

(No. 9.)



1865.

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TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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BRICKFIELDS INVALID DEPOT.

REPORT FOR 1864.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte; and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
July 18, 1865.



*Brickfields Invalid Depôt, 7th March, 1865.*

SIR,

WE have the honor to lay before the Government the Annual Report of this Institution for the year ending the 31st December, 1864.

The expenditure for the same period has amounted to £3941 8s., being at the rate of £17 3s. 4d. per annum for each Invalid, the average number of Invalids for the year being 227. This amount, which is under 11½d. per day; includes every expense of Maintenance, Superintendence and Servants, Religious Instructor, Medical Attendance and Medicine, and of repairs done to the Buildings.

As far as practicable the labour of the Invalids is made available in the improvement and cultivation of the grounds, which, notwithstanding the inferior character of the soil, have been made to produce vegetables of the value of nearly £100. Additional ground is now being prepared; but as it comprised nothing but Brickfields, it must take considerable time to get it into good working order.

The utmost discipline has been preserved within the Depôt, there having been few cases of complaint; and the Superintendent continues to discharge his onerous duties with the same zeal and fidelity, never having been absent a single day.

In consequence of Invalids constantly soliciting passes to go out, or discharges, and then neglecting to return, or returning in a state of intoxication, and being refused admittance, and subsequently besieging the Colonial Secretary's Office with fresh applications for admittance, the Government decided that when men voluntarily left the Depôt, without a Certificate from the Medical Officer that they were fit for work, they should not be again admitted. No power exists to detain such men; and they used frequently to leave the Depôt, beg about the streets for a short time, and then claim re-admission, always returning in a worse state than when they left, and in the mean time causing much trouble and annoyance to the Government.

The intentions of the Government were publicly made known to all the inmates, and this decision has been attended with the most beneficial results.

The Board, however, grant passes for the day to many inmates, whenever a reasonable cause is shown for granting them, and where they are not likely to be abused.

Amongst the improvements intended has been the laying on of the gas, which is likely to prove more economical, as it will certainly be more cleanly, than the oil-lamps now in use.

Although the price of Bread and other necessaries has been higher than last year, the expenditure has been under the Parliamentary Estimate; and the Board continue to exercise the strictest economy in conducting the affairs of this Establishment, taking care, at the same time, that the Provisions are of good quality, being regularly inspected by the Members. In this duty they receive the greatest assistance from the Superintendent.

The present strength of the Establishment consists of 224 Invalids, which is the utmost number that can be conveniently accommodated in the Depôt.

We have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servants,

THOS. MACDOWELL.  
A. KISSOCK.  
STEPN. SHEEHY.  
GEO. SALIER.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

#### ADDENDA.

The strength of the Establishment on the 1st January, 1864, was 214; received during the year, 159; total, 373. Discharged, 126; died, 23; remaining, 224. The average age of those died was 76 years, and the average of those remaining 69 years 2 months.