

1933.  
NEW ZEALAND.

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

[In continuation of E.-4, 1932.]

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

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

#### CHILD WELFARE.

#### NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER SUPERVISION.

The total number of children under the supervision of the Child Welfare Branch as at 31st March, 1933, was 7,640, classed under the following headings :—

State wards—	
In foster homes, hostels, and with friends .. .. .	2,728
In situations (includes 21 absent without leave) .. .. .	851
In Government institutions, receiving-homes, &c. .. .. .	257
In private institutions .. .. .	249
Inmates in special schools for backward children .. .. .	264
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c. .. .. .	18
In Borstal .. .. .	1
	4,368
Young persons supervised in their own homes by Child Welfare Officers, by order of Court .. .. .	864
Infants supervised in foster-homes registered under the Infants Act .. .. .	996
Pupils at School for Deaf, Sumner (9 of these being State wards) .. .. .	120
Children dealt with as preventive cases .. .. .	1,270
Children at New Zealand Institute for the Blind for whom the Department makes payment .. .. .	22
	7,640

The number of children committed to the care of the Superintendent during the year ended 31st March, 1933, was 384, classified according to reasons for committal, as follows : Indigent, 150 ; delinquent, 11 ; detrimental environment, 52 ; neglected, 7 ; not under proper control, 98 ; accused or guilty of punishable offence, 66 ; and, in addition, 9 were admitted by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act), while 49 were temporarily admitted, making the total number of admissions for the year 442. Of the children committed, 60 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 follows : Under six months, 52 ; over six months and under one year, 24 ; from one to five years, 76 ; from five to ten years, 69 ; from ten to fourteen years, 106 ; over fourteen years, 115. The length of period of residence for the children temporarily admitted was from one day to twelve weeks.

Of the children in foster-homes, 195 are over the age of fourteen years, of whom 103 are still attending primary schools and 92 are receiving higher education. In addition, there are 18 residing in hostels and receiving secondary education. Furthermore, 21 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, 1933.

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

The number of children dealt with by the Children's Courts last year was 2,036, and of these 547 were placed under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers. Of the children placed under supervision, 21 were subsequently committed to the care of the Superintendent. The number actually admitted to institutions such as receiving-homes, special schools, training farms, &c., was 384; but all of these, with the exception of 97, who required further training, were suitably provided for in the community before the close of the year. The other children (1,105) appearing before the Courts were dealt with in a summary manner not calling for supervision by a Child Welfare Officer.

At the 31st March, 1933, there was a total number of 864 children under the supervision of Child Welfare Officers by order of the Courts. Of the number (547) placed under supervision this year 55 had previously been dealt with by the Courts. The Magistrate had also ordered 2 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 method of disposal: Admonished and discharged, 714; withdrawn, 5; returned to institutions, 21; dismissed, 25; adjourned, 49; committed to Borstal, 27; convicted and discharged, 8; convicted and fined, 15; convicted and probation, 20; convicted and ordered to come up for sentence, 5; ordered to pay damages and costs, 8; committed to mental hospital, 1; driver's license cancelled, 2. By-law cases: Convicted and discharged, 6; dismissed, 2; convicted and fined, 64; convicted and costs, 4; admonished and discharged, 134; adjourned, 1. Total, 1,105.

Of the above, 316 were charged with theft; 173, wilful damage; 2, false pretences; 4, indecency; 141, mischief; 5, forgery; 28, stone-throwing; 10, possessing firearms; 4, disorderly conduct; 9, obscene language; 9, assault; 39, breaking and entering; 9, not under proper control; 21, conversion; 8, receiving; 11, discharging firearms; 7, indecent assault; 3, carnal knowledge; 4, detrimental environments; 1, aiding and abetting; 9, delinquency; 3, drunkenness; 3, unlawfully on premises; 1, bookmaking; 4, nuisance; 3, negligent driving; 1, attempted rape; 8, indigency; 2, breach of supervision; 8, breach of Fire Brigades Act; 32, breach of Motor-vehicles Act; 2, breach of Post and Telegraph Act; 2, breach of Licensing Act; 3, breach of Arms Act; 1, breach of Unemployment Act; 8, breach of Railways Act; and 211, breach of city by-laws.

In addition to the above, there were 24 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 80 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 as 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 1,270 children being dealt with in this connection.

