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VICTORIA.

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CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

AND

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS

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R E P O R T

of the

SECRETARY AND INSPECTOR

For the Year

1932.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT

PURSUANT TO ACTS GEO.V.No.3654

No.3664. No.3722.





MELBOURNE,

30th June, 1933.

R E P O R T

CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT & REFORMATORY SCHOOLS

S i r,

Provisions in the Children's Welfare, Maintenance, and Crimes Acts, 1928, that an Annual Report should be furnished to Parliament are undoubtedly very wise, not merely from the standpoint of periodically acquainting Honourable Members of the operations of this Department, but to also enlighten the General Public, in some measure at least, what is being done with their money in that branch of social service coming under the category of child welfare. I have often felt also that it is only right and judicious that Governmental Institutions should regularly familiarise the public with the manner in which they are discharging their varied functions, in order to allay anxiety regarding the often repeated assertion that tax payers' money is being wasted in extravagant and extraneous administrative acts.

During the past year, there were a few instances in which this Department was adversely criticised on ex parte evidence but, upon investigation, it was found that such criticisms were either unjustified or the reasons for same greatly exaggerated.

It has often occurred to me that a lot of time could be saved and unnecessary anxiety to the public obviated if Government Departments were first consulted and the facts obtained before condemnatory public utterances were made against them. So far as this Department is concerned, I make no secret of the fact that I am always ready and willing, with approval, to adopt any suggestions that may be advanced for the more economical and effective administration of this difficult Department, provided it can definitely be established that the application of these suggestions would not be inconsistent with Acts and Regulations imperatively essential to its administration, that they are based on practical experience, are reasonable, more economic and effective than those at present in operation, and will not in any sense prejudice the cause of child welfare.

In a report of this nature, one can only make a short retrospect of what the Department has done during the past year to justify its existence and the claim that every endeavour has and is being made to see that it is functioning successfully, and the State is continuing to get full value for the money expended. It might not be out of place to invite attention to the fact that in my last Annual Report it was indicated how savings were being effected, and it was also pointed out that further savings would be made in future. It is now my purpose to see to what extent that anticipation has been realised, and this I propose to do under analogous headings to those used in that Report.

F I N A N C E.

To-day we are cognisant there is nothing causing more concern or occupying a more prominent position in the State, Com-



monwealth or, indeed, the World, than financial stability, and one of the remedial measures frequently advocated to assist in the rehabilitation of the finances of this State is, reduction in the cost of government. Time and again it has been asserted, both inside and outside of Parliament, that there is no channel in which more money has been squandered than in the direction of social services. So far as the Children's Welfare Department is concerned, it would appear there was a generous expenditure in past years. In the year 1929 for instance, the total cost of Child Welfare was £444,815, and when one considers the adverse industrial conditions of recent years, axiomatically conducive to a greater degree of poverty resulting in increased sickness, it might logically be contended that to-day expenditure should be far in excess of 1929, because, since then, there have been 10,635 new children placed on the State as a result of fresh applications coming to hand. Of course a number of children are removed from our books each year, but these are not sufficient, under ordinary conditions, to counteract the number of new children placed on the State. I make these statements on the assumption that the money expended in 1929 was justified, but, upon close examination of the Acts and intentions of Parliament, I was forced to the conclusion there were many opportunities of reducing the enormous expenditure of 1929, not in the slightest sense because of the present financial stringency, but because, under the most favourable conditions, the monies paid away for child welfare were totally in excess of the intentions or requirements of the Acts and Parliament.

From these remarks it must not be erroneously inferred I am lacking in appreciation of, or sympathy with, the genuine cause of child welfare. On the contrary, the more one deals with this great and difficult problem, the more he recognises the wisdom, potency and far-reaching beneficial effects of the Children's Welfare, Maintenance and allied Acts of this State, and it is not too much to say that these Acts, if wisely administered, are of first importance both to the child and the State in which they are, and will become, citizens. It is clear, however, that Parliament in legislating in the cause of child welfare, never intended State aid should be rendered with an extravagance or generosity calculated to become rather a menace than a help.

Any reduction of expenditure in this Department since 1929 has, therefore, been effected not, it is hoped or intended, by inflicting any hardships, but by the rectification of anomalies, elimination of cases of imposition and regulation of the amounts paid away to conform to the intentions of the Acts, whilst at the same time adequately safe-guarding the welfare of the children and seeing that the State received fair value for its expenditure.

As previously indicated, for the decade prior to 1929 there had been a constant annual increase in the expenditure of the Department until in that year its cost had risen to the high figure of £444,815, and had action not been taken to arrest this increasing demand upon the State, the cost to the taxpayer would to-day be well over half a million pounds annually. As a result of close attention to every avenue of expenditure, however, the cost for the year ended 31/12/32 amounted to £340,682 - equivalent to a reduction of approximately 25% - and this result has been achieved without, it is felt, in the slightest degree curtailing any of the functions of the Department or doing anything derogatory to the genuine cause of child welfare.

It will be noted that frequent comparison is made between costs in 1929 and the present year. This is not solely because that was the peak year, but to the fact that the present administration has been responsible for the conduct of the Department only since the year 1930.



An examination of the following statistics will indicate the number of children, the responsibility of the Department, the strength of the staff and honorary officials, the number of inspections etc. and the main headings of expenditure in the past year, so that the utilisation of the large sum of £340,000 may be fully appreciated.

1. Number of children under the care of the Department - 16,216 made up as follows:-
  - (a) Under the Maintenance Act 1928 (in the care of their own parents) ... 9,538 children
  - (b) Under the Children's Welfare Act 1928 (boarded out to Foster Parents) ... 3,330 children
  - (c) Children boarded out to 32 Institutions under the Children's Welfare Act, 1928 .. 873
  - (d) Children over 14 years of age on service conditions, but still under the control of the Department .. 295
  - (e) Children boarded out on probation with Foster Parents, but still subject to the authority of the Department ... 1,684
  - (f) Children placed out under the Infant Life Protection sections of the Children's Welfare Act, 1928 .. 169
  - (g) Boys etc. in reformatories, subject to the authority of the Children's Welfare Department .. 103
  - (h) Children at Royal Park Depot on 31/12/32 .. 230
  
2. Number of Foster Mothers and Homes under the Children's Welfare Act, 1928 ... 2,373
  
3. Number of Mothers and Homes under the Maintenance Act, 1928 ... 4,245
  
4. Number of Medical Officers doing business with the Department ... 212
  
5. Number of voluntary workers ... 754
  
6. Average number of inward letters annually .. 40,000
  
7. Average number of outward letters annually .. 45,000
  
8. Average number of persons doing business with the Department annually ... .. 35,000
  
9. Number of Departmental Inspections made to Foster and other homes during the year (excluding visits of voluntary workers and medical officers) .. 17,152
  
10. Number of Permanent Officers .. 60  
Number of Temporary Officers .. 53



EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 1932.

<u>1.</u>	Staff	...	permanent temporary	£14,274 £7,271
<u>2.</u>	Provision of medical treatment for 16,216 children	...		£8,661
<u>3.</u>	Payments for school requisites	...		£2,139
<u>4.</u>	Clothing for children boarded out	...		£1,840
<u>5.</u>	Departmental travelling expenses for officers and travelling expenses, fares, etc., for children boarded out	...		£2,370
<u>6.</u>	Annual cost of maintaining 9,538 children under the Maintenance Act, 1928	...		£199,793
<u>7.</u>	Annual cost of maintaining 4,300 children under the Children's Welfare Act, 1928	...		£90,236

After reading these figures doubtless some will ask - What do you do with such a large staff? Could not the expenditure here and in other directions be further reduced?

So far as reducing the staff is concerned, it is desired to point out that, within the last 3 years, the staff has been reduced by 13 officers, and to further reduce it under existing conditions and legislation would be to undoubtedly jeopardise the cause of child welfare, since it would not, in my opinion, be possible to efficiently administer the Department and safeguard the State and the welfare of the many thousands of children coming under its control if the staff were reduced below the border line of efficiency.

No one would say that the amount expended under the heading "Provision of medical treatment for 16,216 children" is excessive.

Seeing that the cost of school requisites three years ago was £3,817, it can hardly be said that expenditure has not been curtailed in this direction.

The two last it is desired to refer to, and by far the largest expenditure of the Department, are:-

- |     |   |     |          |
|-----|---|-----|----------|
| (a) | Cost per annum of children paid for under the Maintenance Act and living with their own parents | ... | £199,793 |
| (b) | Cost per annum of children boarded out to foster parents  | ... | £90,236  |

It might be thought by some that there should be opportunities for reducing these particular items. To make the position clear to those who think this, let me examine these two items of expenditure.



In the first place, possibly many think the State should not be paying for so many children. To this must be answered, it is the duty of this Department to administer the Act. We do not possess the power to limit the number of children coming under these Acts, or the legal authority to refuse State assistance to anyone who complies with the requirements of the Acts. Section 37 of the Maintenance Act reads:- "Any mother whose child is without sufficient means of support and who is unable to provide and is unable by any available legal proceedings to obtain sufficient means of support for such child may, in the prescribed form, make an application in writing to the Secretary that a weekly sum be paid to her for or towards the maintenance of such child". Upon investigation of these applications by this Department and the Police Magistrates, if everything be found in order, this Department has no option but to grant assistance in response to such applications. A similar provision appears in the Children's Welfare Act.

