(No. 68.)



1895.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

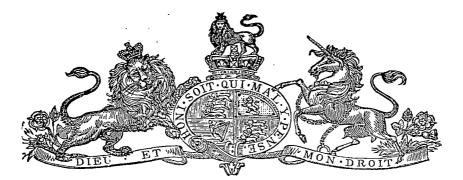
TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS:

REFORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1894.

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

Cost of printing-£1 1s.

(No. 68.



THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 1894.

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 Ninth Annual Report.

1. The Museum during the year 1894 has been open to the public on week-days from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. in the Summer, and until 4.30 P.M. in the Winter; on Sundays, from half-past 2 P.M. till 5 P.M. in the Summer, and until 4.30 P.M. in the Winter.

2. The Trustees have again to report a most gratifying increase of visitors, the average daily attendance being about 150, and on Sundays about 500. The conduct of visitors on all occasions has been most exemplary. The educational resources of the Institution have been largely utilised by teachers and scholars of various schools; the Trustees hope to see still further extension in this direction.

3. The general collections have been steadily added to during the year by exchanges and donations. The Tasmaniar Room is now fairly complete with illustrations of the fauna and minerals of the Colony. The plan of setting apart a room for the special exhibition of local Natural History and Geological specimens has proved very attractive to visitors to the Colony, as well as to the residents of Tasmania.

4. The Trustees regret that the long-promised extension of the building according to the original plans has not yet been carried out, and trust that this very necessary work will receive the early attention of the Government, as for want of room a large number of specimens are unable to be shown.

5. The Art Gallery.—Some important alterations, comprising the closing up of side windows and placing skylights in the roof, were kindly undertaken and successfully carried out by a Committee appointed to provide work for the unemployed during the winter months. The change was a very desirable one, and after completion the Gallery was re-opened with some valuable loans, Messrs. Alfred Winter and John Burn, of Hobart, sending some excellent examples of oil and water-colour pictures. A large number of students have availed themselves of the opportunity of studying the pictures. The success attending the Tasmanian Art Gallery has far exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the Trustees. The 'Trustees would again urge upon the Government the advisability of placing a small annual sum on the Estimates for the purpose of adding from time to time to the permanent collection in the National Gallery of Tasmania.

6. The Trustees regret having to report the death of Mr. C. T. Belstead, a gentleman who for many years took a very great interest in the Museum. His place at the Board has been filled by the election of Mr. Bernard Shaw.

7. The total number of visitors to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery for the year approximately was as follows ---week days, 47,250; Sundays, 26,000. Total, 73,250.

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8. Annexed to this Report are the following Appendices :---

I. Balance Sheet, Museum and Garlens.

II. Report of the Superintendent of the Gardens.

J. W. AGNEW, Chairman.

ALEX. MORTON, Curator and Secretary. June 29th, 1895.

Appendix I.

STATEMENT of the Funds of the TASMANIAN MUSEUM and BOTANICAL GARDENS for the Year 1894.

Receipts. Museum— Government Grant	• £			£	<i>s</i> .	d.	'Expenditure. Balance from last year	£	s.	d. _.	£ 201		
Botanical Gardens-	500			500	0	0	Museum— Salaries	383	0	0			
Government Grant Sale of Plants	800 84	0 16	0 9				Current Expenditure			ĩ	534	10	1
Balance as per Bank Book Cheques outstanding				8 84	16	9	Botanical Gardens— Salary Wages			0.			
· · ·	249	11	9	•			Current Expenditure			9	887	12	9
Less cash in hand	11 	4	0	238	7	9	1			- £	E1623	4	6
			1	E1623	4	6				•			
Audited and found correct. J. J. R. 31st December, 1894.	YAN.												

Appendix II.

REPORT on the Condition and Progress of the Botanical Gardens for the Year 1894.

OWING to the comparatively dry spring and early summer months plants have generally made but limited growth, perennial and early annuals being deficient in bulb, quantity, and size of flower.

About 2:0 new plants have been added to the collection during the year, inclusive of several Water Lilies, ornamental Oaks, Zamias, and Palms.

The withdrawal by the Government of the vote £1500 placed on the Estimates for a new Bush House and Conservatory rendered it necessary that an effort should be made to make at least temporary provision for meeting the want of these two structures. This has been done by the erection in the nursery department of a substantial Bush House 66 feet by 30 feet and a Plant House 30 feet by 18 feet. These two erections will be of great service in meeting present pressing requirements, but are not at all adequate to the requirements of the place, and it is to be hoped the time is not far distant when much larger and more efficient structures may be obtained.

During the past year or two a trial has been made of various bedding-plants of a sub-tropical nature for the purpose of proving their adaptability for summer bedding purposes in Tasmania, with the result that the various Alternantheras, Iresines, &c. when planted at the proper season and in suitable soil have been very successful, the beds cut out on the grass near the cottage forming one of the chief attractions of the gardens.

Assistance has been given by this department in the laying out and furnishing the grounds of the Exhibition. Some 600 trees and shrubs—many of large size, and many thousands of bedding stuff have been supplied—here, too, the sub-tropical bedding received much attention from visitors.

The gang of prison labour employed in the gardens has rendered good assistance in the carrying out of much of the rougher operations in the garden, and also in the execution of new work generally.

Advantage has been taken of utilising the soil obtained in widening the road in the Domain outside the Garden boundary to improve the borders in the immediate vicinity, and many hundreds of loads of soil have thus been disposed of.

During the year there have been 14 band performances in the Gardens. The approximate number of persons who visited the Gardens was 72,000.

'E. ABBOTT, Superintendent Botanical Gardens.

WILLIAM GRAHAME, JUN., GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.