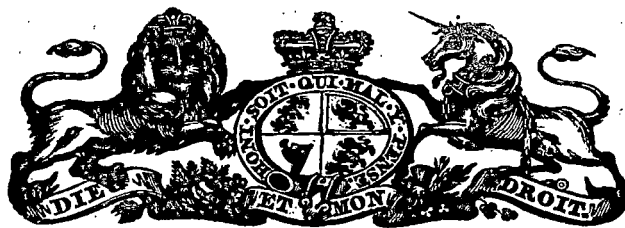


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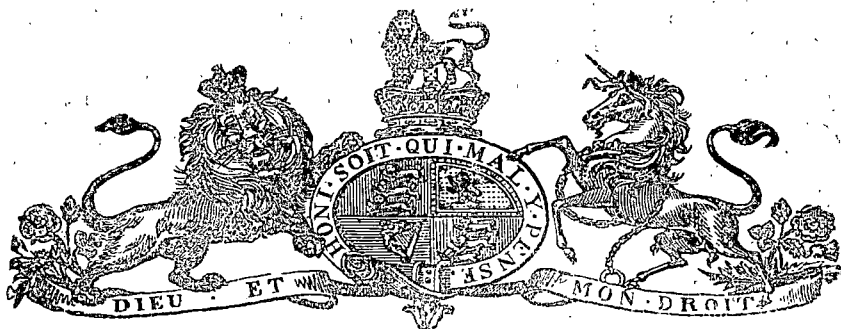
1884.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

ADMINISTRATOR OF CHARITABLE GRANTS :

REPORT FOR 1883.

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



OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

REPORT for 1883.

Charitable Grants Office, 24th April, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, as requested in your letter of the 31st January last, to forward my Report for the year 1883 with reference to the Out-door relief, &c. of paupers throughout the Colony, and the cost of transport and funeral expenses.

In a return attached hereto are set forth the sums disbursed monthly for out-door relief in the Town of Launceston and the several Municipal and Police Districts, and the expenditure for the year, which amounted to £3222 17s. 2d. Compared with a similar detailed statement for 1882, that now appended shows a reduction of £164 18s. 6d., a result I hardly anticipated, having in mind the numerous demands for assistance which of necessity have had to be complied with in the course of the year.

The circumstances under which the payments were authorised having been reported to you in the abstract submitted periodically for your approval, I have not considered it necessary at this time to furnish particulars in detail; but I have collected information on the subject which it has occurred to me may prove of some interest, and perhaps be found useful for reference hereafter.

During the year grants of Out-door relief were made in 383 cases, representing 928 individuals—viz., 493 adults, and 435 children belonging to 124 families.

Of the 383 cases—

- 182 were those of aged, infirm, and afflicted persons, without family ties—males, 87; females, 95.
- 77 were of the same class, but composed of married couples.
- 14 were deserted wives with families.
- 56 were widows, also with children to support.
- 48 were parents to whom assistance was given to enable them to maintain themselves and children during illness or recovery from accidents; and
- 6 were the mothers of children whose fathers were undergoing imprisonment for various offences.

383 Total.

In dealing with the cases of new applicants for relief every precaution was taken to guard against imposition, and exhaustive enquiries were instituted and satisfactory replies received before their applications were acceded to. Care was also taken to prevent persons from becoming burthens on the public who had relatives in a position to afford the necessary assistance. With regard to the applications for the renewal of grants in cases in which the authority for payment had expired, aid

was not continued except upon the assurance of the Chief Magistrate of the District that it was really necessary, and could not be dispensed with without exposing those interested to great privation and, in some instances, to absolute want.

I may, perhaps, be permitted here to say that in the discharge of the duties of my office, I received from the Police Magistrates, Wardens, and officials acting under them, most courteous and prompt replies to my enquiries, and every assistance it was in their power to afford.