It will, therefore, be seen that, whilst it is our duty to prevent abuse and imposition, we cannot refuse assistance where the same is justified. Possibly it may be said that, although we cannot refuse, we can at least see that an excessive amount of State aid is not paid in these instances. Here we will see how far this statement is justified.-

Section 44 of the maintenance Act, 1928, does not empower us to pay less than 6/- per week for a child, but authorises payment up to 12/- per week and such higher rate as may be approved of by the Honourable the Minister. Seeing the irreducible minimum under the Act is 6/- per week per child, and that we were paying an average of only 8/- per week per child on 31/12/32, and still less now, it will at once be seen there is no evidence of extravagance in this direction.

We now come to the amount of £90,236 for wards boarded out to foster parents. The rates for these wards, viz., 7/- per week for children over 18 months and 12/6d. under 18 months, with an increased rate in special cases, are fixed by regulations etc. However, no reasonable minded person would surely consider such payments per week for maintaining a ward of the State excessive.

It is thought desirable to go into these details for I am so frequently hearing erroneous statements from people unacquainted with the requirements of the Acts and what the Department is doing.

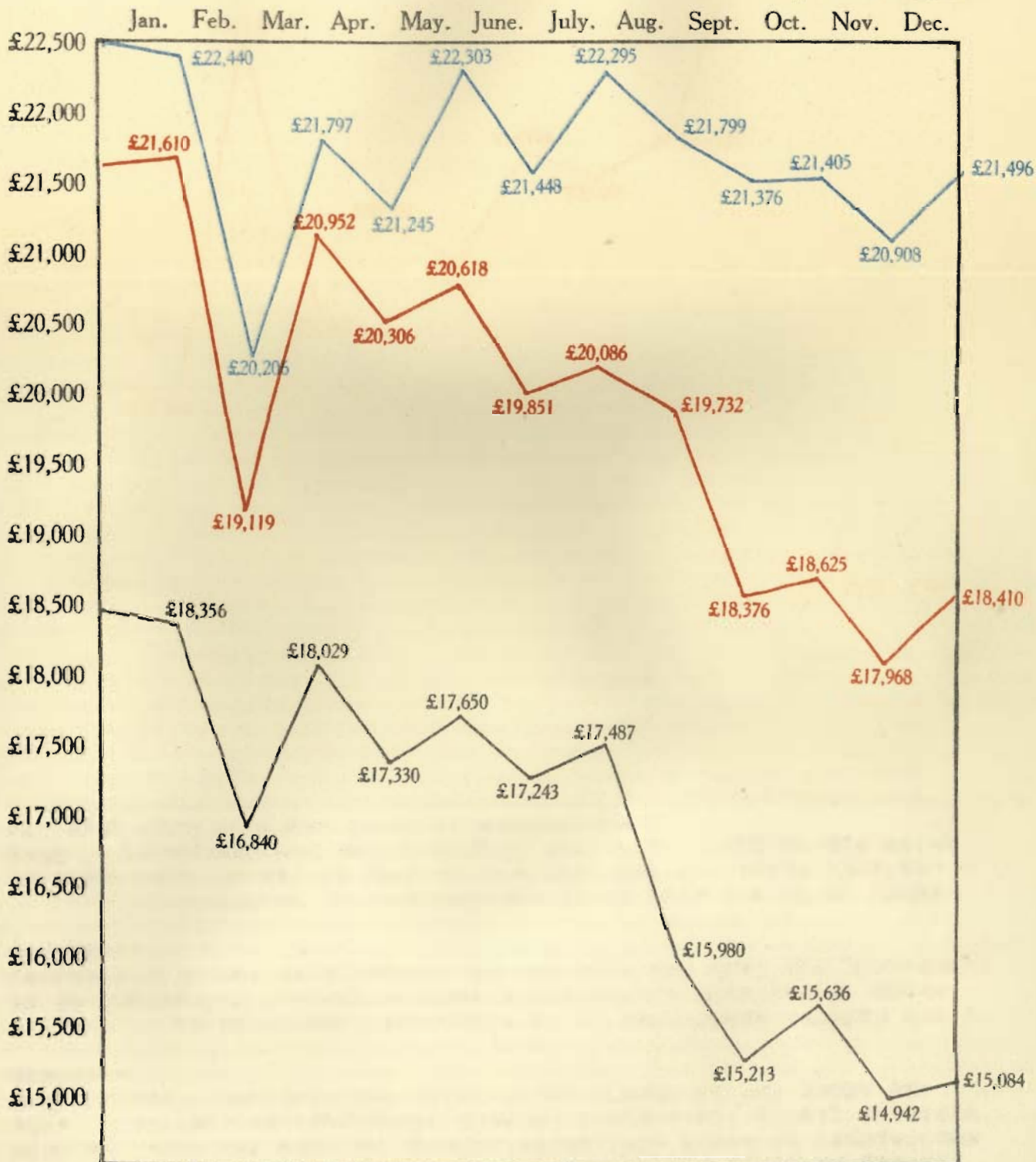
Hereunder particulars are given from one of my graphs in order that it may be seen at a glance how the chief expenditure is being watched and gradually reduced. Similar attention is being paid to other items of expenditure.



# Graph of Monthly Expenditure in respect of Children Boarded out to their own Parents.

Year 1930—Blue.  
 „ 1931—Red.

„ 1932—Black.





BOARDING OUT ETC.

It must not be thought that the work of the Children's Welfare Department consists merely of making payments under the Maintenance and Children's Welfare Acts, etc. This is but a fractional part of the work. The prime functions of this Department are to live up to its name and to see that the money expended is utilised for the benefit of the children in order that they may become creditable and useful citizens. Time and again, instances have come under notice where endeavours in this respect have been recognised and appreciated by many who have gained or made important advances in the various industrial spheres.

Briefly, the Children's Welfare Act may be said to be composed of three important parts :-

Section 18 - which authorises the Courts to commit children to the care of the Children's Welfare Department on the grounds that they have committed offences constituting them neglected children.

It is thought the present definition of a neglected child is not wide enough, and it has been publicly announced by the Honourable the Chief Secretary that he intends to amend and broaden the definition. It must be admitted that the action of the State has been restricted by the growth of individual responsibility and the enlarging of individual liberty. Nevertheless it becomes the duty of the State to interfere where parents or guardians are neglectful of their responsibility, not merely for the good of the children, but also in the interests of the community the State must, in such instances, take children into its charge.

The second important part of the Children's Welfare Act relates to making a child a ward on the grounds that the child is without sufficient means of support, etc.; while the third important part embraces those provisions coming under the heading of Infant Life Protection. The children coming under the Infant Life Protection sections are not wards of the State because they are being paid for by relations of the child. They are placed in the care of registered homes which are inspected and subject to the authority of the Children's Welfare Department. If, however, relatives get one month in arrears with payments for these children, they become ipso facto wards of the State.

Owing to the present adverse economic conditions, many of these children have in past years become wards owing to parents or relations of the children not being in a position to pay for their maintenance. Only children under 5 years of age are dealt with under the Infant Life Protection sections of the Act.

On the 31st December, 1932, there were 3,330 wards boarded out to 2,372 foster parents, so that the average number of wards in each home was less than 2. Whilst the boarding out regulations at present allow 4 wards under 14 to be placed in the same home, it is thought that number is too many, and it is hoped the regulations will be amended to provide for a maximum of three in one foster home. This would appear ample responsibility for one foster mother. Of course it may be necessary to depart from this policy in the case of children of the same family where, if possible, we endeavour not to part them from one another.

In the majority of our foster homes, the wards are well nurtured and cared for, and, in fact, given analogous privileges to the foster parent's own children. It is remarkable how these children and the foster parents become attached to one another and, indeed, in most cases, the children believe the foster parents



to be their own parents. It would, generally speaking, cause intense sadness and often bitterness, were they disillusioned. They usually take their foster parent's name at school and many have married under these names, and I insist they be allowed to remain happy in their ignorance. Of course, there may be exceptions, such as foster parents losing control of their wards when it may then be essential in the interests of the child and the foster parent for the Department to come to the rescue and enforce obedience by stronger control than the foster parent is able to exercise. It is indeed, very often hard to have to remove wards from foster parents after they become attached to one another, but this is not done unless some special and urgent reason exists. During the year, however, it was our painful duty to have to transfer 21 wards from unsuitable homes, chiefly because it would have been detrimental to the interests of the children to have allowed them to remain with their foster parents.

It is good for these wards, as well as the State, that the Department is ever watchful to see that the prospects in life of these children are not destroyed by being allowed to remain in unhealthy environments or to be subjected to the baneful influences of bad foster parents. Fortunately for the children and the State, there are not many instances in which foster parents have failed on the grounds of intemperance, neglect, vicious example or surroundings to honourably discharge their duties to the children of the State boarded out to them. Where there is any doubt at all, the homes of these foster parents are kept under close supervision, and it is in such cases particularly that frequently the assistance of the police is most helpful and readily forthcoming.

One of the conditions under which children under 2 years of age are now boarded out to foster parents is that they must take these children regularly to the Baby Health Centres located within the districts in which they reside, and reports are frequently being received from these foster parents that they are obtaining much valuable help and advice from nurses in charge of these centres.

