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1896.

SESSION II.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY:

REPORT FOR 1895.

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

Cost of printing—£1 12s.



## LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

### REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1895.

THE Board of Management have the pleasure of submitting to subscribers and the public generally the Annual Report of the operations of the Society for the year 1895. The past year has been a very eventful one, as it initiated the first attempt in Tasmania of the local management of a Government charity, and which so far has proved a decided success in every way. At the commencement of the year the Government handed over the management and control of what was then known as the Invalid Depôt to the Board of Management of this Society, allowing the sum of £2000 per annum to work with. After a twelve months' trial it has been found that the amount granted is sufficient to cover the cost of maintaining the Institution, the Board having had to overdraw at the Bank the small sum of £4. During the year many improvements have been effected, the grounds have been fenced and many needful repairs carried out, thereby enhancing the comfort of the inmates; and, with the permission of the Government, the old name has passed away, the Institution being now officially known as the Launceston Benevolent Asylum.

The Board have also to report that the sum of £380 allowed by Government for compassionate allowance for the districts of Launceston and Selby has been dispensed, and found adequate.

As an adjunct to, and in order to assist the work of the Benevolent Society, a public meeting of Ladies was called at the commencement of last winter for the purpose of forming a Blanket Loan Society, to provide warm covering for those unable to obtain same in the usual way. A scheme was adopted, a Committee of Ladies formed, subscriptions solicited, and as a result most excellent work has been done. Many families have enjoyed the comfort of a warm bed during the winter, and in several cases the blankets are being purchased from the Loan Society by small weekly instalments. The Board of Management is greatly indebted to the Honorary Treasurer (Mrs. Wm. Hunt), and the Honorary Secretary (Miss A. A. Hales), and the ladies of the Blanket Loan Society Committee, for valuable services rendered.

Several cases of acute distress amongst those in a better station in life have been sought out and assisted.

During the year the Executive Committee held 52 meetings, with an average attendance of 8 out of 11 members.

Captain James Tulloch, who had occupied a seat on the Board for the past 15 years, and had rendered very efficient service, found it necessary to resign; his place being filled by Mr. John Joyce.

The number of casual and temporary cases relieved during the twelve months was 2188, of which number 1983 were men, 124 women, and 81 children, several persons being assisted whilst attending as out-patients at the Hospital.

The quantity of food distributed during the year was, 36,048 lbs. of meat, 72,347 lbs. of bread, 12,402 lbs. of sugar, and 1502 lbs. of tea; in addition to a quantity of oatmeal, groats, split peas, potatoes, &c.

The Society was also called upon to assist in 22 cases of confinements, of which 5 were those of married women, and 17 single girls, the larger number of the latter coming from country districts. Eight families were assisted with passages to their homes or friends.

On the 31st December last there were on the Permanent Roll of the Society 45 men, 118 women, and 209 children, but during the whole year 903 persons have been assisted for various periods. These numbers, added to the casual or temporary cases, make a grand total of 3091 persons helped during 1895.

The Relief Roll now comprises married couples, single men and women, widows, and women whose husbands have deserted them or are in gaol. The deaths amongst recipients have been 7 for the year. One widow has been on the roll for 24 years; one for 16 years; one for 15 years, and others for lesser periods.

The amount expended in fuel was £32 11s. 10d. in addition to ten tons of coal donated by the Cornwall Coal Company, per Henry Edgell, Esq.

Amongst the contributions were a truck of firewood from L. Bardenhagen, Esq., of Lilydale; two and a half tons of potatoes from Joseph Grigg, Esq., of Deloraine, and a quantity of pork, from J.W. of Bishopsbourne. A sum of £20 6s. 2d. was received as proceeds of the Masonic Choral Service held in the Albert Hall by the Choir of All Saints, St. Kilda; £14 7s. 6d. from the Northern Tasmanian Football Association; £14 16s. 6d. proceeds of an entertainment given by the White-eyed Minstrels of H.M.S. *Goldfinch*; Messrs. J. and T. Gunn, £10; proceeds of late Art Distribution, £139 17s. 0d.; bequest of the late E. Ackerman, £44 6s. 7d. (additional); part of bequest of the late Alex. Aird, £30; Mr. Isaacs, of Ringarooma, a monthly contribution of £1; Capt. Samuel Tulloch, £10, Mrs. George Fisher, £20, Richard Green, Esq., £10, Mrs. Henry Reed, £10, N. T. Caledonian Society, £10, Early Closing Association Concert, £20, Alderman Ferrall, £10, Alderman M'Cracken, £11 5s. 9d., Ladies' College, £10.

