public for increased help. They do so—1st, on the ground of philanthropy; that the institution has provided a comfortable home, education, and moral training for many boys who were destitute of these advantages: 2nd, on the ground of policy; that it has rescued the waifs and strays of humanity from vice and pauperism, and by putting them in a position to earn an honest livelihood for themselves has prevented them from becoming a burden on the Government or the community.

In concluding this report, the Governors desire to express their regret that the state of health of Mr. Kennerley, to whose munificence the Home owes its existence, still prevents him from taking part in its management.

Extract from Deed of Trust, as per Messrs. Butler, M'Intyre, and Butler's letter, dated 15th August, 1878:—

"The land was conveyed to C. Butler and his heirs, to the use of A. Kennerley, Wm. Tarleton, and C. Butler, their heirs and assigns, for ever, upon trust, as long as the Governors paid £50 annually to the said A. Kennerley, Wm. Tarleton, and C. Butler, or the trustees or trustee for the time being, on or before the 31st day of March in every year, or such extended time as the trustees might allow, and so long as the said Governors should maintain and keep the buildings, walls, &c. on the said lands in good and tenantable repair and condition, and insured, to permit and suffer the same to be used for the purposes of the Institution, in the manner set forth in the Deed of Gift."

R. ANDREW MATHER.
E. C. NOWELL.
F. W. MITCHELL.
JOHN MACFARLANE.
J. M'C. BROWNE.
W. TARLETON.

Hobart Town, 5th August, 1880.

