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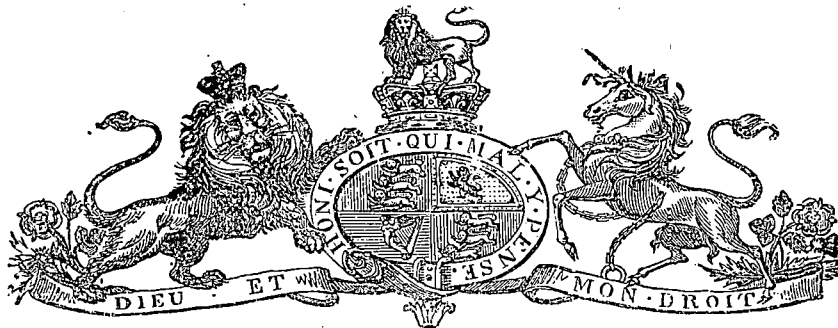
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS:

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1898.

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

Cost of printing—£3 2s. 6d.



THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1898.

To His Excellency the Governor and Executive Council.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

THE Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens, incorporated by the Act 49 Victoria No. 34, have the honour to submit to Your Excellency, in accordance with the 11th Section of that Act, their Thirteenth Annual Report.

1. The Museum during the year 1898 has been opened to the public on week days, except Mondays, from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. in the summer, and until 4 P.M. in the winter; on Sundays, from half-past 2 P.M. till 5 P.M. in the summer, and until 4 P.M. in the winter.

2. The Museum collections have been greatly increased during the year. Among the additions to the Natural History collections special mention may be made of an interesting series of British game birds, presented by Mrs. Donald Cameron, of Lowestoft.

The mineral collection in the Tasmanian room has also received many additions, including a fine series during the year of minerals from the Mines Department. Owing to the overcrowded space the collections cannot be displayed to advantage. Every available foot of space in the building is now occupied with cases or specimens.

3. As previously pointed out in the Annual Reports, the funds placed at the disposal of the Trustees are quite inadequate for the proper carrying out of the work connected with the Museum, the vote at present being the same as it was prior to the erection of the Argyle-street wing and the starting of a National Art Gallery. Many of the Tasmanian specimens in the Natural History department now require renewing, and to attain that object the services of a collector and taxidermist are urgently required.

4. *The Art Gallery.*—Several additions have been made to the Gallery during the year. W. L. Hopkins, of Sydney, presented 14 very choice signed artist proofs of etchings, his own work.

5. The Trustees would again urge upon Parliament the necessity of placing a sum annually on the Estimates for the purpose of purchasing works of art for the National Art Gallery of the Colony. The Governments in all the Australian colonies annually vote large sums to add to the art collection. At present the value of works of art presented to the Museum by private donors is valued at over £4000, and under the circumstances it is not too much to ask Parliament to vote an annual amount towards the upkeep of the Gallery.

6. Now that the financial prospects of the Colony are improving, the Trustees feel that they can fairly ask that the amount voted in the year 1890 for the completion of the Museum building, according to the original design as approved of in the year 1860, may now be granted.

7. During the year the building at the rear of the Museum formerly used as an aquarium has been fitted up as a room for tourists. This work has been undertaken by the Tasmanian Tourist Association Committee, and has proved in every way eminently successful. Over 300 views of Tasmanian scenery, the gift of Mr. J. W. Beattie, hon. photographer to the Tasmanian Government, are hung on the walls. In the room are tables of the Tasmanian minerals, the output and value, Railway and Post Office time-tables, charts, maps, and writing material furnished gratuitously by Messrs. Walch & Sons. This recent addition has proved a great boon to tourists, and is the means of specially advertising the Colony.

8. It is the intention of the Trustees to ask for an addition to the Museum vote, as the amount now voted is insufficient for the proper maintenance of the Institution, and the Trustees feel convinced that their request will be approved of by Parliament.

9. The Trustees desire to specially tender their thanks to Mr. F. Back, General Manager of the Tasmanian Railways, and to the Managers of the Union S.S. Co, and Messrs. Huddart, Parker, & Co. for their willingness at all times to carry goods for the Museum free of charge.

10. The attendance to the institution continues to increase yearly, and now shows a week-day average of 150, and about 450 on Sundays.

11. Annexed to this Report are the following Appendices:—

- I. Balance Sheet of the Museum and Gardens.
- II. Report of the Superintendent of the Gardens.

J. W. AGNEW, *Chairman.*

ALEX. MORTON, *Curator and Secretary,*
Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens,
September 19th, 1899.

REPORT on the progress and condition of the Botanical Gardens, Hobart, for the year 1898.