As it may be considered by some that the infirm and afflicted persons without family ties, above referred to, should have been provided for in one or other of the Charitable Institutions, I beg to observe that in consideration of the fact that many of them had been in receipt of their small allowance (much less than their cost in an Invalid Depôt) for a long period, and were still able to earn a trifle in aid of their maintenance, and that others had friends from whom they received assistance in money, goods, or lodging, payment was continued to them as out-door paupers. To force them into an Invalid Depôt when they were not entirely dependent upon the bounty of the public at large, would, it appeared to me, have been unnecessarily harsh to them, and decidedly disadvantageous to the Government, for, while by their admission to a Depôt a saving in the expenditure of Out-door relief would have been effected, the cost of the Institutions of which they had been compelled to become inmates would have been considerably increased.

With respect to the 77 married couples to whom assistance was also represented as indispensably necessary, the same remarks apply; and I feel sure the most strenuous opponents of the system of out-door relief would not under the circumstances advocate the compulsory separation of man and wife, or regard their unfortunate position in a light other than that which influenced me in allowing them a small weekly pittance to enable them to pass their few remaining years together.

In the City of Hobart, at New Town, and Sandy Bay, the wants of such persons as required relief from the Government were attended to by the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society, whose report will no doubt contain all necessary particulars on the subject. The amount distributed through this agency was, cash £731 8s. 9d., and value of provisions £742 5s. 1d., making a total of £1473 13s. 10d.

Throughout the whole Colony the total expenditure for out-door relief amounted to £4696 11s., but the sum of £76 19s. 2d. was received as repayments, which reduced the actual outlay to £4619 11s. 10d.

Out of the vote £6000 for the maintenance of paupers not otherwise provided for, and to which the above-named sum £4619 11s. 10d. has been charged, there has also been expended £808 3s. 2d., making a total of £5427 15s., and leaving an unexpended balance of £572 5s. Of the amount £808 3s. 2d., the sum of £358 2s. was required for medical attendance and medicines, including the cost of the maintenance of paupers in the Campbell Town Hospital; £95 10s. 3d. for lying-in cases attended to by the Benevolent Society, Hobart; £66 4s. for the supply of food and shelter to tramps and other paupers at the Campbell Town Police Station; £43 2s. 7d. commission to Collectors for Charitable Institutions; £69 3s. 9d. in connection with the maintenance, &c. of children in the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind; £24 8s. 11d. for provisions and attendance upon persons in the country districts who could not be removed to an Institution; £27 8s. 6d. in aid of the support of two girls and one boy who were being taught trades; £31 13s. 8d. for stationery, stores, fuel; together with sundry other items of small amount.

The following report respecting the children in the New South Wales Institution above referred to has been received from the Master:—

Sydney, 14th February, 1884.

MEMO. *re* TASMANIAN CHILDREN.

It is pleasant to be able to say that these children (4) enjoy good health, and that their progress in school is satisfactory.

E. Johnston.—In addition to her ordinary lessons, this blind girl is learning music, knitting, &c.

G. Smith is a plodding good-natured child (blind). He is able to read nicely, and is getting on with his other lessons pretty well.

A. Ransley is a bright lad, and is fairly apt at learning. Can now write and understand simple sentences.

S. M. Gartz.—This child is somewhat dull; but, being docile and diligent, she is making fair progress in school.

(Signed) S. WATSON.

The blind girl Alice Usherwood, who returned to the Colony on the 8th July last, is still an inmate of the Girls' Industrial School. As the time approached for her departure from Sydney, efforts were made to induce the Committee of the Institution to allow her to remain, she giving her services as an equivalent for the cost of her maintenance, but they decided that it would not be advisable

