(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 Depôt, New Town. Work given to 35 men in the wood-yard until they could get employment, cash paid at 4*d*. 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,  $124\frac{1}{2}$  doz.—£6 4s. 6d.

The usual investigations of cases, collections of subscriptions, &c. have been continued. Blankets sold,  $\pounds 1 2s$ .; blankets given by three friends to the amount of  $\pounds 20$ ; paid lodging tickets and rent,  $\pounds 15 17s$ . 10*d*.; cab hire to hospital for poor patients, 9*s*. 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,

may interest subscribers and friends of the Society :--On books 31st December, 1886, 141 cases, including 24 single men, 53 single women, 21 married couples, 43 families, 149 children. Of the single men there are 3 blind, 4 bedridden, 1 asthma, 1 imbecile. Of the single women there are 7 blind, 3 bedridden, 2 cripples. Of families, 4 wives deserted by husbands, 28 widows, 6 invalid husbands, 2 husbands in gaol, 2 husbands blind, and among the children are 2 orphans. There have been 43 cases of transfer from country districts and Benevolent Society. There have been 22 deaths, 3 husbands returned to families, 3 entered Depôt, 15 persons whose circumstances have improved, or whose relations have engaged to support them.

J. W. SIMMONS, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

THE Treasurer in accou	nt with th	We HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.
Repayments from Government Subscriptions and Donations Interest on Debentures, &c Government Grant for 1886 Repayment from Flood and Fire Account Cash from M. P. B. Society Interest on same	£ s. d. 261 19 8 97 18 6 158 19 0 200 0 0 400 0 0 53 0 0 584 6 6 29 4 4	1886. Cr. £ s. d.   Dec. 31. By Bread. 82 13 2   Printing, &c. 81 1 0   Groceries 111 18 3   Cab hire to hospital, poor patients 0 9 0   Lodging and rent 15 17 10   Deposits M. P. B. Society 600 0 0   Ditto V. D. L. Bank 250 0 0   Salaries 222 0 0   Rent for refuge 18 4 0   Meat for soup 9 18 0   Payments-Government lying- 10 0   Insurance 1 10 0   Wages-Men in wood-yard 144 19 10   Repairs to premises and chairs. 148 10 1   Passage money 3 0 0   Balance in Bank 78 1 10
1887	785 8 0 678 1 10	£1785 8 0
Examined with the vouchers, and found correct, CHAS. E. WALCI GEO. SALIER. January 14, 1887.		
THE Treasurer in accou	int with th	he Hobart Benevolent Society.
Repayments from Government Treasury Grant for 1886 Emergency Fund Subscriptions and Donations Cash from M. P. B. Society Interest thereon	$\begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	1886.   Cr.   £ s. d.     Dec. 31. By Expenditure—see Bank Pass   Book   1707 6 2     Balance   78 1 10
1887	785 8 0 £78 1 10	R. T. WESTBROOK, Treasurer.
C	APITAL .	ACCOUNT.
Debentures—T. Y. L Ditto from sundr Deposit—M. P. Build Ditto V.D.L. Bank	y persons ing Society	
Premises, Bathurst-str	reet	£750 0
	ear's report	CY FUND. t. The sum of £100 is placed at fixed deposit, and is e.
		DMAS STRUTT, NTER, TASMANIA.