

(No. 75.)



1890.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY:

PAPERS AND CORRESPONDENCE.

*Return to an Order of the House. (Mr. Burgess.)*

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Laid upon the Table by the Treasurer, and ordered by the House of Assembly to  
be printed, July 10, 1890.



*Chief Secretary's Office, 27th June, 1889.*

SIR,

ADVERTING to the verbal communications which have passed between us on the subject of the existing system for the relief of destitute persons in the City of Hobart and suburbs chargeable upon the Government, through the agency of the Benevolent Society, I have the honor to request that you will lay before the Executive Committee, for their concurrence, the results at which we arrived.

By the contemplated arrangement, the responsibility as regards the expenditure incurred for the relief of the persons above referred to will devolve upon your Committee, the Government undertaking to pay monthly at the rate of £1300 per annum.

In this sum is included the following :—

The cost of investigating all applications for out-door relief, and treatment as out-patients at the General Hospital.

The cost of supplying all necessary relief in money or rations and the attendant expenses.

The horse, cart, and harness, &c. at present used by the Enquiring Officer, and belonging to the Government, to be sold, and the proceeds paid into the Treasury.

In order to facilitate the carrying out of these alterations, the Government propose to recommend to His Excellency the Governor that Mr. W. A. Catley should be pensioned under the 5th section of the Superannuation Act, whereby he would receive the maximum amount allowed by law, namely, £120 per annum, but on the understanding that he continued to discharge the duties of Enquiring Officer as though the question of pension had not been introduced into the arrangement.

Upon the adoption of the foregoing scheme, the Benevolent Society will be relieved of the duty of issuing ad-interim orders for the admission of destitute persons to the New Town Charitable Institution, which will devolve upon the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

The annual grant of £200 to the Benevolent Society will cease from the date the new arrangement may take effect.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

*The Chairman of the Executive Committee,  
Benevolent Society, Hobart.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 27th June, 1889.*

SIR,

WITH reference to his letter of this day's date, the Chief Secretary has desired me to remind you that it was agreed that the Benevolent Society should be registered under "The Charitable Institutions Act" of last Session, 52 Vict, No. 8, although this arrangement was not specified in the above-mentioned communication.

I have, &c.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

*The Chairman, Executive Committee Benevolent Society,  
Hobart.*

*Benevolent Society, Hobart, 28th June, 1889.*

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and on behalf of the Committee to thank you for your thoughtful proposals, which will receive careful consideration at a special meeting to be held early next week.

I have, &c.

J. W. SIMMONS.

*The Honorable the Chief Secretary.*

*Benevolent Society, Hobart, 5th July, 1889.*

SIR,

IN reply to your favour of the 27th June, containing proposals for the relief of destitute persons in the City of Hobart and suburbs, I have the honor to inform you that your communication has engaged the earnest attention of the Executive Committee with the following results:—

Agreed to accept the offer of £1300 per annum, on the understanding that the Society should obtain all things requisite for its use in bond, duty free, or, failing this, the allowance of an additional sum equivalent to duty paid. The chief articles given away are bread (purchased from the Gaol), rice, tea, and sugar.

The Committee will have pleasure in continuing the Hospital work, and in being relieved of the New Town Dépôt cases. The horse, cart, and harness, &c. to be sold, and the proceeds to be paid into the Treasury.

The Committee did not feel at liberty to discuss the matter of pension to Mr. Catley. In the event, however, of his services being available, an effort will be made to secure his continuance in this office. Considering, too, Mr. Witt's many years' work as a Civil servant, the Committee would be glad if the Government could render assistance in the way of adequate retiring pension to him.

Resolved, that in any arrangement between the Government and the Society, the Chairman for the time being must not be regarded, except so far as signatures to public documents are required, as an officer of the Government; and, assuming a final agreement, there are several matters not mentioned in the correspondence requiring adjustment, for instance, pauper funerals, lying-in cases, stationery, franking, and the obligations of the Society to persons who have been in, or may become fit subjects for, the Dépôt.

The actual difficulty is the question of registration, and some surprise was expressed that stress should be laid upon an Act purely optional in its provisions. It was resolved that 52 Vict. No. 8 would not cover the Committee's position, and should the Government insist upon any guarantee beyond the present constitution, that the better course would be to apply to Parliament for an Act of Incorporation.

Assured that your decision will be in the interests of the unhappy persons whose benefit is contemplated by the charitable grant,

I have, &c.

*The Honorable the Chief Secretary.*

J. W. SIMMONS.

*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 8th July, 1889.*

SIR,

I AM directed by the Honorable the Chief Secretary to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, having reference to the proposals contained in his letter of the 27th ultimo, connected with the relief of destitute persons in the City of Hobart and suburbs.

