

(No. 22.)



1870.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

R O Y A L S O C I E T Y.

REPORT FOR 1869.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 23, 1870.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1869.

THE Session of 1869 was opened on the 9th March, with a paper by F. Abbott, Esq., F.R.A.S., on the late "Transit of Mercury over the Sun's Disc;" and the following papers were read at the monthly meetings during the year:—Remarks on the Geological Structure of Part of the North Coast of Tasmania, with special reference to the Tertiary Marine Beds near Table Cape," by T. Stephens, M.A.; "On the Manufacture of Beet Sugar in New South Wales," by James Barnard, Esq.; "Nobert's test-plate, Moller's Diatom type slide, and Modern Microscopes," by F. Abbott, Esq., F.R.A.S., F.R.M.S.; "Net fishing in the River Derwent," by M. Allport, Esq., F.L.S., F.Z.S.; "Notes on the occurrence of Gold at Port Cygnet," by T. Stephens, Esq., M.A.

Communications to the Secretary, by E. D. Harrop, Esq., F.R.M.S., of Launceston, on the development of the *Fasciola hepatica* (Sheep Fluke), and on the *Phylactidium pulchellum* (one of the confervoid Algæ), were also read by permission of the Council.

The annual Microscopical Soirée was held on the last evening of the Session, and as the Fellows had the privilege of introducing ladies, a very large number of visitors attended, who were both pleased and interested in the examination of the numerous objects collected for their inspection.

The monthly Meteorological Tables have been regularly published, and copies of them forwarded to the Government Observatories at Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Western Australia, and Wellington, New Zealand, from all of which places we receive similar Returns.

The published papers of the Society have been as usual forwarded to various scientific Societies and individuals in England, America, the neighbouring Colonies and elsewhere, for which liberal returns have been received, especially from America, both from the Government and from the Smithsonian Institution.

COUNCIL.

No vacancy has occurred during the year. The required list according to Rule XXXII., as amended at the General Meeting of 1868, has been exhibited in the Library for the last fortnight.

FINANCE.

In last year's Report the unexpected reduction of the grant-in-aid was referred to. The necessary consequence of this withdrawal of £50 annually has been the contraction of a debt, as it has not been found possible to carry out stricter economy than has hitherto been exercised. We are happy to say our income from subscriptions and arrears contrasts favourably with that of last year, and as Government (in response to an urgent appeal from the Council) has restored the £50 to our grant, we expect to see the debt very considerably reduced at the end of the current year.

Although the Museum Grant has been augmented by £50, we are sorry to say the like sum has been deducted from the Garden Grant. This is now only £400; a sum for which it is evident these extensive Gardens cannot be attended to in a manner satisfactory to anyone who takes the slightest interest in their proper maintenance.

Our total income (viz., Government Grant, £150 to Museum, £450 to Gardens; subscriptions £150, and sale of plants, &c., £83 11s. 6d.) has been £833 11s. 6d.; which, with £30 12s. in the hands of the Superintendent of the Gardens for payment of current expenses, and about £40 still due for subscriptions, will give a total of £904 3s. 6d. The total expenditure and liabilities amount to £965 1s., leaving to our debit a balance of £60 17s. 6d.

As will be seen by the Balance Sheet, the debt referred to consists chiefly of accounts due to the London Agents. Of these Messrs. Wheatley's is the usual annual account for current literature; the other is an old-standing account of Messrs. Orger and Meryon, of which we are happy to say one moiety has been cleared off during the last two years, leaving at present only £29 5s. 2d. unpaid.

It is only fair to mention that the expenditure for the year (without considering previous liabilities) has been kept within the income, as will be seen by the following figures:—

	£	s.	d
Total Receipts from all sources	833	11	6
Total Expenditure	830	9	7
Balance	£3	1	11

GARDENS.

About 400 new plants have been introduced during the past year, embracing many of great interest or utility; as *Rhamnus utilis*, from which is prepared the Green dye of China; *Carya tomentosa*, White Hickory or Mocker Nut; *Carya oliviformis*, Pecan Nut; *Thea Assamica*, Assam Tea; *Dactylis cæspitosa*, Tussac Grass of Falkland Islands; *Fraxinus pendula aurea*, the Golden Weeping Ash; *Jacaranda mimosæfolia*, and *Jacaranda mimosæfolia alba*; *Dahlia imperialis*, the tree Dahlia which grows to the height of ten or more feet, and is said to be very beautiful when in flower, and *Retinospora ericoides*, from Japan.

