

1931.
NEW ZEALAND.

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

[In continuation of E.—4, 1930.]

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

No. 1.—EXTRACT FROM THE FIFTY-FOURTH 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, 1931, was 7,255, classed under the following headings:—

State wards—

In foster-homes, hostels, and with friends	3,099
In situations	990
In Government institutions, receiving-homes, &c. .. .	290
In private institutions	214
Inmates in special schools for the mentally backward .. .	269
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c.	40

4,902

Young persons supervised in their own homes by Child Welfare Officers, by Order of Court	952
Infants supervised in foster-homes registered under the Infants Act .. .	1,280
Pupils at School for the Deaf, Sumner (eight of these being State wards) .. .	121

7,255

The number of children committed to the care of the Superintendent during the year ended 31st March, 1931, was 603, classified according to reason for committal as follows: Indigent, 266; delinquent, 27; detrimental environments, 84; not under proper control, 116; accused or guilty of punishable offence, 87; neglected, 23; and, in addition, 28 were admitted by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act), while 75 were temporarily admitted, making the total number of admissions for the year, 706. Of the children committed, 58 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 those admitted under section 12, Child Welfare Act, are as follows: Under six months, 68; over six months and under one year, 28; from one to five years, 118; from five to ten years, 123; from ten to fourteen years, 133; over fourteen years, 161. The children temporarily admitted (75) ranged in ages between four days and twenty years. The length of period of residence for these children was from one day to seven weeks.

Of the children in foster-homes, 220 are over the age of fourteen years, of whom 138 are still attending primary schools, and 82 are receiving higher education. In addition, there are 16 residing in hostels and receiving secondary education. Furthermore, 23 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, 1931.**

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

The number of cases dealt with by the Children's Courts last year was 2,373, and of these 642 were placed under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers. Of the children placed under supervision, 28 were subsequently committed. The number actually admitted to institutions such as receiving homes, special schools, training-farms, &c., was 603; but all of these, with the exception of 140 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, 1931, there was a total number of 952 children under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers by Order of the Courts. Of the number, 642, placed under supervision this year, 53 had previously been dealt with by the Courts. The Magistrate had also ordered 7 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, 683; withdrawn, 3; returned to institutions, 34; dismissed, 44; adjourned, 42; committed to Supreme Court for sentence, 2; committed to borstal, 30; convicted and discharged, 2; convicted and birched, 1; convicted and fined, 38; convicted and probation, 10; convicted and ordered to come up for sentence, 2; committed to mental hospital, 1. By-law cases: Dismissed, 5; convicted and fined, 76; convicted and costs, 31; admonished and discharged, 122; adjourned, 2. Total, 1,128.

Of the above, 268 were charged with theft; 151, wilful damage; 22, false pretences; 2, loitering; 15, trespassing; 10, cruelty to animals; 2, attempted suicide; 2, indecency; 9, smoking; 88, mischief; 3, forgery; 24, stone-throwing; 38, possessing firearms; 17, disorderly conduct; 7, obscene language; 13, assault; 48, breaking and entering; 14, not under proper control; 36, conversion; 9, receiving; 16, discharging firearms; 4, vagrancy; 7, indecent assault; 10, carnal knowledge; 4, detrimental environments; 1, breach of Defence Act; 34, breach of Motor-vehicles Act; 11, breach of Railway Act; 3, breach of Acclimatization Act; 4, breach of Post and Telegraph Act; 1, breach of the Gaming Act; 1, breach of Pure Food Act; 1, breach of Marriage Act; 13, breach of Licensing Act; 1, breach of Public Works Act; 3, breach of Arms Act; and 236, breach of by-laws.

In addition to the above, there were 79 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 110 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.

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

At the end of the year there were 4,910 children under control (excluding those mentioned under separate headings below), and of these 290 were in residence at Government receiving-homes, &c. (many of these, of course, only temporarily), training-farm and training institutions, 269 in special schools for mentally backward children, 87 in the four private Roman Catholic schools recognized under the Child Welfare Act; 2,365 children were boarded out in foster-homes, 990 were in situations, and 671 residing under license with relatives and friends. The remainder were in various private institutions. Young persons over school age in employment number 858 males and 498 females (a number of whom are residing with friends), included in the total of 4,910. Of the males, 634 are farm workers (279 skilled in dairy work and cheesemaking, and 355 competent to milk and carry out general farm work), 46 are apprentices (of which number some are receiving assistance), and 178 others are employed in various trades. A number of these are also receiving assistance. Of the girls, 369 are domestic workers, 69 factory employees, and 60 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 138 State wards over fourteen years of age were in attendance at primary schools and maintained by the Department, 67 were attending secondary schools, and 31 technical schools.

Of the State wards in employment, 132, mainly apprentices, were being partly maintained by the Department.

INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION (INFANTS ACT, 1908).

At the end of the year 1,280 infants and young children were supervised in 1,032 licensed foster-homes. Of these, 854 homes had one child each, 132 had two children each, 29 had three children each, 12 had four children each, 4 had five children each, and 1 home had seven 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, 371 children were adopted, and in 21 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, 82 were under the age of six months, 41 between the age of six and twelve months, 162 between the age of one and five years, 53 between the age of five and ten years, and 33 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, 1931.

Status.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
In residence	162	128	290
Boarded out	1,355	1,010	2,365
At service	665	325	990
With friends	346	325	671
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c.	15	13	28
In refuges or cognate institutions	15	90	105
In orphanages	9	13	22
Absent without leave	25	4	29
In Borstal institutions	2	..	2
Y.M.C.A. Hostel, Auckland	14	..	14
Institute for the Blind	1	1
At colleges	1	1	2
Girls' Hostel, Wellington	17	17
In residence, Roman Catholic schools	34	53	87
In schools for mentally backward	191	78	269
In School for Deaf, Sumner	2	6	8
In mental hospitals	4	6	10
Totals	2,840	2,070	4,910

TABLE 2.—COMMITTALS AND ADMISSIONS BY PRIVATE ARRANGEMENT DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1931.

