

(No. 138.)



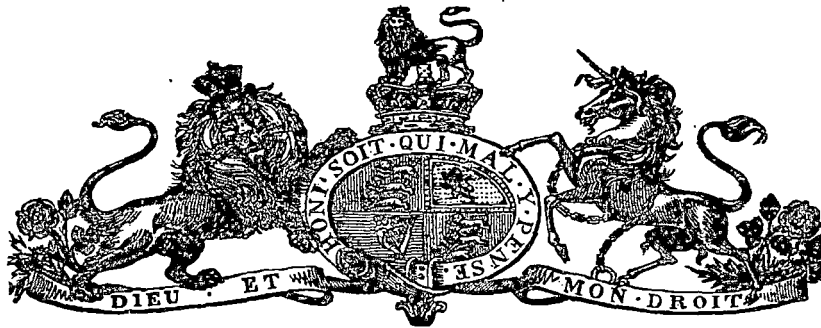
1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES :

REPORTS OF THE REGISTRAR AND THE STATISTICIAN
FOR THE YEAR 1890.

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



Public Buildings, Hobart, 2nd October, 1891.

SIR,

IN accordance with Section 10 of "The Friendly Societies Act, 1888," I have the honor to report that during the year 1890 the following transactions in relation to the Friendly Societies of this Colony were registered by me :—

New Branches registered	1
Amended Rules	8
Appointment of Trustees	10
Change of Office.....	4

No transactions were registered under "The Trades Unions Act, 1889," during 1890.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

PHILIP S. SEAGER, *Registrar.*

The Hon. the Attorney-General.

General Register Office, Hobart, 12th October, 1891.

SIR,

Friendly Societies.

IN accordance with the provisions of "The Friendly Societies Act, 1888," I have the honor to furnish the following Report with respect to the year 1890.

Model Forms of Accounts and Circulation of Information (Sect. 9).

The model forms originally introduced by me in the year 1888 were duly supplied to the various Secretaries of Friendly Societies at the beginning of the present year, for the purpose of obtaining a full statement of the business of each Society for the year (financial) 1890. The detailed statistical account, however, is not yet completed, as there are still a few of the minor Lodges which have failed to supply the necessary information.

It is expected, however, that, in the course of the next fortnight the whole of the returns for the year 1890 will be ready for publication in the usual form. Copies of this publication will immediately thereafter be distributed among the various Branch and District Societies throughout the Colony.

Elaborate statistical information, prepared from the Returns of the various Societies, in respect of the year 1889, was furnished to the Secretary of every known Society towards the close of the year 1890 (copy enclosed). The extent and progress of the various Societies at the close of the year 1889 may be ascertained by reference to the following brief summary relating to the years 1880, 1885, and 1889 :—

Progress between the Years 1880 and 1889.

	1880.	1885.	1889.	Increase between 1880 and 1889.	
				Actual.	Per cent.
Branches and District Societies	47	83	89	42	89·36
Members	No. 3937	7541	8692	4755	120·77
Receipts.....	£ 13,282	20,893	26,307	13,025	98·08
Expenditure	£ 10,415	18,728	23,104	12,689	121·82
Capital.....	£ 30,026	49,723	59,523	29,497	98·24
<i>Per Member.</i>	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	—
Receipts	3 7 6	2 15 6	3 0 6	-0 7 0	—
Expenditure.....	2 12 11	2 9 10	2 13 2	0 0 3	—
Capital	7 12 6	6 12 2	6 18 0	-0 14 6	—

It would therefore appear that within the nine years there has been rapid progress, Branches and Districts having increased 89·36 per cent.; members, 120·77 per cent.; receipts, 98·08 per cent.; expenditure, 121·82 per cent.; and capital, 98·24 per cent. The receipts and capital, however, have not advanced at a corresponding ratio with membership, the former having fallen 7s. per member, and the latter 14s. 6d. per member.

The benefits distributed during the year 1889 amounted in all to £23,104, or £2 13s. 2d. per member, as shown in the following summary:—

Expenditure, 1889.

(Members, 8692; cases of sickness, 1235; number of deaths, 73.)

Particulars.	Expenditure, 1889.		Per Member.	Per case.
	Amount.	Per cent. to total.		
	£		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sick-pay	6927	29·98	0 15 10	5 12 2
Medical Expenses, &c.....	7271	31·47	0 16 9	—
Funeral Donations.....	2989	12·94	0 6 11	40 18 11
Other Funds.....	3211	13·90	0 7 5	—
Management	2706	11·71	0 6 3	—
	23,104	100·00	2 13 2	—

The average duration of sickness of the 1235 cases recorded was above the average of former years, being 36·58 days per sick person.

Audit and Preparation of Accounts.

In my previous Reports I have specially drawn attention to the defective manner in which the Returns of many of the smaller Societies are prepared and audited, owing mainly to the lack of knowledge on the part of their Secretaries and Auditors, whose services, in a large number of cases, are given gratuitously. It would be injudicious to enforce the penalties of the Act in respect of defects and delays in rendering Returns under such circumstances.

My recommendation to place the audit and local inspection of the accounts under the supervision of the Auditor-General would, I am sure, be of great advantage, and would be regarded as a boon by the members if carried out in the manner suggested by me in my Report dated 10th June, 1890.

I again submit this matter for your special consideration, as I am convinced no improvement in the manner of rendering and preparing accounts will be effected until some such provision is made.

I have, &c.

ROBT. M. JOHNSTON, *Registrar-General*
and *Government Statistician.*

The Hon. A. INGLIS CLARK, Attorney-General.