

(No. 93.)



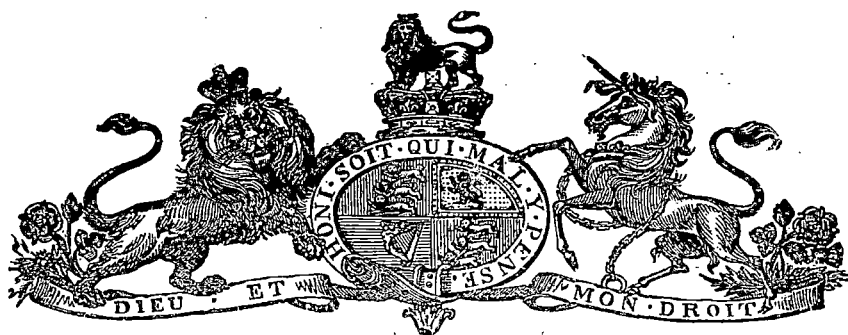
1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL
GARDENS :

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1890.

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



TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1890.

To His Excellency the Governor and 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 Fifth Annual Report.

1. The hours during which the Museum has been opened to the public continued to be as in previous years—viz., 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. The attendance during the year was quite up to the average. Not having a register to take the number who visit the Museum, an approximate is made daily, the average being from 80 to 100 on week days. On Sundays the attendance is very large,—the average about 700. The conduct of visitors on all occasions, and the keen and intelligent interest taken by them, is very gratifying.

3. Considerable attention has been paid during the past year to secure a thoroughly representative collection of Tasmanian minerals. Although still far from complete, the collection of minerals, more especially the gold, silver, tin, and copper, are well represented.

4. *Art Gallery.*—This part of the Museum has proved to be most useful and attractive. The completion of the Museum according to the original design would give a Gallery worthy of the name; the one now in use can only be considered temporary, and is already urgently required for Natural History purposes. Large numbers of students avail themselves of the privilege of studying and copying, thus proving its usefulness educationally.

5. The general collection, as pointed out in 1889 Report, is daily increasing. The acquisition of valuable collections from the various Museums, not only from the several Colonies, but throughout Europe, has rendered it necessary for large and valuable collections to be kept in the store-room through want of space. The Trustees would again strongly press upon the Government the urgent necessity of completing the building according to the original design as approved of in 1860.

6. The Aquarium has been open during the year, and is a source of great attraction. The Fisheries Commissioners have presented a large model showing the different fishing gear used by the English fishermen, and should prove most useful in affording information to the local fishermen.

7. It having been decided by the residents of the North to have a Museum and Art Gallery at Launceston, the Trustees were requested to allow Mr. A. Morton to take the management of the

Northern in conjunction with the Southern Museum. The Trustees, anxious to assist in the establishment of a Museum in the North, gladly acquiesced, and instructed Mr. Morton to forward any specimens that could be spared from the Hobart Museum.

Annexed to this Report are the following Appendices:—

- I. Balance Sheet, Museum and Gardens.
- II. List of Donations to the Museum.
- III. Report of the Superintendent of the Gardens.
- IV. List of Exchanges and Donations to the Gardens.

J. BARNARD, *Chairman.*

ALEXANDER MORTON, *Curator and Secretary.*
31st July, 1891.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT of the Funds of the TASMANIAN MUSEUM and BOTANICAL GARDENS for the Year 1890.

Receipts.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Museum—</i>															
Grant to Museum		500	0	0				<i>Museum—</i>							
Grant to Aquarium		50	0	0				Salary of Curator and Secretary	250	0	0				
Interest on Milligan's Legacy		15	8	9				Salary of Attendant	109	0	0				
					565	8	9	Salary of Boy	23	0	0				
<i>Botanical Gardens—</i>															
Grant to Botanical Gardens		800	0	0				Repairs	110	19	6				
Sale of Plants		123	10	3				Sundries and Petty Cash	56	17	10				
					923	10	3	Fuel, &c.	47	12	4				
Balance.....	...				64	12	10					597	9	8	
								<i>Botanical Gardens—</i>							
								Salary of Superintendent ...	210	0	0				
								Wages of Men	584	4	0				
								Sundries	113	7	9				
								Balance from 1889.....				907	11	9	
												48	10	5	
												<u>£1553</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	
												<u>£1553</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	

I HAVE examined this Balance Sheet, and compared the Entries with the Vouchers and Bank Book, and find the Balance (£64 12s. 10d.) to be correctly stated.

