

1932.
NEW ZEALAND.

EDUCATION :
CHILD WELFARE, STATE CARE OF CHILDREN, SPECIAL
SCHOOLS, AND INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION.

[In continuation of E.—4, 1931.]

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

No. 1.—EXTRACT FROM THE FIFTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MINISTER OF EDUCATION.

CHILD WELFARE.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION.

The total number of children under supervision of the Child Welfare Branch as at 31st March, 1932, was 8,392, classed under the following headings :—

State wards—			
In foster-homes, hostels, and with friends	3,109		
In situations (includes 21 absent without leave)	932		
In Government institutions, receiving-homes, &c.	290		
In private institutions	253		
Inmates in special schools for the mentally backward	267		
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c.	24		
	4,875		
Young persons supervised in their own homes by Child Welfare Officers, by			
Order of Court	911		
Infants supervised in foster-homes registered under the Infants Act	1,131		
Pupils at School for Deaf, Sumner (8 of these being State wards)	120		
Children dealt with as preventive cases	1,355		
	8,392		

The number of children committed to the care of the Superintendent during the year ended 31st March, 1932, was 493, classified according to reason for committal as follows : Indigent, 215 ; delinquent, 16 ; detrimental environment, 42 ; neglected, 9 ; not under proper control, 133 ; accused or guilty of punishable offence, 78 ; and, in addition, 17 were admitted by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act), while 47 were temporarily admitted, making the total number of admissions for the year 557. Of the children committed, 67 had been dealt with previously by the Courts for other offences for which they had received terms of supervision.

Classified according to the age at the time of admission, the numbers, including temporary admissions and those admitted under section 12, Child Welfare Act, are as follow : Under six months, 59 ; over six months and under one year, 25 ; from one to five years, 88 ; from five to ten years, 110 ; from ten to fourteen years, 108 ; over fourteen years, 167. The length of period of residence for the children temporarily admitted was from one day to eight weeks.

Of the children in foster-homes, 201 are over the age of fourteen years, of whom 130 are still attending primary schools and 71 are receiving higher education. In addition, there are 18 residing in hostels and receiving secondary education. Furthermore, 33 children under the age of fourteen years are receiving higher education.

No. 2.—STATEMENT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CHILD WELFARE BRANCH.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1932.

INVESTIGATION AND SUPERVISION OF CASES APPEARING BEFORE CHILDREN'S COURTS.

The number of cases dealt with by the Children's Courts last year was 1,984, and of these 602 were placed under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers. Of the children placed under supervision, 41 were subsequently committed. The number actually admitted to institutions such as receiving-homes, special schools, training-farms, &c., was 493; but all of these, with the exception of 142 who required further training, were suitably provided for in the community before the close of the year. The other children appearing before the Courts were dealt with in a summary manner not calling for supervision by a Child Welfare Officer.

At the 31st March, 1932, there was a total number of 911 children under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers by order of the Courts. Of the number, 602 placed under supervision this year, 69 had previously been dealt with by the Courts. The Magistrate had also ordered 4 children to spend a period in institutions.

The following statement indicates the numbers (other than those placed under supervision or committed) appearing before all such Courts, and the methods of disposal: Admonished and discharged, 508; withdrawn, 11; returned to institutions, 34; dismissed, 20; adjourned, 60; committed to Supreme Court for sentence, 2; committed to Borstal, 33; convicted and discharged, 3; convicted and birched, 8; convicted and fined, 77; convicted and probation, 10; convicted and ordered to come up for sentence, 2. By-law cases: Dismissed, 1; convicted and fined, 60; convicted and costs, 13; admonished and discharged, 43; adjourned, 2; withdrawn, 2. Total, 889.

Of the above, 297 were charged with theft; 133, wilful damage; 9, false pretences; 1, loitering; 2, trespassing; 3, cruelty to animals; 2, attempted suicide; 6, indecency; 48, mischief; 1, forgery; 21, stone-throwing; 11, possessing firearms; 12, disorderly conduct; 3, obscene language; 18, assault; 36, breaking and entering; 14, not under proper control; 31, conversion; 6, receiving; 6, discharging firearms; 2, vagrancy; 4, indecent assault; 2, carnal knowledge; 11, detrimental environments; 3, aiding and abetting; 3, arson; 4, delinquency; 3, drunkenness; 1, breach of supervision; 1, breach of Fire Brigades Act; 49, breach of Motor-vehicles Act; 5, breach of Acclimatization Act; 6, breach of Post and Telegraph Act; 1, breach of Licensing Act; 13, breach of Arms Act; and 120, breach of city by-laws.