to do so. The Governors of the Girls' Industrial School then very kindly consented to receive her, at, I believe, some inconvenience; but, up to the present time, no suitable occupation outside has been found for her. She has some connections here; but they, although possessed of ample means, repudiate all responsibility on her account; and they cannot be compelled to provide for her. She, however, has two brothers, one of whom, aged 18, an apprentice to the sea service, visits her when in port, and promises to look after her on the completion of his articles. At present she is employed in knitting; and it is believed, after a little more practice, she will be able to earn almost enough to relieve the Government of the expense of maintaining her. She was sent to the Institution on the 6th February, 1877, and will be 16 years of age on the 24th August next. The last report from Sydney respecting her is dated 30th July, 1882, and is as follows:—"Can knit socks, make nets, and do simple kinds of fancy work pretty well, but is not yet perfect in halter making. Her progress in music is very satisfactory indeed. She plays the piano and accordeon, and hopes soon to commence the harmonium if permitted to stay here a little longer. *Progress since last Report.*—Reads Moon's, Lucas', and the Braille Types fluently: is able to emboss the latter. Her knowledge of such subjects as Geography, Grammar, History, and Scripture is creditable, and her character excellent."

One of the two girls apprenticed had to be removed to the Industrial School on the 25th April, 1883. Being of weak intellect, it was found impossible to teach her the trade of dressmaker; and she was unfit for ordinary service. She is obedient and well conducted, but it is a question if she will ever be able to earn her own living.

The other girl, also bound to the dressmaking business, and the boy to that of tailor, are in good homes, and making fair progress at their trades.

The sum provided for the transport and funeral expenses of paupers, viz., £600, has also proved more than sufficient,—£508 4s. only having been required for the service of the year, viz., transport, £264 3s. 7d.; funeral expenses, £244 0s. 5d. In the expenditure for transport is included the cost of conveying 90 paupers from northern parts of the Colony to the New Town Charitable Institution, for whom there was no accommodation in the Invalid Dépôt at Launceston. Of that number 40 came from Launceston, 26 from Campbell Town, 11 from Deloraine, 3 from Emu Bay, 2 from Evandale, 3 from Westbury, and 1 from each of the Districts of Fingal, Port Sorell, Longford, Scottsdale, and Ulverstone.

RECAPITULATION.

	<i>Expenditure.</i>					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Out-door Relief, Hobart and suburbs	1473	13	10			
ditto, Launceston, Municipalities, and Police Districts.....	3222	17	2			
Medical Attendance, &c.	808	3	2			
	<hr/>			5504	14	2
Less Repayments .....	..			76	19	2
				<hr/>		
Unexpended Balance .....	..			5427	15	0
				572	5	0
				<hr/>		
Voted by Parliament .....	..			£6000	0	0
				<hr/>		
Transport	264	3	7			
Funeral Expenses	244	0	5			
	<hr/>			508	4	0
Unexpended Balance .....	..			91	16	0
				<hr/>		
Voted by Parliament .....	..			£600	0	0
				<hr/>		

Appended are Returns showing respectively the annual expenditure for out-door relief and the daily average number of inmates of the several Invalid Dépôts in the Colony during the last five years,—viz., 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, and 1883. From these Returns it will be seen that not only has there been a continued and substantial decrease in the expenditure for the maintenance of out-door paupers since the year first named, but that the number who have availed themselves of the shelter of the Dépôts has also largely diminished. This simultaneous decrease in the cost of out-door relief and in the number of in-door paupers is a subject for congratulation, and shows conclusively that either the spread of pauperism in the Colony has met with a decided check, or that more prosperous times have enabled people to dispense with Government aid, who, under less favourable circumstances, would have sought it in one form or the other. But to whatever cause the reduction is to be attributed, it is to be hoped it will be found practicable to carry it still further, and that those upon whom the duty devolves of administering the funds voted by Parliament for the relief of the deserving poor will be assisted by the community generally in detecting imposition and preventing any portion of these funds from falling into the hands of the dissolute and unworthy. In my last

Report I called attention to the provisions of the "Public Charities Act," and suggested certain alterations and additions which I believed, if effected, would be productive of satisfactory results. The experience of another year has not lessened that belief, and I venture to express the hope that the suggestions I then made will receive consideration at the hands of the Government.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. O'BOYLE, *Administrator Charitable Grants.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

