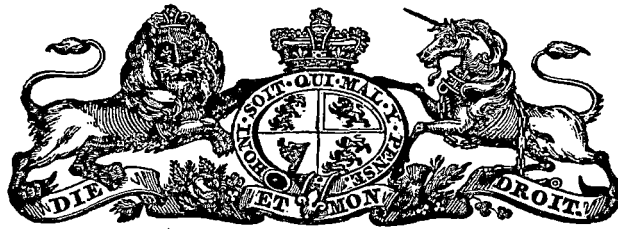


(No. 11.)



1874.

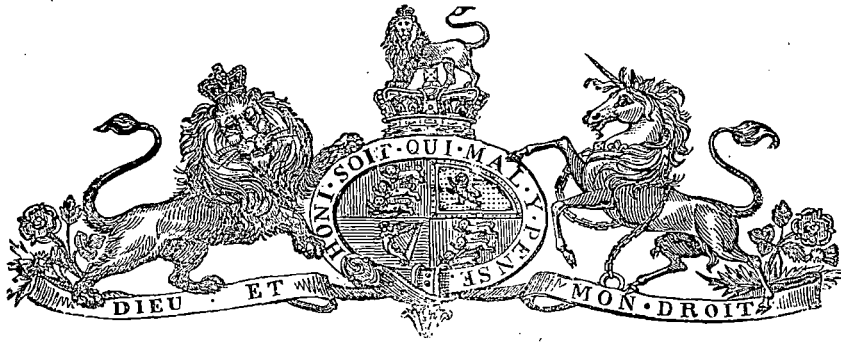
T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, HOBART TOWN.

REPORT FOR 1873.

Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 21, 1874.



*FOURTEENTH Annual Report of the Committee of the BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,
Hobart Town, for the Year ending December, 1873.*

THE continued success of the operations of this Society in relieving promptly all *bonâ fide* cases of destitution, is a cause of much satisfaction to those who have had the disbursement of the funds collected for that purpose committed to their charge.

At the commencement of the year there were 89 cases, comprising 300 individuals, on the books receiving aid from the Society, — being 2 cases less, but 13 individuals more, than remained on the books at the termination of 1872. There were 195 fresh applications for assistance during the year 1873. Of these 78 were caused by sickness, and 6 from accidents; 17 more were widows; in 10 the husbands were in prison; in 35 the husbands were away; 5 were for aged and infirm persons; 19 were cases of destitution, and 12 were for children only; 13 were refused. The total number was 13 less than in the previous year. The cases of illness were 13 more than in 1872; accidents 5 less; widows 12 less; husbands in prison 3 less; husbands away 11 more: many of these had left the Island altogether, and several others were ultimately discovered to be working up the country; but in one very gross accident at imposition it was found that the husband was working on the Railway close to Town, and returning home every evening: in this case too it was found that the family had a considerable weekly income from house property. This case had been urgently recommended by the clergyman of their parish. The destitute cases were 23 less,—the Railway having provided additional employment; children were 6 less; and the cases refused were 5 less. Of the 182 cases relieved 74 were adult males, 163 adult females, 160 male children, and 190 female children,—altogether 587 individuals.

Casual relief with bread, soup, &c., was given to 50 individuals going to seek employment up the country or returning home from Hospital, and others waiting invaliding. Work was given in the wood-yard to 20 men, most of them with families, until they could get better employment. There were 53 more applicants for food in this way in 1872. The Boys' Wood Brigade made up 499 dozen bundles of small wood for kindling fires, a large share of which was purchased for Government House. 29 tons of wood was given by kind friends; and the Committee purchased 25 tons more, with 5 tons of coal, to meet the wants of many poor families sadly in want of fuel during the cold months. By small weekly contributions many poor, though not absolutely destitute, families were enabled to provide themselves with blankets, &c., which were issued to them at cost price,—the total amount being £29 2s. 6d. In several cases bedding was either given or lent: some of the latter cases were very sad ones indeed,—where every article of bedding had been pawned or sold, often to pay for drink, and the poor children left lying without sufficient means to preserve vital warmth. To prevent the possibility of the heartless parents pawning or selling the bedding, it was legibly marked "On Loan from the Benevolent Society." Lodging Tickets were given to the amount of £1 13s. 10d.,—the greater majority of the Committee believing that this was a much better means of meeting the wants of the temporarily homeless than by providing a permanent abode for such cases. Soup was sold to the amount of £5 5s. 2d.,—all consumed at the Society's Depot. Only two shillings' worth of soup-tickets were sold. The Committee feel much disappointed that this certain and ready means of affording relief to applicants on the plea of hunger is not more popular with the charitable public, for nothing tends more to encourage imposture and mendicancy than alms in money.