In addition to the above, there were 47 cases dealt with by Magistrates under the provisions of section 17 of the Amendment Act, 1927, and the information dismissed as trivial; while there were also 115 cases in which, as the result of consultation between the Child Welfare Officer and the police, the informations were regarded as of insufficient importance to warrant Court action—the children concerned being adequately dealt with otherwise, usually by being regarded as preventive cases under the supervision of a Child Welfare Officer for a period.

PREVENTIVE WORK.

An important part of the work of the Child Welfare Officers is that of adjusting conditions in homes, and in connection with families, in order to prevent the committal of children to the care of the State.

In very many cases parents whose children are difficult to manage avail themselves of the services of Child Welfare Officers for the purpose of supervision and friendly guidance.

At the end of the year there was a total number of 1,355 children being dealt with in this connection.

CHILDREN UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE CHILD WELFARE BRANCH.

At the 31st March, 1932, there were 4,883 children under control (excluding those mentioned under separate heading below), and of these 288 were in residence at Government receiving-homes, &c. (many of these, of course, only temporarily), training-farm and training institutions, 267 in special schools for mentally backward children, 87 in the four private Roman Catholic schools recognized under the Child Welfare Act; 2,289 children were boarded out in foster-homes, 911 were in situations, and 788 residing under license with relatives and friends. The remainder were in various private institutions. Young persons over school age in employment number 805 males and 425 females (a number of whom are residing with friends), included in the total of 4,883. Of the males, 612 are farm workers (240 skilled in dairy-work and cheesemaking, and 372 competent to milk and carry out general farm-work), 51 are apprentices (of which number some are receiving assistance), and 142 others are employed in various trades. A number of these are also receiving assistance. Of the girls, 346 are domestic workers, 41 factory employees, and 38 engaged in various employments, such as shop-assistants, nurses, dressmakers, &c. A number of the girls are also receiving assistance.

CHILD-PLACING SYSTEM.

Assisted Service, Higher Education, and Employment of State Children over School Age.

At the end of the year 130 State wards over fourteen years of age were in attendance at primary schools and maintained by the Department, 58 were attending secondary schools, and 31 technical schools.

Of the State wards in employment, 122, mainly apprentices, were being partly maintained by the Department.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION (INFANTS ACT, 1908).

At the end of the year 1,131 infants and young children were supervised in 944 licensed foster-homes. Of these, 806 homes had one child each, 105 had two children each, 26 had three children each, 4 had four children each, 2 had five children each, and 1 home had nine children.

ADOPTIONS.

By an arrangement with the Department of Justice, applications for adoptions are investigated by Child Welfare Officers before being dealt with by a Magistrate. During the year 337 children were adopted, and in 30 of these cases premiums were received by the Department's agents, and paid out usually at the rate of 15s. per week for each child concerned. Of the total number of children adopted, 61 were under the age of six months, 59 between the age of six and twelve months, 118 between the age of one and five years, 58 between the age of five and ten years, and 41 between the age of ten and fifteen years.

TABLE 1.—STATUS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS UNDER THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE SUPERINTENDENT AT 31ST MARCH, 1932.

Status.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
In residence	158	130	288
Boarded out	1,340	949	2,289
At service	608	303	911
With friends	410	378	788
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c.	12	6	18
In refuges or cognate institutions	..	97	97
In orphanages	45	18	63
Absent without leave	18	5	23
In Borstal institutions	5	..	5
Y.M.C.A. Hostel, Auckland	16	..	16
Institute for the Blind	..	1	1
In colleges	..	2	2
In Girls' Hostel, Wellington	..	14	14
In residence, Roman Catholic schools	33	54	87
In schools for mentally backward	184	83	267
In School for Deaf, Sumner	2	6	8
In mental hospitals	4	2	6
Totals	2,835	2,048	4,883

TABLE 2.—COMMITTALS AND ADMISSIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1932.

The following table shows the admissions according to age :—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Totals
Under six months	35	24	59
Over six months and under one year	14	11	25
One year to five years	61	27	88
Five years to ten years	70	40	110
Ten years to fourteen years	73	35	108
Over fourteen years	108	59	167
Totals	361	196	557

Table 3 below shows the admissions classified according to the causes of admission. Of the total number (557), 215 were destitute or indigent, 133 not under proper control, 78 were charged with punishable offences, 16 delinquent, 42 detrimental environments, 9 neglected. Of the children admitted under these headings (493), 351 were placed out in the community before the 31st March, 1932.

