

(No. 14.)



1867.

T A S M A N I A.

BRICKFIELDS PAUPER ESTABLISHMENT.

REPORT FOR 1866.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 20 August, 1867.



Brickfields Pauper Establishment, 4th February, 1867.

SIR,

WE have the honor to lay before the Government the Annual Report of this Institution for the year ending 31st December, 1866.

The average daily number of Invalids maintained here during that period has been 223 ; the aggregate expense of maintaining them £4064 9s. 2d.,—which is at the rate of £18 4s. 6d. for each inmate, or a fraction less than one shilling per day. This includes every expense of the Establishment, and of keeping the Buildings in repair. Although this is a low estimate, we had hoped it might have been less ; but the very high price of all provisions during the last year augmented our expenditure. Reduction cannot be carried further ; but it is probable, owing to the contract price of provisions being so low at the commencement of 1867, that there will be a considerable reduction in the expenditure for the ensuing year.

We received from the Government a recommendation of the Medical Officer attending this Establishment that the scale of rations should be reduced one-fourth pound of meat, but the Board were unanimous in their opinion against any such reduction taking place. No reference whatever was made to the Board, by whose means alone a reduction has been effected of £2500 per annum in the expense of this Establishment. Their obtaining a sufficient and good diet is the most efficient way of preserving discipline amongst the inmates ; and whenever the labour of Invalids in working on the grounds can be made available it is used.

The grounds, although of a poor character, are all being now rapidly brought into cultivation, and vegetables of an excellent character obtained. 30,215 pounds of good vegetables were produced in 1866, value £90. These are regularly used in the Depôt, and, of course, save the necessity of taking that amount by contract.

It may be as well to observe that at present the Invalids are not allowed any milk.

The conduct of the Invalids has been generally good, and very little trouble experienced.

The Board have to thank His Excellency the Governor, also several ladies and gentlemen, for the kind interest they have taken in the Institution during the past year.

The Superintendent has been unremitting in the discharge of his duties, and continues to possess the undiminished confidence of the Board.

The strength of the Establishment on the 1st January, 1866, was 224 ; received during the year, 118 : total, 342. Discharged, 70 ; died, 48 : total, 118. Remaining 1st January, 1867, 224. The average age of those who died, 71½ years,—the oldest being 92, and the youngest 40. The average age of those remaining, 66 years,—the oldest being 90, and the youngest 20.

The utmost number that can be accommodated is 224.

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servants,

T. MACDOWELL.
STEPN. SHEEHY.
HENRY COOK.
A. KENNERLEY.
GEO. SALIER.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.