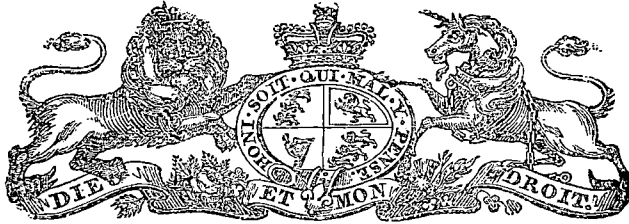


(No. 16.)



1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY :

REPORT FOR 1890.

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



THIRTY-FIRST Annual Report of the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, for Year ending 31st December, 1890.

IN presenting an account of the issues from the Office, with the balance-sheet of receipts and expenditure for the year 1890, some remarks on the general working of the Society may not be out of place. Clearly, the first care of a benevolent institution is to see that the destitute are supplied with the necessaries of life. Were this, however, the only care, printed forms filled up from time to time and forwarded to subscribers would, perhaps, meet every requirement in the way of general information.

The first care is not, however, the last or even the greatest care. After meeting the pressure of urgent need, the question arises, if the applicant is able to work, is it possible to obtain employment for him? If able to work, but unwilling, can any separation be made between the man and his surroundings, between the guilty and the guiltless? It is evident, from this point of view, that the supply of food is a comparatively routine matter, but that the redemption of persons from poverty, placing them in positions of self-help and independence, and the endeavour to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving, indicate obligations involving care, delicacy of treatment, judgment, and determination to avoid exposure of the circumstances of those who, through misfortune or providence, find themselves placed in positions of peculiar, sometimes helpless, embarrassment. Attention to this department of service must be the test of any properly organised agency for charity, and when the cost of working is taken into account this element of labour should not be overlooked. Details, obviously, cannot be supplied, but the work of the year in this regard has been exceedingly interesting.

Two familiar faces have passed away since last Annual Meeting. In earlier years Mr. Henry Cook was largely interested in the Society, and quite up to the last Mr. T. J. Crouch cheered his fellow committee-men with his ever welcome presence and kindly encouraging word. The workers die; the work lives.

In November last a Conference of Charities was held in Melbourne, and three members were appointed to represent the Society. Interchange of ideas on methods of working cannot fail to be useful, and it was exceedingly gratifying to find such unanimity of opinion on two points for which this Executive has contended for many years, namely, the discontinuance of money grants, and the determination to find employment for the capable rather than the continuance of the ration dole. Uniformity of working on these two points would result in a marked reduction of the public expenditure on charity.

Subscribers and the public may fairly be congratulated on the general prosperity of the country. Never, perhaps, since the foundation of the Society has the claim for merely casual aid come so near to the point of extinction. Of course, the claims of the widow and fatherless, the sick, infirm, and injured, must be met for months, perhaps for years. It is something, however, to be able to record that there is work for those who will work. If the experience of kindred institutions is anything like the experience of this office, the public records should show, notwithstanding the strike, a great reduction in the charitable expenditure of the year 1890.

Working on the lines of self-aid, before the year 1891 closes comfortable cottages for deserving people may be amongst the facts to be recorded. Perhaps, too, the incoming committee may not be unwilling to consider a scheme for a dispensary, helping every afflicted person to pay something

towards the doctor, and to avoid the degradation of a free certificate for outdoor treatment. A complete register of persons requiring various kinds of labour, and of persons wanting employment, is, it may be remarked, essential to the perfect organisation of charity. In reply to the Hon. W. H. Burgess's application in Parliament, the sum of £200 was paid to the Treasurer of the Society at the close of January; and, relying upon the ready support of subscribers in the future, as in the past, it may be hoped that the record of 1891 will be even more satisfactory than the record of 1890, revealing the continued industry of workers in the path of social science.

The Registrar's Report for 1890 is as follows:—

On the books from last year there were 30 families, comprising 67 individuals.

New cases for the year, 116, comprising 63 males, 92 females; children, 77 males, 104 females; total, 336. Of the adults there were 42 cases of sickness, 23 widows, 8 husbands away, 8 accidents, 13 destitute, 12 aged and infirm, 7 out of employment, 2 discharged from gaol, 1 husband in gaol; total, 116. Two cases refused.

