

(No. 9.)



1885.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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**NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTION :**

**REPORT FOR 1884.**

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



*ANNUAL REPORT of the NEW TOWN CHARITABLE INSTITUTION for the Year 1884.*

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*Charitable Institution, New Town, 10th February, 1885.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit to you the fifth Annual Report of the New Town Charitable Institution.

The item maintenance for each inmate for the year amounts to £13 9s. 9½d., or 9d. per diem. a little in excess of the past year. There are several reasons for this, amongst them may be enumerated funeral expenses were considerably higher, the meat tender was in excess of that of former years, our own vegetable crop failed consequent upon the long continued dry weather, and a great deal has been done in the shape of necessary repairs; added to these causes there has been a decrease in the number of inmates; but with these drawbacks I am happy to report that every possible care has been exercised with respect to expenditure consistent with the efficient conduct of the requirements of the Public Service.

The comfort of the inmates of the Male Division, owing to the additions made for that purpose, and forming a paragraph in my Report for 1883, has presented itself most forcibly during the past year, and a very important addition to the new day-room, consisting of suitable stoves, has been very much appreciated by the aged and infirm.

Two new coppers having been added to the wash-house, the work of washing has been considerably accelerated, and the result, in a sanitary view, much more satisfactory than formerly.

The wards and hospitals have been thoroughly cleansed, lime washed, painted, and effectively renovated by inmates, thus saving a large amount in the expenditure.

The new reservoir is approaching completion. When this is effected I have great hopes that many of the complaints and sufferings arising from the present supply of impure water will be remedied. Sanitary operations will also be greatly assisted thereby.

In my last report I stated that the stamp of men and women who now receive orders for admission were totally unfitted, from age and their own infirmities, to fill the position of attendants in the hospital wards. During the past year the want in this respect has been sadly apparent, and I cannot but reiterate my former expressed opinion that a better class of attendants will not only be an advantage, but that it resolves itself into a necessity.

I beg to call your attention to the attached Returns.

As formerly, at the Cornelian Bay Cemetery and the New Town Government Farm detached parties from the Male Division are located.

The death-rate, viz.—127 males and 36 females, and at the average age of 75 and 73 years respectively, need only be noted.

The general conduct of the inmates of both divisions I am glad to report upon favourably.



COMPARATIVE Return of Ages of Inmates for the Years 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884.

|  | 1880.  |          | 1881.  |          | 1882.  |          | 1883.  |          | 1884.  |          |
|--|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
|  | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. |
| Number of deaths ....                                    | 98     | 23       | 76     | 20       | 94     | 35       | 109    | 24       | 127    | 36       |
| Average age of those who died.....                       | 71½    | 69       | 72½    | 66½      | 74     | 72       | 73     | 70       | 75     | 73       |
| Oldest .....   | 97     | 86       | 85     | 90       | 91     | 91       | 94     | 92       | 94     | 88       |
| Youngest .....   | 37     | 34       | 45     | 16       | 28     | 19       | 54     | 53       | 53     | 54       |
| Average age of those remaining 31st December, 1884 ..... | 68½    | 66       | 68     | 60       | 69     | 60       | 69½    | 60½      | 68     | 61½      |
| Ditto males and females combined, 31 December, 1884      | 66½    |          | 66     |          | 66     |          | 73     |          | 71     |          |
| Oldest .....   | 89     | 93       | 91     | 88       | 91     | 90       | 92     | 89       | 90     | 92       |
| Youngest .....   | 12     | 16       | 29     | 15       | 18     | 8        | 20     | 9        | 20     | 20       |

J. WITHRINGTON, Superintendent.

COMPARATIVE Strength Returns for the Years 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884.

|                                   | 1880.  |          | 1881.  |          | 1882.  |          | 1883.  |          | 1884.  |          |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|--------|----------|
|                                   | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. | Males. | Females. |
| No. of Inmates, 1st January ..... | 408    | 151      | 408    | 157      | 420    | 175      | 422    | 168      | 413    | 177      |
| Admitted during the year .....    | 491    | 116      | 481    | 150      | 543    | 187      | 575    | 201      | 470    | 170      |
| TOTAL .....                       | 899    | 267      | 889    | 307      | 963    | 362      | 997    | 369      | 883    | 347      |
| Discharged during the year .....  | 393    | 87       | 393    | 112      | 447    | 159      | 475    | 168      | 391    | 124      |
| Died during the year .....        | 98     | 23       | 76     | 20       | 94     | 35       | 109    | 24       | 127    | 36       |
| TOTAL .....                       | 491    | 110      | 469    | 132      | 541    | 194      | 584    | 192      | 518    | 160      |
| REMAINING 31ST DECEMBER...        | 408    | 157      | 420    | 175      | 422    | 168      | 413    | 177      | 365    | 187      |