As there are several points which require joint consideration before the arrangements can be finally concluded, Mr. Fysh would be glad if the Executive Committee would make it convenient to name an hour when they would agree to meet him at this office on Friday next, feeling assured that at a personal interview all questions could be satisfactorily disposed of. To expedite business at such a meeting he thinks it would be well if you could formulate the proposals of the Committee on the several points alluded to in your letter.

I have, &c.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

*The Rev. J. W. SIMMONS, Glebe Town.*

*Hobart, 15th July, 1889.*

DEAR SIR,

REFERRING to the interview *re* Benevolent Society at your office on Friday last, you seemed in your remarks to reflect upon the Society for not having reduced the number of inmates at the Invalid Dépôt, New Town, and seemed to think that we had sent on to the Dépôt persons who ought to have been dealt with as paupers outside.

In conjunction with the Chairman, the cases sent on have been investigated, and proved that in no case have they been transferred from the Society's books to relieve them, but that, on the other hand, a great number have been retained as outdoor paupers (and are still so dealt with) who are proper objects for that Institution; but our desire has always been to relieve the Government of the expenses of maintaining them there, and we are now supplying several with extra rations from the Benevolent Society's funds in order to reduce the cost to the Government.

Our contention, that if the admission to the Dépôt devolves upon the Charitable Grants Officer, is that the amount asked for will be totally inadequate to provide for the extra number that will be sent to us. You can easily see that it is not without reason that we say the admission to the Dépôt should be left in the hands of the Benevolent Society.

If the Government will appoint a Commission (not a Royal) to investigate the matter both as regards those sent to the Dépôt and those relieved on the books as outdoor paupers, we feel sure that it will be found that we have acted for the best in the interest of the Government.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. P. O. Fysh.*

JAS. E. SALIER.

CHIEF Secretary will be glad to receive from the Administrator of Charitable Grants any observations he may think it useful to make upon the contents of this letter.

P. O. FYSH.  
15. 7. 89.

THE matters referred to herein, and also at the personal interview named by Mr. Salier, are—Continuation of the practice by the Benevolent Society of giving admission in certain cases to Invalid Depôt, direction of lying-in cases, orders as to pauper funerals, and power to frank communications, all of which may, as heretofore, be under the direction and control of the Benevolent Society.

The Benevolent Society to be so informed, and adding that the reference made by the Chief Secretary at the interview to the increase of numbers at the Invalid Depôt had no connection with the practice of the Benevolent Society in giving admission in certain cases, and was only alluded to as an incident connected with the subject.

P. O. FYSH.  
22. 7. 89.

*Charitable Grants Department, 20th July, 1889.*

SIR,

IN compliance with your request endorsed on the letter of Mr. James Salier of the 15th instant, urging the retention by the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society of the privilege it now enjoys of giving orders for the admission of destitute persons to the New Town Charitable Institution, I have the honor to state that in my evidence before the Royal Commission on Charitable Institutions in February last year, I gave it as my opinion that the power to give orders for admission to the Depôts should not be exercised by more than one person, and I have had no reason to change that opinion since. I feel sure it would be much better for the Government to have all matters connected with these Institutions under its own immediate control, in preference to the divided authority at present in existence, which is not calculated to promote either harmony or efficiency. It is true the admission and detention of paupers are by law vested in the Administrator of Charitable Grants alone, but the fact remains that a body of gentlemen altogether independent of the Government possesses a privilege which at times I have found to be the cause of considerable embarrassment. I refer to certain occasions upon which I have felt it to be my duty to direct the discharge of persons admitted on the order of the Chairman who it had been discovered were either able to earn their living, or had relatives in a position and willing to maintain them. In these cases I have, as a rule, immediately communicated the facts to the Chairman, or consulted him before acting in such as appeared to me to be at all doubtful, and so far as I recollect, he has invariably concurred with me; but this does not remove the difficulty caused by the present arrangement, or do away with the possibility of my action being misunderstood by the Committee, or regarded as an objectionable interference. I freely admit that the deception practised by applicants, or the want of thoroughness in the medical examination prior to admission, would be as capable of misleading me as the Chairman; but as the Government has decided to sever the connection between the Executive Committee and this Department in the matter of outdoor relief, I, for the reasons above stated, consider it would be judicious to make that severance complete by the withdrawal from the Committee of the privilege referred to.

Mr. Salier's contention would make it appear that if this course were adopted increased expenditure for outdoor relief would follow,—meaning, I assume, that I would decline to admit applicants on the ground that they should be relieved outside by the Society. A little reflection would have shown Mr. Salier that I already possess the power to do exactly what he alleges would be the result of the proposed change, and I challenge him to name a single instance in which I have declined to give effect to any wish of the Chairman connected with this subject, except in the cases to which I have already referred, and which were officially brought under my notice, not sought for by me. If this has been the case in the past, and I assert that it has, it is natural to ask upon what grounds is it assumed that a different course would be adopted in the future? I trust, Sir, you will adhere to your decision in this matter, and so terminate my official intercourse with the Committee, which, I regret extremely to say, has been neither agreeable nor edifying.

