

(No. 23.)



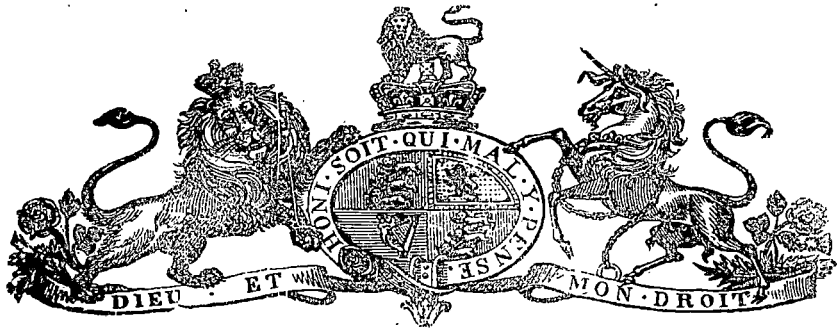
1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

**CHARITABLE AID IN HOBART AND
SUBURBS :**

REPORT FOR 1884.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



CHARITABLE AID IN HOBART AND SUBURBS.

Benevolent Society, Hobart, 11th February, 1885.

SIR,

In a communication from your Department, dated 11th February, 1880, the Executive Committee was requested to furnish annually a "full and exhaustive report concerning the Pauper Allowance for Hobart and suburbs, so as to enable the Government to arrive at a reliable estimate of the advantages or otherwise of the change now to be adopted in the administration of Charitable Relief."

For the year 1884 I have the honor to forward the Return, as supplied to me by the Enquiring Officer, Mr. W. A. Catley.

Cases on the books—19 married couples, ages varying from 64 to 79. 29 single men, including 4 blind, 5 cripples, 1 imbecile, 1 bed-ridden, ages varying from 65 to 92. 65 single women; amongst these are 5 blind, 1 imbecile, 1 immigrant—a charge through loss of leg—ages from 61 to 89. 37 families, comprising 29 widows with 87 children; 2 orphans, in charge of a married brother; 1 immigrant family, with five children, father and mother afflicted; 4 wives, with 12 children, deserted by husbands; 1 woman of weak intellect, with one child; 1 husband, a cripple, wife and four children: representing a total of 171 adults and 111 children.

During the year 40 cases were removed from the Books, as follows:—Deaths, 9; circumstances improved, 20; assisted by friends, 6; Depôt, 2; hospital, 2; misconduct, 1.

Thirty-eight cases were taken on during 1884, of which number 36 had been on the Books of the Benevolent Society for three months previous to transfer. The list includes 25 single men and women, 11 widows with 31 children, 1 single girl, an immigrant, 1 immigrant family, husband, wife, and four children, the husband being afflicted and pronounced incurable.

The comparative statement of the charitable relief for Hobart and suburbs for the four years previous to the transfer to this Society, and the four years of the present administration, may be of value, as showing the working of the present system:—

Year.	Cash Outlay.	Rations.		
		No. 1.	No. 2.	No. 3.
1877 - - - - -	£ 994	5781	1388	301
1878 - - - - -	1121	6427	2220	395
1879 - - - - -	1120	6027	2077	327
1880 - - - - -	1020	5070	2128	267
	£4255	23,305	7813	1290

Under present administration:—

1881 - - - - -	957	4135	2049	199
1882 - - - - -	734	4101	2003	239
1883 - - - - -	731	3458	1676	349
1884 - - - - -	750	3474	1409	383
	£3172	15,168	7137	1170

Reduction—Cash - - - - - £1083
Rations, 8932, at 3s. 1340

£2423

The statement of the Enquiring Officer would appear to demonstrate that influences other than natural causes have led to the reductions indicated. No case is accepted on any recommendation merely, but is investigated and dealt with according to merit. Possibly there may be instances in which thrift in earlier years would have prevented an appeal to public charity, but in this respect there is a marked improvement in the habits of the people, and, in proportion as facilities are afforded for the deposit and investment of small savings, and the people are encouraged and assisted to become the owners of their homes and possessors of a land interest in the Colony, the sense of dependence will decrease, and the sense of self reliance be greatly strengthened.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. SIMMONS,
Chairman Ex. Com. B.S.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.