JOHN F. ECHLIN, *Auditor.*

Hobart, 30th May, 1891.

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

MAMMALS.

- Porcupine (*Echidna setosa*). Mr. T. Lewis.
- Tasmanian Tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*). Mr. W. Burbury.
- Tasmanian Wombat (*Phascolomys wombat*). Master Henry Baynton.
- Ditto. Mr. H. E. Headlam.
- Tasmanian Kangaroo (*Halmaturus Bennettii*). Mr. W. Turvey.
- Flying Squirrel (*Belideus sciureus*). Mr. J. R. M'Cluskey.
- Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*). Mr. J. Geeves.

BIRDS.

- 2 Swift LORRIKEETS (*Lathamus discolor*). Mr. Hounslow.
- Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*). Mr. Robey.
- Finch (*Amadina Gouldii*). Mr. Chapman.
- 2 Dove-like Prion (*Prion turtur*). Mr. Bassett Hull.
- Soft-plumaged Petrel (*Procellaria mollis*). Dr. L. Holden.
- Swift Lorrieket (*Lathamus discolor*). Mr. E. D. Swan.
- Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*). Mr. _____.
- 2 Rose-hill Parrakeets (*Platycercus eximius*). Mr. E. Jeffrey.

REPTILES.

- Carpet Snake (*Morelia variegatus*). Trustees South Australian Museum.
 Snake (*Vermicella Bertholdi*). Mr. W. T. Bednall.
 " (*Typhlops sp.*). Mr. W. T. Bednall.
 3 Iguanas (*Cyclodus nigrobutens*). Mr. J. Anderson.

FISHES.

- Murray Cod (*Oligorus Macquariensis*). The Trustees South Australian Museum.
 Shark (*Crossorhinus barbatus*). The Trustees South Australian Museum.
 Port Jackson Shark (*Ostracion Phillipii*). Miss Brumby.
 Red Bream (*Pagrus unicolor*). Mr. Leonard Rodway.
 Sand Eel (*Gonorhynchus Greyi*). Mr. Leonard Rodway.
 Ling (*Genypterus Australis*). Mr. R. Propsting.

INSECTS.

- Collection of Tasmanian Insects. Mr. A. H. Avery.
 Collection of Queensland Butterflies. Mr. H. F. Bourne.
 Collection of Tasmanian Insects. Mr. _____.
 Small collection English Butterflies (*Stigmodea Saundersii*). Mr. J. J. Walker.

EGGS.

- Egg of Prion turtur, Friar's Island. Mr. Basset Hull.
 6 Eggs Cape Barren Goose (*Cereopsis Novæ Hollandiæ*). Mr. Bernard Shaw.

MINERALS.

- Porcelain Clay. Mr. F. W. Hortin.
 Argentiferous Sphalerite, Godkin Mine. Mr. Hugh Conway.
 6 Rock Specimens. Mr. T. B. Moore.
 62 Specimens from the Heazlewood Mine. Mr. Hill.
 13 Specimens from Mt. Lyell. Mr. F. Danvers Power, F.G.S.
 23 Silver-Lead Ores, West Coast. Mr. E. Mace.
 Granite from Barren Island. Mr. J. Shield.
 6 Specimens. Mr. W. F. Petterd.
 Cassiterite, M'Gough's Claim. Mr. H. Nicholls.
 Cassiterite, actual outcrop of Mt. Bischoff. Mr. W. F. Petterd.
 Miloxhite, Beaconsfield. Mr. W. F. Petterd.
 Garnets, Mt. Heemskirk. Mr. W. F. Petterd.
 Auriferous Stibnite, Lefroy. Mr. W. F. Petterd.
 Pyrites in Fluor, Mt. Bischoff. Mr. W. F. Petterd.
 Sample Alluvial Tin, Mt. Ramsay. Mr. W. F. Petterd.
 6 Specimens Auriferous Quartz from the New Golden Gate Mine. Mr. W. H. Wise.