RETURN of Expenditure for Out-door Relief in Tasmania during the Years 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, and 1883.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1879	7351	14	3
1880	5833	15	10
1881	5130	18	7
1882	4886	9	5
1883	4619	11	10

RETURN of the Daily Average Number of Inmates of the several Invalid Depôts during the Years 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, and 1883.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Brickfields.</i>	<i>New Town.</i>	<i>Launceston.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>
1879	222	550	125	897
1880	134	569	140	843
1881	119	611	146	876
1882	89	577	140	806
1883	—	642	139	781

RETURN of Expenditure for Out-door Relief in the Town of LAUNCESTON and the several Municipal and Police Districts, during the Year 1883.

DISTRICT.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	TOTAL.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Brighton.....	4 4 3	4 1 9	5 6 5	5 3 0	6 4 2	6 0 2	7 6 4	5 17 6	5 2 11	5 6 5	5 5 9	6 4 2	66 2 10
Bothwell.....	3 2 0	2 16 0	2 4 3	2 2 10	2 4 3	2 2 10	2 4 3	2 4 3	2 2 10	3 2 0	2 2 10	2 4 3	28 12 7
Clarence.....	2 4 3	2 0 0	2 4 3	2 2 10	2 4 3	2 2 10	2 4 3	2 4 3	2 2 10	2 4 3	2 2 10	4 7 10	28 4 8
Campbell Town.....	11 3 9	10 2 0	11 3 9	11 0 7	11 8 2	13 3 5	14 5 3	12 10 4	14 4 10	12 10 4	11 11 4	11 19 4	145 3 1
Deloraine.....	15 15 11	12 15 0	13 3 9	11 18 9	13 5 11	13 3 9	12 10 7	11 14 11	11 7 4	10 2 10	9 10 10	11 14 7	147 4 2
Evandale.....	5 15 3	6 4 0	6 17 5	6 12 10	6 17 5	6 12 10	7 15 2	7 15 2	7 10 0	6 13 0	6 8 7	6 13 0	81 14 8
Emu Bay.....	14 5 8	13 8 0	14 16 9	13 12 7	14 0 6	13 12 1	13 10 2	12 3 2	13 1 10	12 14 8	12 6 6	11 13 11	159 5 10
Franklin.....	12 8 2	10 14 0	11 8 3	11 7 5	12 10 5	12 15 3	11 10 5	12 5 11	12 2 4	12 17 0	11 18 1	12 5 11	144 3 2
Fingal.....	4 10 9	4 2 0	4 5 9	2 0 8	2 2 0	4 3 6	5 19 6	4 6 3	5 16 9	5 19 6	5 16 9	5 19 6	55 2 11
George Town.....	3 15 2	5 4 5	5 8 5	5 5 0	7 12 7	7 7 10	7 12 10	8 2 9	8 7 1	8 12 9	8 7 1	8 12 9	84 8 8
Glamorgan.....	3 10 10	3 4 0	3 10 10	3 8 7	3 10 10	3 8 7	3 10 10	3 10 10	3 8 7	3 10 10	3 8 7	3 10 10	41 14 2
Green Ponds.....	14 4 3	12 8 0	12 8 11	11 18 1	12 6 1	12 8 10	11 2 11	10 12 11	10 6 0	9 19 9	9 8 10	9 10 8	137 15 3
Glenorchy.....	2 10 6	2 2 0	2 6 6	2 5 0	...	2 5 0	2 6 6	2 6 6	2 5 0	2 12 7	2 18 1	2 13 2	26 10 10
