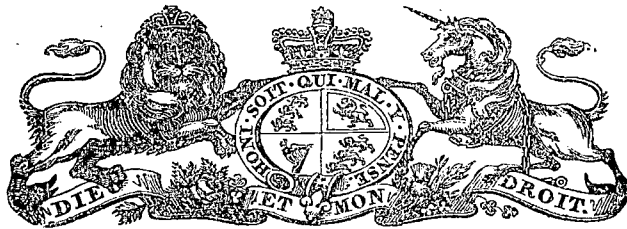


(No. 15.)



1895.

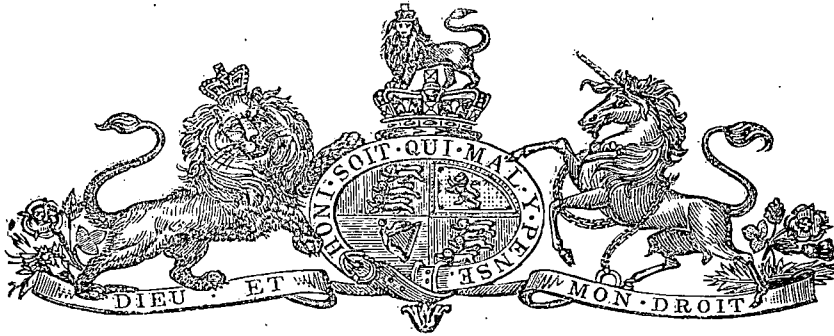
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY :

REPORT FOR 1894.

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

Cost of printing—£1 2s. 6d.



LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1894.

THE year 1894 has been a very eventful and important one to this Society, and in presenting the Annual Report for the fifty-fifth term of its existence, the Board of Management would again refer to the continued heavy demands which have been made upon the Society's resources. With the exception of the previous year, the one with which this Report deals has been the heaviest experienced, as a large number of men and women out of employment have, with their families, been assisted. Many cases of real poverty of a more respectable class than usually dealt with have had to be sought out by the Secretary, as no personal application would be made, but who thankfully received the relief offered.

Throughout the year there have been 50 meetings of the Executive Committee, with an average attendance of nine out of 11 members.

Mr. Alfred Jones, a valued member of the Board, found it necessary to resign, as he was leaving for another colony, the loss of his experience being greatly felt. Owing to pressure of business this vacancy has not yet been filled.

The number of casual cases relieved during the year was 2000, of which number 98 were men awaiting admission to the Invalid Depôt. Several were assisted whilst attending as out-patients at the Hospital; and included in the above numbers are 60 women and 48 children, and 2500 beds were paid for.

The quantity of food dispensed during the year was—41,000 lbs., or about 18 tons, of meat; 81,000 lbs., or about 40 tons, of bread; 14,000 lbs., or about 6 tons, of sugar; and 1694 lbs., or about three-quarters of a ton, of tea, in addition to a quantity of oatmeal, groats, &c.

During the year the Society undertook the charge of and paid for 15 cases of confinements, 4 of which were those of married women, and 11 those of single girls. Thirteen families were assisted with passages to their homes or friends.

On the 31st December last there were on the permanent roll of the Society 56 men, 116 women, and 179 children; but during the month of May there were 72 men, 142 women, and 280 children on the books, many of whom were of the unemployed class. During the whole year 122 men, 222 women, and 630 children, a total of 974, have been assisted.

The roll now consists of married couples, single women, single men, widows, women deserted by their husbands or whose husbands are in gaol. The deaths amongst recipients have been five only for the whole year. One widow has been on the roll for 20 years, one for 19 years, one for 16 years, and many others for lengthened periods.

The amount expended in fuel was £39 5s., in addition to 10 tons of coal donated by the Cornwall Coal Company, per Henry Edgell, Esq.; 10 tons by the Mount Nicholas Coal Company, per A. C. Scott, Esq.; and three tons by Miss Fairthorne, which materially assisted in reducing the expenditure under this heading.

Amongst other contributions the Ladies' Gymnastic Club gave a very successful entertainment, resulting in the addition of £18 2s. to the funds. The Hon. William Hart, M.L.C., also contributed £18 15s., being a quarter of the amount of his parliamentary grant, in addition to other sums given by him. Captain Samuel Tulloch donated £15, and an anonymous friend, "E. R.," the handsome amount of £30. Various sums were also received from Mrs. Henry Reed, Mrs. George Fisher, and other friends of the Society. The sum of £147 was received as the bequest of the late Mr. E. Ackerman.

