

(No. 12.)



1882.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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INVALID DEPÔT, LAUNCESTON :

REPORT FOR 1881.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
July 12, 1882.



## INVALID DEPÔT, LAUNCESTON.

### ANNUAL REPORT for 1881.

*Invalid Depôt, Launceston, 30th January, 1882.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Annual Report of this Establishment to you for the year ending 31st December, 1881.

#### *Admissions and Discharges.*

On the 1st January the number of Inmates remaining was .....	137
Admitted during year .....	151
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>288</b>
Discharges.....	118
Deaths .....	33
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>151</b>
Remaining 31st December .....	137
	<b>288</b>

The admissions were 25 less than those of 1880, and 34 less than those of 1879. On frequent occasions during the year I have had to refuse applications for admission, although I have increased the number of beds to 150, by providing additional accommodation in the Gaol. The daily average strength was in excess of any previous year, being 146·64 as against 140·62 in 1880, the greatest number attained to that time.

*Mortality.*—As was to be expected from the larger number of Inmates, and from the fact that many of them are of very advanced age, the death rate shows an increase on previous years, being one in excess of 1879 (32 deaths), the highest previously recorded. The rate for 1880 was 20 deaths, but this was exceptionally low. The late winter and early spring months were especially fatal to men of great age,—23 deaths taking place from August to November, while 10 only occurred during the remaining months. The average age at death was 68·67,—the maximum being 90, the minimum (that of an epileptic) being 30.

*Ages.*—The average age of Inmates was 70·28. This is exclusive of 3 lads under 15 years, and several other natives of the Colony from 15 to 35, who, though not of the class for whom the Institution was primarily intended, were admitted as being unable to earn a livelihood,—being incapacitated by epilepsy, weakness of intellect, and similar complaints.

*Cost.*—From the annexed return it will be observed that the gross expenditure for the year amounted to £2013 8s. 11d.; the net being £1975 12s. 3d.; the respective annual costs per head being £13 13s 11d. and £13 8s. 9d.

*General.*—The efforts of the Resident Overseer during the year have met with my full approbation. The Wardsmen, &c. appointed from among the Inmates have, with an occasional exception, shown themselves worthy of the trust I have reposed in them. On the whole, the conduct of the Inmates must be regarded as very good: 6 absconded, and 5 were charged at the Police Office—4 for slight breaches of discipline, 1 for larceny. One was sent to New Norfolk for custody as a violent lunatic. As has been the case for some years past, the benevolently disposed of Launceston and District have sought in various ways to alleviate the position of those in the Institution; and it is gratifying to record that the interest shown has been appreciated by the men, and has exercised a beneficial effect upon them. Such of the Inmates as have been capable of working have been employed on light work.

Appended are extracts from the opinions recorded by visitors to the Establishment.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,  
A. JONES, *Superintendent.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.*

*EXTRACTS from the Visitors' Book.*

I HAVE repeated my visit to the Depôt, and leave with the same favourable impression.

(Signed) J. H. LEFROY.  
*21st February, 1881.*

I HAVE again visited the Depôt with the same satisfaction.

(Signed) J. H. LEFROY.  
*15th June, 1881.*

I CARRY away, at my parting visit to this Invalid Depôt, the impression I have always had, that the law has fully done its part in providing for the aged paupers of the Colony. However, far more depends on the personal kindness and humanity of those in authority over them than on any provision which the law can make to secure to them that measure of comfort which their helpless condition, and often their misfortune, demands. In Mr. Jones the Superintendent, and in his present assistant, the Government has every security possible for their well-being; and I must express the uniform satisfaction I have felt in seeing their kindness and solicitude for the aged people here. It does honor to themselves and credit to the Colony.

J. H. LEFROY.  
*25th November, 1881.*

*RETURN showing the Cost of the INVALID DEPÔT, Launceston, for the Year 1881.*

<i>Receipts.</i>	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>Expenditure.</i>	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For maintenance of Inmates .....	37	16	8	Salaries .....	293	8	4
Balance, being net expenditure for year ...	1975	12	3	Contingencies—			
				Provisions and Medical Comforts .....	981	7	6
				Stores, Bedding, Clothing, and Stationery .....	408	15	3
				Fuel and Light .....	165	18	2
				Medical Attendance and Medicines .....	31	5	0
				Miscellaneous, Incidental, and Funeral			
				Expenses.....	49	12	0
				Water .....	20	0	0
				Washing .....	53	2	8
				Carriage of Provisions.....	10	0	0
	<u>£2013</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>£2013</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>

Daily average, 146·64. (Colonial Government, 141·39; Imperial Government, 5·25.)

	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Annual cost per head on gross expenditure .....	13	13	11
Annual cost per head on net expenditure .....	13	8	9