Relief was given to 14 individuals going up-country seeking employment, or going to the Depôt at New Town. The rations issued during the year were—Bread, 15,692 lbs.; tea, 443½ lbs.; sugar, 2460 lbs.; rice, 1718 lbs.; oatmeal, 596 lbs.; and for sick cases, cornflour, 33 lbs.; sago, 32 lbs.; cocoa, 17 lbs. Wood and coal were given by friends to the amount of £26 5s., which enabled the Society to supply fuel to the poor during the winter months. Blankets were also given.

The sum of £19 9s. was paid to the men working in the wood-yard. Lodging tickets and rents for the homeless had been given amounting to £18 13s. 6d., and for special cases £10 3s. 1d. had been expended.

The Christmas and New Year treat, which was much appreciated, was given to 180 families, comprising 380 individuals, including all the Government cases, and was provided at a cost of £24 9s. 6d., as the subjoined statement will show:—Flour purchased, 400 lbs.; flour given, 250 lbs.; raisins purchased, 198 lbs.; raisins given, 28 lbs.; cake purchased, 400 lbs.; currants purchased, 62 lbs.; currants given, 34 lbs.; butter given, 80 lbs.; box of spice, peel, and two tins of lollies, also packets of lollies for the children.

The usual investigation of cases has been made during the year, with 141 personal visits.

J. W. SIMMONS, *Chairman of the Executive Committee B. S.*

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year 1890.

1890.	DR.	£ s. d.	1890.	CR.	£ s. d.
Dec. 31.	To Cash Subscriptions and Donations.....	183 13 11	Jan. 1st. By Balance due to Bank		9 10 4
	Donations for Fuel.....	26 15 0	Dec. 31st.	Bread Account	68 18 9
	Donations Christmas Treat....	22 12 0		Groceries Account.....	80 0 5
	Interest on Capital Account...	250 7 0		Management — Chairman, £52; Registrar, £109 10s. (with house, fuel, & light).....	161 10 0
				Lodgings and Rents.....	18 13 6
				Special Cases	10 3 1
				Men in Yard, and Cartage...	19 9 0
				Wood and Coal	34 3 9
				Blankets	9 18 9
				Printing and Advertising....	12 2 10
				Commission on Subscrip- tions and Donations.....	11 13 0
				Fire Insurance.....	1 10 0
				Repairs to Premises	4 0 2
				Gas Account	5 12 6
				Deputation to Melbourne ...	10 0 0
				Christmas Treat	24 9 6
				Balance in Bank	1 12 4
		<u>£483 7 11</u>			<u>£483 7 11</u>
	To Cash Balance	1 12 4			
Examined with the vouchers and found correct.			WM. WITT, Registrar.		
CHAS. WALCH, } GEO. SALIER, } Auditors.					
31st January, 1891.					

The Treasurer in Account current with the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

1890.	DR.	£ s. d.	1890.	DR.	£ s. d.
Jan. 1st	To Cash Subscriptions and Donations	183 13 11	Jan. 1st	By Balance due to Bank.....	9 10 4
to			to	Expenditure as per Pass Book	472 5 3
Dec 31st.	Donations for Fuel.....	26 15 0	Dec. 31st	Balance in Bank	1 12 4
	Donations Christmas Treat ...	22 12 0			
	Interest on Capital Account...	250 7 0			
		<u>£483 7 11</u>			<u>£483 7 11</u>
16th January, 1891.			G. S. CROUCH, Treasurer.		

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

	£ s. d.
As per List.....	5581 17 0
Society's Premises, Bathurst-street, value, say	1000 0 0
Fire and Flood Emergency Fund on Fixed Deposit	100 0 0
Accrued Interest Deposit	47 10 4
	<u>£6729 7 4</u>

INVESTED CAPITAL.

	£ s. d.
Debenture, due January 1st, 1893	2000 0 0
Ditto, due April 1st, 1891	100 0 0
Ditto, due October 5th, 1894	500 0 0
Deposits, V.D.L. Bank—	
Ditto, due April 1st, 1891	600 0 0
Ditto, due October 10th, 1891	500 0 0
Ditto, due April 4th, 1891	565 0 0
Ditto, due September 17th, 1891	100 0 0
Ditto, due February 25th, 1891	116 17 0
Ditto, due January 15th, 1892	500 0 0
M. P. Building Society, due December 6th, 1891.....	600 0 0
	<u>£5581 17 0</u>

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 12th June, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE carefully perused the Report of the Hobart Benevolent Society for 1890, and I am much gratified to note the reassuring remarks contained in the fifth paragraph as regards the reduction in necessary charitable expenditure.

