

REPORT OF CHILDREN'S HOMES COMMITTEE

Unto the Venerable the General Assembly—

Your Committee reports with pleasure that the work in this effort has made rapid progress since the Commission of Assembly in October approved of the scheme for the establishing of the Homes.

1. Property—The property was transferred to the Commissioners in terms of the Assembly's resolution, and the Home was opened on the 10th day of December, 1938, by Her Excellency Lady Mitchell. Only a very small sum has so far been spent on the property, the amount being for the filling in with gravel at the front of the building, and the railing in of a small playground at the back.

In taking over the property your Committee was faced with the problem of dealing with the three families employed on the property by the original owners. As the period of their leases expired at the end of April, it was determined that there should be no disturbance of the leases until their expiry, when a new arrangement will be entered upon. The property, which has been neglected, requires a great deal of attention by a thoroughly competent man.

2. Committees—Sub-Committees were appointed to deal with various matters, House Committee, Reception Committee and Works Committee being essential. These Committees report monthly to the General Committee.

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3. Matron—Miss Simpson, who volunteered for the position of matron in an honorary capacity, was duly appointed, and took up her duties at the opening of the Home. The Committee recognise that in the opening of such a Home, the Matron had to face special difficulties, and the Committee reports with regret that she has suffered from ill-health of late, and has been forced to relinquish the position. The Committee feels we should place on record our appreciation of her work in the interests of the little ones, and this has been specially minuted.

4. Financial—The very Rev. Alexander Crow undertook the work of organising the appeal for funds, and has been engaged on this task since September. The response has been satisfactory so far, but we have up to the beginning of October before the appeal closes, and the appeal is to be presented in the country centres as well as in the metropolitan area. We are pleased to note that Mr. Crow, who was ill for some weeks in February, has now recovered his health, and is as active as ever.

The amount in cash received from all quarters up to the end of the financial year was £1118/18/1. Not only has the money come from members and adherents of the Church, but friends outside have also contributed. One of the inspirers of the scheme, Mr. W. J. Rogers of Katanning, gave us £200.

It will be seen that we have yet a long way to go before the cost of the property is fully met, and we hope that a system of endowments will eventuate, enabling us to provide for the general upkeep, salaries, etc., in the future. It will be necessary for the Committee to appoint an agent who will be a collector of boxes, annual subscriptions, and all kinds of gifts for the Home.

5. Gifts in Kind—In addition to the cash paid toward the purchase of the property, and the furnishing of same, quite a number of gifts have been made, which cannot be enumerated for want of space. These include a piano, a hot water system (to be installed shortly), beds, clothing, etc.

6. A special note of thanks must be struck in appreciation of the work of the Ladies who form the House Committee, and have spent much of their time in control of this important department, which is so vital to the development of the work.

7. Already the Home has justified its existence, and proved its necessity. We have some 15 children in residence, and the demands are so constant that we shall very speedily require more accommodation. In this connection it is pleasing to report that a recreation room has been promised, which will be built within a few months. We feel deeply grateful to the lady who has promised this, through Mr. Crow. It is imperative that a dining room be added, and the Committee hopes that this will also be a gift from some generous friend.

8. We are already assured that this piece of practical Christ-like work will make a special appeal, not only to our own people, but to many others, and the Committee feels deeply grateful to all who have assisted in so many ways. The Committee is assured that this property which is situated in an ideal spot, when developed and improved, will become a credit to the whole Church, and the community generally.

9. A special note of thanks is here recorded for the splendid assistance rendered by the Hon. Architect, Mr. A. Cameron, whose time and professional advice have been of the greatest value to the Committee. Mr. Cameron visited the property on several occasions with a view to advising on the best methods of laying out the improvements and ad-

ditions contemplated. Our thanks is due also to Dr. H. R. Pearson, Medical Adviser, and to Miss E. Larrod, who gave voluntary service to the Home for two months.

Signed for and on behalf of the Committee.

GEORGE TULLOCH, Convener.
