

1899.
NEW ZEALAND.

EDUCATION: INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS.

[In continuation of E.—3, 1898.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

EXTRACT FROM THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

THE number of inmates on the books of all the industrial schools at the close of 1898 was 1,554, which was 34 less than at the close of the previous year. In the Government schools there was a decrease of 48; in private schools an increase of 14.

Out of the total number (1,554) thus classed legally as “inmates of industrial schools,” the number actually dependent on the several institutions for maintenance was 1,002, made up as follows: 573 resident inmates of the schools, 412 boarded out, and 17 girls for whom payment was made in various corrective institutions. The remaining 552 were not dependent on the schools for maintenance, although still under control and supervision; of these, 97 were licensed to reside with friends, 414 were at service, 3 in hospital, 3 in lunatic asylums, 1 in the Auckland Blind Asylum, 3 at the Costley Training Institution on probation, 8 under the control of other institutions, and 23 absent without leave (14 from service, and 9 from the schools). Of those thus absent, 8 were missing on the 31st December, 1897, and were included in the returns for that year. Of the three Government industrial schools, Auckland had 79 nominal “inmates”; Burnham, 496; and Caversham, 476: total, 1,051. The numbers of resident inmates were—Auckland, 11; Burnham, 92; Caversham, 78: total, 181—that is, out of the whole number under the control of these schools, only about 17 per cent. were actually in residence. In other words, the great majority of industrial-school “inmates” do not reside at industrial schools at all. Of the rest, 403 were boarded out with foster-parents, 64 with friends, 353 were at service, 30 at institutions other than industrial schools, and 20 absent without leave.

TABLE T.—INMATES, 1897 AND 1898.

	Boarded out.				In Residence.				At Service, &c.				Totals.			
	Dec., 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1898.	Dec., 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1898.	Dec., 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1898.	Dec., 1897.	Increase.	Decrease.	Dec., 1898.
Government Schools—																
Auckland	30	11	..	41	11	..	..	11	37	..	10	27	78	1	..	79
Burnham	165	6	..	171	100	..	8	92	264	..	31	233	529	..	33	496
Caversham	190	1	..	191	88	..	10	78	214	..	7	207	492	..	16	476
Private Schools—																
St. Mary's, Auckland ..	..	2	..	2	62	16	..	78	17	..	2	15	79	16	..	95
St. Joseph's, Wellington ..	4	..	1	3	62	2	..	64	12	9	..	21	78	10	..	88
St. Mary's, Nelson ..	7	..	1	6	258	..	18	245	67	..	3	64	332	..	17	315
St. Vincent de Paul's, South Dunedin ..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5
Totals	996	20	2	414	581	23	31	573	611	9	53	567	1,588	32	66	1,554

As the industrial-school system has grown up it has become more and more possible to pay an increased amount of attention to the classification of children committed under the Industrial Schools Act. Speaking generally, no difficulty has been found in providing suitable foster-homes for all very young children, and for most of the other children under twelve years of age; of the latter, some (for whom, though not actually vicious, a firmer control seems, for a time at least, desirable) are received into the schools. The schools also contain some children from twelve to fourteen for whom foster-homes are not so easily found. Burnham and Caversham have day-schools attached to them where the children receive instruction similar to that given in the ordinary public schools and are examined by the Inspectors of the Education Boards. On passing the Fourth Standard, or at the age of fourteen, "inmates" are placed at service as soon as suitable situations can be found for them. The resident inmates of service age who are waiting for employment are instructed in garden, or farm, or domestic work. Boarded-out children generally remain with their foster-parents until they can be placed at service. The State, through the managers of the schools and the official visitors, exercises a parent's care in guarding the interests of those placed out at service; and in many cases of boarded-out children it is gratifying to note that great assistance is rendered by the foster-parents—indeed, not infrequently the latter have shown themselves ready to pay for the services of the children they have in a certain sense adopted rather than break the home-tie that has been formed. Even when circumstances have not made this course possible, evidence is not wanting that the children boarded out for some years with foster-parents often come to regard them as real fathers and mothers, and that the moral influence of the foster-home has been that of a true home for the orphans of the State.