Hamilton.....	2 17 7	2 12 0	2 17 7	2 15 9	2 17 7	2 15 9	2 17 7	2 17 7	2 15 9	2 17 7	2 15 9	3 19 9	35 0 3
Mr. Quodling.....	1 19 11	1 16 0	1 19 11	1 18 7	1 19 11	1 18 7	1 19 11	2 14 11	3 0 0	3 2 1	3 0 0	3 5 2	28 15 0
Kingston.....	8 8 3	7 12 0	9 3 9	9 6 6	9 12 7	11 9 4	12 14 7	16 1 0	15 0 7	16 5 5	15 8 4	12 16 10	143 19 2
Gordon*.....	0 15 6	0 14 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1 9 6
Launceston.....	40 9 1	33 12 0	37 4 1	38 1 7	40 7 3	40 18 6	41 5 6	40 6 2	40 13 3	40 14 5	37 9 8	38 18 8	470 0 2
Longford.....	25 16 0	23 13 6	27 0 4	26 9 8	27 0 4	25 13 0	26 3 6	25 19 4	24 10 7	24 13 10	23 2 9	26 1 5	306 4 3
Macquarie Plains.....	5 6 4	4 16 0	5 6 4	5 2 10	5 6 4	4 17 10	4 10 10	4 10 10	4 7 10	4 10 10	4 7 10	4 10 10	57 14 8
New Norfolk.....	8 8 4	6 12 0	7 6 2	6 19 4	6 1 10	5 17 11	6 1 10	5 6 4	4 14 6	2 19 10	2 17 11	3 7 5	66 13 5
Oatlands.....	9 6 2	8 3 1	8 12 11	7 5 11	7 10 9	7 5 11	8 2 10	7 17 4	8 13 7	8 19 6	8 13 8	8 2 6	98 14 2
Port Sorell.....	18 16 8	17 0 0	19 7 9	19 3 6	18 3 5	16 5 9	15 19 1	15 1 4	13 6 11	12 7 8	12 1 11	14 10 4	192 4 4
Portland.....	0 13 3	1 4 0	1 6 6	0 12 10	0 13 3	0 12 10	0 13 3	0 13 3	0 12 10	0 13 3	0 12 10	1 11 10	9 19 11
Ross.....	2 15 4	2 8 6	1 19 10	1 18 7	1 19 10	1 16 0	1 6 7	1 6 7	1 5 9	1 18 9	2 7 2	2 8 9	23 11 8
Russell.....	3 13 2	3 6 0	3 13 2	3 10 9	3 13 2	3 10 9	3 13 2	3 13 2	3 10 9	3 13 2	3 10 9	3 13 2	43 1 2
Richmond.....	5 17 8	5 4 0	5 15 1	5 11 4	5 15 1	5 11 4	5 15 1	5 15 1	5 11 4	5 15 1	5 11 4	5 15 1	67 17 6
Spring Bay.....	4 4 2	3 16 0	4 4 2	4 1 5	4 4 2	4 1 5	4 4 2	4 4 2	4 1 5	4 4 2	4 1 5	4 4 2	49 10 10
Sorell.....	15 1 3	13 12 0	15 1 3	14 11 4	14 16 11	13 9 11	14 12 1	13 3 7	14 3 6	13 10 3	13 1 4	13 10 3	168 13 8
Ulverstone.....	...	...	0 5 7	0 12 10	2 4 3	2 2 10	4 8 7	3 14 0	4 16 5	4 19 8	4 10 0	5 7 8	33 1 10
Westbury.....	26 9 7	22 18 0	26 7 5	22 14 5	22 9 10	21 15 2	22 1 4	26 6 6	23 3 2	23 3 1	24 0 6	23 8 1	284 17 1
	278 9 0	248 0 3	272 17 1	259 15 4	269 3 1	269 9 9	278 8 11	275 5 11	272 6 6	270 14 6	258 19 3	273 1 10	3226 1 5
	Less amount charged to 1882.....												3 4 3
													£3222 17 2

* Included in Kingston since 1st March.

24th April, 1884.

J. O'BOYLE, Administrator Charitable Grants.

WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.