Through the liberal donation of friends the Board were enabled to dispense as Christmas and New Year's extras in addition to the usual allowances, 450 lbs. flour, 1246 lbs. meat, 250 lbs. sugar, 196 lbs. currants, 16 lbs. spice, and 300 lbs. suet. The Pilot Station at Low Head again remembered the poor of the city at Christmas time by forwarding a very welcome consignment of vegetables.

The total receipts for the year were £1194 16s., including the sum of £500 received from the Government, and amounts from various other sources, the expenditure being £1374 11s. 1d. The subscriptions amounted to £437 13s. The Reserve Fund has been drawn upon to the extent of £609 7s. during the past three years.

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 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, as money so given is, with few exceptions, spent in drink, but refer each applicant to the Secretary, 239, Charles-street. A large number of children also are 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.

INVALID DEPOT.

During the year negotiations were entered into with the Government with a view of taking over the management of the local Invalid Depot and brought to a satisfactory termination, that Institution being now managed and worked by a Board consisting of the members of the Executive Committee of the Society. It is hoped that the change will meet with public approval. In addition to this the Society has also undertaken the administration of the Charitable Grants or monetary outdoor relief for Launceston and Selby Districts, hitherto distributed by the Government through official sources. The above changes, whilst entailing a large amount of additional work and responsibility on the Executive Committee of the Society, have been cheerfully undertaken, and it is trusted that one year's trial will prove the wisdom of the course adopted.

JOHN STEPHENSON, *Chairman Launceston
Benevolent Society.*

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

In Account with the Treasurer.

1894.	Dr.	£ s. d.	1894.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Jan. 1.—To Balance (to debit of Society)		419 19 7	Jan. 26—By amount withdrawn from fixed deposits		609 11 9
Dec. 31.			Dec. 31.—		
To Bread		380 10 7	By Contributions		437 13 0
Meat		395 18 6	Railway Mishap Fund per T. Gladman		1 3 3
Groceries		239 2 2	Sandhill Sunday School Subscription		2 8 9
Midwifery and nursing		30 5 0	Workmen's Club Subscription		5 0 0
Fuel (wood and coal)		39 5 0	Proceeds Tableaux Entertainment		9 13 3
Milk, &c.		4 12 1	Ditto, Rev. D. J. Flockart's lecture		1 7 0
Petty—(cartage, etc.)		3 0 0	Ditto, Mr. Derrington, A.M.P. Society		1 3 0
Advertising, Printing, and Stationery		27 13 5	Ditto, Football Match, Cabmen & Parcel Carts		0 11 0
Lodgings		75 1 6	Proceeds Ladies' Gymnasium entertainment		18 2 0
Commission Collector		17 10 0	Ditto, Launceston Rifle Gymnasium		1 16 0
Assistance to persons removing to other parts		16 10 4	Ditto, Bazaar, Mrs. Bellion's School		3 5 2
Secretary's salary		137 0 0	Bequest late E. Ackerman		147 0 4
Blankets		0 11 0	Hon. W. Hart—Proportion Parliamentary allowance		18 15 0
Bank Interest		7 11 6	Refund by recipients		2 12 0
Balance in Bank		9 17 1	Discounts		1 16 3
			Permanent Building Society—Interest		15 0 0
			Equitable ditto		15 0 0
			National Bank		12 10 0
			Parliamentary Aid (conditional)		250 0 0
			Ditto, (unconditional)		250 0 0
		£1804 7 9			£1804 7 9

Audited and found correct.

G. BAKER, Auditor.

1st January, 1895.

JAS. STEER, *Hon. Treasurer.*JOHN STEPHENSON, *Chairman L.B.S.*

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Statement of Assets, 1st January, 1895.

	£ s. d.
Permanent Building Society Deposit	500 0 0
Equitable Building Society Deposit	500 0 0
National Bank of Tasmania	500 0 0
To credit at Bank of Van Diemen's Land	200 6 10
To credit at National Bank	9 17 1
	£1710 3 11

JAMES STEER, *Hon. Treasurer.*JOHN STEPHENSON, *Chairman L.B.S.*

Audited and found correct.

G. BAKER, Auditor.

1st January, 1895.