The following table shows the admissions according to age :—

—	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Under six months	35	33	68
Over six months and under one year	18	10	28
One year to five years	64	54	118
Five years to ten years	81	42	123
Ten years to fourteen years	87	46	133
Over fourteen years	92	69	161
Totals	377	254	631

N.B.—In addition to the above, 52 boys and 23 girls were temporarily admitted for short periods.

Table 3 below shows the admissions classified according to the causes of admission. Of the total number, 706, 266 were destitute or indigent, 116 not under proper control, 87 charged with punishable offences, 27 delinquent, 84 detrimental environments, 23 neglected. Of the children admitted under these headings, 463 were placed out in the community before the 31st March, 1931.

TABLE 3.—COMMITTALS AND ADMISSIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1931, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES OF ADMISSION.

Taken charge of as	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Indigent	152	114	266
Not under proper control	62	54	116
Delinquent	22	5	27
Detrimental environments	33	51	84
Accused or guilty of punishable offence	73	14	87
Admission by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act)	18	10	28
Neglected	17	6	23
Temporary arrangement	52	23	75
Totals	429	277	706

TABLE 4.—INMATES DISCHARGED FROM CONTROL DURING YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1931.

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Discharged (Child Welfare Act, section 23)	256	100	356
Attained the age of twenty-one years	17	32	49
Adopted	17	19	36
Written off books	64	33	97
By death	10	5	15
By marriage	..	21	21
Totals	364	210	574

TABLE 5.—INSTITUTIONS FOR BACKWARD CHILDREN : NUMBERS AT 31ST MARCH, 1931.

	Richmond. (Girls.)	Otekaike. (Boys.)	Totals.
In residence	78	191	269
On vacation	4	2	6
At service	..	5	5
Day pupils	2	..	2
Hospital	..	2	2
Totals	84	200	284

TABLE 6.—PARTICULARS OF EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1931.

Item.	Otekaike.	Richmond.	Total.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	7,451 1 7	2,045 15 0	9,496 16 7
Advertising	24 3 0	6 12 11	30 15 11
Maintenance of buildings	203 11 2	644 2 2	847 13 4
Maintenance of institutions	4,300 11 9	1,636 5 4	5,936 17 1
Travelling-expenses	16,312 2 11 294 9 0
Less—			16,606 11 11
Board of staff	1,080 0 0	260 0 0	
	£ s. d.		
	1,340 0 0		
Recoveries (parental contributions and revenue from farms, sale of articles manufactured, &c.)	2,476 6 7		
National-endowment revenue	374 0 0		4,190 6 7
			12,416 5 4

SCHOOL FOR DEAF, SUMNER.

The number of children on the roll at Sumner at 31st March, 1931, was 62 boys and 59 girls ; 4 pupils were on vacation ; 10 pupils left, and 21 were admitted during the year.

TABLE 7.—EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, 1930–31.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Salaries	6,344 6 4	
Advertising, &c.	23 3 1	
Maintenance of pupils and sundry expenses	2,043 6 1	
Travelling-expenses	330 11 2	
Maintenance of buildings, furnishings, &c.	268 10 3	
Contingencies, &c.	10 6 2	9,020 13 1
Less—		
Parental contributions and amount received from Hospital and Charitable Aid Boards	2,304 8 7	
Board of staff	405 0 0	
National endowment	220 0 0	2,929 8 7
		£6,091 4 6

Net expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1930, was £5,798 11s. 4d.

TABLE 8.

	£
Net expenditure on upkeep of child-welfare institutions	17,296
New buildings	1,660
Salaries of staffs of homes, Child Welfare Officers, visiting nurses, &c.	34,904
Boarding-out of children—	£
Payments to foster-parents	88,486
Payments to Postal Department as commission	790
Issues of clothings, &c.—	£
From institutions	1,009
From central and branch stores	1,916
	<u>2,925</u>
Medicine, medical attendance, dentistry, clothing, &c.	3,814
	<u>96,015</u>
Inmates at service—	
Issues of clothing, &c.—	
From institutions	1,502
From central and branch stores	1,531
	<u>3,033</u>
Miscellaneous payments (clothing, medicine, &c.)	4,325
	<u>7,358</u>
Refund of maintenance payments	241
Refund of inmates' earnings	58
Maintenance of inmates sent to other institutions	254
Rent, office requisites, &c.	2,150
Maintenance of inmates sent to private institutions	1,936
Travelling-expenses	8,030
Wages of inmates	244
Legal expenses	50
Transfer and removal expenses	11
Contingencies	26
	<u>*170,233</u>
Less recoveries—	
Board of staff	1,826
Parents and others	22,329
Sale of farm-produce	2,137
Inmates' earnings for clothing, &c.	8,116
Miscellaneous	1,114
National endowment	3,940
	<u>39,462</u>
	<u>£140,771</u>

* £169,182 + £1,051 (decrease in stocks).

TABLE 9.—GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON PRIVATE (ROMAN CATHOLIC) SCHOOLS, 1930–31.

For the maintenance of State wards who are inmates of the four private institutions recognized under the Child Welfare Act, 1925, the Department pays capitation at the rate of 10s. a week each. The following table indicates the expenditure under this heading:—

	£	s.	d.
St. Mary's, Auckland	462	5	7
St. Joseph's, Upper Hutt	1,001	19	5
St. Mary's, Nelson	224	7	4
St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin	246	17	10
	<u>£1,935</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>2</u>

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