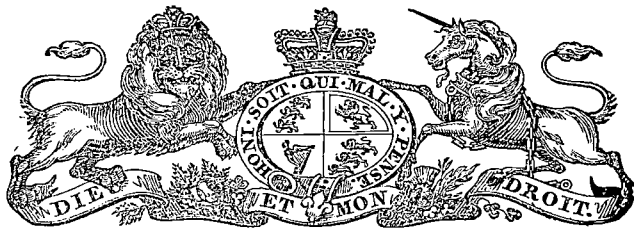


(No. 5.)



1896.

SESSION II.

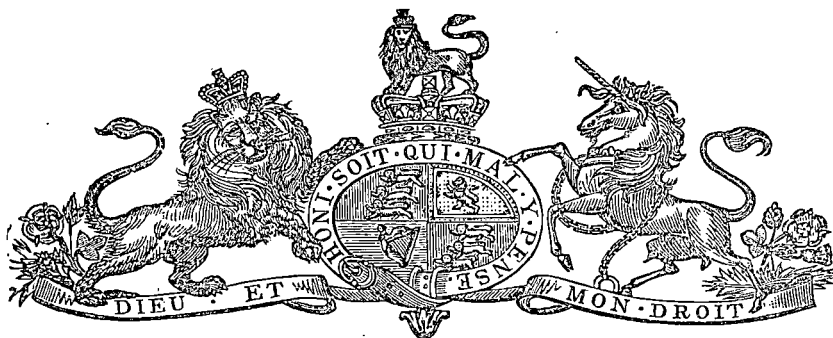
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY:

REPORT FOR 1895.

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

Cost of printing—£1 2s. 6d.



HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1895.

THE special items in the work of the year 1895 calling for particular attention may be said to arise out of the Report for 1894.

At last annual meeting subscribers were informed that a contract had been accepted for the erection of workmen's houses, and that the first payment had been made. It is a pleasing duty now to state that the houses are completed and occupied, and that, so far, there does not appear to be any reason for doubting the success of a somewhat anxious experiment. In this matter the society is largely indebted to the kindness of one member of the Committee in collecting the rents, and in keeping a general oversight of the property.

Last year it was reported that the Executive had accepted the proposal of the Government, and had undertaken the outdoor relief of Hobart. It may be feared that this work is greatly misunderstood by the public generally. The obligations of the Society on the ground of voluntary charity are not lessened, the work, however, of the officers is sensibly increased. The great advantage of the combination lies in the prevention of overlapping. In the cases of persons leaving the country to reside in town, the Hon. the Premier very thoughtfully issued a circular to magistrates and wardens asking them to discourage the practice in every possible way. The matter is, however, one of great difficulty, and cannot readily be disposed of.

The question is very frequently asked, Is it possible to distinguish between cases which should be supported by the State, and those appealing more directly to voluntary agency? The best answer, perhaps, may be found in the report of Sir George Cornwall Lewes on the working of the English Poor Law:—"The fundamental principle with respect to the legal relief of the poor is, that the condition of the pauper ought to be, on the whole, less eligible than that of the independent labourer. The equity and expediency of this principle are equally obvious. Unless the condition of the pauper is, on the whole, less eligible than that of the independent labourer, the law destroys the strongest motives to good conduct, steady industry, providence, and frugality among the labouring classes, and induces persons, by idleness or imposture, to throw themselves upon the poor rates for support. But if the independent labourer sees that a recurrence to the poor rates will, while it protects him against destitution, place him in a less eligible position than that which he can attain to by his own industry, he is left to the undisturbed influence of all those motives which prompt mankind to exertion, forethought, and self-denial. On the other hand, the pauper has no just ground for complaint if at the same time that his physical wants are amply provided for, his condition should be less eligible than that of the poorest class of those who contribute to his support." Thus there are three distinct objects aimed at, viz., the support of the indigent, the repression of abuses of charity, and remedial measures to prevent the growth of a pauper system. Were these principles clearly recognised more than three-fourths of the cases now on the books would be a direct charge on the public account, and a larger effort might be made to save the balance from finally sinking to the pauper level.

Again, it is very frequently asked, What are the causes leading to so many applications for aid in a Colony like this? Generally, the knowledge that the necessaries of life can be so easily obtained induces men who are not really destitute to throw themselves upon the State; to look to

the same source in time of sickness, age, and destitution; and has the singular effect of quenching natural sentiments of affection in the minds of relatives and friends. Particularly, the inordinate craving for drink—so extreme in some cases that whilst children are starving parents are drinking; the absence of domestic economy and home training; the fatal influence of compassionate aid in past years; charities and missions competing against each other with gifts of food, firing, and clothing; these things leading to the absolute want of self-reliance.

