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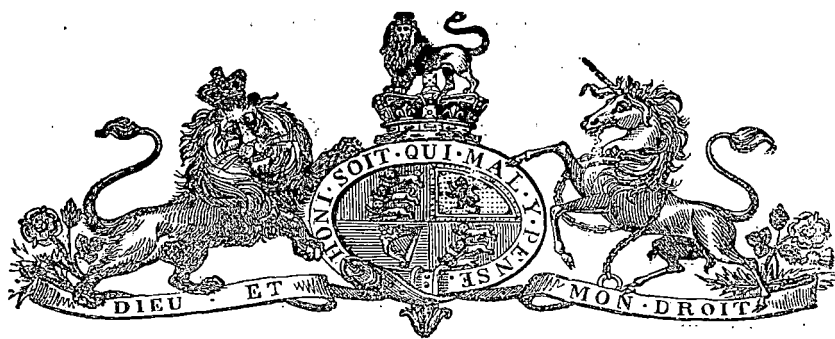
1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY :

REPORT FOR 1884.

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



TWENTY-FIFTH Annual Report of the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

A QUARTER of a century back the Hobart Benevolent Society was founded. Since that period it has been the duty and aim of those entrusted with the management of its affairs to relieve the poor, discountenance imposition, and encourage industry. Very few indeed of the original founders of the Institution survive to tell the story of its struggles and successes.

Dealing more particularly with the work of 1884, it is pleasant to record that, notwithstanding the pressure of exceptional cases, there is a marked decrease in the claims upon public charity. In 1883, 142 cases were considered; in 1884, 116, and of these five were refused. Ten widows were aided, as against 22 of the previous year, marking either a decrease in the death-rate or an improvement in the provident habits of the people. In fact, were the people encouraged by some national system of thrift, and provision for sickness and old age, cases of actual pauperism would in the course of a few years become comparatively rare. The full return furnished by the Registrar is as follows:—

Cases for 1884.—Number, 116; illness, 38; husbands away, 13; husbands in prison, 4; accidents, 11; widows, 10; destitute, 24; aged and infirm, 10; child, 1; refused, 5. Adults.—Males, 24; females, 84. Children.—Males, 68; females, 58. Total, 251 individuals, and five cases refused. On the books from last year 37 cases—136 individuals.

Casual relief given to 28 individuals going up the country to seek employment, or into the *Depôt*, New Town. Work given to 61 men in the wood-yard until they could get better employment.

Supplies obtained for making soup—Meat, 2760 lbs.; rice, 384 lbs.; barley, 384 lbs.; peas, 568 lbs.; soup sold, £4 2s. 8d.

Rations issued.—Bread, 23,719 lbs.; tea, 708 lbs.; sugar, 9057 lbs.; oatmeal, 621 lbs.; rice, 1100 lbs.; soup, 7650 pints.

Given by friends, 65 tons wood, 35 tons coal, which enabled the Registrar to supply fuel to the poor during the winter months; 20 tons wood by the Committee for cases of sickness, &c.; kindling wood, 155 doz., £7 15s.

The usual investigation of cases, collection of subscriptions, &c. have been continued. Blankets sold, £5 12s. 6d; paid lodging tickets and rent, £9 1s. 6d.; cab hire to hospital for poor patients, £1. The Society's Emergency Refuge for deserted women and children, Murray-street, is of service in cases of absolute destitution. Donations—A friend, £10 for blankets; and Mr. C. Butler, £5 for blankets for the poor.

Owing to age and weakness the late Mr. R. A. Mather retired from the Chair, and the members of the Executive Committee placed upon record their high sense of the work he had rendered to the Society and the Colony generally. The following is a copy of the Minute, which was illuminated and presented to Mr. Mather:—

“The Executive Committee desires to place on record its high sense of the value of the services rendered during the last 22 years to the Benevolent Society by its retiring Chairman, Mr. R. A. Mather, and deeply regrets that advancing years should necessitate his withdrawal from official work, and trusts that the consolations he has so long imparted to others may be the light and comfort of the evening of his long and useful life.”

Upon Mr. Mather's death, words of respectful condolence were addressed to his widow and family.

The importance of finding work for able-bodied people, quite outside the range of the registry offices, has engaged the attention of the Committee, under the conviction that the bread of idleness is not good for any person; cases requiring peculiar sympathy and aid have come before the Board,

but it is not desirable, in the interests of those concerned, that names should be disclosed. The balance-sheet clearly indicates public support in a practical manner; and it may be mentioned that this record embraces the work of the Society on its own account merely, and does not in any way include the work undertaken by the Committee on behalf of the Government.

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

THE Treasurer in account with the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

1884.	Dr.	£ s. d.	1884.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Dec. 31.	To Balance in Bank, Jan. 1, 1884.	34 16 2	Dec. 31.	By Bread.....	106 8 10
	Repayments from Government	145 1 8		Groceries	243 15 6
	Interest on Debentures, &c.....	200 0 0		Printing, &c.....	9 15 0
	Subscriptions and donations....	188 12 6		Cab-hire to Hospital, poor patients	1 0 0
	Government Grant for 1883 ...	200 0 0		Lodgings and rent	10 12 0
	Ditto, 1884	200 0 0		Salaries.....	239 4 0
				Meat for Soup.....	19 19 0
				Repayments—Government.....	136 5 0
				Insurance.....	1 10 0
				Wood for Wood-yard.....	24 4 6
				Sundries	8 0 0
				Balance down	167 16 6
		<u>£968 10 4</u>			<u>£968 10 4</u>
1885.	Jan. 1. To Balance	£167 16 6			

J. W. SIMMONS, *Chairman.*
Wm. WITT, *Registrar.*

THE Treasurer in account with the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

1884.	Dr.	£ s. d.	1884.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Dec. 31.	To Balance in Bank, January, 1884	34 16 2	Dec. 31.	By Expenditure, as per Pass Book	800 13 10
	Repayments from Government	145 1 8		Balance	167 16 6
	Subscriptions and Donations ..	188 12 6			
	Interest on Debentures, &c.....	200 0 0			
	Government Grant for 1883 (2)	200 0 0			
	Ditto, 1884 (1)	200 0 0			
		<u>£968 10 4</u>			<u>£968 10 4</u>
1885.	Jan. 1. To Balance.....	£167 16 6			

R. T. WESTBROOK, *Treasurer.*

Examined with the vouchers, and found to be correct.

GEO. SALIER,
CHAS. E. WALCH, } *Auditors.*

26th January, 1885.

CAPITAL Account of the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, arising from Legacies and Donations, 1884.

	£ s. d.
Debentures—T. Y. Lowes	2000 0 0
Ditto, from sundry other persons.....	2000 0 0
Deposit—G. T. Building Society.....	556 10 0
	<u>£4556 10 0</u>
Premises in Bathurst-street, valued at	£750 0 0

Emergency Fund.

On the 22nd December, 1881, the Mayor of Hobart (Jas. Harcourt, Esq.) and the Hon. W. H. Burgess waited upon and asked the Executive Committee to take charge of a special fund, particularly designed to meet cases by flood and fire, to be called the "Emergency Fund." The sum of £150 was placed at interest, and both principal and interest are available in time of need.