Several of the Coniferæ have produced seed for the first time in the Colony, during the year. The following are perhaps worthy of especial notice:—*Wellingtonia gigantea*, the mammoth tree of California; *Abies Webbiana*, the purple-coned Fir; *Thuja Lobbi*; *Juniperus Langoldiana*; *Pinus muricata*, *pyreniaca*, *Monspeliensis*, and *Montezuma*.

About an acre of ground has been trenched, and it is purposed to have it thrown open to the public during the ensuing autumn.

Estimated number of visitors for the year, 22,033.

MUSEUM.

Additions have been made to the Conchological collection from various parts of Tasmania, especially the East Coast. To Dr. J. Cox, of Sydney, we are also much indebted for valuable contributions. For the proper display of these and other specimens, which are continually increasing in number, additional case room is much required.

For the exhibition of our stores of wet preparations a considerable outlay (to which our funds are at present unequal) for glass jars and spirits would be necessary.

Specimens of our Fauna, for exchange, have been sent to the Museums of Magdalen College, Cambridge, and Kentucky. Offers of exchange have also been received from some of the Continental (European) collections. It is only due to our former Secretary, Dr. Milligan, to refer to the valuable collection of Tasmanian plants presented by him, arranged and scientifically named by Dr. Hooker, of Kew.

As will be seen by the list of donations many additions have been made to the Geological Museum, all of which have been arranged in their appropriate sections; and the general collection has also received many specimens of Birds, Reptiles, Fishes, &c., with other objects of interest. Several skeletons of indigenous animals have been prepared, and will shortly be articulated and mounted for exhibition.

The Museum has been visited by 12,960 persons during the year. This number is almost double that of any previous year—a circumstance to be attributed in a great degree to the interest excited by the exhibition of the salmon smolts caught in October and December last.

STATEMENT of the Funds of the ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA for the Year 1869.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Annual Subscriptions from 69 Members	103 10 0	Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank as per statement for 1868	85 6 3
Arrears of ditto	46 10 0	Interest on overdrawn account, 1869, as per Bank Book...	6 8 7
Total Royal Society.	150 0 0	<i>Royal Society.</i>	
<i>Museum.</i>		Meteorological Instruments	2 0 0
Grant-in-Aid from Treasury	150 0 0	Printing, Advertising, &c..	32 11 11
Total Museum.....	150 0 0	Postage, Parcels, &c.....	3 5 1
<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>		Collector's Commission on Subscriptions received, £150 at 5 per cent.....	7 10 0
Proceeds of Sale of Plants, Fruit, &c.....	83 11 6	Messenger for delivering Papers and Proceedings.	1 0 0
Grant-in-Aid from Treasury	450 0 0	Library—Books and Stationery.....	47 7 3
Total Botanic Gardens	533 11 6	Total Royal Society.	93 14 3
		<i>Museum.</i>	
		Salary of Curator.....	125 0 0
		Wages of Attendant	52 0 0
		Premium of Insurance	6 7 6
		Purchase of, and preparing Specimens.....	2 12 6
		Water Rate.....	3 3 0
		Fuel and Light.....	3 9 7
		Sundries and Petty Cash ..	1 0 3
		Camphor, Spirits of Wine, &c.....	8 11 9
		Freight and Carriage of Specimens	0 14 6
		Fittings, Repairs, &c.....	5 1 1
		Ironmongery, &c.....	2 14 8
		Total Museum	210 14 10
		<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>	
		Salary of Superintendent ..	150 0 0
		Wages of Foreman and Labourers	275 19 0
		Tools and Repair of ditto..	6 14 1½
		Freight and Carriage of Plants	6 2 3
		Stationery and Postage....	2 7 2
		Forage.....	22 10 0
		Ironmongery, &c.....	21 2 1
		Flower Pots	7 5 0
		Sundries	24 1 8½
		Repairs to Buildings	2 0 3
		Seeds	1 10 4
		Total Botanic Gardens	519 11 11
			£915 15 10
14th Jan., 1870.—Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank	82 4 4		
	£915 15 10		

NOTE.

<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
To overdrawn Balance at Bank	82 4 4	By Cash in hands of Superintendent, Botanic Gardens.	30 12 0
Balance of account due Messrs. Orger & Meryon, London...	29 5 2	Subscriptions due.....	40 0 0
Messrs. Wheatley & Co., account to 31st December (not received), estimated at.....	20 0 0	Total	70 12 0
Total	131 9 6	Balance to Debit.....	£60 17 6

Audited and found correct,
 FRANCIS BUTLER, } *Auditors.*
 HENRY COOK, }

23rd February, 1870.