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**CASTLEDARE ROMAN CATHOLIC JUNIOR ORPHANAGE,
CORKEN'S FAIR.**

The following report was prepared by Mr. J. J. O'Doherty, Inspector of the Institution, on the morning of Thursday, 4.1.24, and was conducted about the institution by the Manager, Rev. Bro. P.L. O'Doherty. The Manager was taking his class, 3rd Standard, when I arrived.

1. I carried out an unannounced inspection of Castledare during the morning of Thursday, 4.1.24, and was conducted about the institution by the Manager, Rev. Bro. P.L. O'Doherty. The Manager was taking his class, 3rd Standard, when I arrived.

2. Ninety-six boys of 45 to 100 standard schooling are in residence. There are no truant children and no pre-school children at the institution and the 30 comprise 11 wards, 56 truant children and 29 private admissions.

Staff. The position is as follows:

- Wards:** Manager (Rev. Bro. O'Doherty, who teaches 3rd Standard)
- 2 Christian Brothers (ev. Bros. Murphy & Fallon - also)
- 1 Christian Brother (ev. Bro. Rice - farm side) (eachere)
- 2 employees (outside duties)

Female: 1 Sister (Hungarian)

2 Cooks, paid staff, who live in house on property.

1 Landlady, who comes daily to the institution.

Admission:

There are 2 dormitories at Castledare and at present they have 55 beds in each, some beds being in small rooms, from which the doors have been removed, located along each side of the dormitories. Bro. O'Doherty claims that the dormitories could take 120 beds comfortably. I am not in a position to comment upon this, other than to say that there appears to be adequate space between beds at present and possibly there could be a rearrangement and addition of more beds, without exceeding the standard advised by the Department of Public Health. This matter will be gone into further.

The floors of the dormitories are uncovered polished timber. All appeared reasonably clean and tidy and the general appearance of the dormitories has been enhanced by the painting of the interior in pastel shades.

The condition and cleanliness of beds and bedding, blankets and linen appeared satisfactory. All bedding was not inspected of course, but a random check revealed reasonably clean linen, etc. Linen is changed (1 sheet and 1 pillow slip) weekly and the sheets are rotated so that the over sheet one week becomes the under sheet the next week and the clear sheet is then the over sheet. Beds are made by the lads and a Brother supervises this in each dormitory. The change of bed-linen is worked in with bed-making on Saturdays and is again subject to supervision.

The dormitories are cleaned by the brothers, assisted by the lads. Floors are polished both by the lads and by a Brother who operates an electric polisher.



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All mattresses are protected with mackintoshes. The Manager reports maybe 10 beds who get their beds and I consider this quite good remembering the boys are little fellows and that all 10 do not get the bed nightly. There are 5 "wet beds" in each dormitory and they are not grouped in one room but distributed about the rooms.

Supervision at night time is arranged by at least one Brother sleeping at the end of each dormitory.

3. Sanitation, Ablution, etc. Facilities.

Scheme water supply is available and hot water is provided. Sepsis tank system is used for disposal. There are four boilers for hot water, one each for laundry, kitchen, ablution block and dairy.

The day lavatory block is first reported upon. It is well clear of the school, dining room and dormitories and appears to be a reasonable structure for its purpose. It is roofed and properly screened and comprises 2 pedestals in cubicles, fronted by a long urinal, over which are located 4 cisterns for flushing. It was found, when checking that cisterns were in working order, that a blockage had occurred in the septic system. The two tried functioned properly, but no more were tried as it was found that 1 person was working at the rear of the lavatory block on the blockage.

The block is hosed out daily.

The night facilities are quite new and comprise part of the attractive, modern ablution block at one end of the dormitory building. Each dormitory has a urinal and 2 W.C. pedestals and in each lavatory block an electric night light is burned all night.

The ablution facilities at Castleford are now most modern and really first-class. In the centre is a shower group of 32 rows. The floor is an easily cleaned concrete type of material and on the other side of a tiled dividing part-wall is located a long foot-bath, completely tiled. Hot and cold water is controlled centrally.

On either side of the shower block is a group of 13 faucets (sprays) (20 in all) for hand and face washing and tooth cleaning. This again is all tiled and not attractive.