Both foster-homes and service-homes are inspected from time to time by the managers, by the Visiting Officer, and by the Official Correspondents; and are under the constant supervision of ladies who voluntarily undertake the work of visiting in different districts, to whom, therefore, the thanks of the community are due for their unselfish labours.

The really difficult cases are comparatively few in number; when it is undesirable that individuals should be received into the industrial schools, special arrangements have to be made for them at corrective institutions or elsewhere. In the schools there is separation of the sexes, and the explanation already given shows that in the main there is classification as to character also.

It is to be feared that there are some of both sexes who, being above the age of committal fixed by the Industrial Schools Act, escape control altogether. For them, and for the more difficult cases already mentioned, it may be necessary at an early date to establish reformatories.

In regard to the classification of inmates in the industrial schools another side of the case has recently been set forth, supported, unfortunately, by many unfounded statements and much exaggerated suggestion of possible evil in the existing system. The question has been raised whether, even with the strict rules in force, and with the careful oversight exercised both at Caversham and Burnham, it is expedient to continue the practice of placing boys and girls in the same institution. Apart from any misunderstanding of the facts or exaggeration of the actual circumstances, the objection to the present practice is mainly a sentimental one, but it cannot be altogether overlooked on that account, and the matter appears to be one that should receive the early attention of the Government.

It will probably be a matter for early consideration whether a much larger amount of really industrial or even technical training should not be given to the children before they leave our industrial schools. It is doubtful, however, whether in the case of boarded-out children it would be desirable to snap the home-ties; it would appear a better course to allow them to receive manual or industrial training either at their homes or at the ordinary schools they have been attending.

During the year 1898, 244 inmates passed out of the control of the schools, namely: Discharged, 213; having reached the age of twenty-one years, 18;

by transfer to the Costley Training Institution, 5; by marriage, 3; by death, 5. Of the 5 who died, 3 were infants under two years old—1 at St. Mary's, Auckland; 1 at St. Mary's, Nelson, and 1 boarded out from Auckland Industrial School; and 2 died from phthisis, one boy on the books of St. Mary's, Nelson, and one girl on the books of Burnham, but both were licensed out to friends.

Table U is given in a new form this year; although it cannot be regarded as accurate in every detail, it gives the fullest information available in respect to the character of the parents of children admitted during the year, and in regard also to the reasons for committal. As to the latter heading, it may be noted that apparently the practice in the various Magistrates' Courts is not quite uniform, cases that appear to be similar being regarded differently in different districts. Again, what is far more important, the clause under which a child is committed to an industrial school is by no means a reliable index of the child's moral character; for instance, in cases of petty theft it is often found that the wrongful act does not necessarily imply a vicious disposition, but is merely a symptom of want of control or of sheer neglect on the part of parents. In this connection there is a somewhat sad significance in the fact that two-thirds (43 out of 64) of the children committed to industrial schools as guilty of punishable offences were described as the children of good (or respectable) parents; in 30 cases both parents were described as "good"; in 13 other cases the surviving parent was so described.

In regard to religion, the inmates admitted during 1898 were described as follows: Church of England, 85; Roman Catholic, 83; Presbyterian, 28; Methodist, 9; Baptist, 4; Jewish, 1. Of the 210 admissions, 123 were from the four centres—Dunedin, 41; Auckland, 35; Wellington, 31; Christchurch, 16. The rest were from the smaller towns and country districts.

TABLE U.—ADMISSIONS, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO PARENTS' CIRCUMSTANCES AND CHARACTER, 1898.

