

(No. 7.)



1879.

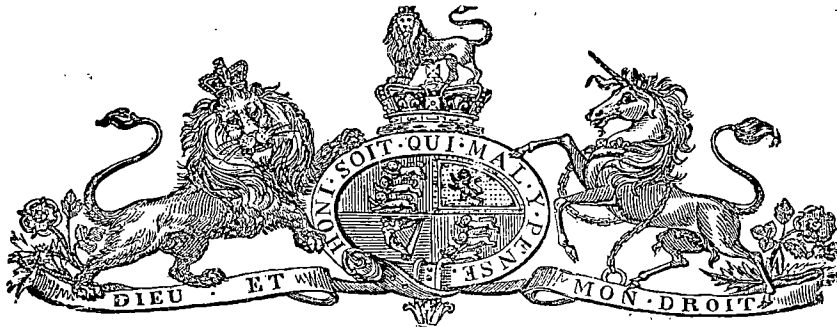
T A S M A N I A.

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

BRICKFIELDS INVALID DEPOT:

REPORT FOR 1878.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 9, 1879.



ANNUAL REPORT of the BRICKFIELDS PAUPER ESTABLISHMENT for 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward to the Government the Annual Report of the Brickfields Pauper Establishment for the year ending December 31st, 1878.

In presenting this Report I have to state that the greatest economy is still exercised; but the expenditure exceeds the estimates, owing to the high price of meat, &c.: the price charged for 20 per cent. bread for the first four months of the year was 11s. 8d., and the remaining eight months 10s. per 100 pounds; while that supplied by contract to the Benevolent Society for the year was only 8s. 5½d. This article alone would have made a considerable difference if supplied at about the same rate.

The labour of the inmates has been utilised as far as possible. Those able to work have been employed in making the road in Upper Park-street, and the others as wardsmen, gardeners, cleaners, and on other work about the establishment.

The same number of men, viz. 20, are still employed at the Public Cemetery, New Town.

I have again to bring under your notice the paragraph in last year's Report respecting the paupers leaving the various institutions, and the very easy manner they can obtain readmission. I would also state that the paupers frequently apply for relief from the Benevolent Society on the very same day they are discharged at their own request, and telling the medical officer they have work to go to. Some of these could obtain work if so disposed, but on account of some very slight ailment they practise all kinds of deceit in order to obtain what they require from the public; and if they do not succeed, they immediately seek readmission into one or the other of the charitable institutions.

The conduct of the inmates on the whole has been generally good, with the exception of a few cases which I have had to take before the magistrate for misconduct, &c.

The Medical Officer still pays every attention to his duties, visiting twice every week, and immediately at other times when required.

The spiritual welfare of the inmates has been well attended to, both by ministers of religion and others, a number of ladies attending every Friday afternoon.

His Excellency the Governor and the late Mayor, W. P. Green, Esq., kindly forwarded periodicals and newspapers for the use of the reading-room.

Yearly State.

No. of Inmates, January 1st, 1878.....	267 }	536
Admitted during the year	269 }	
Discharged during the year.....	230 }	282
Died during the year	52 }	
Remaining, January 1st, 1879		254

	<i>Years.</i>
Average age of those who died (oldest 92, youngest 41)	73½
Average age of those remaining (oldest 92, youngest 14, a lad).....	71
Average daily number of Inmates.....	268½
	£ s. d.
Expense of maintenance	3925 1 9
Rate per head per annum.....	14 12 6
Rate per head per diem.....	0 0 9½
Number of rations issued to Servants.....	1095
Number of rations issued to Paupers, Colonial Funds	96,336
Number of rations issued to Paupers, Imperial Funds.....	1747
Total Number of Rations issued.....	<u>99,178</u>

Produce of garden equal in value to 36,008 lbs. of Potatoes, or 16 tons 1½ cwt.

This includes every expense of the Establishment, no money value being placed in this report for the labour of the inmates.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. WITHRINGTON, *Superintendent.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

EXTRACTS from the Visiting Book, 1878:—

VISITED the Establishment this day, in company with Mr. John Reddy, from Sydney, and found everything connected with the Establishment in splendid order and condition.

January 10th, 1878.

(Signed) H. ROBINSON.

VISITED the Establishment, in company with W. A. Duncan, Esq., and Miss S. Duncan, of Sydney, and found it in most excellent order and condition.

January 24th, 1878.

(Signed) W. J. DUNNE.

I HAVE been greatly pleased with my visit to this Institution. The general good health and obvious comfort of the old men are quite surprising, considering the defective nature of the buildings, the whole conveying an impression of very excellent management.

(Signed) W. A. DUNCAN.

I HAVE looked through this Establishment, and feel greatly pleased with the order and cleanly arrangements throughout, and with the satisfactory statement from the men with whom I have conversed, several of whom I recognise.

October 3rd, 1878.

(Signed) J. R. BATEMAN.

WE have this day made an inspection of this Establishment, and are much pleased to observe the great cleanliness and good order prevailing in all the departments.

The inmates appear on the whole healthy, and many seem as if they were able to work who are permitted to be idle, which is to be regretted, and we believe this to be the result of the easy way they get admission here.

December 11th, 1878.

(Signed) D. LEWIS.
J. M. DOOLEY.