Baths are available for use as such. In view of the close supervision of washing and showering, I do not think baths are necessary. In any case, bathing would be a slow process and hardly practicable in the case of large numbers.

Lads have individual towels which are changed and used. Bro. O'Boharty pointed out that each of his lads has personally a towel, soap, nailbrush, comb and toothbrush. There are three wall mirrors in each "hand-wash" room.

The ablution area is cleaned out daily with soap and broom, and is given a thorough going through on Saturdays. One of the Brothers watches it is cleaning arrangement.

One Brother supervises the showering of the lads at 5.30 p.m. daily and two Brothers share the supervision of the face, etc. washing and tooth cleaning in the morning and before bed. Teeth are cleaned after breakfast and before bed. Lads are given a small quantity of tooth powder into a hand, issued from a bulk supply.

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6. Kitchen
The Manager pointed out that he hoped to be able to renovate the kitchen at the next project at Castleford. The kitchen and scullery area appeared reasonably clean and tidy and free of flies, and both cooks were on duty when inspected. The kitchen area is a little drab and unattractive and renovations will undoubtedly be along to all concerned. The area is covered and appears fly-proof. refuse is removed daily from the kitchen area and fed to the pigs at the institution. I look forward to the start of Bro. O'Shaherty's plan here, but it is realized that the financial aspect is the great problem.
Bro. O'Shaherty explained that the lads received a varied diet. Breakfast comprises porridge, ("toasties" on Sunday), bread and butter, cocoa; the mid-day meal is a hot one, meat and vegetables, a piece of bread, the bulk of "school" milk, pudding. Tea provides two slices of bread and honey, salad or a bowl of bread and milk. Soup is served in the winter. Tea also means a piece of cake, sausage roll, bun, etc. and the lads have a break at 11 a.m. daily when a "piece" is served, fruit or bread and jam.
7. Dining Facilities
Meal times are: Breakfast - 8 a.m.
Hot Dinner - 12.30 p.m.
Tea - 6 p.m.
Meals are partaken in an attractive, bright and airy dining hall which has a capacity of 124, 10 tables which can seat 8 each. At present 5 lads are seated to a table. Tables and chairs appeared in sound condition. Windows are brightly curtained. Table cloths are not used, but each lad has his own large "mat" and serviette. The dining hall was in process of being swept out and tidied up by the Sisters when I inspected and it appeared to be quite reasonably free of flies. There were no table decorations or flowers obvious on this occasion, although I have seen these on tables in the past.
A Brother is on duty in the dining hall to supervise during meals and the Sisters arrange the serving of meals. Some portion of the meal is usually on the table when the boys sit down and a duty lad runs each table then attends to other food served out during the course of the meal. The boys pick up their dishes neatly when the meal is over and a duty lad then removes the dirty dishes, (the duty lad per table). The Sisters attend to the washing up.
8. Schooling
A first section day school of three classrooms is now in use at Castleford and is located at the end of the dining hall. An access door is provided and each class is intercommunicating as well as having outer doors. The classrooms appear to be "the last word" and each has a present capacity of 40. Approximately 30 students are in each class and Standards 1 to 3 are taught. Bro. O'Shaherty taking 3rd standard, Bro. Murphy Standards 1 and 2. Bro. Fullimer is teaching the third group who are mostly newcomers to Castleford and these lads are being graded scholastically.
The Education Department inspectors visit the institution and test the children once yearly. Examiners from the Christian Brothers also test the lads yearly.



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School hours are from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. (11 a.m. break for "piece") and from 1.45 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. on weekdays and there is an extra provision from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. for singing, games etc.

I saw the lads in school dress and later at singing lessons in the hall and generally they appeared clean physically and well cared for - clothing was neat, in good condition and clean. The boys seemed a happy, healthy lot.

9. Clothing

Children have three lots of clothing: best (kept separately in lockers for Sunday clothes), school and play. These items are all numbered and play and school clothes are changed weekly, on Saturdays, under the supervision of the Brothers and Sisters.

As before reported, the children wear neat and in reasonably clean khaki clothing, in good repair.