#### INSPECTIONS.

One of the most essential functions of a Department like this is proper and systematic inspection, but it is feared very few people outside this Department know exactly what thorough inspection really involves. An ideal inspector is, in my opinion, one who goes into a home in a pure spirit of friendship. The mistake is often made of believing that the poor always want money. Undoubtedly it cannot be expected that, where there is no income coming into the home, sympathetic remarks will satisfy hunger. Many mothers who have been receiving State aid have been compelled to accept it because, being victims of circumstances over which they had no control, they have been forced through dire distress or penury to seek Government assistance for their children. Inspectors do not, and are not intended to, humiliate these poor people, but rather to be helpful to them and give them sympathetic advice.

Without in the slightest degree reflecting on the ability of men, to a very large extent the work of inspections and interviewing mothers and children appears peculiarly suited to women. My reason for believing that, generally speaking, women are better fitted to do this work is not because it is considered they are more capable. There are, however, many enquiries necessary in the interest of children's welfare bordering on the intimate details of domestic life which can be more appropriately made by a woman, but may be resented or misunderstood were they pursued by a man.



With a very efficient staff of 15 inspectors under the control of a capable Chief Inspector, no less than 17,152 inspections were made during the past year to various homes and foster homes throughout the State. This averages approximately two inspections annually to each home.

Apart from mere inspecting of homes, inspectors have various other duties to perform, and they inform me they cannot speak too highly of the splendid assistance cheerfully rendered to them by the police and voluntary workers in connection with this Department.

Besides the visiting carried out by the Inspectors, foster homes and mothers' homes are also periodically visited by medical officers and local voluntary workers, and on these occasions the children, if not at school are again seen, so that it may be said from the standpoint of inspections, the Department is doing its best to safeguard the welfare of the children under its care.

It should be clearly understood however, that it is not our desire to over-do inspections by visiting these homes more than is really absolutely necessary. This would not, in all cases conduce to stability of character and we must, therefore, be careful. Like other human beings, children vary in temperament, and whilst it is important that some children must be under frequent inspection, it is likewise not always wise to allow children to lean too much on this Department for this might, I fear, have a tendency to deprive good mothers and foster mothers of their maternal influence over them.

#### SERVICE, PROBATION AND ADOPTIONS.

When wards and other children paid for by the State reach the age of 14 years, payments to foster mothers and mothers cease, except in a few cases of ill-health, etc. In the case of wards where possible and considered desirable, these children are allowed to remain with their foster parents on what is termed probation, preliminary to their discharge. They are, however, until discharged, still subject to the authority of the Department. It is the duty of foster parents to try and place these wards in suitable positions, and we help them as much as possible, but as can easily be imagined, prevalent adverse industrial conditions make it very difficult to find work for them, and this is causing much concern to the Department as well as foster parents. Indeed, it must be admitted that, owing to economic conditions, many wards over 14 years of age have been returned to the Department as their foster parents have, with regret, found it impossible to maintain them without State assistance. The duty, therefore, of placing these wards in suitable occupations devolves upon that Branch of this Department known as the Service Branch. Every avenue of investigation is explored in our endeavour to find situations for these wards, not merely from the standpoint of their own good, but in the interests of the State. There is nothing, it will be admitted, more calculated to endanger the future of young people, as well as adults, than idleness. Is it not true that idleness frequently destroys character by counteracting ambition, fostering laziness, breeding discontent and, in many instances, due to penury, hunger or disheartenment, there eventuates crime, loss of health, broken spirits.

We have, up to the present, placed 528 of our wards in positions. These are employed in almost all kinds of work, the majority of the girls in domestic service, whilst most of our lads are on farms.

It is, however, as already pointed out, becoming more and more difficult to find employment for them. Under existing con-



ditions we must either house and maintain them at our Royal Park Depot, or board them out to Institutions under the jurisdiction of the Department. Approximately the average cost to the State of clothing and caring for these unemployed wards is 10/- per week each. The question, therefore, arises - would it not be wise, and indeed economic, if the State provided some form of re-productive work for some of these young people until industrial conditions improve? This would certainly be for the good of these wards and also undoubtedly for the State, and I believe in many instances may not cost the State much more than they are at present costing this Department..

Very few complaints reach us regarding the wards in employment. We are aware that employers generally are very pleased with them and, in some cases, particularly considerate towards them.

Instances have come under notice in which some of these wards have been very successful in business, both in the Metropolitan and Country centres, and I have in mind one case in which one of them saved sufficient to buy a partnership in a business which is proving very successful. It is indeed pleasing to us, and compensates for our worry and anxiety regarding the welfare of these young people, to learn they are doing well in spite of their handicaps.

#### LEGAL ADOPTIONS.

From a very intimate practical knowledge of the operations of the Adoption of Children Act, 1928, I am fully convinced it is a wise, farseeing and humane piece of legislation, and has been instrumental in giving much happiness to many young people and preventing life long misery to others by enabling them, unknown to themselves, to be adopted, thereby giving them the same legal rights to a name as if he or she had been born in wedlock. What a magnificent thing it is that illegitimate children are thus enabled to legitimatise their existence which, to some extent at least, rectifies the wrongs inflicted on these poor innocent children.

Although the Adoption Act was passed in 1928, it did not come into active operation until 1930, but since then, 900 legal adoptions have been granted by the Courts, 217 of which were presented by this Department. When the Court grants an adoption order the child is automatically discharged from any further control by this Department, and its name is re-registered at the office of the Government Statist in the name of the adopting parents.

Very great affection is usually shown by foster parents for the children they wish to adopt, and these affections are generally reciprocated by the children. I have one special case in mind to exemplify this. Some 11 years ago a child, then less than one month old, was made a ward because of the death of its mother and the father's inability to care for this and his 6 other motherless children. The child was accordingly placed in a foster home under boarded out conditions and, to the credit of the father, it must be pointed out, he regularly contributed towards the child's maintenance. After some years he re-married and recently applied to the Department to have his child returned to him. An inspection was made of his home, and no objections could be offered to his reasonable and natural request. Notification of this was communicated to the foster parent who, upon receiving the information, came into the office almost distracted at the thought of having to part with the child she had grown to love, and the boy's peace of mind was none the less disturbed when he realised he would be losing the only mother he had ever known. The foster mother pleaded to be allowed to adopt the child, but this could not be done without the father's consent. It was, therefore, necessary to approach the father and place this very delicate and distressing state of affairs before him. He was, naturally, very much upset but, after giving the matter his earnest consideration, came to the conclusion his



his boy would be better left in the home where he had so firmly established himself in the hearts of his foster parents, and willingly gave his consent. Whilst this naturally gave great joy to the foster parents and the child, it was undoubtedly a very fine and unselfish act on the part of the child's natural father.

Every care must be exercised to see that applicants are suitable and fully capable of safe-guarding the interests of the children they desire to adopt. They are interviewed and their homes are personally inspected by myself as guardian ad litem to these applications, and it is a great consolation to me to know these children are being adopted into good homes where they will receive attention and affection.

Complaints are from time to time being received that excessive charges are made by outside solicitors in preparing adoption cases, etc., for the courts. I have heard it said that as high as 20 guineas has been charged for one case, but I am aware also that, in many cases, as low a fee as 6 guineas has been made. It will be realised that, unless the child is a State ward, this Department in this aspect of the matter cannot interfere.

There is a good deal of office work entailed in each case for adoption, and great care must be exercised to obtain from applicants the necessary information that must be embodied in their affidavits. Much of this is of a confidential nature and is required for the Judge's information who hears every application in camera. No charge is made for the work done by this Department in connection with these legal adoptions. There are, however, small expenses amounting to 27/- which adopting parents must pay, made up of costs of birth certificate and duty stamps. As already stated, this Department can prepare and present adoption applications to the Courts on behalf of applicants only where children are wards of the State.

#### MENTAL DEFECTIVES.

It is not too much to say there is no more urgent problem that presents itself to-day than that of the mentally defective members of the community. It is only within my province to deal with this question in so far as it relates to wards of the State. I am speaking of the mentally defective, not from the standpoint of idiocy, because very few of our mentally defective children could be so classified. Their mental deficiency is not sufficiently pronounced or serious enough to warrant their being placed in an asylum, yet they are too mentally weak to be boarded out. What therefore, is to become of them?

A few months back, an institution known as "Travancore" was opened by the Honourable the Premier of this State. This institution has been brought into being as a first instalment in an endeavour to cope with the problem of the sub-normal child under 12 years of age. 30 wards from our Royal Park Depot have already been transferred there with the object of enabling them to obtain training that will, it is hoped, counteract their sub-normal tendencies. In many respects these children might, to some, appear normal, but their weaknesses on occasions suddenly assert themselves and they may at such times become dangerous to themselves and the community. To exemplify this it might not be out of place to say that, only a few days ago, a broken-hearted mother of about 50 years brought her son in to this Department. He was just over 14 years of age and appeared a fine little chap to talk to, refined, gentle and had every appearance of being a normal boy, but the mother with tears in her eyes informed me (when the boy left my room) that she was actually afraid of the lad as he had developed such dangerous tendencies. Without any reason known to her, the boy would suddenly break out into violent fits of temper and would attempt to do her



bodily harm. He appeared at such times as though he could not refrain from doing something desperate. It is not for me to say what is wrong with this boy - that is for a medical man to determine. If, however, this boy had done any serious injury to his mother no one would surely classify him as a criminal. Neither have we any more right to regard many of the crimes committed to-day as emanating from criminals. This boy is too old for Travancore and not a subject for an asylum, and there is no institution under the Children's Welfare Department in which he, or such cases, could be attended to.

