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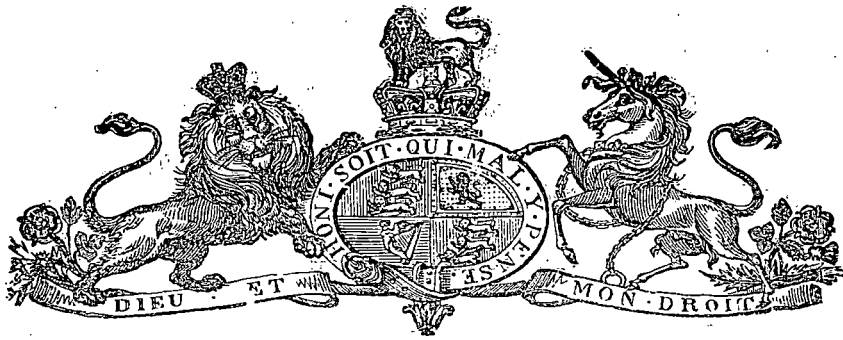
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS:

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1897.

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

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THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1897.

To His Excellency the Governor and Executive Council.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

THE Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens, incorporated by the Act 49 Victoria No. 34, have the honour to submit to Your Excellency, in accordance with the 11th Section of that Act, their Twelfth Annual Report.

1. The Museum during the year 1897 has been open to the public on week days from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. in the summer, and until 4 P.M. in the winter; on Sundays, from half-past 2 P.M. till half-past 4 P.M. in the summer, and until 4 P.M. in the winter.

2. The Museum has received many additions, and special mention must be made of the valuable Ethnological specimens from the South Seas and Northern Queensland, for which we are indebted to the kindness of the officers of Her Majesty's ships of war on their annual visit to these waters. Genuine specimens of this character are now obtained with increasing difficulty, and it is, therefore, pleasant to report that our collection is both large and varied. Many donations illustrative of the geology of Tasmania have been received, and more are expected. Early in the year arrangements were made with Trustees of the Perth Museum, West Australia, for the Curator, Mr. A. Morton, to visit that Colony for the purpose of making a general collection of specimens of its natural history, with the understanding that one-third should come to the Tasmanian Museum. During a visit of three months' duration, Mr. Morton accordingly secured for Tasmania a very interesting collection, consisting of all the known mammals of the Colony, together with a large series of mineralogical and ethnological specimens.

3. The Art Gallery, as usual, was much frequented, and was made specially attractive for a time through the kindness of His Excellency Lord Brassey in granting to us the loan of one of his finest pictures, "Ripening Sunbeams." During the time it was on view the number of visitors to the gallery averaged about three thousand weekly.

4. It must be remarked that, although the Museum has been greatly enlarged in late years, and an Art Gallery added, no increase has been made in the vote for maintenance. That the present income is far below actual requirements may be seen by comparing the amounts granted to the Museums of Western Australia and Tasmania respectively. The former, which is not one-half as large as the latter, receives four thousand pounds annually; we receive five hundred. The trustees would, therefore, express an urgent hope that, under the improved conditions of the Colony, the pressing claims of the Museum and Art Gallery, and also those of the Botanical Gardens, for increased assistance may be found worthy of favourable consideration.

5. By the death of Mr. Matthew Seal the Trustees have sustained the serious loss of an old and much-valued colleague. The seat thus left vacant has been filled by the appointment to it of Mr. A. G. Webster.

6. The Trustees would again urge the advisability of setting apart a sum annually for the purchase of one or more works of art for the National Gallery.

7. The amount of Receipts for the year have been £1357 14s. 5d. ; Expenditure, £1439 5s. 1d.

8. Annexed to this Report are the following Appendices:—

- I. Report of the Superintendent of the Gardens.
- II. Plants supplied from the Gardens for planting Public Places.
- III. Plants and Seeds received at the Gardens during the year 1897.

