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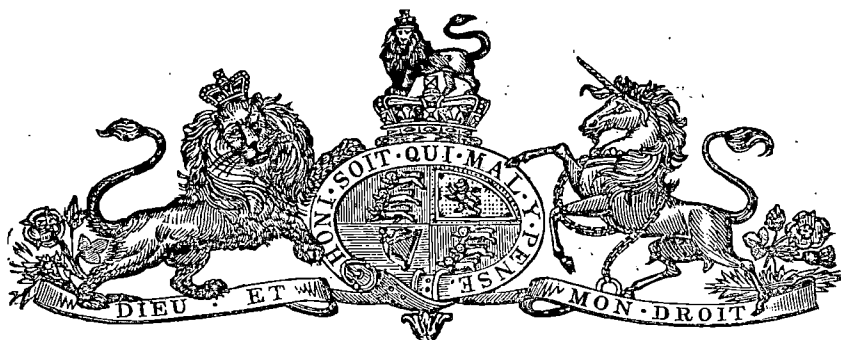
1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL
GARDENS:

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1888.

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



TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1888.

To His Excellency the Governor and the 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 honor to submit to Your Excellency, in accordance with the 11th Section of that Act, this, their third Annual Report:

1. The Museum, during the year of 1888, 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. Since their last Report your Trustees have been able to furnish the newly completed wing, which was publicly opened in May last by Your Excellency, when great interest was manifested in the proceedings by a large and representative gathering. The new wing consists of a basement set apart for duplicate specimens and taxidermist's work, a room on the ground floor devoted to the exhibition of an Australian collection, and an upper room used as an Art Gallery. The additions have proved a great attraction to visitors, whose numbers have greatly increased with the extended accommodation,—the average attendance on week-days being 150, and on Sundays 500. The intelligent interest and the orderly behaviour of the visitors on all occasions are gratifying evidences of its popularity, and hopeful signs of its educational usefulness.

The Art Gallery has been successful even beyond the expectations of your Trustees; and the large number of students who avail themselves of the permission generously given by the different owners of the loan collection to copy the pictures is a most encouraging proof of the necessity for such a source of artistic culture. The Trustees have thought it desirable to afford students all possible assistance in their studies, and, for that purpose, have closed the Gallery to all but students on Mondays and Thursdays.

Among the donations to the Art Gallery may be specially mentioned a number of oil paintings of Tasmanian scenery painted by the celebrated Tasmanian artist, Mr. W. C. Piquenit, and a number of paintings of Tasmanian aboriginals, by Bock,—both collections presented by the Government. A number of gentlemen, including the Hon. J. W. Agnew, M.D., M.E.C., Messrs. R. M. Johnston, A. P. Miller, and Signor D. Bernacchi, have lent your Trustees valuable pictures for exhibition, and have signified their willingness to allow them to be copied.

3. In the Tasmanian room some alterations have been made. The Curator has gone over the specimens of animals, and renewed many of them. He has also formed a very good collection of introduced Trout. A fine Luth (*Sphargis coriacea*) captured along the Tasmanian Coast, has been added to the collection.

An extremely valuable and complete collection of the land shells of Tasmania, presented by Mr. W. F. Petterd, has been recently placed on view.

In the general room the principal donations have been a splendid specimen of the Wapiti, or Red Deer of the Hudson Bay traders, and a Grisly Bear, both shot by Mr. T. W. H. Clarke, of Secheron, on the Rocky Mountains in America, and by him presented to the Museum, after having been mounted in London.

4. Your Trustees regret that the small sum of Fifty Pounds, required for the maintenance of the Aquarium, not having been voted by Parliament last year, they were unable to keep that instructive and popular part of the Institution open. It is hoped that during this Session something may be done to enable this important branch to be again worked under their direction.

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

- I. Balance Sheet of Museum and Gardens, duly audited.
- II. Report of the Superintendent of the Gardens.

J. BARNARD, *Chairman.*

ALEX. MORTON, *Curator & Secretary.*
12th September, 1889.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT of the Funds of the TASMANIAN MUSEUM and BOTANICAL GARDENS for the Year 1888.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1887	.....	22	4	5	<i>Museum—</i>				
<i>Museum—</i>					Salary of Curator	250	0	0	
Grant to Museum	.....	500	0	0	Salary of Attendant	109	0	0	
<i>Botanical Gardens—</i>					Salary of Boy	12	0	0	
Grant to Botanical Gardens	.....	800	0	0	Chemicals	6	19	3	
To Sale of Plants	.....	142	19	9	Petty Cash	34	12	5	
					Insurance	5	10	0	
					Rates	13	2	0	
					Repairs and Ironmongery	12	2	0	
					Gas, Fuel, &c.	18	11	3	
					Cases, Fittings	13	11	10	
					Specimens	5	13	0	
					Printing, Stationery	4	1	5	
					Instruments	3	8	0	
					<i>Botanical Gardens—</i>				
					Salary of Superintendent	210	0	0	
					Salaries	587	6	8	
					Ironmongery	22	6	3	
					Sundries	41	15	1	
					Fittings, &c.	19	10	9	
					Cartage, &c.	32	13	4	
					Seeds, &c.	11	14	0	
					Timber	13	13	6	
						1427	10	9	
					Balance	37	13	5	
						£1465	4	2	
									£1465 4 2

Audited.

