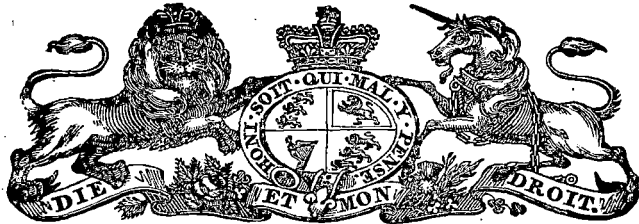


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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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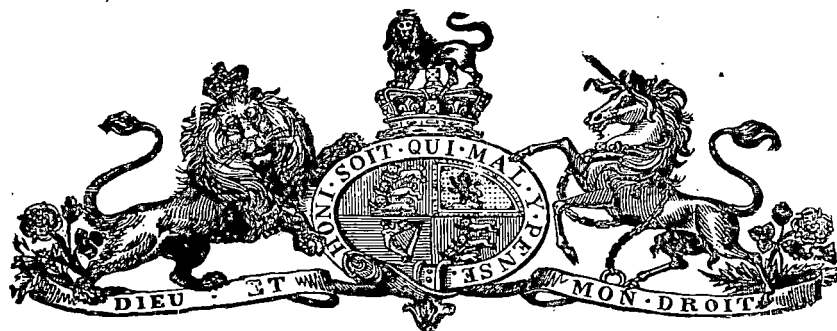
TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1899.

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

Cost of printing—£2 1s. 3d.



## THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

### REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1899.

*To His Excellency the Administrator of the Government 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 honour to submit to Your Excellency, in accordance with the 11th Section of that Act, their Fourteenth Annual Report.

1. The Museum, during the year 1899, has been opened to the public on week-days, except Mondays, from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. in the summer, and until 4 P.M. in the winter.

2. The Museum collections are yearly being added to by gifts. Mr. H. M. Courage, who paid Tasmania a flying visit in 1897, presented the Museum, during the past year, with a rich and valuable collection of British birds, labelled and mounted. The whole cost, including freight and other charges, was borne by Mr. Courage, whose splendid donation, valued at £270, in addition to the fine collection presented in the previous year by Mrs. Donald Cameron, makes this department very complete. This donation consisted of nearly 300 birds.

3. The Trustees feel sure that their claim for additional space for the increasing collection will receive the support of Parliament, and it is their intention to ask the Government to restore to the Estimates the vote passed in the year 1891 for the completion of the Museum building.

4. A valuable collection of minerals was presented, during the year, by Mr. R. C. Patterson, M.H.A., consisting of some very choice specimens of Telluride, obtained at the Great Boulder Mine, West Australia.

5. Two donors have, during the year, added to the collection of shells in the Tasmanian Room—Miss Lodder and Mr. W. May. There is now a fairly-representative collection of Tasmanian shells in the institution.

6. The total inadequacy of the present grant to the Museum and Art Gallery has been previously pointed out. Notwithstanding the increase in the size of the building, and the many additions to the collection, the vote is the same as in the year 1886, prior to the erection of the Argyle-street wing, or the commencement of the National Art Gallery. The annual vote to the Museum is £500, while the grant to a similar institution in Perth, West Australia, a building of about half the size of our present building, the annual grant is nearly £4000.

7. *The Art Gallery.*—Some valuable additions to the loan and gift collections have been made during the year. Among the former may be mentioned a valuable collection of oil and water colours, kindly lent by the Hon. G. T. Collins, Chief Secretary. Among the gifts is a very valuable oil painting, a Madonna, by Ch. Landelle, Chevalier d'honneur. It was presented to the Gallery by Miss Ada Wilson, and is valued at between 800 and 900 guineas. Miss Ada Wilson and her sister, Miss Wilson, have presented pictures to the gallery valued at £3000. Two choice water-colours of English scenery have been presented by subscribers. The proposed exten-

sions will give more accommodation for the large and rapidly-growing collection of pictures. The Trustees are pleased to record that a large number of students avail themselves of the privilege of studying and copying in the Gallery.

8. *The Tourist Room.*—This room, fitted up with over 300 views of Tasmanian scenery, has been largely availed of by visitors, and the room evidently supplies a long-felt want.

