

(No. 63.)



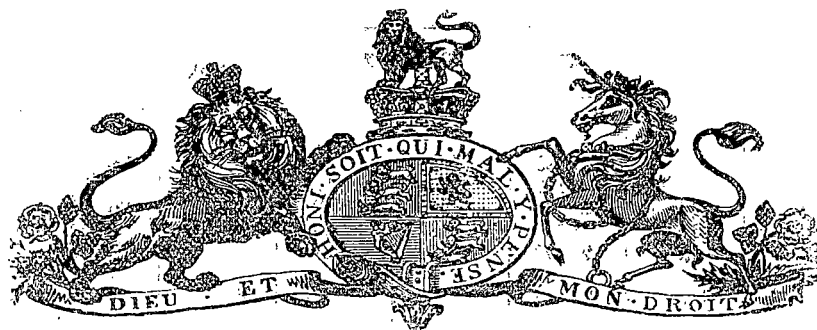
1893.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES:

REPORTS OF THE REGISTRAR AND THE STATISTICIAN
FOR THE YEAR 1892.

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



Public Buildings, Hobart, 6th June, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish the following Report of transactions registered by me as Registrar of Friendly Societies and Trades Unions during the year 1892:—

<i>Friendly Societies.</i>	
New Branches	2
Amended Rules	9
Appointment of Trustees	7
Change of Office	1
	<hr/>
	19
	<hr/>

Trades Unions—Nil.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

PHILIP S. SEAGER, Registrar.

The Hon. the Attorney-General.

GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN'S REPORT.

General Register Office, Hobart,
5th July, 1893.

Friendly Societies.

SIR,

IN accordance with the provisions of "The Friendly Societies Act, 1888," I have the honor to furnish the following Report with respect to the year 1892.

Model Forms of Accounts and Circulation of Information.

Elaborate statistical information, prepared from the Returns of the various Societies throughout the Colony for the year 1891, was furnished to the Secretary of every Society, as in former years (copy enclosed); and the usual model forms were furnished to each society at the beginning of this year.

As in former years there was great difficulty in many cases in obtaining the necessary information for compiling the annual statement, partly owing to change of officers, but mainly owing to negligence on the part of the officer whose duty it is to furnish the accounts at the proper time. Many circulars, reminding the officers of neglect to send their returns, failed to obtain any response whatever. I am glad, however, to state that there has been a slight improvement, and that now there are only one or two returns outstanding. From the analysis of the various accounts, examined

and corrected as far as materials at my command were available, I am now enabled to summarise the general results for the year 1892, as in the following table. Figures for 1880, 1885, and the previous year are also given to show comparative progress, thus:—

Progress between the Years 1880 and 1892.

Particulars.	Absolute.				Increase +, or Decrease —, since			
	1880.	1885.	1891.	1892.	1880.		1891.	
					Actual.	Per cent.	Actual.	Per cent.
Societies, Branches, and Districts..... No.	47	83	103	107	60	127·65	4	3·88
Members..... No.	3937	7451	10,096	10,195	6258	158·95	99	0·98
Receipts..... £	13,289	20,893	34,685	35,891	22,602	170·21	1206	3·48
Expenditure..... £	10,415	18,728	31,173	32,090	21,675	208·11	917	2·94
Capital..... £	30,026	49,723	69,565	73,209	43,183	143·82	3644	5·24
<i>Per Member.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>		<i>£ s. d.</i>	
Receipts.....	3 7 6	2 15 6	3 12 9	3 10 5	0 2 11	...	0 2 4	...
Expenditure.....	2 12 11	2 9 10	3 1 9	3 2 11	0 10 0	...	0 1 2	...
Capital.....	7 12 6	6 12 2	6 17 10	7 3 7	0 8 11	...	0 5 9	...

It would appear that there has been rapid progress within the 12 years,—Branches and Societies having increased 127·65 per cent.; members, 158·95 per cent.; receipts, 170·21 per cent.; expenditure, 208·11 per cent.; and capital, 143·82 per cent. Last year's progress has been fairly good. Societies, &c. increased 3·88 per cent.; members, 0·98 per cent.; receipts, 3·48 per cent.; expenditure, 2·94 per cent.; and capital, 5·24 per cent.

The ratio of expenditure for the whole period, however, has increased faster than the receipts per head, and leaves capital, per head, 8s. 11d. less than in the year 1892. Capital, however, increased by 5s. 9d. per head between 1891 and 1892.

Expenditure, 1892.

The benefits distributed during the year 1892 amounted in all to £32,090, or £3 2s. 11d. per member, as shown in the following summary:—

(Members, 10,195; cases of sickness, 1622; deaths, 79.)

Particulars.	Amount.	Per cent. to total.	Per Member.	Per Case.
	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sick Pay (1622 cases).....	7863	22·09	0 15 5	4 15 4
Medical Expenses.....	5771	27·34	0 17 3	—
Funeral Donations.....	3447	10·74	0 6 9	—
Other Funds.....	7447	23·21	0 14 7	—
Management.....	4562	14·22	0 8 11	—
	32,090	100·00	3 2 11	—

The average duration of sickness of the 1622 cases recorded, viz., 37·63 days per case, was slightly above the average of 1891 (31·07 days per case), and a little over that of 1890 (36·30 days per case).

If we regard the sickness of members from an economic point of view, the loss of effective power in 1892 represents 6·34 days per member, or 2·03 per cent. of the 313 working days of the year. Assuming that the amount of sickness during the year among members of Friendly Societies (who represent about 17·77 per cent. of all wage-earners) fairly represents the average sickness of all wage-earning breadwinners for the same period, and that the approximate value of a year's full income for these represents a sum of £5,000,000—then the economic loss to the Colony due to the year's sickness would represent a sum of £101,500.

Audit and Preparation of Accounts.

The Accounts of all the smaller Country Societies bear strong evidence of defective audit, and the inseparable confusion arising out of lack of special skill in the preparation of Accounts. This must be a very grave danger to the interests of the members, and I should be glad for their sakes to see my recommendation carried out, so often referred to in former Reports, viz., to place local

audit and inspection of books in the hands of the Travelling Inspectors of the Auditor-General, who might further give friendly aid to the unskilled in matters relating to Accounts and Book-keeping. Such aid cannot be conveyed by correspondence from a distant centre.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of reminding Officers of Friendly Societies that the Quinquennial Actuarial Valuation of the Principal Societies' Funds (according to Clause 14 (e) of "The Friendly Societies Act, 1888,") must be made not later than the 31st December, 1893. The clause referred to gives the necessary information on this important requirement.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ROBT. M. JOHNSTON, *Registrar-General,*
Government Statistician.

The Hon. N. E. LEWIS, Attorney-General.