I have, &c.

J. O'BOYLE, *Administrator Charitable Grants.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Benevolent Society, Hobart, 22nd July, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, at the meeting of the Executive Committee on Thursday last, it was unanimously resolved to adhere to the Resolution of the Board in the matter of registration, and it was also agreed that the oversight of admissions to the New Town Depôt was absolutely necessary for the efficient control of the out-door relief of Hobart and suburbs.

Should the proposals of the Board meet with your approval, the working staff of this Office will be thoroughly reorganised.

Asking the favour of a reply at your earliest convenience,

I have, &c.

J. W. SIMMONS.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, 24th July, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, and, in reply, to inform you that the Government are quite prepared to meet the views of the Committee as to their continuing the practice of issuing orders for admission, in certain cases, to the New Town Charitable Institution, the regulation of admissions to the Lying-in Home, and the issue of orders for pauper burials.

The favour of franking "On Public Service only" will also be continued; but the Government feel bound to maintain their view of the question of registration under "The Charitable Institutions Act, 1888," and I trust the Committee will, under these circumstances, reconsider their decision, and thus facilitate the final settlement of the proposed alterations in the management of the out-door relief entrusted to their control.

In a letter I have received from one of your Committee, Mr. Salier, it would appear that an impression exists that my remarks as to the increased numbers at the New Town Institution had reference to admissions authorised by the Committee. I desire to explain that my remarks were only intended to apply to the subject generally of the continued pressure for gratuitous maintenance of indigent persons in Government Institutions.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

*The Chairman Executive Committee Benevolent Society.*

*Benevolent Society, Hobart, 13th September, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, after prolonged deliberation, the Executive Committee has resolved to postpone the matter of registration under Charitable Institutions Act for the present.

The Board fully appreciates your desire to protect the Government by insisting upon registration previous to any change involving new methods of work, and is quite aware that the resolution now reached amounts to a practical suspension of negotiations.

Permit me to thank you for the invariable courtesy you have always extended to the Committee, and to regret the impossibility of a more favourable termination of suggested service.

I have, &c.

J. W. SIMMONS.

*The Honorable the Chief Secretary.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, 6th November, 1889.*

SIR,

THE arrangements proposed and practically concurred in between the Government and the Benevolent Society for the management and control of the public funds provided by Parliament for charitable relief in Hobart and suburbs is intimately connected with the question of the registration of the Society under "The Charitable Institutions Act, 1888."

I observe that the subject was referred to in the report published in the *Mercury* of the 1st instant of the proceedings at the quarterly meeting of the General Committee, and that the further consideration of the question was postponed until the next meeting of the General Committee.

As the Government desire to arrive at a definite settlement respecting the administration of the funds for the purposes above indicated, I shall be glad to learn when the next meeting of the General Committee will take place, in order that I may be able to communicate to you, for the information and consideration of the Members, the views of the Government and their decision regarding this question.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

*The Chairman of the Executive Committee  
Benevolent Society, Hobart.*

*Benevolent Society, Hobart, 8th November, 1889.*

SIR,

IN reply to your communication of the 6th instant, I have the honor to inform you that the matter of registration will be discussed at a special meeting of the General Committee on Thursday evening next.

In order to facilitate the work of the Executive Committee, may I ask the decision of the Government in the matter of future work at your earliest convenience?

I have, &c.

J. W. SIMMONS

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 14th November, 1889.*

SIR,

I REGRET that pressure of Parliamentary business has prevented me from writing to you, as I intended, in time for to-day's meeting of the Committee of the Benevolent Society, with reference to the question of the registration of the Society under "The Charitable Institutions Act, 1888,"—a question which is intimately connected with the proposed arrangements for the management of the Government funds for the relief of destitute persons in Hobart and suburbs.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

*The Rev. J. W. SIMMONS, Chairman Executive Committee  
Hobart Benevolent Society.*

*Benevolent Society, Hobart, 22nd November, 1889.*

SIR,

By direction of the Executive Committee, I have the honor to forward for your information copy of Resolutions passed by the General Committee:—

1. "Resolved, that this Committee approves of the Resolution of the Executive Committee in the matter of registration under Charitable Institutions Act."
2. "That it be a recommendation to the Annual Meeting to consider question of application to next Session of Parliament for an Act of Incorporation."

I have, &c.

J. W. SIMMONS.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, 25th November, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22nd instant, with copy of two Resolutions passed by the General Committee of the Hobart Benevolent Society; the first approving of the action of the Executive Committee in declining to register under "The Charitable Institutions Act"; the second that the Annual Meeting be recommended to consider the question of applying to Parliament for an Act of Incorporation.