C. T. BELSTEAD.

6th September, 1889.

ALEX. MORTON, *Curator and Secretary.*

APPENDIX II.

REPORT on the Condition and Progress of the Botanical Gardens, Hobart, for the Year 1888.

GENTLEMEN.

I HAVE the honor to submit my Report on the condition and progress of the Botanical Gardens for the year 1888.

I regret to say that the severe drought experienced during the past three seasons has seriously affected many plants, some of which have succumbed to its influence, and it will be some considerable time before others assume their ordinary appearance. The following plants have died during the drought:—*Araucaria imbricata*, a fine healthy tree of vigorous growth, apparently quite at home, as it had not shown any previous signs of distress. The loss of this plant is much to be regretted, as it was the finest specimen in the Garden. *Argania sideroxylon*, a tree of special interest, and, so far as is known, the only one in the colonies that had prospered from seed sent from the Royal Gardens, Kew, 35 years ago; the death of this plant from drought is somewhat remarkable, as it inhabits the sandy deserts of Morocco, where it is noted for affording sustenance to camels when all other vegetation has ceased to survive. The tree was

a healthy one, and had produced seed yearly for some time past, from which plants have been raised and distributed. *Cryptomeria elegans* appears to have felt the drought very severely. The specimen plants in the Gardens and several nursery rows of young plants all died. The following have also been lost:—*Cryptomeria japonica*, *Cupressus Lawsoniana*, *Pinus abies*, *Cunninghamia sinensis*, *Duboisia myoporoides*, *Aristolelia racemosa*, *Grisitina lucida*, several *Retinosporas*, *Cephalotaxus Fortunei*, a large paper-shelled Almond, and many plants of lesser growth.

The want of an adequate supply of water for irrigation was never so much felt as during the past season, and it is to be sincerely hoped that steps may be at once taken for the purpose of securing a better supply in future.

Improvements.—In the absence of special funds for the purpose, it is not possible to undertake improvements of any moment, but arrangements have been made for the purpose of doing away with the upper portion of the old fruit square, with a view of throwing the ground into the general garden. The removal of this square will considerably open up the centre of the garden, and an opportunity will be offered of forming groups of interesting plants for which space could not otherwise have been found. Last year I pointed out the urgent necessity of better provision being made for the cultivation of Hot-house and Pot Plants generally: the structures now used for this purpose are not only unsuitable, but are also in a bad state of repair, so much so, that one at least of them may collapse at any time.

Maintenance.—All available labour has been actively employed on works of maintenance and propagation. With the force at my command it is not possible that the up-keep of the Gardens can be as perfect as desirable. For this purpose, and also to afford extra assistance in the propagating department, it would be necessary that a further expenditure of at least £200 annually should be incurred, and it is to be hoped that this additional sum will be granted by Parliament.

In the rougher operations, assistance has been given by the prison gang employed; as the strength of this gang is gradually diminishing, the same amount of work is not now performed as in former years, when the numerical strength was greater, and the men of better physique.

Plant Additions.—A number of plants, as usual, have been added to the collection during the year; with few exceptions, these have been more of an ornamental than economic character. The Tree Tomato, *Cyphomandra betaceum*, has stood the winter on a dry bank, and has produced fruit freely this season: as a rule, this plant has failed in the other colonies. As an ornamental plant, *Populus bolleana* is worthy of special mention; it is a pyramidal plant of quick growth, producing large white leaves. As the plant is said not to produce suckers from the roots, and is highly ornamental, it is likely to be largely planted when better known.

Nursery.—Yearly the want of additional assistance and space becomes more and more felt in this department. A rapidly growing demand is springing up for plants for public planting, and supplies have been sent, as far as practicable, to various recreation grounds, cemeteries, churches, Government and Main Line Railways, &c. If this demand is to be fully met in the future, some special provision will have to be made for the purpose of keeping up the supply of suitable plants. In the other Colonies a special vote is set apart for this purpose, and it is desirable the same provision should be made here, that the department may be able to meet the numerous demands made upon it.

The number of visitors to the Gardens during the year was 60,576.

As a matter of information, although not strictly within the scope of this Report, it may be of interest to mention what has been done in connection with improvements to the Queen's Domain.

The cedar avenue leading to the Upper Cricket Ground has been completed; but, owing to the reduction of the vote-in-aid for the second half of the year, it was not possible to undertake any additional work. As a promise has been made that the amount realised by the sale of bark and wood shall be placed at the disposal of the Committee, it is hoped that active operations will soon be undertaken at the quarry near the Government House entrance, and in connection with the proposed pinetum, renovation of wattles, and other necessary work pressing for attention.