		Precedent Condition of Children admitted in 1898.								Total.
		Destitute.	Begging.	Vagrant.	Living in Disreputable Places.	Uncontrollable.	Guilty of Punishable Offences.	By Arrangement.	Under "The Infant Life Protection Act, 1898."	
Fathers, described as	Mothers, described as									
Dead	Dead	8	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	11
"	Good	6	..	2	..	3	3	..	..	19
"	Unknown	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
"	Bad	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	..	10
Sick, lunatic, &c. ..	Dead	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
"	Good	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	3
Good	Dead	8	..	1	3	..	5	..	..	17
"	Sick, lunatic, &c. ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
"	Good	..	..	1	..	1	30	1	..	33
"	Unknown	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
"	Bad	6	1	..	8	1	1	..	..	17
Unknown	Dead	1	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	5
"	Sick, lunatic, &c. ..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
"	Good	4	..	1	..	..	1	..	1	7
"	Unknown	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	3
"	Bad	8	..	2	4	..	..	..	..	14
"	Deserter	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Bad	Dead	14	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	17
"	Good	4	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	8
"	Bad	3	..	2	9	..	5	..	..	19
Deserter	Dead	3	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4
"	Good	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
"	Bad	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Totals		87	1	14	36	6	64	1	1	210

The balance in the Post-Office Savings-Bank on 31st December, 1898, on account of wages of inmates belonging to Government industrial schools was £10,676 2s. 4d.; and on account of inmates in private schools, £1,048 7s. 8d. The amount withdrawn during the year for inmates of Government schools was £1,241 2s. 9d.; and for inmates of private schools, £14.

The expenditure on the Government schools (including the cost of inmates boarded out), and the amounts recovered from charitable aid boards, from parents, from the sale of farm produce, &c., are shown in Table W.

TABLE W.—EXPENDITURE ON GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS, 1898.

School.	Gross Cost of School.			Cost of boarding out. (Included in preceding column.)			Salaries of School Staff. (Included in first column.)			Recoveries.			Net Cost.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Auckland	1,372	4	6	554	19	11	160	15	2	324	13	0	1,047	11	6
Burnham	6,180	10	5	2,593	13	9	971	3	10	2,174	6	3	4,006	4	2
Caversham	8,024	0	3	3,284	19	10	852	5	3	3,717	7	11	4,306	12	4
Totals	15,576	15	2	6,433	13	6	1,984	4	3	6,216	7	2	9,360	8	0
Salary and expenses of Visiting Officer													414	7	10
Contingencies													21	13	4
Total													£9,796	9	2

Table X shows the payments made on account of inmates in private industrial schools, the recoveries, and the net expenditure by Government in respect of these schools. In the recoveries shown, however, the contributions from Charitable Aid Boards are not included, because the payments are made by the Boards directly to the managers of these schools.

TABLE X.—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PRIVATE SCHOOLS (R.C.), 1898.

School.	Payments.			Recoveries.			Net Expenditure by Government.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
St. Mary's, Auckland	781	3	0	47	13	6	733	9	6
St. Joseph's, Wellington	491	8	7	43	1	0	448	7	7
St. Mary's, Nelson	2,095	3	6	245	13	10	1,849	9	8
Totals	3,367	15	1	336	8	4	3,031	6	9

The expenditure on account of inmates maintained in other institutions is as follows: Salvation Army Home, Auckland, £16 14s. 1d.; Women's Refuge, Auckland, £5 7s. 6d.; Mission Home, Wanganui (Mother Aubert's), £95 8s.; Magdalen Asylum, Christchurch, £213 4s. 11d.; St. Mary's Home, Christchurch, £65 10s. 6d.: total, £395 15s.

No. 2.
ADDITIONAL STATISTICS.
"INMATES," 31ST DECEMBER, 1898.

Inmates.	Government Schools.						Private Schools.						All Schools.					
	Auckland.		Burnham.		Caversham.		St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Wellington.	St. Mary's, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.	Protestant.	Catholic.	Jewish.
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	G.	B.	G.	G.						
In the schools ..	2	9	66	26	41	37	28	50	64	167	78	5	304	269	573	171	401	1
Boarded out ..	21	20	103	68	98	93			3	2	4		224	188	412	389	23	
With friends ..		1	29	18	12	4	2	2	5	21	3		64	33	97	62	35	
At service ..	3	18	93	64	97	78	2	10	15	28	6		223	191	414	326	88	
In hospital ..					1			1	1				1	2	3	1	2	
In Costley Training Institution ..	3												3		3	3		
In lunatic asylums ..					1					2			3		3	1	2	
In Blind Asylum, Auckland ..	1												1		1	1		
Under control of refuges or cognate institutions ..		1		14		9					1			25	25	20	5	
Absent without leave ..			15		5					3			23		23	19	4	
Totals {	30	49	306	190	255	221	32	63	88	223	92	5	846	708	1,554	993	560	1
	79		496		476		95			315			1,554			1,554		

ADMITTED DURING 1898.