ETHNOLOGY.

- 2 Clubs from the Northern Territory. Dr. Barnes, R.N.
 2 Spears from Port Darwin. Mr. J. J. Walker, R.N.
 25 Obsidian Spears from the Admiralty Islands. Mr. J. Brazier.
 6 Poisoned Arrows, Abo Island. Mr. J. Brazier.
 Collection of Ethnological Specimens. The Trustees Australian Museum.

APPENDIX III.

BOTANICAL GARDENS.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to submit my Report on the condition and progress of the Botanic Gardens for the year ending December, 1890.

No new work of any importance has been performed during the past year, the garden staff being fully occupied in ordinary maintenance work, which is of itself more than sufficient to keep all hands employed.

With a view of gradually bringing the lower part of the grounds into the garden proper, a commencement has been made in planting the more accessible parts; this has been rendered necessary by the gradual additions of new plants, for which accommodation could not be found otherwise.

In the rougher operations material assistance has been afforded by the gaol authorities furnishing the usual gang of prison labour.

I have again to call attention to the urgent necessity that exists for the erection of a good conservatory and bush-house or fernery. The present makeshifts for these structures at the Gardens are obsolete, dangerous, and inadequate to the requirements of the place, and no effort should be spared in endeavouring to get provision made for the erection of more suitable buildings.

More urgent, if possible, is the need for an increased supply of water to the Gardens, which at present have only a half-inch pipe for all purposes. This supply is totally inadequate for even ordinary purposes, and no real progress can be made until it has been materially increased, which might best be done by cleaning out and improving the reservoir outside the garden boundary, and having the water laid on for the purpose of keeping it full. In this way a supply might be obtained for the greater portion of the Gardens, if not the whole. It is greatly to be desired that action should be taken on this matter without delay, as it is one of the utmost importance to the well-being of the Gardens.

The printed labels, put out some four or five years ago, having to a great extent become obliterated, arrangements have been made for their renewal before the coming spring. They have been mounted in an improved manner, which, it is thought, will greatly increase their durability.

Some 250 to 300 new plants, in species and varieties, have been obtained during the past year, the greater part by exchange with kindred institutions. Many of these are of an ornamental character only, but a few are said to be of utilitarian value. Of these *Stachys tuberifera* gives promise of being a good new esculent vegetable, somewhat resembling a Jerusalem artichoke. They are of easy culture and good flavour. *Agave Sisiliana*, "the Sisil Hemp," is an excellent fibre-plant of great strength. Cordage made from it is said to withstand the action of sea-water better than that from any other substance. *Lathyrus sylvestris* is spoken of as a most valuable fodder-plant, said to grow in poor soil, stand drought well, and yield a heavy crop of hay or fodder for many years in succession without renewal.

In the nursery the work of propagation continues to increase, and the want of accommodation for the stock becomes more and more felt. The temporary bush structures are in some cases falling into decay, and will at no distant date need renewal.

The visitors to the Gardens during the year was 64,420.

I have, &c.

F. ABBOTT, *Superintendent.*

The Trustees Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens.

APPENDIX IV.

EXCHANGES OF PLANTS AND SEEDS DURING THE YEAR 1891.

