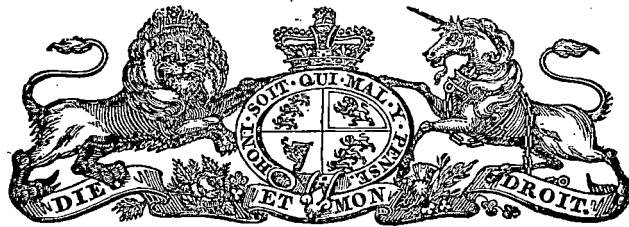


(No. 16.)



1872.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA.

REPORT FOR 1871.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
June 25, 1872.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1871.

THE Session of 1871 was opened on the 14th March, when a paper by M. Allport, F.L.S., F.Z.S., entitled "Observations on the Progress of the Salmon Experiment," was read. The following papers were brought forward at the various meetings during the year:—"Some Remarks on the Geology of Bruny Island," by the Rev. H. D. Atkinson; "On the Star η Argus and its Nebula," by F. Abbott, F.R.A.S., F.R.M.S.; "On the Cultivation of the Sugar Beet," by F. Abbott, jun., Superintendent of Botanic Gardens; "On Sheep Breeding," by S. Smith Travers; "On a Mode of poisoning Rabbits on Sheep Runs, &c.," by J. Bisdee; "On the Geological Structure of Flinders Island," by C. Gould, F.G.S.; "On the Islands of Bass' Straits," by the same author; "On a New Genus of Freshwater Mollusks discovered in Tasmania," by W. Legrand; "Notes as to recent results arrived at by the Royal Astronomical Society relative to the Fluctuations of the Star η Argus and its Nebula," by F. Abbott, F.R.A.S.; "On a Process by which Vitality in Eggs (fowls') may be preserved for an indefinite Period," by S. Smith Travers.

In addition to the above papers the following subjects have been introduced and discussed during the session:—"Sericulture" (with correspondence); "The Cultivation of the Cork Oak in Tasmania;" "Stone Alum, from Brook's Creek, Tasmania;" "The Growth and Preparation of Cork in Europe and Africa;" "The Management of the Mulberry Tree in China and Japan for Silk Culture;" "The Extraction of Sugar from Beet-root;" "The Destruction of Rabbits in their Burrows," &c.

Our monthly meteorological observations have been duly recorded, and the usual interchanges made with the Observatories of all the neighbouring colonies. The thanks of the Society are again due to all those who have so kindly assisted us in making these returns, and to whom special allusion was made in our last report. "Notes on the Meteorology and Mortality of the Hobart Town Registration District," by E. S. Hall, Esq., have been regularly received and printed.

Our usual friendly intercourse with kindred Societies in various parts of the world has been kept up by exchanges of publications. In this respect, however, America has been by far the most liberal contributor to our library, valuable publications having been received not only from the Government, but also from the Smithsonian Institution and various scientific bodies.

COUNCIL.

No vacancy has occurred during the year. The required list according to Rule XXXII., as amended at the general meeting of 1868, has been exhibited in the Library for the last fortnight.

FINANCE.

As was anticipated in last year's Report our debt has been greatly reduced during the year, and will, it is confidently expected, be entirely cleared off before the close of 1872.

The total income from all sources was as follows:—Government Grant to Museum £200; to the Gardens £400; subscriptions £142; sale of Plants, &c., £67 5s. 8d. This, with £30 12s. in the hands of the Superintendent of the Gardens for payment of wages, and £20 expected to be realised from arrears of subscriptions, will give a total of £859 17s. 8d. The expenditure and liabilities, as per balance sheet, amount to £885 12s. 2d., leaving a balance to debit of £25 14s. 6d.

The current expenditure for the year has again been kept well within the income, as the following figures will show:—

	£	s.	d.
Total receipts from all sources	809	5	8
Total expenditure	781	3	11
Balance for meeting liabilities	£28	1	9

GARDENS.

During the past year a substantial boundary fence has been erected, and about three acres of ground added to the area of the Gardens. The esplanade and sea-wall, the work on which necessarily remained in abeyance during the erection of the fence, are in such a forward state that the labour of a few weeks only is required for their completion. When finished, this portion of the Garden promises to become, as has always been anticipated, exceedingly attractive.

With a view of improving the main entrance to the Gardens, various alterations have been made on the site occupied by the propagating yards, &c. It is expected that this work will be completed before the close of the present year, and it will greatly conduce to the convenience of visitors.

About two hundred new plants, many of rare merit, were introduced during 1871. From the Royal Gardens, Kew, we received an important consignment of seeds, consisting of 88 Asiatic, 177 American, and 234 European species. Many of these have already germinated, but others requiring previous preparation will not be ready for sowing till the coming autumn.

