

1874.
—
WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

R E P O R T

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT UPON

THE BILL TO PROMOTE THE EFFICIENCY OF CERTAIN

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS.

Ordered by the Council to be Printed.

P E R T H :
BY AUTHORITY: RICHARD PETHER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

—
1874.

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EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.

THURSDAY, 2ND JULY, 1874.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS' BILL.—The Honorable F. P. Barlee, in accordance with notice, moved, For leave to bring in a Bill to promote the efficiency of certain Charitable Institutions.

Question—put and passed.

Bill brought in and read a first time. Second reading fixed for Tuesday, 7th July.

TUESDAY, 7TH JULY.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS' BILL.—The Order of the Day for the second reading of this Bill being read, The Honorable F. P. Barlee moved, That the Bill be now read a second time.

Question—put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Mr. Marmion moved, That the Bill be referred to a Select Committee: such Committee to consist of The Honorable The Acting Attorney General, Mr. Steere, Mr. Padbury, Mr. Pearse, Mr. Crowther, Mr. Birch, and the Mover.

Question—put and passed.

MONDAY, 27TH JULY.

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS BILL.—ADOPTION OF REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.—The Honorable F. P. Barlee, with leave, without notice, moved, That the adoption of the above Report be made an Order of the Day for Thursday, 30th July.

Ordered.

R E P O R T

OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed by the Legislative Council to inquire into the provisions of the "Act to promote the efficiency of certain Charitable Institutions.

YOUR Committee having considered this Bill with a view to make it as efficient as possible, recommend to Your Honorable Council the following alterations and amendments:—

That an interpretation clause should be added, providing that wherever the word "infant" occurs in the Act, it should mean "infant, child, or person."

That in the last line of Clause 2 the words "at pleasure" should be struck out, and the following words inserted instead thereof, "with the advice aforesaid."

That in Clause 6, in the third line from the top, between the words "him" and "as," the following words be inserted, "or taken into any such institution"; and in the fifth line from the bottom, between the words "offender" and "shall," to insert, "not being of the aboriginal race."

That in Clause 8, in the top line, the word "has" shall be struck out, and the words "shall have" be inserted; and that between the words "months" and "been," in the second line, the following words be inserted, "after the passing of this Act;" and that all the words between "person" in the sixth line, and "to" in the seventh line, be struck out.

They also advise the addition of the following new Clause:—

If it shall be represented to any Justice of the Peace that there is in his district any person descended from the aboriginal race, being a child apparently under the age of twelve years, who is not living under the care or guardianship of either father or mother, it shall be the duty of the said Magistrate to make inquiry concerning the child referred to; and if after careful inquiry it shall be found that the child is not living under the care or guardianship of either father or mother, it shall then be lawful for the said Magistrate to assume the guardianship of such child in the name of the Government, and to hand him or her over to the care of some person who holds a certificate of approval from His Excellency The Governor as manager of a school or institution for maintaining and teaching descendants of the aboriginal race.

A minority of Your Committee, consisting of Messrs. Padbury and Crowther, were of opinion that the power given by this clause to Justices of the Peace might be beneficially extended so as to enable them to assume the guardianship, for the purposes of this Act, of all aboriginal children, whether living under the care of a father or mother or not.

Mr. Birch desires that his dissent from the 9th clause be recorded, as he objects on principle to juvenile offenders being sent to the institutions at present existing in this Colony under the name of Orphanages.

JAS. G. LEE STEERE,
Chairman.