Whilst there is every prospect of successful results at Travancore, the accommodation there appears to greatly limit its possibilities. That institution can now only find room for 60 of these subnormal children, which is totally inadequate to cope with such a big problem. Indeed, Travancore as at present is not even large enough to relieve the Children's Welfare Department of all its mentally defective cases, without taking into consideration the hundreds of mentally defective children in private homes and outside institutions.

But whilst Travancore is at least doing something valuable in the direction of the young children, the even more serious question presents itself - what is the State attempting to do to solve that most urgent problem regarding the control of subnormals at the adolescent stage? It is more and more becoming recognised that the causes of crime in numerous instances are not due to original elements in our midst. Society is suffering almost as much from the irresponsible as the criminal.

The main causes of crime and evils that keep so many of our people in a state of degradation are frequently weakness in intellect rather than inherent badness. This cause would be more in evidence were it not that many of these weak-minded people are being guarded from the consequences of their defects. At the age of 18 - or in some cases 20 - the Children's Welfare Department ceases to have control over the class of wards to whom I now refer. They go out into the world and become a menace to society.

Many girls or young women of this stamp become the prey of men in search of such weaklings. The result is that illegitimate children are brought into the world, degenerates with no possible chance of ever becoming useful members of society - in short - physical, moral and intellectual wrecks. In the majority of cases these illegitimate children are left for the state to maintain, and their unfortunate mothers go out into the world again only to later on bring other such children to the welfare Department to take care of. I have known some of these weak-minded girls to bring as many as four illegitimate children into the world and hand them over to the care of the Children's Welfare Department without the slightest shame and, in many instances, with an indifference that one might expect if an animal, and not a human being, were being parted with - no sadness, no sympathy or affection and, in most cases, not even any evidence of maternal attachment.

This problem must be faced - it is too dangerous and detrimental to the community to continue unchecked. Already this Department has the responsibility of maintaining numbers of these illegitimate children and, unless legislative means be adopted to restrict the liberties and limit the possibilities of these weak-minded young women from falling victims to unscrupulous and lustful males, I can foresee that, not alone these, but their off-spring must become an ever increasing danger and expense to the State. The time is, I am sure, overdue for the introduction of remedial measures to attack this ever-increasing menace to the State and Commonwealth, such as the establishment and support of institutions for these helpless young women, legislative enactments to segregate



them from normal members of society and, under conditions dictated by science, prohibit increases by those pronounced unfit for the duties of parenthood and citizenship.

It has often been said - why not place these weak-minded boys and girls in a Reformatory Institution? Would this be fair? I can only repeat what I have often said that, whilst good work has undoubtedly been done by our Reformatory Institutions, I consider that in many instances this method of dealing with delinquent children is inadequate. After a close study of these young people I find that in a number of cases they are quite indifferent to, and do not appear to realise the seriousness of, the wrongs they have committed. This appears to indicate physical, intellectual or moral weakness, and these defects are inherited or traceable to, and accentuated by, unfavourable home environment, defective parental control, vicious company and adverse industrial conditions. In the interests of the Commonwealth, it is quite clear that the time has arrived to consider the adoption of more corrective, rather than punitive measures in many cases. A close examination must be made by brain and psychological experts with the object of counter-acting deformity or weaknesses, intellectually, morally and physically.

MAINTENANCE, ETC.

As the major portion of the expenditure of this Department comes under the heading of "Maintenance", it may be of interest to show hereunder the position for the year 1932 against the preceding four years.-

	<u>Wards boarded out at end of year</u>	<u>Children boarded out to Mothers at end of year.</u>	<u>Amount spent on maintenance.</u>
1928	4,782	9,904	2377,045
1929	4,639	10,244	384,875
1930	4,697	10,919	368,660
1931	4,414	10,178	339,095
1932	4,300	9,538	290,019

Of the total expenditure, viz., 2290,019 for the past year, 2199,793 were spent in making payments in the form of State aid to mothers who have the care of their own children. 9538 of these particular children were being paid for on 31/12/32. During the year 1584 applications were made in respect of 3373 children, and after these applications were fully investigated, assistance was granted in the case of 2178, refused in 834 cases, while in the case of 361 children the applications were withdrawn. No less than 119 of these applications were made in the case of 161 illegitimate children. 78 of these applications were approved, representing 110 illegitimate children. 17, covering 22 children, were refused, and 24, representing 29 illegitimate children, were withdrawn.

Now I want to look further into the reasons that made it necessary for placing these new 2,178 children on the State. 215 applications were granted where husbands were invalids in hospitals, sanatoriums or mental hospitals. 349 were due to men having deserted their wives. 275 were granted to widows whose husbands had died. 149 were necessitated through husbands having to draw old age pensions or invalid pensions and thereby having insufficient means of support for their families, whilst 141 were necessitated through men having been incarcerated. Some of the causes for applying for State aid were no doubt justified, but in others it must be admitted the causes were shameful, and I now wish to emphasise this by pointing out that the number of mothers receiving assistance for their own children on 31/12/32 was 4,245 in respect of the 9,538



children already mentioned, or an average of over 2 children per family, and the positions regarding the fathers were as follows:-

- 1466 - husbands deceased.
- 1278 - deserted
- 969 - were in hospitals, sanatoriums, benevolent homes, etc.
- 146 - were in gaols
- 386 - drawing old age, invalid or military pensions.

Thus it will be seen that out of 4245 mothers receiving help for their children, the surprising total of 1424 - or more than 33% - are due to husbands being in gaols or deserting their wives and children. Again, the assistance to the 1424 mothers, representing over 3000 children, is costing the State approximately 260,000 p.a. in State aid alone, and is due to 1278 men not merely deserting their wives, but contemptibly deserting their poor innocent little children and leaving them to starve were it not that the state came to their rescue; and 146 men have so lost all sense of manhood, respect and loyalty to their wives and children that they are in gaols. Surely it could never had been foreseen when the Maintenance Act was placed on the Statutes that it would be so meanly taken advantage of by so many men. Possibly it will be asked, is there nothing to rectify this position of affairs? I thought at first that the industrial conditions may in some measure account for same, but upon looking up past records, I find that the desertions last year were very little different in the average to many years back. There appears to be nothing left then than to make the penalty for desertion more severe.

In the case of illegitimate children we have to pay for, I would like to here comment on what appears to be a weakness in connection with the issue of warrants against putative fathers of illegitimate children. At the present time many magistrates will not issue a warrant against a man unless there is corroborative evidence that he, and he alone, was on intimate terms with the mother of the child. Warrants are refused if it be admitted or known that more than one man was on intimate terms with the mother. In such cases it would appear the Police Magistrate does not possess power to make a maintenance order because the blame cannot be fixed on one particular individual. Under such conditions these children then become burdens on the state and the men responsible escape. I have heard of cases in which men, desiring to be loyal to a companion, actually declared they were on intimate terms with a girl as well as the particular man the girl blamed. This was done purely to prevent an order being made against the actual man responsible.

The question, therefore, arises, is it fair the state should have to maintain these children? I have often felt the Police Magistrates in such cases might be empowered to issue warrants and make orders against all the men who were on terms of intimacy with a girl and each made to pay a proportion of the cost of maintenance of the child, instead of, as at present, throwing the burden on the state.

Although there were 2,178 new children placed on the State for the year 1932, it will be interesting to learn that payments for 2,818 children ceased during the year for the following reasons:-

Children attained the age of 14 years	...	946
Further assistance not warranted	...	987
Renewal of support by fathers	...	644
Mothers re-married	...	83
Mothers left the State	...	39
Mothers died	...	23
Children died	...	9



Made wards, Section 24, Children's Welfare Act	..	54
Made wards, Section 46, Maintenance Act (mis-conduct of mothers)	..	10
Made wards, Section 47, Maintenance Act (death of mothers)	..	9
Admitted to Institutions	..	14

It is always our desire to see that the money paid in the form of state aid is properly expended and utilised for the purpose of feeding and clothing the children who are being paid for. This, it must be admitted, is particularly difficult, especially where there are, as at present, so many adult members of families unemployed, but where we have any doubt that a weak mother may not spend the money wisely and for the specific purpose for which it is given, the cheques are each month sent to our local voluntary workers who purchase food and clothing for the children.

A case came under my notice some little time back in which a mother was receiving State assistance for 4 children. It was reported this mother could not be very much in need of State aid when she was able to hire a public hall and celebrate each child's birthday and invite between 50 and 60 guests to each party. This certainly did not seem like a case in which there was justification for paying State aid, but upon investigation I found that, although invitations were sent for these friends to attend, upon arrival at the hall each was required to pay 1/- for admission. The mother upon being interrogated, was most indignant at the idea of suggesting that one of her children was not worthy of, or entitled to, what she termed "a swell party" each year.

Some months back, very great prominence was given to the fact that a child had died at our Royal Park Depot. I was on leave at the time, but upon returning to duty looked very closely into the case and could find no just grounds for many of the exaggerated statements made.

I just desire to say here that it is our earnest desire and aim to treat these unfortunate mothers who have dealings with the Department patiently, considerately and sympathetically, and to do all that is possible for the welfare of the poor little children who come under our care. As a further evidence of this it will, I feel sure, be very pleasing to many to learn that last year, out of 1,191 children who were admitted to our Royal Park Depot (and these children were in many respects frail, deformed, sickly and neglected) there was only one death at the Depot, and this was due to a cause over which we had no control. Is this not a very fine result and does it not reflect very great credit on the staff and indicate the special care and attention bestowed on these children?