There was issued during the year 54,617 pounds of bread, 8753 pints of soup, 3039 pounds of oatmeal, 2790 lbs of rice, 733 lbs. of tea, 5534 pounds of sugar. For the soup there was used 5365 lbs. of meat (bone included), principally hocks, shins, and bullock heads, with 614 pounds of peas, 598 lbs. of barley, 597 lbs. of rice. The three latter are used on alternate days so as to avoid monotonous diet as much as possible. The quality of no article of food was ever during the year complained of by the recipients thereof; but, at one of the Quarterly Meetings, a clergyman stated that complaints had been made to him about the bread. A loaf from the bread then in store being then laid before the meeting, it was unanimously approved as good sweet wholesome bread;

and the Chairman, Secretary, Registrar, and others testified that the bread supplied was always of equally good quality. Besides Members of the Executive Committee frequently examining the food supplied, casual visitors are always invited to examine and taste for themselves. Only one such (a gentleman from Sydney) ever thought any article not good enough: this was sugar, which he thought a coarse though not unwholesome sample; at the same time, it was superior to that being issued by the Government for their public institutions.

After the 30th June a Store for the supply of food instead of money was opened in Argyle-street, in connection with the Office of the Administrator of Charitable Grants: and, from that time, all the cases which had been supplied for that Department by the Benevolent Society's Depôt were withdrawn. At a meeting of the Executive Committee, held on the 13th July, it was unanimously resolved "that the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society will undertake to provide in full, as far as they think required, for all the wants of destitute persons that are of an urgent or temporary nature; but should such cases become chronic or permanent, so as to require long continued assistance, say beyond three months, then to transfer them to the Government Store. All chronic and permanent or long continued cases to be provided for in full (without being supplemented in any way by the Society) from the Government Store." The principle of this resolution, with slight exception, has since been carried out; the exception was supplying soup and fuel to some of the Government cases, as their store does not provide either. The Committee find that this arrangement has worked well. The Administrator of Charitable Grants furnishes the Society regularly every month with a printed list of all on the Government books, arranged alphabetically, with the food and money allowances issued to each. The Registrar of this Society keeps up a frequent visitation of the cases, and continues to give, in the discharge of the duties confided to him, the highest satisfaction. Members of the Committee also frequently visit cases, as well as periodically having the recipients before them for review.

The financial condition of the Society is satisfactory, though there has been a falling off in the list of subscribers and subscriptions. By the Government Estimates, approved by Parliament, this Society is entitled to draw from the Government Treasury £400 per annum unconditionally, and as much more if an equal amount be raised by subscription. The Committee, however, have not found it necessary to draw more than £500 out of the £800. The Committee have, as usual, received much assistance from the City Missionaries. They would also commend, as an example to other churches, the practice of St. John's, Goulburn-street, the officers of which frequently give food-orders on the Depôt of the Society instead of alms in money,—the repayments on that account amounting to £9 10s. 7d. There were no charitable collections on behalf of this Society during the year from any of the churches,—the Committee finding their funds sufficient without making the usual appeal.

Families receiving aid from the Society, where there are children of the school-going ages, are required to produce weekly a printed form of attendance at school from the masters or mistresses, otherwise no food is allowed to be taken away, but the children required to eat their allowance at the Depôt.

Cab-hire for the conveyance of 15 sick poor to the Hospital, to the amount of £1 16s. 6d., was paid during the year. The Committee have to thank a few kind donors of old clothes for responding to last year's appeal on this subject, but regret that there were not more.

The Committee have also to thank the Superintendents of the Invalid Depôts in Hobart Town for the valuable assistance rendered by furnishing weekly returns of the paupers leaving the Depôts.

THE Hobart Town BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in Account with the Treasurer.

Cr.				Dr.			
1873.	RECEIPTS.	£	s. d.	1873.	EXPENDITURE.	£	s. d.
Jan. 1.	To Balance	554	9 10	April 9.	By cash for Corporation Bonds ..	304	10 0
Dec. 31.	To Government grant for year ..	300	0 0	June 30.	By Payments for half-year as per Pass Book	424	5 5
	To Government grant on account of Subscriptions	200	0 0	Dec. 31.	By Cash, Savings' Bank	150	0 0
	To Repayments	70	6 6	Dec. 31.	By Payments for half-year	486	0 2
	To Subscriptions for the year and Interest on Debentures	329	17 1		By Balance	89	17 10
		<u>£1454</u>	<u>13 5</u>			<u>£1454</u>	<u>13 5</u>
1874.				Audited with the various Accounts and found to be correct.			
Jan 1.	To Balance	89	17 10	GEO. SALIER, } HUGH M. HULL, } <i>Auditors.</i>			
1st January, 1874.				19th January, 1874.			

HOBART TOWN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Cr.			Dr.
1873.	RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	1873.
Dec. 31. To	Balance in Bank, January...	554 9 10	Dec. 31. By
	Government grant.....	500 0 0	Cash paid for Bread
	Repayments	70 6 6	Meat
	Subscriptions	192 11 7	Groceries.....
	Interest on Debentures	137 5 6	Printing and advertising.....
			Fuel for soup kitchen
			Premises, painting, &c., (insur-
			ance, 45s.).....
			Oatmeal
			Cab-hire to Hospital, poor patients
			Lodging tickets
			Salary, Registrar
			„ Cook, soup kitchen
			Government cases, rations, &c...
			Debentures, &c.
			Ayton, John, commission
			Fuel for extra cases.....
			Balance in Bank
		<u>£1454 13 5</u>	<u>£1454 13 5</u>

T. J. CROUCH, *Hon. Secretary.*
W. WITT, *Registrar.*