Admitted	Government Schools.						Private Schools.						All Schools.		
	Auckland.		Burnham.		Caversham.		St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Wellington.	St. Mary's, Nelson.		St. Vincent de Paul's.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	G.	B.	G.	G.			
As destitute	8	6	6	8	16	12	3	3	8	9	3	5	42	45	87
As begging	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
As vagrant	3	2	3	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	2	..	8	6	14
As living in disreputable places	..	1	3	3	5	5	2	9	4	..	4	..	10	26	36
As uncontrollable	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4	2	6
As accused or guilty of punishable offences	3	..	29	1	11	..	4	..	..	14	2	..	61	3	64
By arrangement	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Under "Infant Life Protection Act, 1896"	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Totals	15	10	43	15	33	18	9	12	12	26	12	5	126	84	210
	25		58		51		21			38			210		

DISCHARGES IN 1898.

Removed by	Government Schools.						Private Schools.						All Schools.		
	Auckland.		Burnham.		Caversham.		St. Mary's, Auckland.		St. Joseph's, Wellington.	St. Mary's, Nelson.			Boys.	Girls.	Total.
	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	B.	G.	G.	B.	G.				
Warrant of discharge	4	10	65	14	38	23	..	6	2	43	8		150	63	213
Death	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	..		3	2	5
To Costley Institute	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		5	..	5
Reached age of twenty-one years	..	..	3	8	1	4	..	..	..	..	2		4	14	18
Marriage	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..		..	3	3
Totals	10	10	68	24	39	29	..	7	2	45	10		162	82	244
	20		92		68		7			55			244		

NUMBERS OF 1897 AND 1898 COMPARED.

Inmates.	1897.	1898.	Increase or Decrease.
In the schools	581	573	- 8
Boarded out	396	414	+ 18
With friends	119	97	- 22
At service	439	412	- 27
In hospital	3	3	..
In lunatic asylum	3	3	..
In gaol	2	..	- 2
In Blind Asylum, Auckland	1	1	..
At Costley Institute	2	3	+ 1
In refuge or cognate institution	22	25	+ 3
Absent without leave	20	23	+ 3
Totals	1,588	1,554	- 34

No. 3.

MEDICAL OFFICERS' REPORTS.

AUCKLAND.

SIR,—

Auckland, 31st May, 1899.

My report for the year ending the 31st March, 1899, in reference to the health of the children belonging to the Auckland Industrial School may be very brief. There has been no very serious illness, except one case in an infant who died from gastric disease, probably caused by the want of his mother's milk—the too-frequent fate of illegitimate children.

One child, who was brought to the school apparently about to die from severe lung-disease, has been restored to health and vigour; and another, who has long been in the school in a feeble condition from constitutional disease, has much improved.

The two cripples whose cases were mentioned in former reports are both in excellent health, and able to walk a considerable distance.

I regret that I have to state that the drainage from new houses above the school, on which I previously reported, has not been properly attended to.

I am, &c.,

ARTHUR G. PURCHAS,
Medical Officer of Auckland Industrial School.

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

CANTERBURY.

SIR,—

12th July, 1899.

I have the honour to submit the following report on the Burnham Industrial School for the year 1898:—

The health of the school has been generally satisfactory, no serious illness having occurred. In November an outbreak of German measles, now prevalent in Christchurch, occurred at Burnham. Forty-four boys and five girls took the complaint, which proved very mild in the majority of cases.

Excluding this epidemic, the percentage of illness was lower than in 1897. Fifty-six boys were attended for sixty-seven different complaints. Fifteen girls were attended for twenty-one different complaints. The inmates numbered on the 31st December sixty-six boys and twenty-seven girls. The percentage of inmates attended was 76 per cent., as against 91 per cent. in 1897. Twelve cases of illness were sent to Christchurch Hospital.