Speaking for myself, and I know my sentiments are but a reflex of the officers of the Department, it has been and will continue to be, our strenuous desire to personify the name of the Department with two outstanding objects in view - loyalty to the state and justice to the 16,216 children under our care. To say it would be impossible for mistakes to occur would be to make a superlatively egotistical statement. We do, and shall continue to use our utmost endeavours to obviate same, but if isolated adverse reports are made against the Department, I merely ask that we be not prejudged or condemned until the correct particulars are ascertained.

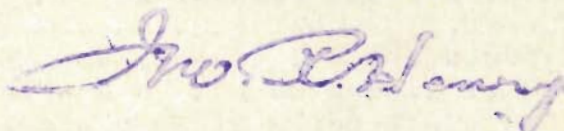
I desire to express my profound regret at the decease of my predecessor, Mr. Lewis Thomas. It is only necessary to be associated with the inner workings of this Department to recognise the splendid services that gentleman rendered the state as head of the Children's Welfare Department. May I express the deep sympathy of the officers of the Department and myself to Mrs. Thomas and her family in their great and irreparable loss.



In conclusion, I have again to refer to the wonderful help the Department received during the past year from the police, lady correspondents, voluntary committees, public and semi-public officials. Indeed, may I say that, but for their magnificent efforts in the great cause of child welfare, it is safe to say the work and expenditure of this Department would have been considerably multiplied. They, at least, have the consolation and compensation of knowing that their efforts are being expended in a cause second to none in importance to the State, Commonwealth and Empire.

It is also my desire to express appreciation of and thanks to my staff for their loyalty and attention to the important duties they performed during the past year.

Yours faithfully,



Secretary.

The Hon. The Chief Secretary,  
Treasury Buildings,  
Spring Street,  
MELBOURNE.



Table V.

NEGLECTED & REFORMATORY CHILDREN.

## Statement of Admission &amp; Discharges for 1932.

	Neglected			Reformatory			Grand Total
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
Number under Supervision on 31.12.31.	3731	2823	6554	168	87	255	6809
<u>ADMISSIONS.</u>							
Court Committals	116	47	163	60	5	65	228
Sec. 24 C.W.A.	175	165	340				340
" 46 M/ce. Act	2	8	10				10
" 47 "	1	8	9				9
" 103 Part 2 C.W.A.	31	20	51				51
" 73 C.W. Act	2	2	4				4
Transfer from C.W.D.				9	12	21	21
" " Refty.	7		7				7
Returned absconders	10	1	11				11
Escal				3		3	3
	344	251	595	72	17	89	684
<u>Discharges.</u>							
By Order of Gov. in Council	91	86	177	1		1	178
" Death	15	7	22				22
" Effluxion of time	315	229	544	66	30	96	640
" Transfer to C.W. Dept.	9	12	21				21
" " " Refty.				7		7	7
" " " Lunacy Dept.	3	1	4	1		1	5
Unreturned absconders	34	3	37	6	2	8	45
Adoptions	26	36	62				62
	493	374	867	81	32	113	980
Number under Supervision on 31.12.32.	3582	2700	6282	159	72	231	6513
<u>LOCATIONS.</u>							
B/o with foster mothers	1826	1504	3330				3330
Maintained in Institutions	747	351	1098	51	51	102	1200
In Service Homes	196	74	270	16	9	25	295
With relatives & other without cost to State	803	763	1566	91	12	103	1669
In Hospital	10	8	18	1		1	19
	3582	2700	6282	159	72	231	6513



PARENTAGE OF CHILDREN COMMITTED IN 1932.

<u>Particulars supplied with order of committal</u>	<u>Neg.</u>	<u>Rfty.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Parents poor, character	68	34	102
"    dead	29		29
"    unknown	13		13
"    drunkards	6		6
"    doubtful	18		18
"    deserted	30		30
"    in gaol	5		5
Father dead, mother good character	17	15	32
2    "    "    immoral	2		2
"    "    "    in asylum	1		1
"    "    "    deserted	4		4
"    "    "    in sanatorium	3		3
"    Deserted mother good character	180	2	182
"    "    "    invalid	4		4
"    "    "    doubtful	8		8
"    "    "    dead	7		7
"    "    "    in asylum	2		2
"    unknown, mother good character	17	5	22
"    "    "    in hospital	6		6
"    "    "    deserted	13		13
"    "    "    doubtful	15		15
"    "    "    mental	7		7
"    invalid, mother dead	14		14
"    "    "    good character	9	2	11
"    good character, mother dead	16	3	19
"    "    "    "    deserted	8		8
"    "    "    "    asylum	6		6
"    doubtful, mother good character		6	6
"    in gaol, mother dead	4		4
"    "    "    good character	9		9
"    "    "    bad    "	11		11
"    "    "    deserted	10		10
"    drunkard, mother good character	14	1	15
"    "    "    dead	7		7
"    in asylum    "    "	9		9
"    in hospital, mother dead	5		5
	<u>577</u>	<u>68</u>	<u>645</u>



COMMITTEES DURING year 1932 - WITH CAUSES OF SUCH COMMITTEES.

NEGLECTED.

REFORMATORY

Neglected	86
Larceny	42
Break & enter	12
Trespass	2
Found wandering	3
Wilful damage	3
Uncontrollable	5
Immoral Life	1
Broke Probation	2
Dwelling with drunkard	3
Sleeping out	1
Illegally use	1
Unlawful possession	1
Obscene Exposure	1
Sec. 24 C.W.A.	340
" 46 Maint. Act.	10
" (2) 47 " "	9
" 103 C.W. Act	51
73 " "	4

Larceny	33
Break & enter	17
Illegal use	3
Insufficient means	1
Indecent language	1
Wilful damage	2
Unlawfully on premises	1
Buggery	1
Assault	4
Indecent behaviour	1
Disorderly	1
	<hr/>
	65
Transfer from Gaol	
Larceny	3

Total 577

Total 68



AGES, RELIGIONS and BIRTHPLACES of CHILDREN

Committed in 1932.

Ages

	Under 1 Year	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 6	6 to 7	7 to 8	8 to 9	9 to 10	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	13 to 14	14 to 15	15 to 16	Over 16 yrs.	Total
Neglec- ted	101	43	30	27	32	29	23	39	32	35	36	49	49	25	12	9	6	577
Reforma- tory												2	2	7	11	28	18	68
	101	43	30	27	32	29	23	39	32	35	36	51	51	32	23	37	24	645

Religions

	Protestant	Roman Catholic	Hebrew	Total
Neglec- ted.	351	225	1	577
Reforma- tory.	51	16	1	68
	402	241	2	645

Birthplaces

	Australia & New Zealand	England	Ireland	Total
Neglec- ted	571	4	2	577
Reforma- tory	68	-	-	68
	639	4	2	645



WARDS OF CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT

(a) Wards in State Institutions on 31.12.32

Neglected			Reformatory		
Institution	Boys	Girls	Institution	Boys	Girls
Royal Park Receiving Depot	119	113	Royal Park Reformatory	1	-

(b) Wards in non-State Institutions on 31.12.32

Neglected				Reformatory			
Institution	Religion	Boys	Girls	Institution	Religion	Boys	Girls
Abbotsford Industrial School	R.C.	-	54	Bayswater Reformatory	S.A.	50	-
St. Augustine's Orphanage	"	87	-	Oakleigh Reformatory	R.C.	-	10
Bayswater No. 2	S.A.	64	-	Riddell Reformatory	S.A.	-	41
" No. 3	"	38	-				
Box Hill Boys' Home	"	155	-				
East Kew Girls' Home	"	-	72				
St. Anthony's Home	R.C.	10	6				
Broadmeadows Foundling Hospital	"	22	10				
The Haven	S.A.	13	10				
Burwood Boys' Home	Prot.	8	-				
Victorian Children's Aid Scty.	Prot.	-	5				
Oakleigh Convent	R.C.	-	4				
Carlton Refuge	Prot.	5	4				
Talbot Colony	Unsec.	4	3				
St. Vincent de Paul's	R.C.	27	9				
East Camberwell Home	S.A.	-	8				
Nazareth House	R.C.	-	5				
St. Joseph's Home	"	7	-				
Surrey Hills	"	7	-				
Livingstone Home	Prot.	2	1				
Mission of St. James & St. John	C of R.	5	9				
Andrew Kerr Memorial Home	Prot.	3	6				
St. Joseph's Home	"	-	2				
Swan Hill	R.C.	-	2				
Tally Ho	Prot.	56	-				
Salesian Bros.	R.C.	35	-				
Ballarat Orphanage	Prot.	34	10				
St. Aiden's Orphanage	R.C.	-	3				
St. Catherine's Orphanage	"	-	17				
Seaside Garden Home	Unsec.	53	-				
		628	238			50	51
Total number maintained in Institutions		747	351			51	51



1932

AGES OF NEGLECTED & REFORMATORY CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION

	Neglected			Reformatory		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
Under 12 months	21	27	48			
Between 1 & 2 years	66	49	117			
" 2 & 3 "	95	84	179			
" 3 & 4 "	124	88	212			
" 4 & 5 "	161	132	293			
" 5 & 6 "	193	136	329			
" 6 & 7 "	175	138	313			
" 7 & 8 "	210	182	392			
" 8 & 9 "	223	189	412			
" 9 & 10 "	208	165	373			
" 10 & 11 "	225	162	387			
" 11 & 12 "	251	195	446			
" 12 & 13 "	277	201	478	1	-	1
" 13 & 14 "	241	209	450	2	1	3
" 14 & 15 "	278	205	483	7	4	11
" 15 & 16 "	276	185	461	38	7	45
" 16 & 17 "	278	164	442	50	10	60
" 17 & 18 "	273	171	444	55	15	70
" 18 & 19 "	3	16	19	3	22	25
" 19 & 20 "	2	2	4	3	13	16
	3582	2700	6282	159	72	231



DEATHS DURING 1932.