When the correctional discipline of the State compels the lazy to work, the drunkard to maintain his home, so employs the prisoner that his earnings shall support wife and children; when citizens are more guarded and less sentimental in their recommendations for aid; when local interest creates a keener supervision over the recipients of charity; and when pauperism is felt to be a disgrace—then, and not till then, may we hope for better times amongst the poor and needy.

The following is a detailed statement of cases and distribution of rations:—New cases for the year, 667 families, comprising 429 men, 849 women; children—709 boys, 708 girls. Total, 2695. Of the adults there were 112 aged and infirm; out of work, 281; widows, 87; illness, 95; blind, 6; accidents, 12; destitute, 17; husbands in gaol, 18; husbands away, 39. Cases have been carefully investigated, and 642 visits made. On the books from last year there were 159 families, comprising 681 individuals. Rations issued—Bread, 199,420 lbs.; tea, 3880 lbs.; sugar, 20,671 lbs.; oatmeal, 20,150 lbs.; rice, 155 lbs.; and, for sick cases, cornflour, 12 lbs.; cocoa, 13 lbs. Thirty-five men were employed in the wood-yard. During the winter months wood, coal, blankets, and clothing were distributed. Amongst the special gifts of the year may be mentioned meat, bread, buns, &c., wood, and clothing. The Christmas treat was given to 300 families, comprising 1058 individuals. The supply consisted of meat, flour, raisins, and spice.

The comparative statement of distribution for the two past years was as follows:—

	1894. <i>lbs.</i>	1895. <i>lbs.</i>
Bread	100,965	199,420
Tea	1700	3880
Sugar	9283	20,671
Oatmeal	3951	20,150
Rice	2159	155
Cocoa	15	13
Cornflour	31	12

J W. SIMMONS, *Chairman.*

The HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY for the Year ending 31st December, 1895.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1895.—Jan. 1.				1895.—Dec. 31.			
To Bank balance			172 5 8	By Salaries	262	10	6
Dec. 31.				Bread and Groceries.....	1202	16	2
To Subscriptions			168 16 1	Wood and labour	86	16	11
Legacies: Miss Cowle	100	0	0	Cash allowances, Government cases &c.	95	15	0
„ Mr. J. E. Salier	100	0	0	Gas, Lodgings, Printing Account, and			
			200 0 0	Insurance	33	14	7
Interest on Capital.....			336 15 0	Repairs and Rates.....	35	7	3
Capital withdrawn.....			2500 0 0	Capital invested	985	0	0
Government Subsidy.....			740 0 0	Cash balance Terrace of Houses	2106	9	2
Government Contribution,				Christmas Treat and Blankets	17	15	0
£ for £			250 0 0	Special Loans and Reports	15	6	3
Cash Credits V.D.L. Bank..	457	0	0	Balance	49	1	8
Loss on Sale, 25 per cent....	122	5	0				
			334 15 0				
7th Dividend, 1s. in £, V.D.L.							
Bank			102 3 3				
Rents from Cottages			85 17 6				
			£4890 12 6				£4890 12 6

INVESTED CAPITAL.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Treasury Bills, 13th September	1000	0	0			
Ditto, 3rd October.....	500	0	0			
Ditto, 3rd December	3400	0	0			
				4900	0	0
Fixed Deposit, Commercial Bank, 10th February	100	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 31st December	185	0	0			
				285	0	0
Fixed Deposit, Building Society, 4th January	500	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 30th January	150	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 6th February.....	140	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 17th April	25	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 21st April.....	70	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 20th September.....	100	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 22nd November	100	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 6th December	600	0	0			
				1685	0	0
Fixed Deposit, Union Bank, 26th June.....	...			152	17	7
Ditto, Savings Bank.....	...			100	0	0
Balance to Credit V.D.L. Bank, 1st January, 1893.....	1580	15	7			
	£	s.	d.			
Cash from Sales	334	15	0			
Loss on Sales	122	5	0			
7th Dividend of 1s. in £	102	3	3			
				559	3	3
				1021	12	4
Society's Premises, Bathurst-street .....	...			750	0	0
Terrace of Houses, Smith and George streets .....	...			2206	9	2
FIRE AND FLOOD ACCOUNT—						
Fixed Deposit Union Bank .....	...	120	7	9		
Ditto, Savings Bank .....	...	66	7	3		
				186	15	0
				£11,287	14	1
				£11,287	14	1

E. & O. E.

G. S. CROUCH, *Treasurer.*

Examined and found correct—

THOS. B. MATHER,	}	<i>Auditors.</i>
THOS. BENNISON,		