The principal ailments are the result of defective constitutional conditions: thus, chronic inflammations of the eyes and ears, enlarged glands, and skin-diseases have been as numerous as before, no improvement being recorded. This is an especial reason for improving the milk-supply, which is very defective. In January last we had five cows milked on the farm, but last winter our own dairy failed altogether, and the school was entirely dependent on condensed milk. This does not afford the same nourishment as fresh milk; nor can it be used economically in large enough quantity. No food is so important for delicate children as a liberal allowance of fresh pasteurised milk.

The reduction in the amount of illness is due to the marked diminution in the number of cases of rheumatism, with its allied complaints, sciatica, lumbago, and neuralgia, which I attribute to your beneficent rule in allowing me to substitute warm woollen jerseys in place of the thin cotton waistcoats formerly worn by the boys. These complaints had been very prevalent among the boys, although absent among the girls. I attributed them to the very cold easterly winds to which the boys are exposed when working in the large, bleak paddocks at Burnham, situated as it is in the middle of a vast open plain without any shelter.

Ulcerated sore throats have occurred on many occasions, caused by sewer-gas. The drains are old and badly constructed. They are insufficiently trapped, and totally devoid of ventilation. I think it would be a great advantage if the closed drains could be abolished and open drains substituted, as has been done at Sumner with great success.

The four epileptic and imbecile girls still remain at Burnham. It would be a mutual advantage to both the school and these afflicted girls if they could be removed to a special home in the country, where they would be engaged in gardening or other outdoor pursuit, and live under suitable conditions, such as vegetarian diet, absence of excitement, and certain rules of conduct and moral training. The detention of similar cases in lunatic asylums is even more undesirable.

I beg to draw your attention to the fact that most of the cases of illness among the girls occur in those who have been in service for a short time, and return to Burnham through their health breaking down before they are accustomed to service. As long as such girls take situations in Canterbury, so long will it be necessary for them to have a home like Burnham to which they can return for rest and change and medical treatment.

In conclusion, I beg to offer the following recommendations: (1.) That the girls should be regularly drilled or have calisthenic exercises. At present the boys alone are drilled. (2.) That trees should be planted at the corners of every paddock to provide shelter. (3.) That 1 acre of lucerne be sown and irrigated this season as an experiment, to ascertain the possibility of providing food for dairy-cows.

I have, &c.,

W. H. SYMES, M.D.,
Medical Officer.

The Hon. the Minister of Education.

OTAGO.

SIR,—

Dunedin, 23rd May, 1899.

I have the honour to forward my annual report regarding the sanitary state of the Industrial School, Caversham, and the health of the children domiciled therein.

The average number has been seventy-five: Boys, 42; girls, 33. There have been no deaths, or cases of prolonged sickness, despite an epidemic of measles, which luckily occurred during the summer months.

It is gratifying to record that the new buildings are being proceeded with, and to note that when completed the management will be relieved of a great responsibility. One of the improvements has proved a twofold blessing, the reservoir formed for storing water on the hill for fire-extinction making an excellent swimming-bath, of which the boys gladly avail themselves.

The measles epidemic alluded to above affected the boarded-out children in this district. All attacked made good recoveries.

I have, &c.,

The Secretary for Education, Wellington.

ROBERT BURNS, F.R.C.S. Ed.

No. 4.

EXAMINATION REPORTS.

ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, AUCKLAND.

Ponsonby Branch (examined, 20th December, 1898).

Presented: Standard V., 6; Standard IV., 9; Standard III., 5; Standard II., 10; Standard I., 12; Preparatory, 17. Examined in Standards: Standard V., 6; Standard IV., 9; Standard III., 5; Standard II., 10; Standard I., 12. Passed: Standard V., 2; Standard IV., 7; Standard III., 5; Standard II., 10; Standard I., 12. Head-teacher's passes in Standards I. and II.: Satisfactory.