The Board were enabled, with the assistance of special donations, to dispense the usual extras at Christmas and New Year, which consisted of 497 lbs. flour, 1285 lbs. meat, 266 lbs. sugar, 205 lbs. currants, 205 lbs. raisins, 15 lbs. spice, 320 lbs. suet, and various other items; friends at Low Head kindly assisting with a donation of vegetables.

The total receipts for the year were £1275 19s. 0d., including the sum of £500 received from the Government and amounts from various sources, the expenditure being £1267 11s. 5d. The subscriptions amounted to £362 11s. 9d.

The thanks of the Board are especially due to those gentlemen of the medical profession who in their generosity prescribed gratuitously; and to those chemists who dispensed prescriptions free or at reduced rates; to the police throughout the Colony for information and assistance cheerfully and courteously given, and through whose means the Society has on several occasions been saved from imposition; to the Press for accurate reports of the weekly meetings; and to the general public for their liberal support.

The Board also acknowledge with thanks the receipt of parcels of clothing, boots, blankets, flour, oatmeal, &c., vegetables, tobacco, and tea, all of which have been highly appreciated by the recipients.

As a large number of able-bodied men, as well as women and children, are now engaged in imposing on the charitably inclined with spurious tales of want and distress, it is advisable to refer them to the Secretary, 239, Charles-street, who is authorised to immediately relieve all needy casual cases, as money given to such is generally misapplied. No case is ever refused the required help if the Board is satisfied as to its *bonâ fides*, and the strictest enquiry is made into the merits of each individual application.

JOHN STEPHENSON, *Chairman L.B.S.*



## THE LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

Dr.

*In Account with the Treasurer.*

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1895.		1895.	
Dec. 31.—To		Jan 1.—By	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Bread .....	315 17 4	Cash in Bank .....	9 17 1
" Meat .....	357 13 11	" Contributions .....	362 11 9
" Groceries .....	206 1 4	" N. T. Caledonian Society .....	10 0 0
" Midwifery and Nursing .....	61 13 6	" Masonic Festival .....	20 6 2
" Fuel (wood and coal) .....	32 11 10	" Minstrels H. M. <i>Goldfinch</i> .....	14 16 6
" Milk .....	3 10 0	" Bequest late E. Ackerman .....	44 6 7
" Petty (cartage, labour, &c.) .....	10 16 6	" Bequest late A. Aird .....	30 0 0
" Advertising, Printing, and Stationery .....	32 11 3	" Charitable Concert .....	1 7 0
" Lodgings .....	46 19 10	" Seventh Dividend, V.D.L. Bank .....	18 4 3
" Rent, Casual Ward .....	20 0 0	" Steam Riding Gallery .....	2 17 6
" Maintenance, Casuals .....	7 14 1	" Early Closing Concert .....	1 15 0
" Assistance to persons leaving city .....	9 18 4	" Income Tax Committee .....	1 5 0
" Secretary's Salary .....	137 0 0	" N. T. Football Match .....	14 7 6
" Commission, Collector .....	24 15 6	" Early Closing Concert .....	20 0 0
" Bank Interest .....	0 8 0	" Guards' Band .....	2 0 9
" Cash in hand .....	3 8 0	" Ladies' College .....	10 0 0
" Balance in Bank .....	14 16 8	" Charities Art Union .....	139 17 0
		" Refund by Recipients .....	3 12 0
		" Discounts .....	1 2 0
		" Interest Permanent Building Society .....	27 10 0
		" Interest Equitable Building Society .....	27 10 0
		" Interest National Bank .....	22 10 0
		" Parliamentary Aid (conditional) .....	250 0 0
		" " (unconditional) .....	250 0 0
	<u>£1285 16 1</u>		<u>£1285 16 1</u>

JOHN STEPHENSON, *Chairman L.B.S.*  
 JAS. STEER, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct.

G. BAKER, *Auditor.*

1st January, 1896.

## THE LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

*Statement of Assets, 1st January, 1896.*

	£	s.	d.
Deposit Permanent Building Society .....	500	0	0
" Equitable Building Society .....	500	0	0
" National Bank of Tasmania .....	500	0	0
To Credit at Bank of V. D. Land .....	182	2	7
To Credit at National Bank, and in hand .....	18	4	8
	<u>£1700</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>

JOHN STEPHENSON, *Chairman L.B.S.*  
 JAMES STEER, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct.

G. BAKER, *Auditor.*

1st January, 1896.