Length of time under Department.	Under 12 months	1 to 2	2 to 3	5 to 6	6 to 7	8 to 9	10 to 11	11 to 12	12 to 13	16 to 17	Total
16 days	1										1
1 month	1	1									2
2 "		3									3
3 "			1						1		2
10 "					1						1
1 year		1	2								3
2 "						1					1
4 "				1							1
5 "					1				1		2
9 "								1			1
10 "							1	1			2
11 "								1	1		2
15 "										1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>

3 died in foster homes, 12 in Children's Hospital, 2 at The Haven  
1 at St. Vincent's Hospital, 1 at Fairfield Hospital, 1 at Geelong  
Hospital, 1 at Alfred Hospital, and 1 at Girls Depot -- Total 22.

Causes of Death.

Colitis	2	Acute Pyelitis	1
Heart Failure	3	Gastro Enteritis	1
Meningitis	3	Tubercular Meningitis	1
Diabetes & Bronchial Pneumonia	1	Pneumonia	2
Acute Nephritis	2	Tetanus	1
Colitis & Nasal Diph.	1	Cerebral tumour	1
Diphtheria	2	Pyelonephrosis	1

22



CHILDREN UNDER THE CARE OF PRIVATE PERSONS AND INSTITUTIONS, under DIVISION 8 CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT 1928, on 31.12.32.

Name of Institution	Number
Melbourne Orphanage, Brighton	295
Presbyterian and Scots Church Society	218
Victorian Children's Aid Society	102
The Diocesan Missions, Church of England Homes for Children	96
Methodist Homes, Cheltenham	214
Gorden Institute	53
Nurwood Boys' Home	36
Methodist Boys' Homes (Central Mission Training Para)	78
Presbyterian Girls' Home, Elsternwick	29
St. Joseph's Home, Surrey Hills	119
Sutherland Homes	117
Minton Boys' Home (Ragged Boys' Home)	51
Church of England Boys' Home (Auburn and Canterbury)	56
Kilmany Park Boys' Home, Sale	44
Seaside Garden Home for Boys, Newhaven	131
Mrs. Lyons, 11 Meere St., Coburg	32
Church of England Home, Clarendon St., East Melbourne. & St. Luke's Toddlers' Home	75
St. Agnes' Home for Girls, Glenroy	66
St. Nicholas' Home for Boys "	64
Central Mission, 47 Lang St., South Yarra	16
Methodist Babies' Home, Alexandra Avenue, South Yarra.	50
Presbyterian Babies' Home, Landsdowne St., East Melbourne.	42
<u>Total</u>	1984



PART II - CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT 1928.

Of the 239 children who came under supervision of Part II of the Children's Welfare Act 1928 during the year ending 31.12.32, 51 were removed by Parents, 51 became State wards ( 31 boys - 20 girls), 20 reached the age of 5 years and so ceased to be under supervision, and 5 were adopted. Children under supervision, 112.

AGES OF CHILDREN.

WEEKS					MONTHS										YEARS.			
2	3	4	5		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4
		2			3	6	5	3	3	6	3	3		6	23	22	20	7
TOTAL -										112.								

The distribution of these children in registered homes was as follows :-

63 Homes with one child,  
 7 " " two children,  
 1 " " three children,  
 1 " " four children,  
 1 " " five children,  
 1 " " eight children,  
 1 " " ten children.

In registered homes where there are more than four children boarded-out, the registered nurses in charge of the homes have suitable assistance, and the home is specially fitted to deal with the number of children placed therein.

We have been very careful to avoid overcrowding, and the homes are under regular and expert supervision.

Included in the Registered Homes are such Institutions as Broadmeadows Foundling Home, "The Haven", Carlton Refuge and the City Mission Home.

In almost all cases the nurses are attending the various Baby Health Centres fortnightly, and in cases where no Baby Health Centre is situated, the Infants are seen fortnightly by the Medical Officer of that district.

There were 34 new applications for Registration as nurses under this Act during the year, and of these 8 were refused.

DEATHS AMONG CHILDREN BOARDED-OUT UNDER PART II CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT 1928.

No deaths occurred during the year.

Many of the infants, when first boarded-out are very delicate, and are at once placed in suitable registered homes, so that they may get expert nursing and regular medical attention.

EXEMPTIONS UNDER PART II CHILDREN'S WELFARE ACT 1928.

We received 7 applications for exemption during the year, and after full enquiries into the circumstances all applications were recommended and granted.

DE FACTO ADOPTIONS.

91 notifications of such Adoptions were received during the year.



ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1932.

INSPECTION

In accordance with the Secretary's instruction the following information is furnished :-

The State is divided for purposes of inspection into Districts and Sections. At present there are 50 Districts and 17 Sections. The districts cover the metropolitan area and the Sections account for the balance of the State.

The practice is for the Inspectors, with the aid of the Departmental car, to visit 5 days a week, and, in company with Lady Correspondents, to do the Districts. This applies to the Sections also. Saturday morning is fully occupied in writing up different cases inspected during the week.

From a rough average taken I find a district takes some days beforehand to write up inspection books, and after the inspection to complete the written reports depends on the number of homes in a district.

I have a staff of 15 Inspectors at present, and I feel that I must mention that they have worked very hard in the last year to keep the inspection up to date.

The following is a list of inspection of children :-

	<u>Mothers Children</u>		
Section 37 Maintenance Act 1928	...	4245	9538 = 13783
Section 24 Children's Welfare Act 1928	..	..	340
Boarded-out in foster homes	..	..	3330
Boarded-out in institutions	..	..	295
In Service Homes	..	..	295
With relatives without cost to the State (Probation)	..	..	1669
In Hospital	..	..	19
Infant Life Protection Act	..	..	239
Adoptions	..	..	62
			28932

Apart from the above inspections we have visits also to Police Stations, and I must mention what a great help the police are to the Inspectors in their work, Clerk of Courts, Police Courts, Invalids Pension Office, War Pensions, Repatriation Department, Solicitors and Insurance offices, Factories, State Schools, Hospitals, Baby Health Centres, Doctors and Lady Correspondents.

Approximately 17,152 visits, taken from Inspectors diaries, were made.

SECTIONS INSPECTED FOR 1932.

<u>COUNTY</u>		<u>HOUSES</u>	<u>CHILDREN</u>		
	Section I	249	464	...	Geelong.
	" II	356	691	...	Ballarat.
	" III	60	133	...	Daylesford
	" IV	104	181	...	Castlemaine.
	" V	77	167	...	Maryborough.
	" VI	86	182	...	Ararat.
	" VIII	114	206	...	Hamilton.
	" IX	133	250	...	Warrnambool.
	" X	80	185	...	Horsham.
	" XI	125	260	...	Mildura.
	" XII	376	540	...	Bendigo.
	" XIII	143	284	...	Shepparton.



INSPECTION (Continued).

<u>COUNTRY</u>	<u>HOMES</u>	<u>CHILDREN</u>	
Section XV ..	95	214	... Wangaratta.
" XVII ..	23	62	... Mansfield.
" XVIII ..	86	133	... Healesville.
" XIX ..	250	526	... Korumburra.
" XX ..	163	380	... Bairnsdale.

METROPOLITAN AREA

<u>DISTRICTS</u>	<u>HOMES</u>	<u>CHILDREN</u>	<u>DISTRICTS</u>	<u>HOMES</u>	<u>CHILDREN</u>
Albert Park	66	106	Springvale	25	43
Port Melbourne	138	232	Dandenong	57	86
Chelsea	63	129	Malvern	81	136
Northcote	270	480	Hawthorn	122	205
Oakleigh	140	200	Newport	42	65
Caulfield	124	200	Altona	22	67
Mordialloc	59	235	Williamstown	49	87
Carlton North	112	433	Yarraville	116	168
South Yarra	114	206	Footscray	262	407
Coburg North	74	180	Heidelberg	77	145
Coburg	169	309	Box Hill	98	166
Moonee Ponds	184	361	Flemington	106	185
Preston	224	258	Balwyn	19	34
Frahran	138	250	Collingwood	290	488
Fitzroy North )	872	505	North Melbourne	185	384
Fitzroy South )					
South Melbourne	233	282	Frankston	17	35
Brighton	106	170	Richmond	344	462
Camberwell	57	172	East Brunswick	226	406
Burwood	27	36	West Brunswick	179	293
Kew	36	72	Greenvale	13	18
Diamond Creek	28	46	Sunshine	30	76
Whittlesea	4	5	Ringwood	82	173
St.Kilda	136	223	Reservoir.	60	95
Sping	5	5			

M. McL. LOUGHRON,  
CHIEF INSPECTOR.

*M. McL. L.*  
30.6.33



BOYS' DEPOT, ROYAL PARK.Senior and Junior Boys' Division, Age 6 to 18 years.