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

At the 31st March, 1933, there were 4,377 children under control (excluding those mentioned under separate heading below), and of these 257 were in residence at Government receiving-homes (many of these, of course, only temporarily), training farms, and training institutions, 264 in special schools for mentally backward children, 86 in the four private Roman Catholic schools recognized under the Child Welfare Act; 2,172 children were boarded out in foster-homes, 830 were in situations; and 524 residing under license with relatives and friends. The remainder were in various private institutions. Young persons over school age in employment number 685 males and 407 females (a number of whom are residing with friends) included in the total of 4,377. Of the males 499 are farm workers (220 skilled in dairy work and cheesemaking and 279 competent to milk and carry out general farm work), 45 are apprentices, and 141 others are employed in various trades. Of the girls, 341 are domestic workers, 33 factory employees, and 33 engaged in various employments, such as shop and office assistants, probationary nurses, dressmakers, &c. A number of these (boys and girls) are being assisted by the Department.

## CHILD-PLACING SYSTEM.

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

At the end of the year 103 State wards over fourteen years of age were in attendance at primary schools and maintained by the Department, and 92 were attending secondary and technical schools.

Of the State wards in employment, 177 (some of whom were apprentices), were being partly maintained by the Department.

## BLIND CHILDREN.

The Department has arrangements with the New Zealand Institute for the Blind whereby pupils up to the age of twenty years are partly maintained by the State.

Where the parents of such pupils are not in the position to pay the fees for maintenance the Department pays the Institute 10s. per week for each pupil.

At the 31st March, 1933, 22 pupils were being maintained in this manner.

## INFANT-LIFE PROTECTION (INFANTS ACT, 1908).

At the end of the year 996 infants and young children were supervised in 850 licensed foster-homes. Of these, 734 homes had one child each, 94 had two children each, 16 had three children each, 4 had four children each, and 2 had five children each.

## 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 302 children were adopted (44 of these being State wards), and in 31 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, 45 were under the age of six months; 40 between the age of six and twelve months; 128 between the age of one and five years; 55 between the age of five and ten years; and 34 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, 1933.

Status.	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
In residence .. .. .	144	113	257
Boarded out .. .. .	1,255	917	2,172
At service .. .. .	540	290	830
With friends .. .. .	306	218	524
In hospitals, convalescent homes, &c. .. .. .	15	3	18
In refuges or cognate institutions .. .. .	..	72	72
In orphanages .. .. .	57	33	90
Absent without leave .. .. .	19	2	21
In Borstal institutions .. .. .	1	..	1
Y.M.C.A. Hostel, Auckland .. .. .	15	..	15
Institute for the Blind .. .. .	..	1	1
In colleges .. .. .	..	2	2
In Girls' Hostel, Wellington .. .. .	..	15	15
In residence, Roman Catholic schools .. .. .	38	48	86
In schools for mentally backward .. .. .	183	81	264
In School for Deaf, Sumner .. .. .	2	7	9
Totals .. .. .	2,575	1,802	4,377

The following table shows the admissions according to age :—

TABLE 2.—COMMITTALS AND ADMISSIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1933.

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Under six months .. .. .	32	20	52
Over six months and under one year .. .. .	12	12	24
One year to five years .. .. .	42	34	76
Five years to ten years .. .. .	41	28	69
Ten years to fourteen years .. .. .	74	32	106
Over fourteen years .. .. .	72	43	115
Totals .. .. .	273	169	442

Table 3 below shows the admissions classified according to the causes of admission. Of the total number (442) 150 were indigent, 98 not under proper control, 66 were charged with punishable offences, 11 were delinquent, 52 living in detrimental environments, and 7 were neglected. Of the children admitted under these headings (384), 287 were placed out in the community before the 31st March, 1933.

TABLE 3.—COMMITTALS AND ADMISSIONS DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1933, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO CAUSES OF ADMISSION.

Taken charge of as	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Indigent .. .. .	84	66	150
Delinquent .. .. .	11	..	11
Detrimental environments .. .. .	24	28	52
Neglected .. .. .	3	4	7
Not under proper control .. .. .	55	43	98
Accused or guilty of punishable offence .. .. .	59	7	66
Admission by private arrangement (section 12, Child Welfare Act)	5	4	9
Temporary arrangement .. .. .	32	17	49
Totals .. .. .	273	169	442

TABLE 4.—INMATES DISCHARGED FROM CONTROL DURING THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1933.