General lockers are found in dormitories and three lads share each one.

Children's clothing (Sunday best and school) is laundered by the laundress and this enhances the appearance of the lads. Play clothes are not usually ironed.

10. Health

The Manager enjoys a good general state of health throughout the Institution. Sick parades are held before school and after the evening meal and the Sisters attend the lads' needs. When I saw the lads at singing at least three showed evidence of small, neat, clean bandages to limbs.

I did not see the infirmary on this occasion. Bro. O'Doherty indicated that it contained 2 beds and that the surgery was operated by the Sisters. I will make a point of seeing the infirmary and surgery next visit.

The "House Doctor" is Sir Thos. Mesher of Victoria Park. He sees lads mainly for eruptions, treatments etc. and Dr. Harrold of Bentley Park attends to urgent calls.

When lads are sent to Princess Margaret Hospital for children, the Perth Dental Hospital etc., the Sisters' "escort service" comes into operation. For over 12 months now, Bro. O'Doherty has had a list of some 100 who have volunteered in this regard. He simply phones, indicating that a certain lad is to be on a bus on his way to an appointment and the boy is met, cared for, arrangements made for him to keep his appointment and be placed on a return bus for the Sisters. I think this service lads could not easily receive hospital attention etc. as the Brothers, who are teaching, could not cope with all the escort needs.

The School Medical Services doctor checks the boys each two years and the Institution is due for a visit this year. A Nursing Sister from Mr. Slang's clinic checked the lads' hair at least twice last year and on both occasions heads were 100% clear.

The Local Health Inspector (Gunnington) and a Doctor check the position of immunisation against diphtheria yearly and all lads in need of immunisation are done.



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11. Daily Programme.

Children rise approximately 7.15 a.m., wash, dress in their school clothes and perform their allotted domestic duties before breakfast at 8 a.m. They do not perform any farm duties. After breakfast until 9 a.m., they play and visit the lavatory and at 9 a.m. they all go to the ablution centre to wash and clean their teeth.

After school, children change into their play clothes or tracks and play or swim in a special "safety pool" in the nearby river. The pool is shallow and fenced in. There are no duties to be done after school during the week, other than on Wednesday afternoons, which is gardening afternoon and all help to tend the area, which is a picture with its flowers etc. Evening tea is at 6 p.m., following showering etc. at 5.30 p.m. After tea, lads play in the open air quadrangle area, which is electrically lit, and "lights out" is about 8 p.m.

Naturally, it is "clean up" day during the morning and the lads do gardening, etc. in the afternoon. Clothes are changed on Saturdays and are generally quite a busy day. They also swim during the afternoon in the summer. On Sunday, the boys attend Church, then play or go on organised outings. Visitors call on Sundays also, but they are few only and Bro. O'Leary endeavours to have prospective visitors phone directly in view of the outings the boys have.

The lads go out each third Sunday, usually to private homes. They are transported by the Brothers to a central point in Perth and Fremantle at 10 a.m. where they are met by their friends and then the Brothers collect them again at the assembly points at 6.30 p.m.

12. Recreation.

Much of this matter is mentioned in my report under Daily Programme. It is seen that lads have quite a deal of contact with people outside the institution, such as in the case of Bro. O'Leary and his outings for their efforts which allowed all these young men to see the world and to see their friends. (100 lads went on leave out of 110).

The boys from Castledare attend pictures on Saturday evenings "at home" and at other times on Sunday evenings.

13. Discipline.

The Manager indicated that discipline was mainly enforced by the withdrawal of privileges. Also an approved leather chum about 18" long is used and I take it the term "approved" means it is the standard used for Christian Brothers' schools. Bro. O'Leary stated a punishment book is kept, but I did not think it on this occasion.

14. General.

A Truck Shop is provided for Castledare and each lad will be credited with a small amount of pocket money weekly and also credited with the money handed to him by relatives. Final details have not yet been worked out but it is a pleasing move.

It is desired to comment particularly upon the high standard now obtaining with the ablution block and school rooms at Castledare. Facilities for ablutions and schooling are most modern and really a credit to all concerned.

11.3.54.

INSTITUTION OFFICER