Class-subjects.—Grammar, poor in Standard III., fair in Standards IV. and V.; history, not taught; geography (of Standard II.), satisfactory; elementary science, object-lessons, &c., fair; mental arithmetic, poor.

Additional Subjects.—Repetition and recitation, satisfactory; drill and exercises, not taught; singing, good; needlework, very satisfactory; comprehension of the language of reading-lessons, poor.

Instruction of Preparatory Classes.—The classes are being well and skilfully taught, and are making satisfactory progress. The pupils in the upper division can read and spell well, and have a good knowledge of numeration, notation, and the addition tables as far as professed. The tone, order, and discipline of the school, and the attention and behaviour of the children, are very satisfactory.

E. K. MULGAN, M.A.

Takapuna Branch (examined, 21st December, 1898).

Presented: Standard IV., 1; Standard III., 8; Standard II., 9; Standard I., 6; Preparatory, 24. Examined in Standards: Standard IV., 1; Standard III., 8; Standard II., 9; Standard I., 6. Passed: Standard II., 5; Standard I., 6. Note on the passes in Standards I. and II.: Reading in Standard I., weak; work otherwise satisfactory.

Class-subjects.—Grammar, poor; history, very poor; geography (of Standard II.), fair; elementary science, object-lessons, &c., moderate; mental arithmetic, moderate.

Additional Subjects.—Repetition and recitation, satisfactory; drill and exercises, not taught; singing, satisfactory; comprehension of the language of reading-lessons, poor.

Instruction of Preparatory Classes.—The classes are making satisfactory progress. The pupils are able to read and spell well, and have a fair knowledge of numeration, notation, and the addition tables as far as professed. The tone, order, and discipline of the school, and the attention and behaviour of the children, are satisfactory.

E. K. MULGAN, M.A.

ST. JOSEPH'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, WELLINGTON.—Examined, 12th December, 1898.

Presented: Above Standard VI., 1; Standard VI., 5; Standard V., 7; Standard IV., 14; Standard III., 11; Standard II., 10; Standard I., 20; Preparatory, 17. Examined in Standards: Standard VI., 5; Standard V., 6; Standard IV., 13; Standard III., 11; Standard II., 10; Standard I., 19. Passed: Standard VI., 5; Standard V., 6; Standard IV., 11; Standard III., 9; Standard II., 10; Standard I., 19. Note on the passes in Standards I. and II.: Good.

Class-subjects.—Grammar: Standards VI. and V., good; Standards IV. and III., fair to moderate. History, not taught. Geography: Fair; maps good. Elementary science, object-lessons, &c.: Domestic economy and object-lessons, satisfactory. Mental arithmetic: Satisfactory.

Additional Subjects.—Repetition and recitation, very fair; drill and exercises, very good; singing, very good; needlework, very good (workroom); comprehension of the language of reading-lessons, satisfactory.

Instruction of Class above Standard VI. and Preparatory Class.—Good.

The pupil in the class above Standard VI. satisfied the examiners. The upper work and all the arithmetic is improved. The instruction is painstaking and generally satisfactory. In accordance with suggestions, the room has been partitioned into two. The order, discipline, control, management, and tone are commendable.

ROBERT LEE,
T. R. FLEMING, } Inspectors.

ST. MARY'S INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, NELSON.

Boys' School (examined, 13th and 14th October, 1898).

Presented: Above Standard VI., 4; Standard VI., 2; Standard V., 20; Standard IV., 39; Standard III., 42; Standard II., 26; Standard I., 23; Preparatory, 15. Examined in Standards: Standard VI., 2; Standard V., 20; Standard IV., 38; Standard III., 36; Standard II., 21; Standard I., 18. Passed: Standard VI., 2; Standard V., 11; Standard IV., 35; Standard III., 24; Standard II., 19; Standard I., 16. Note on the passes in Standards I. and II.: Satisfactory.

Class-subjects.—Grammar, fair, good in Standard VI.; history, good; geography (of Standard II.), satisfactory; elementary science, object-lessons, &c., good; mental arithmetic, good.

Additional Subjects.—Repetition and recitation, fair; drill and exercises, not given; singing, excellent; comprehension of the language of reading-lessons, satisfactory.

