

(No. 28.)



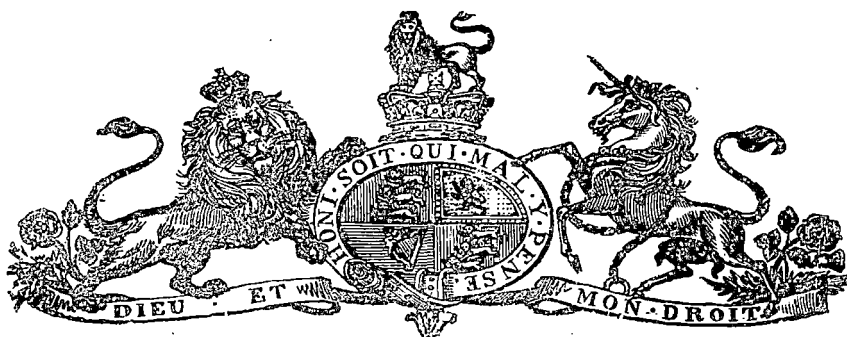
1890.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY:

REPORT FOR 1889.

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



TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

REPORT for the Year 1889-90.

Trustees.

HON. J. W. AGNEW, M.E.C. (*Chairman*).
HON. T. C. SMART, F.R.C.S.
C. M. MAXWELL, Esq., J.P.
J. B. WALKER, Esq.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (ALDERMAN CRISP).
ALDERMAN HIDDLESTONE.
ALDERMAN DILLON.

Chief Librarian and Secretary—MR. ALFRED J. TAYLOR.

1st April, 1890.

SIR,

THE Trustees of the Tasmanian Public Library, in compliance with Clause 7 of the Act to provide for the incorporation and government of the Institution (34 Vict. No. 27), beg to submit the following Report of its working during the Year 1889-90.

During the year, 34,657 visits to the institution have been recorded, indicating a larger attendance than for any previous year.*

288 volumes have been added by purchase and presentation.

The Trustees have to acknowledge with thanks presentations received from kindred Institutions in England, New Zealand, and Victoria, and from the Governments of the various Colonies.

The City Council has voted a sum of £464 7s. for Library purposes for the year 1890, the estimated expenditure being as follows :—

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Salaries—Librarian	178	7	0			
Assistant	75	0	0			
Hallkeeper, cleansing Library	20	0	0			
				273	7	0
Lighting .....	...			35	0	0
Fuel .....	...			9	10	0
Newspapers, Periodicals, and purchase of Books ...	...			100	0	0
Binding .....	...			20	0	0
Stationery .....	...			4	0	0
Postage .....	...			1	0	0
Printing .....	...			5	0	0
Freight .....	...			5	0	0
Sundries .....	...			7	0	0
Insurance .....	...			4	10	0
TOTAL .....	...			£464	7	0

To be provided for by contribution from Trustees (£75) and appropriation of Municipal Funds.

* The numbers are approximate.

The Trustees have been fortunate enough to secure the valuable set of works, pamphlets, and newspapers relating to Tasmania and the other Colonies collected by the late Justin M'Carty Browne. Opportunities of securing such collections are now very rare, and it would have been a great loss if the valuable collection referred to had been lost to the Colony. The Treasurer will be asked to place upon the Estimates a sufficient sum (£150) to reimburse the Trustees the amount expended in purchasing the collection.

The Trustees realise that the time has now arrived when additional accommodation will have to be provided if the present national character of the Institution is to be properly maintained, and the Treasurer will be asked to make provision on the Estimates for a sufficient vote to enable the Trustees to secure an extension of buildings for Library purposes.

When the Tasmanian Public Library was established in the year 1870, the accommodation then provided was necessarily very limited, no provision whatever being made for a classification upon modern principles of the books in the Institution. The shelves were made fixtures and placed flat against the walls—reaching up to the ceilings—thus rendering the proper classification of works in the Library an utter impossibility, and interfering very considerably with the usefulness of the Institution. With additional floor space the Librarian would be in a position to classify the works in separate cases or compartments, the higher shelves of which could be reached without inconvenience or danger.

Besides the increased accommodation referred to above, additional space will have to be provided for the convenience of the large number of visitors who frequent the Reading Room, where there is no room at present to expose back files of newspapers that are constantly being required for reference.

Additional rooms are also required in which works of great value may be placed for safe keeping; in which maps, charts, and bound volumes of newspapers may be exhibited; for store-room and lavatory purposes; and for the convenience of the Librarian and his Assistant.

When it is remembered that the Institution—which is mainly supported by the citizens of Hobart—is open to the public at large, it is not unreasonable to expect that the Legislature will readily vote the assistance that will be asked to enable the Trustees to make it worthy of its national character.

The buildings now being used for Library purposes were erected at the cost of the citizens of Hobart, and since the year 1873 the City Council has voted annual sums in support of the Institution, amounting in all to a sum of £6844—apart from the cost of decorating and furnishing the walls, and providing the interest on the cost of building the rooms (amounting to an additional sum of about £4000.)

