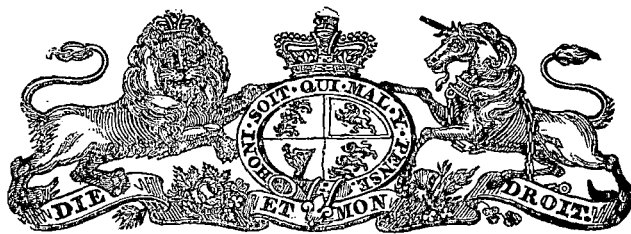


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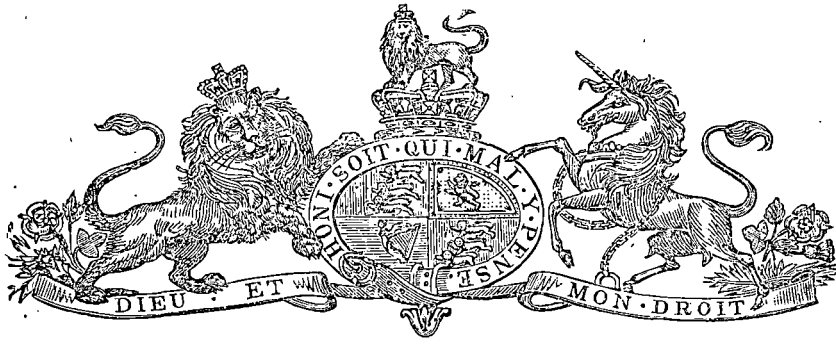
1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CHARITABLE AID IN HOBART AND SUBURBS :

REPORT FOR **1888.**

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



Benevolent Society, Hobart, 22nd January, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward for your information a summary statement, furnished to me by the Inquiring Officer, of the work done by the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society during the year 1888, so far as regards the distribution of the Charitable Grant for Hobart and suburbs on behalf of the Government.

In January last year I ventured to ask your permission to the substitution of rations, wherever practicable, in the place of cash, or, in other words, to allow the rule embodied in the constitution of the Benevolent Society to be applied to State distribution. The result, so far, is, that in 1888 I drew upon the Government for cash gifts, £246 16s. 6d., as against £883 10s. in the previous year; and, estimating the cost of extra rations at the value of £177 17s. 9d., there is a total saving to the public account of £458 15s. 9d. Satisfactory as this may appear from a colonial point of view, the charitable allowance, according to English rule, appears to border on extravagance.

The number of children receiving out-door relief in a circle of, say, three miles from the General Post Office—145 on the Government account, and a still larger number on the Benevolent Society books—involves a very serious problem. It is not enough to feed these children: they must be trained to industry, and taught to dislike pauperism. This matter will be submitted to the annual meeting of the Society, and, I trust, some method devised for the industrial education of the young.

The summary, to which I ask your attention, contains the record of 5 cases marked "parents in gaol," throwing the support of 25 children on the public. The Report of the Benevolent Society will show 8 examples of persons similarly situated. I venture to submit that these cases should not be charged to State charity, but rather to the account supposed to benefit by prison labour.

The summary of cases on the books, 31st December, 1888, is as follows:—11 single men, 56 women, blind, aged widows, and invalids. 19 married couples, aged; 21 widows, with 69 children; 4 families, husbands blind, 12 children; 2, husbands away, 13 children; 4, women with illegitimate children, deserted by fathers, 11 children; 3, fathers invalids, 12 children; 1, father in Dépôt, 3 children; 5, father in Gaol, 25 children:—297 individuals, 145 children.

During the year 19 cases were transferred from the Benevolent Society, and 15 cases restored for various reasons—total 34. There were 9 deaths, 2 cases removed to Hospital, and 27 taken off books on account of improved circumstances—husbands returned, friends willing to aid, and widows married: total 38.

Lying-in-Home, Cascades, 12 patients admitted. Dépôt, New Town, 549 persons granted orders of admission.

CASH, £246 16s. 6d.

RATIONS: No. 1—4312; No. 2—1233·12; No. 3—1087.

	<i>Cost.</i>	£	s.	d.
Bread		314	4	0
Tea		108	0	0
Sugar		118	0	0
Oatmeal		60	10	5
Rice		74	13	10
		<u>£675</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>

Trusting the year's record may be to your satisfaction,

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. SIMMONS, *Chairman Ex. Com. B. S.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.