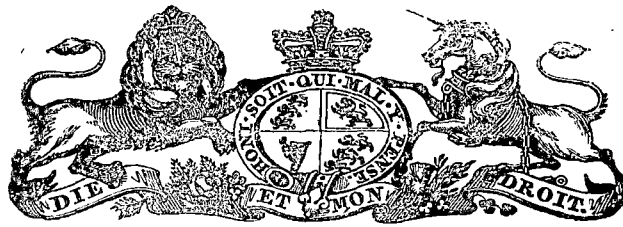


(No. 14.)



1884.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, HOBART:

REPORT FOR 1883.

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



TWENTY-FOURTH Annual Report of the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Hobart, 12th March, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward, for the information of the Government, the Report of the Committee of the Hobart Benevolent Society for the year 1883.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. ANDREW MATHER, *Chairman.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

THE Committee have much pleasure in presenting their Twenty-fourth Annual Report, and returning their thanks to the subscribers who have continued to assist in providing them with funds to relieve the wants of the indigent poor.

The Committee feel that they have carried out the objects of the Society, viz.—“To relieve the poor, the distressed, and the afflicted, and thereby to discountenance as much as possible mendicancy and vagrancy, and to encourage industry among the indigent, irrespective of religious creed or denomination.”

The cases on the books in last Report for 1883 were 36, comprising 128 individuals.

During the past year, 142 fresh cases applied for relief; 5 were refused and 137 assisted. They comprised, 46 from illness, 13 women deserted by their husbands, 6 women whose husbands were in prison, 5 for children, 22 widows, 23 destitute, 11 aged and infirm, and 11 accidents; the 137 cases including 318 individuals, as follows:—Adults, 57 males, 99 females. Children, 85 males, 77 females.

No begging letters have been referred to the Executive during the past year. The Registrar is at all times willing to give the benefit of his long experience in testifying to the genuineness or otherwise of the applicant, or making personal enquiries to enable him to give an opinion.

The Committee have again to report that wife desertion still continues, 13 women and families being thrown on the Society this year from that cause.

The Committee would repeat the statement on the subject in last year's Report; viz.—“These unnatural parents are only too glad to be rid of the responsibility by escaping to the other colonies, where with the present machinery they know that they are safe and no fear of being disturbed. These men often marry in the other colonies, and probably desert their new wives when they are tired of them. When will the different Colonial Governments enter into a mutual arrangement for the extradition of wife deserters? No other law needs so much notice, as the wife and children are left as a pauper legacy upon colonial funds.”

The woman mentioned in last Report of being deserted by her husband, leaving her with six children, has since left the colony, and her children a legacy to the public.

Casual relief was given to 30 persons going up the country to seek work or into the Invalid Dépôt, New Town. Work was given to 72 men in the wood yard until they could get better employment. The payment is enough food for the day for an hour's work, and in necessary cases they are allowed to work for a night's lodging.

The Committee have established an Emergency Refuge for women and children at Mrs. M'Alister's, Bathurst-street, which has been found a very great convenience in having a suitable place so near at hand for any destitute case.

There have been distributed during the year 25,165 lbs. of bread, 815 lbs. tea, 9105 lbs. sugar, 1065 lbs. oatmeal, 1494 lbs. rice; also 7558 pints of soup, in the making of which 2900 lbs. of meat, 439 lbs. rice, 423 lbs. barley, 576 lbs. peas have been used.

£4 4s. 2d. has been realised from the sale of soup, £9 1s. 6d. for blankets, and £5 18s. for 118 dozen bundles of kindling wood.

105 tons of wood and 16 tons of coal have been given by kind friends, which enabled the Registrar to supply fuel during the winter to those really needing it: the Committee added 20 tons wood, which were distributed to cases of sickness.

The Committee have paid £7 3s. for lodgings and rent, and £4 1s. 6d. for cab-hire to the Hospital, for sick persons.

The usual investigations have been made by our Registrar, and the subscriptions collected by him without any extra charge upon the funds of the Society.

Thanks are due and are hereby given to the press for willingness at all times to attend the weekly as well as the other meetings of the Society and report the proceedings.

R. ANDREW MATHER, *Chairman.*

THE Treasurer in Account with the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

1883.	Dr.	£	s.	d.	1883.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
Dec. 31.	To Balance in Bank	174	4	4	Dec. 31.	By Bread	119	12	1
	Repayments—Government ...	79	17	9		Groceries	282	9	4
	Subscriptions and donations ..	185	1	0		Printing, advertising, &c.	7	18	0
	Interest on Debentures, &c. ...	200	0	0		Cab-hire to Hospital, for poor			
	Government Grant, 1st.....	200	0	0		patients.....	4	1	6
						Lodgings and rent	7	3	0
						Salary—Registrar	155	0	0
						Ditto—Cook for Soup Kitchen	56	5	0
						Meat for Soup.....	19	14	6
						Lying-in Cases—Government ...	89	6	0
						Insurance.....	1	10	0
						Wood for Wood-yard	56	17	6
						Sundries	4	10	0
						Balance down	94	16	2
		£839	3	1			£839	3	1
1884.									
Jan. 1.	To Balance.....	£34	16	2					

R. ANDREW MATHER, *Chairman.*

R. T. WESTBROOK, *Treasurer*

WM. WITT, *Registrar.*

Examined with the vouchers, and found correct.

GEO. SALIER, }
CHAS. WALCH, } *Auditors.*

Jan. 21, 1884.

CAPITAL Account of the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY arising from Legacies, Donations, &c., 1883.

	£	s.	d.
Debenture—T. Y. Lowes.....	2000	0	0
Ditto, from sundry other persons	2000	0	0
Deposit—G. T. Building Society	525	0	0
	£4525	0	0
<i>Emergency Fund.</i>			
Cash in Savings Bank	150	0	0
Premises in Bathurst-street, valued at	750	0	0

WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.