Under the circumstances, the Trustees confidently look to the Government and to Parliament to give a favourable consideration to the proposals that will be placed before them.*

Progress is being made in the preparation of a new catalogue. After MSS., representing some 200 pages of printed matter, had been prepared upon the plan at first agreed upon, it was decided that a more simple form of catalogue should be commenced, upon what is known as the "dictionary" principle of cataloguing books, as being best suited to the present requirements of the Institution, and less costly to publish. Hence the delay in the publication of the catalogue referred to in previous Reports. Already some two thousand five hundred of the works in the Library have been re-catalogued. As each work has to be entered under two or more heads, and as the whole of the work has to be done during the spare hours at the disposal of the Librarian, the work is necessarily slow, and will take some time to complete.

The books, furniture, and fittings belonging to the Public Library are insured in the Cornwall Insurance Company for £2000. The collection purchased from the Trustees of the late Justin M'Carty Browne have been separately insured for £150.

* Since the above Report was adopted, the City Council has unanimously agreed to make still further provision for Library purposes, if the necessary assistance can be obtained from the Legislature during the coming Session of Parliament.

In addition to the valuable collection of works of reference and general literature on the shelves, the following Reviews and Magazines are to be found upon the Reading Room tables:—

REVIEWS.

Quarterly.
Edinburgh.
Westminster.
Contemporary.
Nineteenth Century.
London Quarterly.
Revue des Deux Mondes.
New Review.

Dublin Review.
British Quarterly.
Fortnightly.
*Englishwoman's Review.
Theological Review.
Universal Review.
Congregational Review.

MAGAZINES.

Popular Science Monthly.
Knowledge.
Macmillan's.
Blackwood's.
Cornhill.
Temple Bar.
Chambers's Journal.
Athenæum.
Art Journal.
Century.
All the Year Round.
Longman's.
Murray's Magazine.
Notes and Queries.
Harper's Magazine.

English Illustrated Magazine.
Iron.
Builder.
Scientific American and Supplement.
American Agriculturist.
Health.
Australian Journal.
*Catholic Standard.
*Church News.
*Presbyterian Magazine.
*Alliance News.
English Mechanic.
Centennial Magazine.
Nature.

NEWSPAPERS.

Times.
Weekly Scotsman.
Public Opinion.
Spectator.
Saturday Review.
Pall Mall Budget.
St. James's Budget.
The World.
Home News.
Land and Water.
Illustrated London News.
Graphic.
Punch.
Sydney Morning Herald.
Sydney Mail.
Town and Country Journal.
*South Australian Advertiser.
Queenslander.
*Dundaberg and Mount Perry Mail.
*Otago Daily Times.
Illustrated Sydney News.

*Bendigo Independent.
Melbourne Argus.
——— Age.
Australasian.
Weekly Times.
*Auckland Weekly News.
Sketcher.
*Lyttelton Times.
Hobart Mercury.
Tasmanian Mail.
Tasmanian News.
*People's Friend.
*Launceston Examiner.
*Launceston Telegraph.
*Hobart Gazette.
*N.S.W. Gazette.
*Australian Independent.
*Day Star.
*Imperial Federation.
*The Colonist.
*N.W. Post.

* Presented.

C. M. MAXWELL, *Chairman.*

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

THE TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY in Account with the Trustees, 1889-90.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
Amount paid to City Council in aid of Librarian's salary.....	75	0	0	Balance from 1888-9.....	162	3	0
Additional contributions in aid of Salaries ..	96	13	4	Government Grant-in-aid	300	0	0
Allowance to Secretary	16	0	0	Interest.....	82	11	0
Interest on Overdraft	1	12	4	Proceeds Waste Paper Sale	4	15	10
J. Walch & Sons } Books, Magazines,	98	15	3				
T. L. Hood } Newspapers, &c.	10	13	2				
Propsting & Cockhead }	23	13	3				
S. Smith, Furniture and Repairs.....	19	1	6				
Angus & Robertson, Books.....	10	17	0				
Trustees late Justin M'C. Browne, Books...	150	0	0				
Marsh & Co.....	2	4	6				
Picturesque Atlas Co	3	0	0				
Miscellaneous Petty Accounts	12	3	2				
Cheque Book.....	0	2	1				
Balance in Savings' Bank... £152 6 5							
In hands of Secretary..... 0 18 4							
	£153	4	9				
Less Overdraft Commercial Bank	123	10	6				
			29 14 3				
	£549	9	10		£549	9	10

MEMORANDUM.—The invested funds amount to One thousand five hundred Pounds placed in the Commercial Bank as a fixed deposit for one year, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. Out of the interest derived a sum of £75 is paid over to the Municipal Council in aid of the Librarian's salary.

ALFRED J. TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

Examined and certified to be correct,

W. LOVETT, *Auditor-General.*
5th May, 1890.

TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

EXPENDITURE of the Hobart Corporation for the year 1889.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	253	7	0
Cleansing Library	20	0	0
Gas	35	0	0
Fuel	6	1	0
Insurance	4	10	0
Books, Magazines, Papers, &c.	111	12	3
Miscellaneous	9	8	0
Binding.....	24	8	9
	£464	7	0*

* This amount includes the sum of £75 paid to the Corporation by the Trustees in aid of the Librarian's salary.

W. T. BIRCH, *City Accountant.*