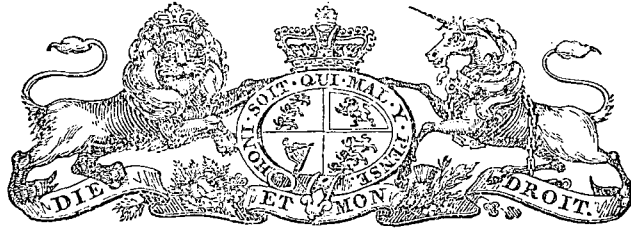


(No. 21.)



1886.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY :

REPORT FOR 1885.

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



LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

REPORT for the Year 1885.

THE Committee of the Launceston Benevolent Society are again reminded that time is rapidly passing by, as another year in the history of the Society has come to its close, and it is necessary and right that they should render an account of their stewardship by furnishing their Report for the year 1885; this they very cordially do. And your Committee have again to record with great pleasure and earnest thanks that through a kind and liberal public and also a generous Government, they have been supplied with sufficient funds to enable them to carry on the work of the Society with satisfaction to themselves, and, they trust, to those who have confided in them, having relieved every deserving and necessitous case brought before them.

Besides the regular weekly supplies, all the recipients, and several poor families not on the books, had given to them at Christmas the means of providing the old English fare of "roast beef and plum pudding," and this was repeated on New Year's Day.

As usual, during the winter months fuel and blankets have been supplied in all cases your Committee considered necessary.

Homes have been provided for destitute children during the past year. The Chairman of this Society, whilst on a visit to Hobart, had an interview with some of the Governors of the Boys' Home, who very kindly assisted in placing some Launceston boys in that institution, and an arrangement was also made for any others that might be brought before the Society (such being eligible), for which your Committee are very thankful, as it enables them in the future to provide homes for destitute boys,—the admirable institution in Launceston, the Girls' Industrial School, providing the same for girls.

Your Committee have had to deal with several cases of unfortunate girls; but with all such cases they are now, and have been for some time, greatly assisted by a kind and estimable lady, and for such assistance they beg to tender their warmest thanks.

A Parliamentary Committee during the last session was appointed to investigate the workings of the various charitable institutions, and amongst others, this Society. The Chairman was summoned to give evidence, and the following appears in the Parliamentary Report, of which B. S. Bird, Esq., M.H.A., was the Chairman:—"There also appears to be some dissatisfaction experienced by the Launceston Benevolent Society as to its relations with the Charitable Grant Department. The evidence of the Chairman of the Launceston Society, in answer to questions 114, 115, and 126, discloses this. Your Committee would therefore recommend that some endeavour be made to meet as far as practicable the views of the Launceston Society, in order that the gentlemen forming the Committee of this Society, who are deserving of all praise for their earnest devotion to the work in which they are engaged, may feel that their work is appreciated, and is made as easy, and as free from departmental control as is consistent with the satisfactory discharge of the responsibilities they undertake." Your Committee are glad to state that during the Chairman's visit he had an interview with Mr. O'Boyle, the Administrator of Charitable Grants, and matters of grievances were gone into, the result being a very satisfactory one, and things have gone on much more pleasantly, and without so much of that departmental routine which had to be gone through previously. They are much indebted to the gentlemen forming the Parliamentary Committee for the trouble they took in their investigation, which they doubt not had the desired effect.

There has been a change of Secretaryship during the year; Mr. John Tevelein, who occupied the position of Secretary for many years, resigned at the end of December, 1885, and Mr. H. Fraser was appointed in his place. The Committee desire to state that Mr. Tevelein has rendered Mr. Fraser every assistance in carrying out the duties devolving upon him.

The Committee have relieved during the past year 62 men, 84 women, and 139 children, showing, as compared with the former year, 1884, an increase of 5 men, a decrease of 17 women and 94 children, being a net decrease of 106. There have been 96 applications for relief; 83 were entertained and relieved, 13 refused.

During the year 49 meetings of the Committee have been held, with an average attendance of 8 members. The following are the names of the Committee:—Messrs. E. L. Ditcham, G. Babington, M. Tyson, J. Stephenson, G. Baker, B. P. Farrelly, J. Ellis, A. W. Birchall, T. H. Urquhart, J. Tulloch, and W. R. Barwood.

The Committee again urge householders not to relieve those who practice a system of begging at their doors, as all really deserving cases brought before them are relieved.

For the information of subscribers, your Committee again report the amount of rations issued weekly,—one ration is 7 lbs. of bread, 3½ lbs. of meat, 1 lb. of sugar, and 2 ozs. of tea. A single ration is the minimum, and a double ration is the maximum; but in cases of sickness, oatmeal or rice, and beef for beef tea are occasionally given.

E. L. DITCHAM, *Chairman.*

LAUNCESTON BENEVOLENT SOCIETY *in account with Treasurer for 1885.*

Dr.		£	s.	d.	Cr.		£	s.	d.
To Balance due Bank, 1884		66	14	0	By Government Conditional Grant		250	0	0
Meat		278	7	3	" Unconditional Grant		250	0	0
Groceries		154	6	8	Interest		55	5	6
Bread		199	12	9	Subscriptions and Donations, &c.		387	11	5
Secretary's Salary		75	0	0					
Midwifery and Rent		26	12	0					
Firewood		18	1	0					
Blankets		15	10	6					
Printing and Stamps		23	2	4					
Lodgings		9	8	0					
Fares		5	13	0					
Commission		12	18	3					
Balance V.D.L. Bank		57	11	2					
		<u>£942 16 11</u>					<u>£942 16 11</u>		

G. BABINGTON, *Hon. Treasurer.*
13th January, 1886.

Audited and found correct,
G. BAKER.

11th January, 1886.