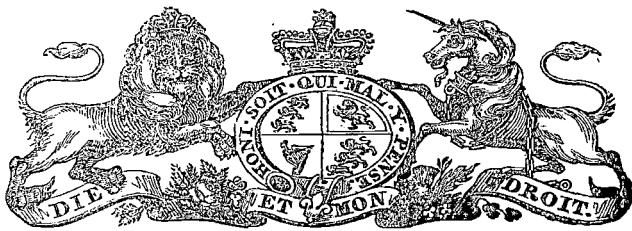


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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT :

REPORT FOR 1892.

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



## CUSTOMS AND EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

### REPORT FOR 1892.

25th April, 1893.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Annual Report on the working of this branch of the Customs Department for the year 1892.

The number of Breweries in the Colony are—Hobart: Cascades, Blake's, Gracie's. Launceston: Scott & Griffiths, Boag & Son, Fawns, Abbott. Scottsdale: C. S. Button. Bothwell: W. Blake. Spreyton: J. Barnes. Dundas: West Coast Brewery;—in all eleven.

In the case of the Breweries at Hobart and Launceston, I make it a rule to visit these at least once in every month, when the books are examined and the stamps remaining on hand checked. Declarations are also made in the books and on the prescribed forms.

With regard to the country Breweries they do such a small business that I do not consider it necessary to make frequent inspection in their case, therefore my visits are limited to every second or third month; but declarations are made every month before a local Justice of the Peace and forwarded to this Office, and at a later period the close inspection takes place. I am bound to say that the records are kept with great accuracy by the proprietors.

In connection with Excise, I have to visit all public-houses in Hobart and Launceston, and in the country districts as opportunity presents itself, to see that the provisions of the Beer Duty Acts are properly complied with. I am aware it has frequently been stated that evasion of the duty in some cases is successfully practised, but in such cases as have been brought under my notice the parties have failed to supply any evidence to satisfy me that the allegations were correct. Speaking generally, I do not believe, nor am I aware, that the revenue has sustained loss at any time: as Collector of Beer Duty it is my special task to prevent anything of the sort, and I believe that the efforts of the Department to protect the revenue are successful.

The various railway stations afford a good opportunity for inspecting beer, &c. in transit to publicans; this is taken advantage of in the course of my travels.

I find that the powers given under the Beer Duty Act are ample to secure its satisfactory working, and in dealing with brewers and others I find a ready disposition to meet cheerfully the requirements of the law.

#### *Stills.*

Since the passing of 54 Vict. No. 22, I have been charged with the duty of inspecting and reporting on all Stills applied for under this Act, and when granted to keep such a system of inspection and examination of books as may be thought necessary. The Stills in use in 1892 were as follows:—Hobart: A. P. Miller, F. P. Wilkinson, Ash & Son, the Friendly Societies, Drake, Toplis & Rushton, Weaver & Co., Hinsby & Clewer. Launceston: Hatton & Laws, Fairthorne & Son, Friendly Societies.

The above are chemists who have a 5-gallon Still, in accordance with the provisions of the law, to be used for medicinal purposes only. In Hobart Mr. Miller is the only one that works his Still continuously; the others work, say, from four to five months in the year. The whole are regularly looked after by this Department to see that the Act is complied with. Proper records are kept so that it can be ascertained what quantity of spirit is actually made, and the purpose for which it is used; these are supported by the necessary declarations.

In addition to the above Stills there are also those allowed in connection with the manufacture of eucalyptus oil; namely, Gould & Co., New Town; Clarke & Tait, Wedge Bay; A. P. Miller, near New Norfolk; J. Hay, Hastings; C. Hays, Lady's Bay; Drysdale, Port Esperance; Chipman's, Clarence Plains. These are visited regularly, which is most important, seeing that in most cases they are established in out-of-the-way localities, and are capable of being used for the manufacture of spirits, to the injury of the Consolidated Revenue.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

O. H. HEDBERG.

*The Inspector of Customs.*