The Secretary

1. On the 29th instant I accompanied yourself and Mr. H. Turnbull, Dental Officer Public Health Department, to Brigid's Home for Girls, Blackwood, and made an inspection of the premises and the migrant boys in residence.

2. I saw each of the 22 migrant boys personally and it seems obvious that they have been specially selected in one group, as they appear to be of poorer average mentality than other migrant boys who arrived in the same party. Although I shall not have space to discuss some adverse criticisms in this report, it must be realised that Brother McGee has a difficult task ahead to train and educate this class of boy.

On the 16th instant we made a brief visit to this Institution and as a result criticism was made of the general conditions prevailing. It is observed that there is now some improvement, but I consider that the conditions are still not up to the standard required by this Department. The domestic staff consists of the Matron Mrs. J., who has been at this Home for some time, and Miss O'Connor, a girl of tender years, who commenced her duties on the 28th instant. As these women have only recently commenced their duties it may be too early to expect great improvement.

The dormitories have improved to a certain extent. Beds and bedding are good and it was noted that they were covered with clean counterpanes, a small wheel table and two hanger-beds. The dormitories, however, are not attractive. There is no provision whatever for lockers, but Brother McGee stated that 100 wooden lockers were on order to overcome this difficulty. The ablution facilities are in the course of transfer from the original block to the new building. Hot and cold showers in the original lavatories are still in use and the hand-towels and shower facilities are satisfactory for the present, but should be replaced before further admissions are accepted.

The sanitary conveniences and urinals which were newly erected were inspected and found clean and satisfactory.

3. 4. 5. General health:

It is stated that there has been no case of illness and from my observations the boys are in good health and appear to have enjoyed a good meal. The classrooms are dull, dingy and appear to lack facilities for teaching. One room is fitted with standard type desks, but no other facilities exist; the standard is far below the average.

Graduates: It is Brother McGee's opinion that all boys are retarded by approximately two years, but he prefers to reserve his comments and final statement until the end of the year, when he has had greater opportunities to assess their ability.

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The following boys have left school:

1. **Redacted** has engaged in duties on the property:
   - learning tractor driving and general duties.
   - He is stated to be dull and not showing any great aptitude.
   - employed in the dairy shed. Although backward is reported to be working well and with proper training may become an efficient dairy worker.
   - employed on dairy work and in the milking shed. Progress very good and shows much aptitude.
   - employed in the milking shed. Progress very good and shows much aptitude.

2. **Redacted** has engaged in duties on the property:
   - learning general duties.
   - He is stated to be not doing very well but is not at fault.
   - employed in the dairy shed. Although backward is reported to be working well and with proper training may become an efficient dairy worker.
   - employed on dairy work and in the milking shed. Progress very good and shows much aptitude.
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Generally, I was not impressed in any way with the appearance of these boys. Personal cleanliness was not good and their hair was unorthodox. Their speech was very poor and, in most instances, dirty. Footwear and clothes were not very presentable. All boys have extremely bad attitudes and speak in a manner that is extremely disrespectful. It is expected for the boys to be taught in the minds of the country, I would expect that the boys would be better off without shoes. It is obvious that the boys lack personal discipline in regards to their clothing and appearance. I pointed out these matters to the boys in a very stern manner, not in a way to make them feel sorry, but to make them understand that their clothes and appearance are important. I would suggest that the boys wear clean clothes during school hours and in their leisure hours be permitted to change into play-clothes.

A new dairy is in the course of erection and it is expected to be completed and in use at the earliest possible date. There is no doubt that the design and construction of this building are sound and will be an extremely valuable addition to the property, but it is hoped that this building will be a great asset to the property. In view of these conditions, I cannot recommend that any new boys be admitted to this institution until such time as we improve the general standard of cleanliness and better facilities for education are provided.