J. W. AGNEW, *Chairman.*

ALEX. MORTON, *Curator and Secretary.*

REPORT on the Botanical Gardens, Hobart, Tasmania, for the Year 1897.

THE strip of ground parallel to the brick wall, referred to in last year's Report as undergoing alteration with a view of improving the immediate entrance to the garden, has been trenched and thoroughly prepared during the winter months. When sufficiently pulverised, it was sown with grass seed, and, notwithstanding the unpropitious season, a very creditable lawn has been formed; on this beds have been cut out, which were planted during the summer months with Asters and other showy florist's flowers, which formed a decided contrast to the stiff beds that have for so long a period occupied this part of the garden.

It is proposed, as opportunity offers, to treat the strip of ground running parallel to the above as far as possible in the same manner, so as to have both sides of the walk uniform.

In the early spring a good amount of planting out in the garden generally was done, but, owing to the dry season and the very trying hot winds, the failures have been much more numerous than usual, and a good many renewals will be necessary during the present season.

The old overgrown Box edging, which has been cut down and to a great extent grubbed up, is being replaced by young plants as rapidly as possible; a considerable extent was planted during the past autumn months, but owing to the dry hot weather many of the plants have died out, and the work will, to some extent, have to be gone over again.

The severe drought, and especially the hot winds at the end of December, had a very disastrous effect on vegetation generally, many plants and also fruit being completely baked on the trees by the heat. *Lardizabala biternata*, a native of Chili, a plant in robust health, was completely destroyed by the heat; many New Zealand plants suffered severely, and, in some cases, were completely killed; herbaceous plants and annuals generally were either killed or received such a check that they did not recover during the season; gooseberries, strawberries, raspberries, apples, and fruit generally were all scorched on the trees, and, as regards the former, in exposed situations completely destroyed.

No doubt, the early period of the season at which the hot winds occurred, when the foliage and fruit was in a comparatively soft immature state, will account for much of the damage done.

The cleared ground on the old Fruit Square has of late been utilised as a nursery for deciduous trees, and a large quantity of young plants as well as the larger stock on hand was this year planted on it; unfortunately, the season has been such that the deaths have been unusually numerous, and there will consequently be a considerably reduced number of plants available for distribution this year.

The want of an adequate water-supply for the requirements of the garden was never more severely felt than during the past season, it being quite impossible to get more than sufficient for the most urgent requirements of the place. The lawns and general borders had to be left to the natural rainfall, which was barely sufficient to sustain life in the plants, much less to promote healthy growth.

The prison gang supplied from the Hobart Gaol have, as usual, rendered good service in trenching and all the rougher operations in the garden; it is intended to utilise them in the near future in procuring gravel for the garden paths, which are greatly in need of repair.

The number of visitors for the year was estimated approximately at 80,000.

F. ABBOTT, *Superintendent.*

Plants and Seeds received at the Botanical Gardens during the year 1897.

From the Botanic Gardens, Sydney—Case of Plants and Seeds.	From Messrs. R. U. Nichols and Co., Ballarat—Case of Plants.
From the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne—2 cases of Plants.	From Messrs. Veitch and Sons, Chelsea, London—Collection of Seeds.
From the Botanic Gardens, Port Natal—Collection of Seeds.	From Wm. Bull, New Plant Merchant, London—Seeds and Bulbs.
From the Botanic Gardens, Calcutta—Palm and other Seeds.	From Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrien & Co., Paris, France—Seeds of Shrubs.
From the Botanic Gardens, Jamaica—Various Seeds.	From Messrs. Damman & Co., Naples—Collection of Seeds.
From the Botanic Gardens, Saharanpur, N. W. Province, India—Seeds.	From the Agri-Horticultural Society, Madras, India—Seeds.
From the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Ireland—Seeds.	From Mr. F. Walker, Sandhill, Launceston—Plants.
From the Botanic Gardens, Brisbane, Queensland—Seeds.	From Messrs. Bridgeford and Co., Invermay, Launceston—Plants.
From Mr. C. A. Nobelius—Gembrook, Emerald, Victoria—Bundle of Plants.	From Mr. S. Purchase, Parramatta, New South Wales—Various Plants.
From Messrs. Milner & Smith, Sydney—Case of Plants.	
From Messrs. G. Brunning & Sons, Melbourne—Case of Roses, &c.	