From—

- The Botanical Gardens, Melbourne—Palm and other Seeds.
- The Botanical Gardens, Adelaide—Various Seeds.
- The Botanical Gardens, Port Natal—Various Seeds.
- The Botanical Gardens, Saharanpur, East Prov. India—Seeds.
- The Botanical Gardens, Seepore, W. Calcutta—Seeds.
- The Botanical Gardens, Trinidad—Various Seeds.
- The Botanical Gardens, Calcutta—Various Seeds.
- The Botanical Gardens, Jamaica—Seeds.
- The Botanical Gardens, Durban, South Africa—Seeds.
- The Botanical Gardens, Kew, London—Seeds and Bulbs.
- The Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh—Seeds.
- Baron Ferd. von Mueller, Govt. Botanist, Melbourne—Numerous sendings of Seeds.
- Colonel Buckley, Hobart—New Zealand Plants.
- Mr. Dall, New Zealand—Plants.
- Mr. A. Mitchell—Indian Seeds.
- Bernard Shaw, Esq.—Seeds.
- Public Gardens, Launceston—Seeds.
- Mr. J. Latham, Hobart—Seeds and Plants.
- Mr. C. F. Cresswell, Hobart—Seeds.
- Mr. E. B. Heyne, Adelaide—Seeds of *Boronia*.
- Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux, & Co., Paris—Seeds.
- Messrs. G. Brunning & Sons, Nurserymen, St. Kilda—Plants.
- Shepherd & Co., Sydney—Seeds and Plants.
- Mr. S. Purchase, Nurseryman, Parramatta—Plants.

To—

- The Royal Gardens, Kew, near London—Seeds Australian Plants.
- The Botanic Gardens, Adelaide—Seeds and Sphagnum Moss.
- The Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh—Seeds of Australian Plants.
- The Botanic Gardens, Bombay—Seeds of Australian Plants.
- The Botanic Gardens, Seepore, near Calcutta—Seeds of Australian Plants.
- The Botanical Gardens, Saharanpur, N.W. Prov. India—Seeds Australian Plants.
- The Botanical Gardens, Port Natal, S. Africa—Seeds Australian Plants.
- The Botanical Gardens, Port Elizabeth, S. Africa—Seeds Australian Plants.
- The Botanical Gardens, Cape Town—Seeds Australian Plants.
- The Botanical Gardens, Graham's Town, S. Africa—Seeds Australian Plants.
- The Botanical Gardens, Hong Kong—Seeds Australian Plants.

The Botanical Gardens, Calcutta—Seeds Australian Plants.
 The Botanical Gardens, Petermarisberg, Natal—Seeds Australian Plants.
 The Botanical Gardens, Lagos, S. Africa—Seeds Australian Plants.
 The Botanical Gardens, Dublin, Ireland—Seeds Australian Plants.
 The Royal Horticultural Society, London—Seeds Australian Plants.
 Dr. Lawson, Govt. Botanist, Nova Scotia—Seeds Australian Plants.
 Professor Penshallow, Montreal—Seeds Australian Plants.
 Baron Ferd. von Mueller, Govt. Botanist, Melbourne—Miscellaneous Seeds.
 Messrs. Law, Somner, & Co., Melbourne—Seeds.
 Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux, & Co., Paris—Seeds.
 Messrs. Brunning & Co., St. Kilda, near Melbourne—Plants and Seeds.
 Messrs. Shepherd & Co., Nurserymen, Sydney—Plants and Seeds.
 Mr. Edger Spooner, Avondale, New Zealand—Seeds.
 Mr. J. Latham, Hobart—Plants and Seeds.
 Messrs Smith & Sons, Riddell's Creek, Victoria—Seeds.
 Mr. F. Coffee, Sydney—Plants and Seeds.
 Mr. Samuel Purchase—Plants and Seeds.

Plants supplied for planting Public Places in Tasmania—

- Cemetery, Coppington—50 Plants.
- Cemetery, Bothwell—50 Plants.
- Catholic Church, Launceston—50 Plants.
- Catholic Church, Brown's River—50 Plants.
- Recreation Grounds, Ulverstone and Latrobe—30 Assorted Plants.
- Recreation Ground, George's Bay—150 Plants.
- Cascade Training School—50 Plants.
- General Hospital, Hobart—70 Plants.
- Government Railways, Launceston—Small Plants.
- Main Line Railway, Hobart—Pittosporums and other Plants
- Government House Grounds—Various Plants.
- Franklin and Barrack Squares—Numerous Plants.
- Mt. Cameron Water Trust—Plants.
- Public Streets, Oatlands—Coniferæ.
- Flinders' Island—Various Seeds for trial.
- Queen's Domain—Numerous plantings of Coniferæ, &c., 400 Plants.