THE slip of ground parallel to the back wall, which was trenched last year and sown with grass, on which beds were cut out for planting, has been maintained in an attractive condition throughout the season. The system now carried out with reference to the planting of these beds necessitates the renewal, some two or three times during the year, of the plants, thus giving an opportunity to vary on each occasion the effect produced, and making the locality more interesting to the public, on account of the repeated changes.

The same remarks apply to the carpet bedding on the lawn near the cottage. These beds have been very effective during the season, but they are only maintained by the expenditure of considerable time in propagation, renewals, and general upkeep. The labour at the Gardens is, generally speaking, not sufficiently professional to carry out much of this class of gardening; and, again, the water supply is greatly deficient at the time when most is required.

The general planting during the season has mostly been confined to renewals of the numerous plants killed during the drought of last year and deciduous trees at the end of the Garden.

It has become necessary to remove most of the fruit-trees on the old orchard, especially all the pip-fruits, which were worn out, and, being for the most part old trees, it was found impossible to keep them free from codlin moth, especially as a fresh lot of grubs were brought to the Gardens year by year by picnic parties and others, who thoughtlessly scattered their infected fruit about without killing the grubs, thus forming fresh centres of infection.

Strenuous efforts were made this and previous seasons to stamp out the moth, both by picking and bandaging, but this year the grub is as bad as ever it was, and it would not have been safe to send any apples or pears out of the Gardens. What little fruit has been obtained from the orchard for some years past has certainly not half paid for the labour expended in endeavouring to keep under the codlin moth and other insect pests.

The labour and ground thus economised will be available for nursery work, which has been much cramped up to the present.

That portion of the fruit square which has been gradually brought into the Gardens during the last few years was partly sown with grass, but it was found that the ground was too foul with various weeds to hope for a good lawn, and it was necessary to dig it and keep it frequently hoed, for the purpose of getting a clean surface on which to sow the seed; but it will be some little time before it will be safe to sow with grass. When once a good sward has been got at this part it will be available for cutting out numerous beds for planting, which will embellish this part of the Garden, and utilise many of the plants now in the nursery.

The Garden routine work has been well maintained during the year, and what little labour could be economised has been employed principally in getting gravel for the walks. A good deal has been quarried, and a portion of it spread, but it is slow work trying to carry out a heavy undertaking of this kind with the Garden gang. The whole of the Garden needs gravelling, which would require about 800 loads, apart from the labour of spreading. To carry out this work satisfactorily it would be necessary to make special provision, as it is more than the ordinary Garden staff can accomplish.

The Garden gates, green-houses, fences, seats, &c., all require painting (and in some cases repairing), and several of the outhouses roofing. The falling-off in the receipts at the Gardens during the past few years gives but scant funds for carrying out this work satisfactorily, without exceeding the sum available.

Ever since the introduction of the codlin moth the receipts from fruit have been steadily decreasing, until it has of late become almost *nil*. The receipts from the sale of plants have rapidly decreased, and are now inconsiderable, while in cut-flowers, since the sale of these in town, at the Diocesan Depot, has been carried on, very little has been received at the Gardens from this source.

These decreases would be of little moment if the endowment was sufficient for all purposes, but as it is not enough to carry on the establishment with desired efficiency, any diminution, from whatever source, must necessarily be embarrassing, and make it difficult to execute the necessary repairs and improvements.

The work in the nursery has been carried on as usual; an effort has been made to reduce the stock by less propagation of plants not actually required, and no doubt a considerable reduction can be made in the near future. At the same time it is absolutely necessary to maintain the department, if only on account of the numerous plants required for bedding out and for effecting exchange, from which source the principal introductions to the Gardens are obtained.

The death of Mr. Henry Burton, who was propagator in this department, afforded an opportunity of making a reduction in the item of salaries of about £4 a month, a lad (Allen Barker) having been put on as improver.

The prison labour supplied by the Government has, as usual, been of great service in all the rougher operations, especially in digging and trenching, and thanks are due for their supply.

The numerical return of visitors was approximately 77,470.

F. ABBOTT.

Plants, Seeds, &c., received at the Botanical Gardens during 1898, in Exchange.