TABLE 3.—COMMITTALS AND ADMISSIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1932, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES OF ADMISSION.

Taken charge of as	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Indigent	127	88	215
Delinquent	12	4	16
Detrimental environments	25	17	42
Neglected	5	4	9
Not under proper control	79	54	133
Accused or guilty of punishable offence	68	10	78
Admission by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act)	10	7	17
Temporary arrangement	35	12	47
Totals	361	196	557

TABLE 4.—INMATES DISCHARGED FROM CONTROL DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1932.

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Discharged (Child Welfare Act, section 23)	262	140	402
Attained the age of twenty-one years	28	27	55
Adopted	18	20	38
Written off books	33	21	54
Died	9	5	14
Married	..	23	23
Committal order cancelled	1	..	1
Totals	351	236	587

TABLE 5.—INSTITUTIONS FOR BACKWARD CHILDREN : NUMBERS AT 31ST MARCH, 1932.

	Richmond (Girls).	Otekaike (Boys).	Totals.
In residence	81	184	265
On vacation	..	3	3
At service	..	6	6
Day pupils	2	..	2
Hospital	..	2	2
Totals	83	195	278

TABLE 6.—PARTICULARS OF EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1932.

Item.	Otekaike.	Richmond.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	6,506 16 6	1,914 8 4	8,421 4 10
Advertising	17 6 11	6 19 3	24 6 2
Maintenance of buildings	110 18 8	21 9 11	132 8 7
Maintenance of institutions	4,289 14 7	1,397 9 2	5,687 3 9
Contingencies	1 0 0	..	1 0 0
Travelling-expenses	..	..	14,266 3 4 260 14 8
Less—			14,526 18 0
Board of staff	1,090 0 0	255 0 0	
	£ s. d.		
	1,345 0 0		
Recoveries (parental contributions and revenue from farms, sale of articles manufactured, &c.)	1,674 14 4		
National-endowment revenue	331 0 0		
			3,350 14 4
			£11,176 3 8

SCHOOL FOR DEAF, SUMNER.

The number of children on the roll at Sumner at 31st March, 1932, was 63 boys and 57 girls; 16 pupils left, and 15 were admitted during the year.

TABLE 7.—EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, SUMNER, FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1932.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries.. .. .	5,698	1	9			
Advertising, &c. .. .	15	6	7			
Maintenance of pupils and sundry expenses .. .	1,998	8	10			
Travelling-expenses .. .	291	6	6			
Maintenance of buildings, furnishings, &c. .. .	238	5	5			
Contingencies, &c. .. .	1	0	0			
				8,242	9	1
Less—						
Parental contributions and amount received from Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards .. .	1,886	3	8			
Board of staff .. .	405	0	0			
National-endowment revenue .. .	184	0	0			
				2,475	3	8
				£5,767	5	5

Net expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1931, was £6,091 4s. 6d.

TABLE 8.

	£
Net expenditure on upkeep of child-welfare institutions .. .	16,020
New buildings .. .	714
Salaries of staffs of homes, Child Welfare Officers, visiting nurses, &c. .. .	31,395
Boarding-out of children—	£
Payments to foster-parents .. .	87,171
Payments to Postal Department as commission .. .	784
Issues of clothing, &c.—	£
From institutions .. .	742
From central and branch stores .. .	1,502
Medicine, medical attendance, dentistry, clothing, &c. .. .	2,244
	3,773
	93,972
Inmates at service—	£
Issues of clothing, &c.—	£
From institutions .. .	984
From central and branch stores .. .	1,105
Miscellaneous payments (clothing, medicine, &c.) .. .	2,089
	4,277
	6,366
Refund of maintenance payments .. .	231
Refund of inmates' earnings .. .	271
Rent, office requisites, &c. .. .	2,605
Maintenance of inmates in private institutions .. .	3,233
Travelling-expenses .. .	6,083
Wages of inmates .. .	207
Legal expenses .. .	63
Transfer and removal expenses .. .	88
Contingencies .. .	5
	161,253*
Less recoveries—	£
Board of staff .. .	2,054
Parents and others .. .	18,477
Sale of farm-produce .. .	1,997
Inmates' earnings for clothing, &c. .. .	6,448
Miscellaneous .. .	2,650
National-endowment revenue .. .	3,464
	35,090
	£126,163

* Expenditure £159,370 plus £1,883 (decrease in stocks).

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