A considerable quantity of seed from the Silesian Beet was saved from plants grown in the Gardens. Practical information as to the value of the root for feeding purposes having been made public through the meetings of the Society, a great demand for the seed sprang up as soon as it was known that we had a supply on hand for gratuitous distribution. Upwards of a hundred applicants from various parts of the colony have received supplies, and we may therefore hope that the cultivation of this valuable plant will now be more generally established in public favour than it has ever yet been.

The number of visitors to the Gardens during the year was estimated at 26,273, or an increase of 4829 on the previous year.

MUSEUM.

Our evening meetings have been made additionally attractive by some valuable donations to the Museum. We make special mention of the presentation of a mounted collection of Mammals, Birds, &c., from Europe, South Australia, and New Zealand, by Mr. H. Gomolka. Also of a fine collection of Minerals from the islands in Bass' Straits by C. Gould, Esq., F.G.S.

From the South Australian Institute Museum, Adelaide, we have received a collection of bird skins, procured during the exploration of the northern territory of that colony.

Specimens of the arms and war material available for use in the colony have been furnished by the Government for exhibition. These have been placed on a suitable stand in the lower room, and have attracted much attention from visitors.

The usual and varied work of the Museum has been steadily carried on. This work in future will be considerably facilitated by the acquisition of a large building now on the premises of the Museum. Possession has also been taken, by permission of the Government, of the cottage formerly the office of the Public Works Department. This affords a very suitable residence for the Curator, and its proximity to the Museum is in many respects convenient.

The number of visitors during the year was 10,970, being an increase of 2072 on that of the previous year.



STATEMENT of the Funds of the ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA for the Year 1871.

Receipts.				Expenditure.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Annual Subscriptions from 81 Members	121	10	0	Jan. 17.—Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank, as per statement for 1870.....	—		61 12 10
Arrears of ditto.....	10	10	0	Interest on overdrawn account, 1871, as per Bank Book.....	—		3 10 3
Life Members' composition..	10	0	0	<i>Royal Society.</i>			
Total Royal Society..	—	—	142 0 0	Meteorological Instruments..	4	11	6
<i>Museum.</i>				Printing and Advertising....	46	4	11
Grant in aid from Treasury	200	0	0	Postage, Parcels, &c.....	3	14	11
Total Museum.....	—	—	200 0 0	Collector's Commission on Subscriptions received, £132, at 5 per cent.....	6	12	0
<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>				Messenger for delivering Papers and Proceedings.....	1	5	0
Proceeds of Sale of Plants, Seeds, &c.....	67	5	8	Furniture.....	1	11	6
Grant in aid from Treasury	400	0	0	Library, Books, & Stationery	22	18	9
Total Botanic Gardens	—	—	467 5 8	Total Royal Society..	—	—	86 18 7
				<i>Museum.</i>			
				Salary of Curator.....	125	0	0
				Wages of Attendant.....	50	3	4
				Premium of Insurance.....	6	7	6
				Purchase and preparation of Specimens.....	8	0	0
				Water Rate.....	3	2	8
				Fuel and Light.....	5	1	11
				Sundries and Petty Cash....	2	0	0
				Camphor, Spirits of Wine, &c.	8	13	6
				Ironmongery.....	3	5	3
				Freight and Carriage of Specimens.....	1	4	0
				Fittings, Repairs, &c.....	11	4	4
				Sweeping Chimneys.....	0	13	6
				Total Museum.....	—	—	224 16 0
				<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>			
				Salary of Superintendent....	150	0	0
				Wages of Foreman, Labourers, &c.....	263	4	0
				Tools and repair of ditto....	12	1	8
				Freight & Carriage of Plants	4	9	8
				Stationery and Stamps.....	1	15	11
				Forage.....	3	3	0
				Ironmongery.....	9	13	11
				Repairs, &c.....	2	10	0
				Seeds.....	3	10	6
				Sundries.....	19	0	8
				Total Botanic Gardens	—	—	469 9 4
							£846 7 0
1872.—January 18.—Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank.....							
	..		37 1 4				
			£846 7 0				
NOTE.				Audited and found correct,			
<i>Dr.</i>				FRANCIS BUTLER, } Auditors.			
To overdrawn balance at Bank	37	1	4	HENRY COOK, }			
Orger and Meryon, London, balance due.....	19	5	2	6th February, 1872.			
Wheatley & Co., to 31st December (not received) estimated at.....	20	0	0				
Total liability.....	—	—	76 6 6				
<i>Cr.</i>							
By Cash in hands of Mr. Abbott, Superintendent of Gardens.....	30	12	0				
Subscriptions due.....	20	0	0				
Total assets.....	—	—	50 12 0				
Balance to debit.....	..		£25 14 6				