- From the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Ireland—
Collection Seeds of Herbaceous Plants.
From the Botanic Gardens, Natal, S. Africa—
Collection of Bulbs and Seeds.
From the Botanic Gardens, Jamaica—Seeds, Ficus.
From the Botanical Gardens, Calcutta—Various
Seeds.
From the Botanical Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W.—
Indigenous Seeds.
From the Madras Agri-Horticultural Society—
Collection Seeds.
From the Colonial Botanist, Queensland—Canna
Plants.
From Mr. Wm. Bull, Seedsman, &c., London—
Collection Lilies and various Seeds.
From Messrs. Veitch and Sons, Nurserymen,
London—Collection of Seeds.
From Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieu, & Co., Paris—
Collection of Seeds.
From Messrs. Damman and Co., Seedsmen—
Collection of Seeds.
- From Messrs. G. Brunning and Sons, Melbourne—
Case Roses and other Plants.
From Mr. S. Purchase, Nurseryman, Parramatta,
N.S.W.—Bundle Roses.
From Mr. F. Walker, Nurseryman, Launceston—
Case of various Plants.
From Messrs. Bridgeford, Nurserymen, Launces-
ton—Various Plants.
From Messrs. Searl and Sons, Sydney—Palm Seeds
and various Plants.
From Messrs. Milner and Co., Sydney—Collection
Roses.
From Mr. C. French, Seedsman, &c., Melbourne—
Various Seeds.
From E. L. Hall, Esq., Zeehan—Indigenous Seeds.
From Dr. G. V. Perez, Teneriffe—Seeds Cytisus
Proliferous.
From Mr. R. J. Farquhar, Boston, America—
Seeds Water Lilies.

Plants and Seeds sent from the Botanical Gardens, Hobart, in Exchange.

- To the Botanic Gardens, Port Elizabeth, S. Africa—
Collection of Seeds.
To the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N.S.W.—Seeds,
Coniferous Plants.
To the Govt. Botanist, Queensland—Plants of
Cladonia.
To Mr. Wm. Bull, Nurseryman, per *Ethel*—8
large Tree Ferns.
To Captain Ross, Ship *Ethel*—36 Plants.
To Messrs. G. Brunning and Sons, Melbourne—
Collection Seeds.
To Mr. S. Purchase, Sydney—Collection Seeds.
- To Messrs. Searl and Sons, Sydney—Collection
Seeds.
To Mr. C. French, Seedsman, Melbourne—Col-
lection Seeds.
To Messrs. Veitch and Sons, Seedsmen, &c., Lon-
don—Seeds Conifers.
To Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieu, and Co., France—
Seeds of Eucalypti, &c.
To E. L. Hall, Esq., Zeehan—Various Plants.
To F. Walker, Nurseryman, Launceston—Collection
Seeds and Plants.

Plants supplied from the Botanical Gardens during 1898 for Public Places.

- To St. David's, Hobart—24 Plants for sale.
To H. S. Spicer, Circular Head—12 large Arau-
caria Excelsa.
To St. Leonards State School—12 Plants
To the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk—24
Plants and Cuttings.
To the Hon. the Chief Secretary (for Penguin)—6
large Pinus Insignis.
To the Parattah Jubilee Hall—30 Plants.
To the Glenorchy Municipal Council—12 Plants.
To the Invalid Depôt—50 assorted Plants.
To the Bellerive Police Station—15 Plants.
To the Hospital, Zeehan—50 assorted Plants.
To the Hon. Wm. Moore—120 Plants.
- To Wm. Burbury, Esq. (for Oatlands Streets)—20
Plants.
To the Police Station, Hobart—38 Plants.
To Lady Gormanston (for Russell Falls)—70 Plants.
To the Hon. the Minister of Lands—9 Plants.
To the State School, Hutton Park—55 Plants.
To the Fern Tree Bower—31 Plants and Cuttings.
To the Blind Asylum, Hobart—270 Pittosporums.
To A. Morton, Esq. (for Zeehan)—46 Plants.
To the Franklin Square—24 Plants.
To the Barrack Square—12 Plants.
To the Hobart Gaol—Various Plants.
To the Queen's Domain—Various Plants.
To J. Taylor, Launceston—Indigenous Seeds.

F. ABBOTT, *Superintendent Botanical Gardens.**STATEMENT of the Funds of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens for the Year 1898.*

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Museum—							Museum—						
Grant-in-Aid	500	0	0				Salaries and Wages	383	0	0			
Salary, Secretary Bo- tanical Gardens	25	0	0				Sundries	149	16	7			532 16 7
				525	0	0	Botanical Gardens—						
Botanical Gardens—							Salaries and Wages	719	7	7			
Grant-in-Aid	800	0	0				Sundries	108	7	9			
Sales of Plants, &c.	46	6	10				Salary, Secretary: <i>vide</i> Museum	25	0	0			852 15 4
Balance.....				846	6	10							
				14	5	1							
				<u>£1385</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>							<u>£1385</u>
													<u>11</u>

I HAVE this day examined the books and vouchers in connection with the above receipts and expenditure sheet of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens, and certify that the same are correct.

H. W. W. ECHLIN.

Hobart, 15th September, 1899.

JOHN VAIL,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.