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BLACK EAGLE

He went on to
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"Black Eagle"

Government is shirking its responsibility

By LAURENCE TURNER

WHY should we have to stand on street corners begging money for the upkeep of State wards?" Bitterly, a Salvation Army officer put this question to me.

He was one of many superintendents of voluntary institutions who insisted that it was time the Children's Welfare Department met its responsibilities to 1500 State wards boarded out.

The maintenance of State wards is the legal responsibility of the Children's Welfare Department. It is the "parent" of the children. It has the same rights and obligations as parents.

But because it has no places of its own in which to keep them except Royal Park depot, the department has sought the help of institutions established by religious and charitable organizations.

It farms out 1500 State wards to these institutions and does not even pay full board for them.

A PART from two boys' reformatories, it makes no substantial contribution to their upkeep.

ren's homes received £5898—between the from the commission in capital grants, and 39 homes got £56,896 between them in maintenance grants from the commission.

Institutions describe these grants as a "drop in the ocean". The chairman of the commission, Mr C. L. McVilly, told me that it was "not his job to balance the budgets of children's homes."

The only way some CAN balance their budgets is by selling the products of the cheap or unpaid labor of inmates or by shaking collection boxes under the noses of the public.

IN four years, the Salvation Army has lost £13,000 on its establishments. Taking into account all Government grants, it will lose £7000 in the year ending next March. With a minimum of spending, it is faced with a loss of £5000 at its two Bayswater homes.

What chance has it

This is the Sa
wards at Bayswat
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Because the Sa
it cannot afford to
tion Department h

WE'RE BELLOS

Herald S

age.
 "One day I will fly
 back to Guatemala in a
 jet plane at 600 mph.
 "My friends had bet-
 ter paint their roofs
 black as an identifica-
 tion against the revenge
 of the Black Eagle."

RS AGO VOYAGE SPUR MOMENT

Morning Herald for
 November 6.

The appropriation of a
 sufficient sum for this purpose
 is intended to send
 England for the necessary
 material without
 delay.

More speed

Furious riding is an
 amusement that has again
 become fashionable, and it
 is no uncommon thing to
 see one or more of the
 police looking on, appar-
 ently in admiration, and
 never making the slightest
 effort to bring the offenders
 to justice. We, on Satur-
 day, saw an old lady and
 child knocked down by a
 horseman and nearly
 killed. Such occurrences
 are becoming so common
 and they have so long
 been tolerated that it is
 hardly worth while to
 allude to them.

Convict ban

MR JOHNSTON intends
 to ask the Colonial
 secretary whether any
 steps have been taken to
 carry into effect the Bill
 for preventing the arrival
 of convicts in the Colony.
 He was induced to ask the
 question in consequence of
 the Yarra Yarra, which
 arrived a few days ago
 from Van Dieman's Land,
 being reported as having 70
 steerage passengers on
 board, whereas he was
 credibly informed that
 they had 200 steerage pas-

them.

A PART from two
 boys' reforma-
 tories, it makes
 no substantial contri-
 bution to their upkeep.

Figures from the
 1950-51 report of the
 Hospitals and Charities
 Commission showed
 that the average cost of
 keeping a child in an
 institution in Victoria
 then was not less than
 £3 a week. Costs have
 risen since.

Yet the Children's
 Welfare Department is
 paying out only 17/6 a
 week for each child.

In the current Bud-
 get, the Government an-
 nounced that rates for
 wards in institutions
 would be increased by
 1/- a week.

The new weekly rates
 are:

- Under 18 months—£1;
- 18 months to 16 years—
 17/6; and
- Over 16 years—£1.

Rates for children in
 reformatory institutions
 remained at:

- Under 16—17/6; and
- Over 16—22/6.

In addition, insti-
 tutions could claim
 10/- a week child en-
 dowment from the
 Commonwealth for
 those under 16.

IN the Department's
 own depot at Royal
 Park, it costs
 about £6 a week to
 keep each of 200 State
 wards.

The Government, of
 course, meets this
 mounting bill. Yet it
 expects voluntary or-
 ganisations to maintain
 wards without regular
 cost-of-living adjust-
 ments.

The 1951-52 report of
 the Hospitals and Char-
 ities Commission shows
 that of 39 children's
 homes whose figures
 were available, 29 fin-
 ished with deficits on
 their maintenance ac-
 counts.

In 1951-52, six child-

ATTACK ON

an Government grants.
 It will lose £7000 in the
 year ending next March.
 With a minimum of
 spending, it is faced with
 a loss of £5000 at its
 two Bayswater homes.

What chance has it
 of replacing the smelly
 dormitories, where 48
 State wards are living,
 with modern cottages?

The Mission of St.
 James and St. John is
 up against it, too.

Four of its five child-
 ren's homes ran at a
 loss in 1951.

Many institutions, of
 course, accept private
 committals whose par-
 ents, may or may not,
 pay for their upkeep.

One Government argu-
 ment is that institu-
 tions should set about
 getting more collections
 from lax parents.

But that does not ex-
 cuse the Government
 through the Children's
 Welfare Department,
 from paying fairly to
 maintain its own wards.

ON MONDAY: Last
 article in the series
 — other States do
 more for child wel-
 fare.

BELL

Her

LONDON,
 today denied
 Australia had
 Monte Bello

An official of the
 navy said: "Austra-
 lia has the islands."

"No question
 of sovereignty was or is
 raised."

"Present radio
 activity is of
 all danger has passed."

"If there are
 tests in the island
 again be by agreement
 Australia—but we
 information at pre-
 more tests are
 planned."

The official added
 position was that
 behalf of the
 wealth countries
 looking around for
 a suitable site.

"Monte Bello was
 to be the most con-
 sidered and the Australian
 Government agreed."

Town Clerk seeks on creaking chairs

Concert-goers probably will have to
 continue enduring creaking chairs and
 an attractive platform in the Melbourne
 Hall.

The Town Clerk, Mr
 H. S. Wootton appealed
 today to the public for
 ideas on how to make
 listening easier in the
 hall.

For 40 years, the council
 had been getting com-
 plaints about the noise
 chairs made during per-
 formances, he said.

But they could not be
 fixed firmly, because they
 had to be removed for
 many functions.

WANTS IDEAS

A similar difficulty arose
 with the big platform,
 which had to accommodate
 a solo performer on some

You can this garden

The garden of
 Mrs T. G. O.
 Churchill Street
 Albert, will be
 inspected tomorrow
 Cup day. Proce-
 dure will be to
 go to the Box
 District Hospital

The