Total number of boys admitted and re-admitted during the year ending December 31st, 1932, from all sources 701.

From Service	...	67
" Probation	...	39
" Boarding-out	...	86
Committed to Children's Welfare	...	106
Committed to Reformatory	...	42
Abscending from Institutions	...	68
Abscending from boarding-out and service	...	19
Children's Courts - on remand	...	155
<u>Various :-</u>		
Admitted under Sections of Child Welfare and Maintenance Acts.	}	119
Returned by police as Vards of State.		
Other institutions for despatch to Service.		
Hospitals - and for Medical treatment.		

Discharged from Depot to various destinations :- 696.

Transferred to other institutions	275
" " Reformatory	46
" " Probation	18
" " Service	110
" " Boarding-out to Foster Homes	24
Abscending from Depot and escorts	23
To Courts and not returned - released to parents and probation officers - released to bail	75
Discharged - transferred to Hospitals - Leave to parents - returned to parents under Sections of Children's Welfare and Maintenance Acts.	125

The total number of boys remaining resident at the Depot at the end of the year 1932 :-

Senior Boys	...	20
Junior "	...	49
T o t a l	...	<u>69</u>

Senior Boys.

Due to the reorganization of the previous year and the avenues opened up for transfer to other institutions, the daily average resident for the year was reduced to 26 (the peak number 33). Rapid disposal of the boys has been made possible and in accord with the continuity of admissions and a consequent reversion to conditions of reception and despatch the average stay at the Depot of each boy being a period of about 8 days.

The health of the boys was exceptionally good - serious sickness being entirely absent.

Junior Boys.

The daily average resident for the year in this Section was 42 (the peak number 61), this being a rise of 55% compared with the previous year vis. 27 (peak 40). This rise in average has been due to the younger boys being received and held for prolonged periods on account of physical and mental disabilities.

Staff.

Following a reduction of the male staff by 5 as a result of the reorganization of the previous year a further reduction of the



male attendant staff by 1 was made possible by the lower average of Senior Boys resident, and a rearrangement of the attendant's leave, making a total reduction of 6 - or  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the original attendant staff of 1930.

Commendable activities by Church and Social parties and welfare workers continue regularly during the evenings at the Depot, and the value of this voluntary assistance and the sacrifice of the good people concerned is highly appreciated.

Every effort has been made to conform with the requirements of economy wherever possible in the use of fuel, light and general equipment and restraint has been practiced in the requisitions for non-essential commodities.

(Signed) A. MANSELL.

Superintendent, Boys' Depot.



CHILDREN'S WELFARE DEPARTMENT.

Girls' Depot,  
Park Street,  
WEST BRUNSWICK, N.12.

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department.

Dear Sir,

Herewith is forwarded the Report of the Medical Officer of the Children's Welfare Depot for the year ending December 31st, 1932.

<u>Boy's Division</u> , admitted	701	-	discharged	696
Girl's " "	490	-	" "	479
	<u>1191</u>			<u>1175</u>

Average number in the Depot :-

<u>Boy's Division</u>	68
Girl's " "	<u>152</u>
	<u>220</u>

The 230 children in the Depot Royal Park on 5.1.33 were classified as follows :-

Mentally A.	Physically A.	85
" A.	" B.	39
" B.	" A.	51
" B.	" B.	55

Of the children in the Depot 5.1.33.

87	had been 1 or more years in the Depot
53	" " 2 " " " " "
28	" " 3 " " " " "
14	" " 4 " " " " "
9	" " 5 " " " " "
6	" " 6 " " " " "

Due to physical defect alone :-	20
" " mental " "	14
" " physical & mental defect	44
" " other causes	9

Admissions to Public Hospitals from the Depot as In-patients :-

	<u>Boy's Division</u>	<u>Girl's Division</u>
Children's Hospital	2	18
Eye & Ear " "	2	6
G.M.I.D. " "	3	16
Melbourne " "	1	8
Orthopedic " Frankston	1	1
	<u>9</u>	<u>49</u>
Deaths in Hospital	Nil	1
" " Depot	"	1

Admitted to Public Hospitals as Out-patients :-

	<u>Boy's Division</u>	<u>Girl's Division</u>
Children's Hospital	2 children & atten.	8 children & atten.
Melbourne	22 " "	26 " "
Eye & Ear " "	<u>22</u> " <u>94</u> "	<u>16</u> " <u>39</u> "
	<u>27</u> " <u>101</u>	<u>33</u> " <u>91</u>



Total attendances to Out-patients for 1932 = 192.

<u>Tonsillectomy</u>	<u>Boy's Division</u>	<u>Girl's Division</u>
At Public Hospitals	Nil	5
At the Depot	<u>38</u>	<u>94</u>
	<u>38</u>	<u>99</u>

Total at the Depot :- 132.

In addition, anaesthetics for minor operations and dental extractions numbered about:- 150.

GENERAL DISEASE.

Discharged from treatment	....	6
Admitted to	"	16
Attending	"	24
Transferred to Lonsdale St. Clinic		2

The treatment is carried out by Dr. Johnson of V.D. Clinic, Lonsdale Street, who, with his assistants attend the Depot once weekly. This consolidates the work done here, with that undertaken at "Riddell", "The Haven" and other places and provides a continuity of treatment otherwise unattainable.

During the year 122 children were submitted to one or all of the Binet, Porteus, Kohs and Healy Mental Efficiency Tests, by the teaching Staff of the School under the direction of Mr. Vick. Practically all were admissions or re-admissions from their own homes, foster-homes or institutions during 1932. Only those children admitted to the Depot who manifested mental backwardness or behaviour problems and were of school age were submitted for testing.

116 of these children are analysed as follows :-

<u>Age 6 - 14 years.</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Normal	14	18
Dull	23	10
Subnormal	<u>22</u>	<u>11</u>
	<u>59</u>	<u>39</u>

Age 14 years and over.

Normal	1	1
Dull	1	-
Subnormal	<u>13</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>

These children were disposed of as follows :-

<u>Age 6 - 14 years.</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>	<u>Total</u>
Institutions	34	20	54
Boarding-out	8	6	14
To Parents	7	7	14
Kew	-	-	-
Remaining in Depot	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>16</u>
	<u>59</u>	<u>39</u>	<u>98</u>

Age 14 years and over.

Institutions	10	1	11
Boarding-out	-	-	-
To Parents	2	-	2
Kew	2	1	3
Remaining in Depot	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>18</u>



Of those 54 tested children between 6 and 14 years sent to Institutions, 19 were subnormal (13 boys and 6 girls) and 19 were dull (14 boys and 5 girls).

Of the 11 over 14 years tested children who were sent to Institutions, 9 were subnormal boys.

(Sgd.) D. M. EMBELTON, M.D.  
Medical Officer.

GIRLS' DEPOT, ROYAL PARK.

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department.

Dear Sir,

I beg to submit the Annual Report of activities at the Girls' Depot for the year ending December 31st, 1932.

490 admitted to Depot.  
479 discharged from Depot.  
152 average number in Depot.  
37 girls were sent out to service.  
37 girls were admitted to the Reformatory.  
15 girls were transferred to other Reformatories, either Riddell or Oakleigh Convent.  
49 children were admitted to the various Hospitals as in-patients.  
33 children attended as out-patients.  
10 cases of Chicken pox, 11 of Measles, 5 of Diphtheria, were nursed at the Depot, also a good many cases of Bronchitis and Influenza and a fair number of Chronic Complaints.  
2 deaths occurred, 1 at Depot and 1 at the Children's Hospital.

The Rotary Club provided the usual wonderful dinner on Christmas Day for all the children, boys and girls and staff.

The Sun Toy Fund sent along a wonderful supply of toys. The various denominations gave the children religious instruction on Sundays. Also entertainments have been provided during the year by the Brunswick and Ascot Vale Endeavorers.

The Royal Automobile Club gave the children the usual enjoyable treat which was much appreciated.

(Sgd.) E. M. REID.  
Acting Matron.



THE SALVATION ARMY BOYS' HOME, BAYSWATER.

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

NO. 3 INDUSTRIAL HOME, BAYSWATER.

The following is a report on the year's work at No. 3 Home.

The year was commenced with 37 boys, 43 being admitted and 42 discharged, leaving 38 boys in the Home on 31st December, 1932.

Admissions from :-

Situations	...	...	1	
Children's Welfare Dept.			33	
No. 2 Home	...	...	7	
Hospital	...	...	2	
			<u>43</u>	<u>Total 43</u>

Discharged to :-

Hospital	...	...	2	
No. 1 Home	...	...	1	
Absconded	...	...	4	
Children's Welfare Dept.			21	
Situations	...	...	14	
			<u>42</u>	<u>Total 42</u>

The boys have enjoyed very good health throughout the year and their conduct has been good.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sgd) M. JOHN,  
Brigadier.

.....



SALVATION ARMY GIRLS' HOME, EAST KEW.

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to submit my report on the work done at the above named Institution for the year ending December 1932.

There were 72 wards in the home at the end of the year, 17 were admitted and 21 discharged, 17 of that number being returned to relatives or Foster Homes, or placed suitably at service. Two died and one is still in hospital. There was a slight epidemic of Diphtheria during the winter, but all recovered.

On the whole the children have improved much during the year and are doing well at school.

The general tone and conduct are good.

Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd) M. HYDE,  
Matron.

-----  
BAYSWATER REFORMATORY SCHOOL (S.A.) NO.1 HOME.