	Boys.	Girls.	Totals.
Discharged (Child Welfare Act, section 23) .. .. .	465	295	760
Attained the age of twenty-one years .. .. .	9	35	44
Adopted .. .. .	22	23	45
Written off books .. .. .	54	33	87
Died .. .. .	8	5	13
Married .. .. .	..	17	17
Totals .. .. .	558	408	966

TABLE 5.—INSTITUTIONS FOR BACKWARD CHILDREN: NUMBERS AT 31ST MARCH, 1933.

	Richmond (Girls).	Otekaike (Boys).	Totals.
In residence .. .. .	80	183	263
On vacation .. .. .	1	2	3
At service .. .. .	..	2	2
Day pupils .. .. .	1	..	1
Hospital .. .. .	..	1	1
Totals .. .. .	82	188	270

TABLE 6.—PARTICULARS OF EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1933.

Item.	Otekaike.	Richmond.	Total.
Salaries .. .. .	£ 6,285	£ 1,741	£ 8,026
Advertising .. .. .	11	6	17
Maintenance of buildings .. .. .	107	231	338
Maintenance of institutions .. .. .	4,356	1,256	5,612
Contingencies .. .. .	1	..	1
Travelling-expenses .. .. .	..	..	13,994 225
Less—			14,219
Board of staff .. .. .	1,425	330	
Recoveries (parental contributions and revenue from farm, sale of articles manufactured, &c.)	1,755		
National-endowment revenue .. .. .	2,222	216	
			4,193
			£10,026

## SCHOOL FOR DEAF, SUMNER.

The number of children on the roll at Sumner at 31st March, 1933, was 57 boys and 63 girls; 14 pupils left, and 12 were admitted during the year.

TABLE 7.—EXPENDITURE ON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, SUMNER, FOR PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1933.

	£	£
Salaries .. .. .	5,453	
Advertising, &c. .. .	13	
Maintenance of pupils and sundry expenses .. .	1,870	
Travelling-expenses .. .	283	
Maintenance of buildings, furnishings, &c. .. .	32	
	<hr/>	7,651
Less—		
Parental contributions and amount received from Hospital and Charitable Aid Board .. .	2,504	
Board of staff .. .	605	
Miscellaneous .. .	25	
National-endowment revenue .. .	124	
	<hr/>	3,258
		<hr/>
		£4,393

Net expenditure for year ended 31st March, 1932, was £5,767 5s. 5d.

TABLE 8.

	£	£
Net expenditure on upkeep of child-welfare institutions .. .	13,259	
New buildings .. .	..	..
Salaries of staffs of homes, Child Welfare Officers, visiting nurses, &c. .. .	27,645	
Boarding-out of children—	£	
Payments to foster-parents .. .	78,258	
Payments to Postal Department as commission .. .	745	
Issues of clothing, &c.—	£	
From institutions .. .	427	
From central and branch stores .. .	1,490	
	<hr/>	1,917
Medicine, medical attendance, dentistry, clothing, &c. .. .	3,869	
	<hr/>	84,789
Inmates at service—		
Issues of clothing, &c.—	£	
From institutions .. .	925	
From central and branch stores .. .	769	
	<hr/>	1,694
Miscellaneous payments (clothing, medicine, &c.) .. .	3,068	
	<hr/>	4,762
Refund of maintenance payments .. .	138	
Refund of inmates' earnings .. .	477	
Rent, office requisites, &c. .. .	2,092	
Maintenance of inmates in private institutions .. .	3,720	
Travelling-expenses .. .	3,782	
Wages of inmates .. .	224	
Legal expenses .. .	36	
Transfer and removal expenses .. .	25	
Contingencies .. .	2	
	<hr/>	142,021*
Less recoveries—	£	
Board of staff .. .	2,548	
Parents and others .. .	15,810	
Sale of farm-produce .. .	1,756	
Inmates' earnings for clothing, &c. .. .	4,863	
Miscellaneous .. .	1,422	
National-endowment revenue .. .	2,440	
	<hr/>	28,839
		<hr/>
		£113,182

\* Expenditure £141,018, plus £1,003 (decrease in stocks).

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