Plants and Seeds sent in Exchange from the Botanical Gardens during 1897.

To the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, Victoria—Plants and Sphagnum Moss.	To Messrs. Bridgeford, Invermay, Launceston—Plants and Seeds.
To the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, New South Wales—Seeds.	To Messrs. Brunning & Sons, St. Kilda, near Melbourne—Plants and Seeds.
To F. Bailey, Esq., Government Botanist, Queensland—Plants.	To R. U. Nichols & Co., Ballarat—Plants and Seeds.
To the Botanic Gardens, Durban, South Africa—Seeds.	To Messrs. Milner & Smith, Sydney—Case of Plants and Seeds.
To Wm. Bull, New Plant Merchant, London—12 Tree Ferns.	To Mr. S. Purchase, Sydney—Various Plants and Seeds.
To Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrien & Co., Paris—Seeds of Eucalypti.	To Messrs. F. Coffee & Co., Sydney—Bulbs.
To Messrs. Veitch & Sons, London—Various Seeds.	To Mr. C. A. Nobelius, Gembrook, Emerald, Victoria—Case Plants.
To the State Forest, Macedon, Victoria—Tree Seeds.	To Captain Ross, Ship <i>Ethel</i> —Various Australian Plants.
To F. Walker, Sandhill, Launceston—Plants and Seeds.	To E. L. Hall, Esq., Zeehan—Plants.

Plants supplied from the Botanical Gardens for Planting Public Places, principally in connection with the Celebration of the Queen's Jubilee.

The Honourable the Minister of Lands, for planting at Strahan—90 plants.	F. Mace, Esq., Orford—50 plants.
The Rev. Oberlin-Harris, for planting at New Norfolk—58 plants.	The Rev. Father O'Flynn, Port Cygnet—25 plants.
Mr. A. L. Brocket, State School, West Devonport—30 plants.	P. C. Maxwell, Esq., Latrobe—30 plants.
The Railway Reserve, Scottsdale—12 plants.	O. F. Flexmore, Esq., Green Ponds—30 plants.
The Town Board, Ulverstone—76 plants.	Mr. Bacon, Franklin, Huon—28 plants.
F. Hart, Esq., Campbell Town Improvement Association—103 plants.	The Town Board, Beltana—50 plants.
H. S. Spicer, Esq., Circular Head—54 plants.	The Hobart Waterworks—12 plants.
J. Mackenzie, Esq., Table Cape—54 plants.	The Police Station, West Devonport—25 plants.
The Rev. A. Woods, Geeveston—54 plants.	R. S. Shoobridge, Esq., New Norfolk—14 plants.
J. G. Davies, Esq., for Fingal—20 plants.	G. W. Allwright, Board of Health, Bellerive—38 plants.
Thos. Sullock, Esq., Penguin—40 plants.	F. Back, Esq., for Zeehan—51 plants.
W. E. Shoobridge, Esq., Bushy Park—40 plants.	F. Back, Esq., for West Coast—24 plants.
Colonel W. V. Legge, Callenswood—8 plants.	The Asylum for Insane, New Norfolk—assortment geraniums.
The Rev. E. H. Thompson, Franklin—50 plants.	The Cataract Gorge, Launceston—18 plants.
The Rev. E. H. Thompson, Geeveston—50 plants.	The Trustees Deloraine Cemetery—51 plants.
H. Murray, Esq., M.H.A., Latrobe—100 plants.	The Hobart Gaol—30 plants.
Mr. C. P. Wills, State School, Taranna—25 plants.	Franklin Square, Hobart—various plants.
	The Barrack Square, Hobart—various plants.
	The Queen's Domain, Hobart—various plants.