I observe that of the total receipts for the year (exclusive of the grant of £200 from the Treasury, which was not paid to the Society till January of the present year), £275 7s. 1d. were expended upon the poor; the balance, £208 0s. 10d., was devoted to expenses of management, printing, &c., commission, deputation to Melbourne, and other incidental expenses.

The Government highly appreciate the good work done by the Society; but, in view of the funds available which are derived from sources especially recognised as the basis of the income of a Benevolent Society, and which has proved more than sufficient to meet all items of expenditure, they are unable to discover upon what grounds they can with propriety seek from Parliament a grant from the General Revenue, which would, so far as may be inferred from the present state of the Society's funds, be practically a grant to increase the invested capital, now amounting to £6729.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

The Chairman Executive Committee Benevolent Society, Hobart.

[In continuation of Paper No. 16.]

Hobart Benevolent Society, 25th June, 1891.

SIR,

YOUR letter to the Chairman of the Hobart Benevolent Society, dated June 12th, and handed to me on the 17th instant, in which you state that you had "carefully perused the Society's Report for 1890," and that you were gratified to note "the reassuring remarks contained in the fifth paragraph as regards the reduction in necessary charitable expenditure."

You then proceed to analyse the figures contained therein, and state that "the Government highly appreciate the good work done by the Society," but "that in view, &c., you cannot discover upon what grounds you can with propriety ask from Parliament a grant from the General Revenue; which, from the present state of the funds, would be practically to grant an increase to the invested capital, now amounting to" £5581 17s. (not, as you say, "£6729.")

May I beg to be informed upon what principle one Society is granted £500 per annum and the other £200 or *nil*?

Is it not a fact that the amount on deposit to the credit of the Launceston Society is simply the savings from the Government subsidies, and not augmented by a single legacy?

If you will turn to the Report on Out-door Relief for 1890 you will find that in 1879 £2361 was expended, and that *through the action of this Society* it was gradually reduced until in 1890 it was only £817 17s. 6d.

As you are probably aware, the action of this Society has always been (while carefully looking after and supplying the wants of the poor) to *discourage pauperism*, while the lavish expenditure of the other Society seems to encourage and foster it.

It seems hardly credible that the Launceston Society, dealing with a population not two-thirds of that of Hobart, should expend £924 per annum, and the other should be able to meet all demands at an expenditure of £481 odd.

I feel sure if the facts are well considered, and the *large saving* to the Government is at all worthy of notice, that the Government will not withdraw the small amount of £200 they have reduced the subsidy to.

The comparison of management expenses and expenditure is made to look as if the former was excessive, forgetful of the fact that the Society's duty is to prevent imposition as well as to relieve the indigent.

As you have thought fit to print your letter to the Chairman, and attached it to the Society's Report, may I request that you will publish this as an Appendix to the Report.

I am, &c.

JAMES E. SALIER, *Acting Chairman Hobart Benevolent Society.*

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 10th July, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ultimo, in reply to mine of the 12th, which was duly posted on the 13th, addressed to "The Chairman, Executive Committee, Benevolent Society, Hobart," but which you inform me was "handed to you on the 17th instant." I mention this to prevent your attributing any neglect to this Department as respects delay in its receipt by you.

I notice and agree with the distinction you draw between Invested Capital, £5581 17s., and Capital Account, £6729 7s. 4d.

With reference to your enquiry as to the principle upon which the two Benevolent Societies are granted aid from the General Revenue, I have to reply that the respective requirements of the Societies to enable them to relieve the destitute poor as compared with the funds at the disposal of the managing authorities guides the action of the Government.

The invested funds of the Launceston Benevolent Society, £2191 19s. 2d., were slowly accumulated from annual donations and bequests, but no additions of this kind have been made for years past; the small increase in these funds which the past year shows arises from the interest accruing from investments, amounting to £101 7s. 10d. being added.

The relief afforded to the poor in Launceston is regulated by a body of gentlemen in whom the Government place, as it does also in the Hobart Committee, every confidence, and they have no reason to attribute to them any desire to encourage and foster pauperism.

It is true that they have evinced greater liberality in providing necessaries of life for the destitute poor than is the practice of the Hobart Society ; but the Government are not prepared to call in question the action of the Launceston Committee of Management in alleviating distress in the cases brought under their consideration.

The Government see no reason to vary the decision which has been arrived at as regards the grant in aid from the General Revenue ; but, as you desire it, your letter now under acknowledgment and my reply will be added to the Correspondence already printed with reference to the Annual Report of your Society.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

*The Acting Chairman Executive Committee
Benevolent Society, Hobart.*