

(No. 19.)



1887.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY :

REPORT FOR 1886.

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



TWENTY-SEVENTH Annual Report of the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THE Report of a Benevolent Society, beyond the statement of routine work, affords little scope for general remark. It is cause for great regret that such institutions should be necessary in new lands. On the other side, it is a source of sincere congratulation that Government and people are ever ready to meet all cases of suffering and distress.

During the year considerable improvements have been made in the property owned and occupied by the Society. The dilapidated and broken-down office has given place to a neat and comfortable looking structure, and although the internal arrangements are not nearly so complete as could be desired, they are greatly superior to the makeshift arrangement of former days.

Dr. Wayland, in an address before the Charity Organisation Society of New York, on 1st February, 1886, remarked:—"The new Charity finds another cause of pauperism and misery in indiscriminate almsgiving. The almsgiving but makes the want which it supplies; but it does not and cannot supply all the want which it has made. If it is known that there is a loaf to be had for nothing, ten men will quit work in order to get the offered loaf. But only one can have it. An eminent authority says:—"The conventional modes of almsgiving, without inquiry and without interest, exactly reverse the precept we are bound to obey, and *overcome good with evil*, changing thrift, industry, soberness, into idleness, waste, drunkenness." "The old system of charity," Dr. Wayland proceeds to remark, "makes no progress—has no inventions, no resources. Its only idea is bread, more bread; soup, more soup. If there is one beggar, one loaf. If two beggars, two loaves. If ten thousand beggars, ten thousand loaves. A thousand poor, one soup-house; two thousand, two soup-houses. The new Charity is full of new inventions, of new adaptations. It is flexible, expansive. It is always ready to arouse its energies for meeting some new emergency." It is not, perhaps, too much to hope, that the closing words of Dr. Wayland may be as applicable to Hobart as to New York:—"In the golden future, when greatness will be moral, not material, when ideas will weigh more than ingots, the glory of your imperial city will be, not in its harbour crowded with the ships of all nations (except your own), nor in the palaces which speak the exuberance of wealth, but in the fact that on this soil, poverty, ignorance, vice, wretchedness, were overcome by wisdom, love, patience, self-denial, charity."

The Registrar reports as follows:—

Cases for 1886.—Number, 150; illness, 56; husbands away, 18; husbands in prison, 12; accidents, 5; destitute, 30; aged and infirm, 8. Adults.—Males, 73; females, 121. Children.—Males, 105; females, 118. Total, 417 individuals. Two cases refused. On the books from last year—40 cases, 115 individuals.

Casual relief given to 44 individuals going up the country to seek employment or into the Dépôt, New Town. Work given to 35 men in the wood-yard until they could get employment, cash paid at 4d. per hour.

Supplies obtained for making soup.—Meat, 900lbs.; rice, 268lbs.; barley, 324lbs.; peas, 510lbs. Soup sold, £1 17s. 3d.

Rations issued.—Bread, 19,977lbs.; tea, 519lbs.; sugar, 2657lbs.; oatmeal, 870lbs.; rice, 1577lbs.; soup, 6890 pints.

Given by friends—113 tons wood, 15 tons coal, which enabled the Registrar to supply fuel to the poor during the winter months; kindling-wood, 124½ doz.—£6 4s. 6d.

The usual investigations of cases, collections of subscriptions, &c. have been continued. Blankets sold, £1 2s.; blankets given by three friends to the amount of £20; paid lodging tickets and rent, £15.17s. 10d.; cab hire to hospital for poor patients, 9s. The Society's Emergency Refuge for deserted women and children, Murray-street, is of service in cases of absolute destitution.

The work done by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Government does not, strictly speaking, come within this record, but the figures furnished by Mr. Catley, the Inquiring Officer,

THE Treasurer in account with the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

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R. T. WESTBROOK, *Treasurer.*

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.
Debentures—T. Y. Lowes	2000	0	0
Ditto from sundry persons.....	2000	0	0
Deposit—M. P. Building Society	600	0	0
Ditto V.D.L. Bank	350	0	0
	<u>£4950</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Premises, Bathurst-street	£750	0	

EMERGENCY FUND.

Full account of this fund appears in last year's report. The sum of £100 is placed at fixed deposit, and is available to meet special cases occasioned by flood and fire.

WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT,
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