9. The Trustees are greatly indebted to the General Manager of Railways, Mr. F. Back, also to the U.S.S. Co., and Messrs. Huddart, Parker, & Co. for their kind assistance in carrying the Museum exhibits free of cost.

10. The attendance of visitors, owing no doubt to the opening of the Tourist Room, has been larger than in any previous years. The average week-day attendance during the summer season has been over 200, and on Sundays, over 500.

11. Annexed to this Report are the following Appendices:—

- A. Balance Sheet of the Museum and Gardens.
- B. Report of the Superintendent of the Botanical Gardens.

J. W. AGNEW, *Chairman.*

ALEX. MORTON, *Curator and Secretary,*  
*Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens.*

*REPORT on the condition and progress of the Botanical Gardens for the Year 1899.*

THE beds on the strip of ground by the wall have been kept attractive by a frequent change of bedding plants during the year, the most conspicuous being a good strain of *Petunia*, several varieties of *Cupid Sweet Pea*, *Salvia coccinea splendens*, *Giant Heliotrope*, and *Pansies*. The parallel strip to this will be cleared of the old shrubs now occupying it, trenched, and laid out in a corresponding manner, as soon as labour can be made available for the purpose.

The carpet-beds, on the lawn by the cottage, have been made attractive by the usual repeated renewals of suitable plants during the season; but it has been difficult to keep them in condition, especially through the autumn months, in consequence of the short supply of water then available.

A large number of plants were put out in the garden, generally in the spring, but many suffered severely in consequence of the insufficient rainfall, and deaths have been numerous; but as duplicates are on hand in most cases, the plants lost can be replanted.

On the old fruit square, which had been cleared of trees, a large quantity of nursery stock was planted out, but owing to various causes many of the plants, more especially the deciduous trees, have done very indifferently.—1st., the ground is not suited for nursery-work, being on a rise, and too dry, the subsoil being marl, and the surface-soil having, for the most part, too large an admixture of shell: 2nd., not sufficient water is obtainable during the summer and autumn to keep the plants in condition: 3rd., prison labour is not adapted for this class of work, and many small plants are destroyed in consequence. If any extension of nursery work is to take place in connection with the garden, suitable ground and labour will be essentially necessary.

The ground at the end of the Fruit Square, which it was intended to sow with grass seed when sufficiently cleared of weeds, has not yet been sown, as it would be futile to attempt to form a lawn before the surface was in good condition, and, under present climatic conditions, it was feared that sufficient moisture would not be present to secure a good start.

All available labour has been fully employed in the ordinary garden operations, leaving little for extension and improvements; but, as opportunity offered, the prison gang has been employed quarrying gravel, trenching, and other heavy work.

In last year's Report I called attention to the fact that the buildings generally, fences, seats, &c., urgently needed repairing and painting, and that the garden funds were not sufficient for this work. Many of the garden seats have been in use close on 60 years, and are now so delapidated as to be a disgrace to any institution; the same may be said of the glass-houses, which are not only obsolete, but falling to pieces. In years gone by it was possible to get useful men from the gaol for much of the work of repairs required in the garden, but it would not appear to be possible now to get the work done by this means, and some other way will have to be adopted. As a matter of fact, it would need a man constantly employed to keep the buildings and fences in proper condition.

The usual work in the nursery has been maintained, propagation being principally confined to plants required for home-planting, or the more useful of those for distribution. Additions of plants from outside sources have not been so numerous during the year as hitherto, owing to the fact of

the regulations under "The Vegetation Diseases Act" being so unsatisfactory, at one time total prohibition, and again unreasonably stringent, almost amounting to prohibition, and such as would render it difficult, if not impossible, to import plants from Europe with any degree of safety. These regulations greatly hamper one of the most useful functions of the garden, viz., that of importing and distributing useful or ornamental plants, and we have to rely at present principally on seeds, which, very frequently, fail to germinate.

Thanks are due to the Government for the supply of prison labour during the year, which, as hitherto, has rendered good service in all the rougher operations.

The approximate return of visitors to the gardens during the year is 63,200, this is less than the number for last year, which is accounted for principally from the less number of band concerts or performances given.