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

I beg to present to you the report of the year's work at No.1 Home, year ending December 31st, 1932.

The year was commenced with 61 boys, 55 being admitted and 66 discharged as follows :-

To situations	...	22	
To C.W. Dept. and probation	...	41	
Absconded	...	<u>3</u>	
		66	<u>Total 66</u>
Admitted from C.W. Dept.	49		
Pentridge	...	<u>6</u>	
		55	<u>Total 55</u>

The health of the boys has been very good, there were only three cases for hospital, and in each instance they were returned within a very short period.

The conduct on the whole has been good.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sgd) M. JOHN,  
Brigadier.

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SALVATION ARMY GIRLS' HOME,  
RIDEHILL,  
18. 4. 1933.

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

At your request we are forwarding herewith our Annual Report for the year 1932.

On 1st January, 1932, we had 45 girls, 18 were admitted, 12 sent to situations, 6 on probation, 2 transferred and 2 absconded. We finished the year with 41 girls remaining in the Home.

The health of the girls, apart from that in connection with the clinical work, has been exceptionally good. I am pleased to say we have been successful in that branch of our work, for which we would like to thank Dr. Johnson for his help throughout the year.

The conduct of the girls, has on the whole been fairly satisfactory. Most of the service girls and those on probation are doing well, and we believe endeavouring to make good.

I beg to thank the Officers of the Department for their kindness and courtesy at all times.

I remain,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd) R. PRATT,  
Matron.

-----  
GIRLS' REFORMATORY,  
OAKLEIGH.

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to submit my Report for the year ending 1932.

The conduct in general has been satisfactory, one ward sent to service, while another was allowed on probation to mother. I trust that each will profit by training received in the home.

The wards are encouraged to learn every branch of domestic art that will help them in their future lives.

We take this opportunity of expressing to the Secretary and Officers of the Department our heartfelt thanks for their uniform kindness and assistance at all times.

I have the honor to remain, Sir,  
Yours respectfully,  
(Sgd) ELIZABETH GOLDING.



OAKLEIGH REFORMATORY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

COPY OF REPORT OF VISITING COMMITTEE.

Our usual annual visit to the Oakleigh Reformatory for girls was made today (20.11.32) and as on previous occasions were impressed very favorably by the healthful surroundings of the inmates as well as all other arrangements calculated to promote their comfort.

We are glad to be able to repeat our former favorable comments on the health and good conduct of the inmates.

There are at present 172 girls in the institution of whom 10 are wards of the State.

(Sgd) EDWARD O'DONNELL,  
THOMAS QUINN,  
MARK SHEA,  
J. BOLAND,  
M. MORHANE.

-----  
THE SALVATION ARMY BOYS' HOME, BOX HILL.

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department,  
MELBOURNE.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 1932.

Dear Sir,

In reviewing the past year's work I am pleased to say that good work has been put in by the Staff and there has been a good response from the boys.

The health of the boys has been good on the whole, several have had their tonsils attended to, and we had one case of pneumonia.

There has been a marked improvement in their conduct and we have had only a few cases of absconding.

A new feature which has just been introduced is a week at the seaside at the Salvation Army's camping grounds at Parkdale, this property is quite close to the beach and contains a large dining room and kitchen, also three bungalows and 14 large tents on frames.

The boys enjoyed the sea bathing and castle building and in the grounds cricket and other games were indulged in and every evening we had community singing, this proved so helpful to the boys that we have decided to make it an annual outing.

During the season the boys have played cricket every Saturday afternoon and we have had several visiting teams to play at the home.

In connection with our home work we have a troop of Scouts and Chums, also a Brass Band of 20 players.

We have had visits from the Rotary Club who gave us a Movie entertainment and the Y.M.C.A. Club gave a physical culture display. We have also had frequent visits from our leading Salvation Army Bands and singing companies.

In connection with the School we have a Fife and Drum Band which is making good progress under the baton of their teacher, Mr. Hunter.

The Teaching Staff take a keen interest in the progress of the boys and during the year 22 passed their qualifying examinations and



six passed their merit. We have a splendidly equipped Sloyd room and 80 boys are being taught this work.

Our swimming pool has been a great boon to the boys and during the year 14 have won their junior swimming certificates. Horticulture is also being taught at the school.

The plans are out for connecting the Homes up with the deep sewerage, in connection with this work some of the older buildings will have to be demolished and new and up to date ones will replace them.

There were 155 boys in the home on 31.12.1932.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,  
(Sgd) W. JOHNSON,  
Superintendent.

-----  
THE SALVATION ARMY BOYS' HOME, BAYSWATER.

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

The following is the report for the No.2 Boys' Home for the year ended December 31st, 1932.

We commenced the year with 63 boys, 33 were admitted, 32 discharged, leaving 64 boys at the end of the year. The boys were discharged as follows :-

Situations	..	5
Probation	..	17
Transferred to other Homes	..	9
Absconded	..	<u>1</u>
		<u>32</u>

The health of the boys has been remarkably good, and on very few occasions had the Medical Officer to be called in for cases of sickness. There have been no deaths. The progress at the day school has been very gratifying.

The conduct of the boys has been very good all through the year.

Yours sincerely,  
(Sgd) H. JOHN,  
Brigadier (Manager).

-----  
ABBOTSFORD INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL (R. G.)

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department,  
MELBOURNE.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward my Report for the year ended 31st December, 1932.

The number in school on December 31st, 1932, was 54. I am pleased to be able to report very satisfactorily with regard to the general conduct and health of the girls.



The children attending school have made fair progress. The girls capable of being trained in culinary matters have the benefit of practical lessons in cookery, and facility is afforded for self improvement in useful domestic knowledge.

Our kind friends the members of Tattersall's Club gave a delightful Santa Claus Treat on Christmas Day which was greatly appreciated.

The members of the Automobile Club gave the little ones an enjoyable Picnic at Moonee Valley.

During the holiday season they enjoyed various recreative outings such as visits to the Beach, Gardens and Zoo.

We take this opportunity of thanking our many generous friends who have given pleasure to the children by their visits and presents.

In concluding this brief report, permit me, dear Sir, to express on behalf of the Sisters and myself most grateful appreciation of your courtesy and that of your Departmental Staff, during the year, and at all times.

I have the honor, to remain, Sir,  
Yours respectfully,  
(Sgd) MARY B. DICKSON,  
Acting Provincial Superior.

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ST. AUGUSTINE'S ORPHANAGE, GEELONG (R.C.)

The Secretary,  
Children's Welfare Department,  
MELBOURNE.

Dear Sir,

I beg to submit herewith my report of the Wards in this Institution for the year 1932.

ATTENDANCE : No. present 1.1.32 .. 88  
No. admitted during the year .. 39  
No. discharged during the year .. 40  
No. present 31.12.32 .. 87

HEALTH : There was no serious illness among the boys during the year.

CONDUCT :- On the whole their conduct was excellent. There were only a few cases of absconding, and these were solely amongst boys newly admitted.

To the officers of the Department I desire to express my sincere thanks for their unfailing courtesy and assistance.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) J. T. QUINN,  
Manager.

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Children's Welfare Act and Maintenance Act	Average Strength	ITEMS OF				EXPENDITURE.						Total
		Provisions	Clothing	Fuel and Light	Stores, Stock and Incidentals.	Medical Attendance	Transport and Travelling Expenses.	Telephone Services	Salaries	Postage and Telegrams	Maintenance	
Boys' and Girls' Receiving Depots.	210	3,319:13:5	281:0:0	974:10:11	1,003:12:6	179:1:11	85: 6: 0	64: 9:2	8872:8:9			14,786: 2:8
Abbotsford Industrial School.	71										1,484:13:1	1, 484:13:1
Boarded-out and Service Children			1559:6:1			8482:1: 1	1210: 1:10	99: 3:6			293,001: 5:2	304,351:17:8
<u>TOTAL.</u>		3,319:13:5	1840:6:1	974:10:11	1,003:12:6	8661:3: 0	1295: 7:10	163:12:8	8872:8:9		294,485:18:3	320,616:13:5
<b>Crimes Act (Reformatory children)</b>												
Oakleigh (Girls)	13										554:12:7	554:12:7
Riddell "	41		29:1:2			26:10:0					1,896: 8:2	1,951:19:4
Bayswater (Boys)	53		91:0:0								2,157:12:2	2,248:12:2 37: 0:0
Service			37:0:0									
<u>TOTAL</u>			157:1:2			26:10:0					4,608:12:11	4,792: 4:1
Head Office				46: 6: 5	863:17:3		1074: 8: 1	194:13:10	12673:1:2	421:4:6		15,273:16:3
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>		3,319:13:5	1997:7:3	1020:17: 4	1,867: 9:9	8687:13:0	2369:15:11	358:11: 6	21545:9:11	1421:4:6	299,094:11:2	340,682:13:9
<u>DEDUCT</u>												
Amount received for maintenance of children.		7,563:10:1										
All other receipts.		233:13:10										
<u>NET COST FOR 1932</u>												7,797: 3:11
												£332,885: 9:10
<u>GRAND TOTAL COST 1931</u>												£391,473:15:0
<u>NET COST 1931</u>												£382,967:12:0

Including rations for staff at Girls' and Boys' Depots.

Including £2,139:17:2 for school requisites, £472:11:7

Institutions for

for Correspondents' Visiting Expenses and £369:6:8 grants to building purposes.