

1899.

NEW ZEALAND.

# EDUCATION: INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS

(PARTICULARS AS REGARDS CHILDREN IN THE).

*Return to an Order of the House of Representatives dated the 8th August, 1899.*

*Ordered*, "That there be laid before this House a return showing the number of children in the industrial schools on the 31st March, 1899, the return to specify separately—(1) The total number in the schools; (2) the number committed as destitute under section 16, subsection (1) of 'The Industrial Schools Act, 1882'; (3) the number committed for other reasons than destitution, showing whether criminal or not, and showing also the number sentenced to imprisonment but sent to an industrial school instead of serving the term of imprisonment."—(MR. J. ALLEN).

THE sections of "The Industrial Schools Act, 1882," as amended by "The Industrial Schools Act Amendment Act, 1895," relating to the admission of children, are as follows:—

16. Any constable finding a child answering to one or other of the descriptions following, may immediately, without any warrant, take such child before the nearest available Resident Magistrate, to be dealt with according to this Act,—

- (1.) Any child having no means of subsistence, or whose parent is in indigent circumstances, and unable to support such child;
- (2.) Any child found begging or receiving alms, or being in any street or public place for the purpose of begging or receiving alms;
- (3.) Any child found wandering about or frequenting any street, thoroughfare, hotel, or place of public resort, or sleeping in the open air, or not having any home or settled place of abode, or any visible means of subsistence;
- (4.) Any child residing in any brothel or associating or dwelling with any person known or reputed to be a prostitute or habitual drunkard, or with any person convicted of vagrancy under any Act or Ordinance now or hereafter to be in force.

17. Any parent having a child whom he is unable to control, and wishing him to be sent to a school, may, without any warrant, take such child before the nearest available Magistrate, and if he prove to the satisfaction of such Resident Magistrate that he is unable to control such child, and give security to the satisfaction of such Resident Magistrate for the payment of the maintenance of such child, the Resident Magistrate may make an order such as mentioned in the next section hereof.

19. The Judge before whom, or the Resident Magistrate by whom, the child shall be convicted of an offence punishable by imprisonment, or before whom a child shall be accused of any offence punishable by imprisonment or by some less punishment, which child so accused ought, nevertheless, in the opinion of such Judge or Resident Magistrate, regard being had to his age or circumstances, to be sent to a school, may, in addition to the sentence which may be passed as a punishment for the offence of which such child is convicted, order such child to be sent, at the expiration of such sentence, to any school, or, in lieu of passing such sentence, or in the case of a child so accused as aforesaid, whether such child be convicted or not, may order such child to be sent to any such school.

20. When any child has been convicted by two or more Justices of any offence punishable by imprisonment, such order, as mentioned in the preceding section, may be made at any time subsequently to such conviction by any Resident Magistrate upon the recommendation of the convicting Justices, or upon the application of any other respectable person.

24. Any child may be admitted as an inmate of any school upon such terms as to cost of maintenance and education thereof, and otherwise howsoever, as may be agreed upon between the parent of such child and the manager of such school, or between any such manager and any person authorised by the Governor or any local body to act as a relieving officer for the purposes of this Act.

25. The Governor may, if he thinks fit, order that any person under the age of eighteen who has been sentenced to imprisonment shall, either in lieu of or after serving his term of imprisonment or any part thereof, be and he shall thereby become an inmate within the meaning of this Act.

Such order shall specify the particular school of which such person shall be deemed to be an inmate.

RETURN showing the Number of Children in the Industrial Schools on the 31st March, 1899, and the Enactments under which they were admitted.

School.	Section 16.				Section 17.	Section 24.	"Infant Life Protection Act, 1896," Section 26.	Sections 19, 20, and 25.				Totals.
	Subsection 1.	Subsection 2.	Subsection 3.	Subsection 4.				Accused only.	Convicted, but not sentenced.	Convicted, and sentenced to be whipped.	Convicted, and sentenced to be imprisoned.	
Auckland ... ..	5	...	1	4	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	11
Burnham ... ..	21	...	11	6	3	3	...	2	31	1	4 for 1 hour each *2 for 1 month ea. 1 for 7 ds. †1 for 2 yr.	86
Caversham ... ..	47	...	1	10	2	...	...	2	13	...	...	75
Totals for Government schools	73	...	13	20	5	3	...	4	45	1	8	172
St. Mary's, Auckland ...	19	...	5	47	5	...	1	...	7	...	...	84
St. Joseph's, Wellington ...	33	...	6	25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
St. Mary's, Nelson ...	111	1	31	50	8	...	...	...	23	2	14 for 1 hour each	240
St. Vincent de Paul's, Dunedin	11	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Totals for private schools	174	1	42	122	13	...	1	...	30	2	14	399
Totals for all schools ...	247	1	55	142	18	3	1	4	75	3	22	571

\* Of these two boys, one was transferred to the school fourteen days after sentence; the other twenty-one days after sentence. † This boy was transferred to the school twenty-nine days after sentence.

THE department is unable to state what number is to be regarded as criminal. The following extract from the last annual report of the Minister of Education bears upon this question:—

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 noticed 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.

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, 1896."	
Fathers, described as	Mothers, described as									
Dead .. .. .	Dead .. .. .	8	..	1	..	..	2	..	..	11
" .. .. .	Good .. .. .	6	..	2	..	3	6	..	..	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

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Secretary for Education.

Education Department, Wellington, 29th August, 1899.

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