F. ABBOTT.

*Plants and Seeds received at and sent from the Botanical Gardens during the year 1899.*

From the Botanic Gardens, British Guiana—Seeds.	From Messrs. Veitch & Son, Nurserymen, London—Seeds.
From the Botanic Gardens, Brisbane, Queensland—Seeds.	From Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux, & Co., Paris—Seeds.
From the Calcutta Botanic Gardens—Seeds.	From Mr. F. Walker, Nurseryman, Launceston—Plants.
From the Botanic Gardens, Durban, S. Africa—Seeds, &c.	To the Botanic Gardens, Kew, near London—Seeds.
From the Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, Scotland—Seeds.	To the Botanic Gardens, Brisbane, Queensland—Seeds.
From the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Ireland—Seeds.	To the Botanic Gardens, Durban, S. Africa—Seeds.
From the Botanic Gardens, Jamaica—Seeds.	To the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Ireland—Seeds.
From the Botanic Gardens, Madras, India—Seeds.	To the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N.S. Wales—Seeds.
From the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, N.S. Wales—Seeds.	To Messrs. Brunning & Sons, Nurserymen, St. Kilda—Seeds.
From Wm. Bull, F.L.S., New Plant Merchant, London—Seeds, &c.	To Wm. Bull, F.L.S., New Plant Merchant, London—Ferns.
From Messrs. G. Brunning & Sons, Nurserymen, St. Kilda—Plants.	To Mr. G. French, Seedsman, Melbourne—Seeds.
From Mr. G. French, Seedsman, Melbourne—Seeds.	To Mr. C. A. Nobelius, Nurseryman, Emerald, Victoria—Plants.
From Mr. C. A. Nobelius, Nurseryman, Emerald, Victoria—Plants.	To Mr. R. U. Nicholls, Nurseryman, Ballarat—Seeds.
From R. U. Nicholls & Co., Ballarat, Victoria—Plants.	To Mr. S. Purchase, Paramatta, N.S. Wales—Seeds.
From Mr. S. Purchase, Nurseryman, Paramatta—Plants.	To Messrs. Milner & Co., Nurserymen, Sydney—Plants and Seeds.
From Messrs. Milner & Co., Nurserymen, Sydney—Plants.	To Messrs. Searl & Sons, Nurserymen, Sydney—Seeds.
From Messrs. Searl & Son, Nurserymen, Sydney—Seeds and Plants.	To Messrs. Veitch & Son, Seedsman, London—Seeds.
	To Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux, & Co., Paris—Seeds.
	To Mr. F. Walker, Nurseryman, Launceston—Plants and Seeds.

*Plants supplied for Planting Public Places during 1899.*

The Fern Tree Bower—Wattles, &c.	The Improvement Association, St. Marys—Plants.
The Hobart Gaol—Various plants.	The Post and Telegraph Office, Bellerive—Various plants.
The Invalid Depot, New Town—Oaks, &c.	The Improvement Association, West Devonport—Plants.
The Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk—Various plants.	The Improvement Association, Zeehan—Plants.
The Railway enclosure, Hobart—Wattles.	
The Honourable the Premier, for the Cemetery, St. Marys—Plants.	

F. ABBOTT, *Superintendent Botanical Gardens.*

*BALANCE Sheet of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens for the Year 1899.*

1899.	RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Museum—								Balance .....				398	17	11
Grant in aid .....	500	0	0					Museum—						
Secretary's salary from the Botanical Gardens .....	25	0	0		525	0	0	Salaries.....	384	3	0			
								Sundries .....	138	3	0			
Botanical Gardens—												522	6	0
Grant in aid .....	800	0	0					Botanical Gardens—						
Sales of plants.....	49	15	3		849	15	3	Salaries.....	684	9	8			
								Sundries.....	113	9	8			
Balance 31st Dec., 1899, as per Bank-book.....					369	8	0	Secretary's salary, <i>vide</i> Museum	25	0	0			
												822	19	4
					<u>£1744</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>					<u>£1744</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

I HAVE this day examined the books and vouchers in connection with the Balance Sheet of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens, and certify that the same are correct.

H. W. W. ECHLIN.

Hobart, 22nd August, 1900.