J. WITHRINGTON, Superintendent.

COMPARATIVE Statement of the average Daily Number of Inmates, and Expenditure, for the Years 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, and 1884.

|                | 1880.                         |                  | 1881.                         |                  | 1882.                         |                  | 1883.                         |                  | 1884.                         |                  |
|----------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
|                | Average Daily No. of Inmates. | Net Expenditure. | Average Daily No. of Inmates. | Net Expenditure. | Average Daily No. of Inmates. | Net Expenditure. | Average Daily No. of Inmates. | Net Expenditure. | Average Daily No. of Inmates. | Net Expenditure. |
| New Town ..    | 569                           | £ 6749 0 4       | 611                           | £ 6965 18 5½     | 577                           | £ 7440 3 1       | 642                           | £ 8501 13 11     | 626                           | £ 8444 15 4      |
| Brickfields .. | 134½                          | £ 1577 8 2       | 119½                          | £ 1394 4 5½      | 89                            | £ 1053 15 7      | ..                            | ..               | ..                            | ..               |
|                | 703½                          | £ 8326 8 6       | 730½                          | £ 8360 2 11      | 666                           | £ 8493 18 8      | 642                           | £ 8501 13 11     | 626                           | £ 8444 15 4      |
| Cost per diem  | 7½d.                          |                  | 7½d.                          |                  | 8½d.                          |                  | 8½d.                          |                  | 9d.                           |                  |
| Cost per annum | £11 16s. 8½d.                 |                  | £11 8s. 11¼d.                 |                  | £12 15s. 0½d.                 |                  | £13 4s. 10d.                  |                  | £13 9s. 9½d.                  |                  |

J. WITHRINGTON, Superintendent.

*EXTRACTS from the Visitors' Book, New Town Charitable Institution.*

8th January, 1884.

I HAVE this day visited the Institution, and am much pleased with the general cleanliness of the same, and also the appearance of the inmates.

J. M'DONALD, *Melbourne.*

10th January, 1884.

THE Hon. Wm. M'Culloch, Mrs. and the Misses M'Culloch, with Dr. Robt. Peel, Melbourne, have to-day visited this Institution, and cannot speak too highly of the management of the same, its cleanliness, the food, and above all, the general contentment of the poor old people.

ROBT. PEEL.

18th March, 1884.

THROUGH the kindness of Mr. Seager I have been taken through every part of the Institution, and have been delighted with all the arrangements. The cleanliness, and happy and comfortable appearance of the inmates speaks very highly for the general management. After many such visits, I have never felt greater satisfaction than after spending this afternoon in the New Town Charitable Institution.

T. HOWARD, *Adelaide, S.A.*

1st May, 1884.

I WAS shown through the New Town Charitable Institution to-day by Mr. Superintendent Withrington, and was very much pleased at the way in which I found everything as regards cleanliness, &c.; and was very pleased with my visit.

T. K. PRENDERGAST, *N.S.W.*

23rd May, 1884.

I HAVE this day visited the New Town Charitable Institution, and have indeed been well pleased with the whole management. The officers without doubt take a great interest in their work, and try in every way to make things comfortable for the unfortunate people whom they have under their charge. I might just add that all I have seen to-day is unique, reflecting considerable credit upon all who have the management. It also goes far to show that although the inmates are old, and have been unfortunate, yet they are not forsaken. I shall be able when in the old world to give a very pleasing account of my visit to the Institution, and let them know that the old people of Tasmania who are past work and unable to provide for themselves, find that the Government are not mean or close in comforting their declining days.

HOWARD HAYWOOD.

WE visited this Institution this day, and saw Ching Hing and Ther Goon, and asked them how they liked the place, and they said very much; all men very kind, plenty to eat and drink, and they are comfortable. We saw all over the place, and it was clean and comfortable; and we are very much pleased with the treatment of our countrymen.

JAMES AH CATT.  
NIE TOM.

20th October, 1884.

THE improvements in the place, with all the surrounding circumstances; are remarkable and manifest since my last visit.

J. M. DOOLEY, *M.H.A.*

6th November, 1884.

VISITED the Institution. Exceedingly pleased at the manner in which everything appeared to be conducted for the welfare of the aged and infirm.

THOMAS JESSOP, *Sydney.*

VISITED the Institution December 6th, and was very much struck with the thorough cleanliness and ship-shape appearance.

YATES STIRLING, *Commander U.S.N.,*  
*Commanding U.S.S. Iroquois.*  
H. E. SMITH.

KINDLY shown through Institution, and much pleased with happy appearance and cleanliness of all the old people.

The establishment compares very favourably with New Zealand, where a very large amount is spent upon charitable aid.

JNO. THOMPSON, *Surveyor, New Zealand.*