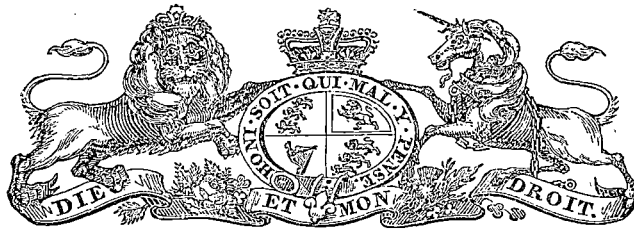


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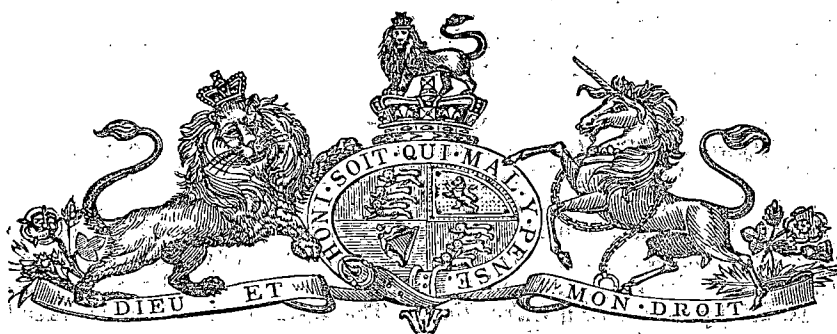
1894.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY :

REPORT FOR 1893.

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



LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1893.

THE Board have much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for 1893, and in doing so would again lay stress upon the very heavy demands made upon the Society's funds in consequence of the long-continued depression, which has affected all classes of the community, especially those amongst whom its work lies. Consequently great anxiety has been experienced, and a large amount of consideration and caution have had to be exercised in dealing with cases applying for assistance. The past year has been the heaviest the Society has experienced, but, with the help of a generous public and the withdrawal of a certain amount of the reserve funds, all claims have been met.

During the past year there have been 47 meetings of the Executive Committee, with an average attendance of 8 out of 11 members (slightly below the average of last year), the falling off being caused by illness.

Mr. Andrew W. Birchall, for many years Vice-Chairman of the Society, died in June last, his death being severely felt by all the numerous Institutions with which he was connected. Mr. B. P. Farrelly also succumbed in December last after a short illness. Both the above gentlemen were a great loss to the Society, being always ready to advance its interests, and ever willing to lend a sympathetic ear to any tale of sorrow or distress. Captain Urquhart, an old member who had rejoined the Board, found it necessary to resign in consequence of failing health, and has since died (on 13th January, 1894.)

Mr. T. Gladman, Hon. Treasurer of the Society for five years, has also been compelled to resign owing to his other duties demanding his undivided attention, his resignation being accepted with very much regret. In order to fill these vacancies Messrs. Alfred Jones, Thomas Bourke, and James Steer have been elected to seats on the Board, the last-named gentleman having agreed to fill Mr. Gladman's place as Hon. Treasurer.

The number of casual cases relieved during the year was 1058, as against 1178 in 1892. Of this number 196 were old men awaiting admission to the Invalid Depôt. There were also 16 men relieved whilst attending the Hospital as Out-patients. Included in the above numbers (1058) are 46 women and 35 children. The Society were also called upon to undertake and pay for 20 cases of confinements, of whom five were wives of the unemployed, and 15 were single girls. Twelve families were assisted with passages to their various friends and homes.

On the 31st December last there were on the Permanent Roll 65 men, 138 women, and 256 children, total 459, as compared with a total of 190 in 1889. But during the month of November last there were 80 men, 150 women, and 350 children—a total of 580—assisted by the Society, a very large number of them belonging to the ranks of the unemployed. During the whole year 120 men, 224 women, and 517 children,—a total of 861,—have received aid from the Society.

The roll now consists of 48 married couples, 5 single women, 83 widows or women deserted by their husbands, 2 whose husbands are in gaol, and 17 single men. The deaths amongst recipients during the year have been 10. One widow has been on the roll for 19 years, one for 18 years, one for 15 years, and many others for lengthened periods.

The amount expended in fuel was £35 18s. 8d., but in addition to this 10 tons of coal were donated by the Cornwall Coal Company, per Henry Edgell, Esq.; 10 tons by the Mount Nicholas Coal Company, per A. C. Scott, Esq.; 2 tons by Miss Fairthorne; and 2 trucks of firewood from L. Bardenhagen, Esq., and one truck from G. Miller, Esq., both of Lilydale, all of which greatly assisted in reducing the amount expended for fuel.

Amongst other contributions were the following:—£32, proceeds of an entertainment given by the men of H.M.S. *Lizard*; £23 10s. the result of a Cake Fair by the pupils attending Miss J. C. Hogg's Academy; 50 loaves of bread weekly for six weeks from W. C. Grubb, Esq., of St. Leonard's; £13 13s. 6d. from Alex. Webster, Esq., proceeds of an entertainment given by the Ladies' Committee of the Musical and Miscellaneous Entertainment; £6 0s. 6d. per J. Brown, Esq., as the result of a Concert given by the Caledonian Society; and an especially pleasing donation from the little children attending Miss Harrap's School, who, by their self-denial, raised the sum of £17 1s. 2d. by means of a Cake Fair. The inhabitants of Low Head also sent a valuable consignment of vegetables for distribution at Christmas time.

The total receipts for the year were £1363 11s. 11d., including amounts received from the Government, £500, and from various other sources, and the expenditure, £1552 12s. 2d., leaving a debit balance of £419 19s. 7d. due to the bank. The subscriptions amounted to £521 18s. 6d. The reserve funds have been drawn upon to the extent of £61 8s. 9d.

The usual Christmas and New Year's extras were dispensed to those on the roll, special donations having been received for that purpose.

The thanks of the Board are especially due to Mrs. George Baker for able assistance willingly rendered in confinement cases; to those gentlemen of the medical profession who in their generosity gave advice and prescribed gratuitously; and to those chemists who dispensed prescriptions free or at reduced rates; to Mr. E. Daniels, of the Invalid Depôt; 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 reporting 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.

The Secretary has authority to relieve all needy casual cases, and subscribers are once more earnestly requested not to assist the beggar, who usually chooses the evening to ply his or her calling, (as money so given is, with few exceptions, spent in drink), but refer each applicant to the Secretary, 112, St. John-street. There is also a large number of children now engaged in imposing on the public with spurious tales of want and misery.

No case is ever refused the required help if the Board is satisfied as to its *bona fides*, and the strictest enquiry is made into the merits of each individual application.

JOHN STEPHENSON, *Chairman*.

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

In Account with the Treasurer.

[illegible]

Audited and found correct.

G. BAKER, *Auditor.*

1st January, 1894.

JOHN STEPHENSON, *Chairman.*

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

STATEMENT of Assets, 1st January, 1894:

	£	s.	d.
Equitable Building Society Deposit.....	2048	3	0
To credit at Bank of Van Diemen's Land	200	6	10
	<hr/>		
	2248	9	10
Less Debit, National Bank of Tasmania	419	19	7
	<hr/>		
	£1828	10	3

Audited and found correct.

G. BAKER, Auditor.

1st January, 1894.

T. GLADMAN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

JOHN STEPHENSON, *Chairman.*