The trees and shrubs already planted are doing as well as could be expected, considering the consecutive dry seasons they have had to pass through. The shrubbery on the steep bank opposite the shipyards has shown no sign of distress during the drought. This is contrary to the general expectation, as the whole bank is little more than a cairn of stones, on which it was predicted plants would not grow.

The Cedar Avenue is making very promising growth, and it is confidently expected that in a few years this avenue will be one of the most interesting in the Southern Hemisphere.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient Servant,

F. ABBOTT.

The Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and
Botanical Gardens.

EXCHANGES OF PLANTS AND SEEDS DURING THE YEAR 1888.

From—

Baron. Ferd. von Mueller, Government Botanist, Victoria—Numerous sendings of Seeds.
 The Botanic Gardens, Kew, near London—Crocus Bulbs and various sendings of Seeds.
 The Botanic Gardens, Hong Kong—Seeds *Pinus sinensis*, &c.
 The Botanic Gardens, Calcutta—Seeds, various, *Abies*.
 The Botanic Gardens, Melbourne—Plants and Seeds.
 The Botanic Gardens, Adelaide—Seeds of kinds.
 Messrs. Law, Somner, & Co., Nurserymen, Melbourne—Case of Plants and *Baronia* Seed.
 Messrs. Shepherd & Co., Sydney, N.S.W.—1 case, 1 bundle of Plants.
 Messrs. G. Brunning and Sons, Nurserymen, St. Kilda—1 case of Plants.
 Mr. Samuel Purchase, Parramatta, N.S.W.—1 case, 1 bundle of Plants.
 Messrs. Smith & Sons, Nurserymen, Riddell's Creek, Victoria—Case of Plants.
 Mr. R. Cheeseman, Nurseryman, Brighton, Victoria—Case *Bouvardiæ*.
 Messrs. Veitch & Sons, Nurserymen, London—Collection of Seeds.
 The Hon. the Minister of Lands—93 packets Seeds from Japan.
 Mr. H. S. James, Adelaide—Seeds of 3 species *Baronia*.
 Mr. James Grant, Tullochgorum—Seeds of hardy variety *Eucalyptus globulus*.
 Mr. John Latham, Nurseryman, Hobart—Collection of Plants.
 E. C. Nowell, Esquire—Seeds from Mr. Dempster, Mauritius.

Sent to—

The Botanic Gardens, Kew, near London—Seeds, various sendings.
 The Botanic Gardens, Sydney—Sphagnum Moss.
 The Botanic Gardens, Melbourne—Seeds and Sphagnum Moss.
 The Botanic Gardens, Calcutta—Seeds.
 The Botanic Gardens, Saharanpur, N.W.P., India—Seeds.
 G. S. Perrin, Esquire, Conservator of Forests, Melbourne—Plants.
 Messrs. Law, Somner, & Co., Nurserymen, Melbourne—Seeds and Sphagnum.
 Messrs. Shepherd & Sons, Nurserymen, Sydney, N.S.W.—Plants and Seeds.
 Messrs. Wilmorin, Andrieux, & Co., Seedsmen, Paris—Seeds.
 Messrs. Brunning & Sons, Nurserymen, St. Kilda, near Melbourne—Plants and Seeds.
 R. Cheeseman, Nurseryman, Brighton, near Melbourne—Sphagnum Moss.
 Mr. S. Purchase, Nurseryman, Parramatta, N.S.W.—Plants and Seeds.
 Mr. C. F. Creswell, Hobart—Seeds.
 Mr. Dempster, Mauritius—Seeds.
 Baron Ferd. von Mueller, Government Botanist, Victoria—Seeds.

Plants supplied for planting Public Places in Tasmania—

To the Church of Rome, George's Bay—100 plants.
 Ditto, Launceston—100 plants.
 Ditto, New Norfolk—100 plants.
 To Cornelian Bay Cemetery—150 plants.
 To New Norfolk Railway Stations—450 plants.
 To Government House Grounds—70 plants.
 To Recreation Ground, Formby—50 plants.
 To Municipality of Bothwell—25 plants.
 To St. Andrew's Church, Hobart—25 plants.
 To Main Line Railway—80 plants.
 To Mr. Dowie, Evandale—50 plants.
 To Presbyterian Church, Evandale—50 plants.
 To Campbell Town Church—100 plants.
 To Recreation Ground, Torquay—50 plants.
 To Beaconsfield Cemetery—100 plants.
 To Hagley Cemetery—100 plants.
 To Scottsdale Railway—100 plants.
 To Table Cape Cemetery—50 plants.
 To Queen's Domain—100 large plants.
 To Bonding Warehouse, Hobart—14 plants.
 To Franklin and Barrack Squares—60 plants.

F. ABBOTT, *Superintendent.*