Instruction of Preparatory Class and Class above Standard VI.—Satisfactory.

Owing to the prevalence of influenza several of the boys were absent from this examination, which, on the whole, was a very satisfactory one. The Third Standard children were again weak

in spelling, and rather untidy in freehand drawing, as well as in writing, a subject which showed marked improvement in the higher standards. The fourth were very good in arithmetic, but their composition was spoilt by deficient knowledge of letter forms. The fifth class was a weak one, especially in arithmetic and composition; but those in the class above Standard VI. did well in all subjects. The lads also acquitted themselves well in class-subjects, and had received an excellent training in singing.

G. A. HARKNESS, Inspector.

Girls' School (examined, 10th and 11th October, 1898).

Presented: Standard V., 10; Standard IV., 17; Standard III., 13; Standard II., 7; Standard I., 7; Preparatory, 22. Present: Standard V., 10; Standard IV., 15; Standard III., 11; Standard II., 7; Standard I., 7. Passed: Standard V., 6; Standard IV., 8; Standard III., 10; Standard II., 7; Standard I., 7. Note on the passes in Standards I. and II.: Satisfactory.

Class-subjects.—Grammar, satisfactory; history, satisfactory; geography (of Standard II.), very good; elementary science, object-lessons, &c., good; mental arithmetic, fair.

Additional Subjects.—Repetition and recitation, very good; drill and exercises, very good; singing, good; needlework, excellent; comprehension of the language of reading-lessons, fair.

Instruction of Preparatory Class.—Very good.

The children here were not so successful this year in pass-work, though they did very well in most of the class and additional subjects. The reading, though not yet a strong point, has improved in tone, but the Fourth Standard girls showed weakness in spelling and geography, and the Fifth in arithmetic, while the geography and composition of the latter were not entirely satisfactory. Writing and freehand drawing are well taught, very neat work being produced. The order is good.

G. A. HARKNESS, Inspector.

BURNHAM INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.—Examined, 22nd September, 1898.

Presented: Standard V., 4; Standard IV., 19; Standard III., 14; Standard II., 12; Standard I., 10; Preparatory, 6. Examined in Standards: Standard V., 4; Standard IV., 18; Standard III., 13; Standard II., 12; Standard I., 9. Passed: Standard V., 3; Standard IV., 13; Standard III., 9; Standard II., 11; Standard I., 8.

Class-subjects.—Grammar, satisfactory; history, satisfactory; geography (Standard II.), good; elementary science, object-lessons, &c., satisfactory; mental arithmetic, good (Standards IV. and V., very good).

Additional Subjects.—Repetition and recitation, generally creditable; drill and exercises (taught by Mr. Buchanan), very commendable; singing (lower division), fair; needlework, not examined; comprehension of the language of reading-lessons, satisfactory.

Instruction of Preparatory Class.—The six pupils presented in preparatory division are, naturally, uneven in their attainments, but on the whole show good progress for the time spent in this institution.

THOS. RITCHIE, Inspector.

CAVERSHAM INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.—Examined, 8th December, 1898.

Presented: Standard V., 3; Standard IV., 16; Standard III., 19; Standard II., 9; Standard I., 8; Preparatory, 3. Examined in Standards: Standard V., 3; Standard IV., 16; Standard III., 13; Standard II., 9; Standard I., 8. Passed: Standard IV., 13; Standard III., 13; Standard II., 6; Standard I., 8. Head-teacher's passes in Standards I. and II., satisfactory. The pupils Standard V. had recently passed Standard IV. at other schools.

Pass-subjects.—Reading, good; spelling and dictation, fair; writing, good; drawing, satisfactory; arithmetic, fair; composition, fair; geography, satisfactory.

Class-subjects.—Grammar, satisfactory; history, satisfactory; science and object-lessons, good; mental arithmetic, weak.

Additional Subjects.—Recitation, very good; drill and exercises, excellent; singing, very good; needlework, not part of school-work; comprehension, satisfactory; order, excellent; attention, excellent; manners, very good; general results, good.

C. R. BOSSENCE, Inspector.

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