Referring to my letter of the 27th June last, and that of the Under Secretary of the same date, I desire to point out that the understanding arrived at with yourself and other members of the Committee as regards the payment of a definite sum to the Society for the relief of the destitute poor in Hobart and the suburbs on account of the Central Government, was to include the Registration of the Society under the Act above quoted.

As your General Committee appear to entertain objections to the registration of the Society under the Act provided by Parliament for that purpose, but contemplate seeking special legislation for the same object, I have to request that I may be favoured with a statement of the reasons which have influenced the Committee, in order that I may fully consider the objections to the adoption of the course contemplated by the Government when proposing the arrangements referred to.

Registration under the Charitable Institutions Act confers upon the Society all the advantages of incorporation, equal, in fact, to those which Parliament would grant under any special Act of Incorporation.

I shall be glad to receive your reply at an early date, to enable me to consider how far it may be desirable or necessary to cancel or vary the existing and proposed relations between the Government and the Society.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

*The Chairman Executive Committee Benevolent Society, Hobart.*

*Benevolent Society, Hobart, 29th November, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 25th instant, asking the reasons influencing the Committee in declining to place the society under the operation of the Charitable Institutions Act. In reply, I am instructed to inform you that a strong feeling is found to exist amongst the constituents against any step having the appearance of placing the Institution under Government control; and as the immediate result of registration would be the almost total cessation of voluntary contributions, it was felt that no other course is open for adoption.

Mr. Witt's resignation takes effect at the end of this year; and as the provisional agreement with the Government fails on the point you felt compelled to insist upon, I should feel obliged if you would favour me with your determination at your very earliest convenience, so as to enable the Committee to complete arrangements for future work.

I have, &c.

J. W. SIMMONS.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, 16th December, 1889.*

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 29th ultimo, conveying the reasons which influenced the Committee to adhere to their decision not to register the Society under the Charitable Institutions Act, namely, on the ground that a strong feeling is found to exist among the constituents against any steps having the appearance of placing the Institution under Government control, I desire to point out that registration under the Act in no way affects the perfect independence of the Society, which would be as free from Government control as at the present time.

The Parliament have, in the Act referred to, provided the machinery for the incorporation of societies having the management and control of institutions of a charitable character, thereby enlarging their powers and facilitating the recovery of amounts due to them; and having made such provision without in any way curtailing their freedom of action, it is highly improbable that the Legislature would sanction exceptional legislation by passing a special Act of Incorporation for the Hobart Benevolent Society.

As the action of the Society in thus declining to carry out the proposed arrangement for the payment of a definite sum for the relief of the destitute poor in Hobart and suburbs on account of the Government, including as it did the registration of the Society, involves, I regret to say, the termination of the existing relations between the Society and the Government, I urge upon the Executive Committee of your Society to reconsider the position and to give me their reply at an early date in order that I may, if reluctantly compelled to do so, be ready at the end of the present year with other arrangements for the relief of the poor of Hobart so far as the same has been managed by the Benevolent Society on behalf of the Government.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

*The Chairman Executive Committee Benevolent Society, Hobart.*

*Benevolent Society, Hobart, 20th December, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward for your information copy of Resolution passed at Executive Committee yesterday.

The question at issue was very fully discussed, and I can only express my great regret that any misunderstanding should have arisen between the Government and the Society, particularly in a matter so far-reaching in its consequences.

I have, &c.

J. W. SIMMONS.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Copy Resolution, Hobart Benevolent Society, 19th December, 1889.*

"The Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society having read the letter of the Hon. the Premier dated the 16th day of December instant, desire to place on record their great regret that the Premier should have felt it in accord with his duties to attempt to coerce the Society in the manner set forth in the above letter, and they firmly but respectfully decline to comply with the mandate, they being of opinion that the interests of the poor of Hobart and the surrounding districts will be best conserved in the future, as it has been in the past, by leaving the Society free and unfettered, as it is at present, in its action; and they also desire to record that they have never refused to carry out the proposal referred to by the Premier, and they are prepared to loyally carry out the same during the coming year, but that the Premier now seeks to impose new conditions not contemplated when the verbal agreement was made, to which the Committee do not see their way to agree."

*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 23rd December, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, forwarding for my information copy of a Resolution passed at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society held on the 19th.

It is much to be regretted that Members of the Executive Committee, whose duty it is unquestionably to make themselves fully acquainted with facts, should in their public utterances, as reported in the press, mislead the subscribers and public by the misstatement "that there had been no question of Registration raised until the last interview with the Premier, and they had been subjected to a number of little departmental annoyances since the Premier came into office," both of which statements are at variance with the truth.

Upon reference to my letter to you of the 27th June, embodying the proposed terms of arrangements under which the Benevolent Society were to undertake the distribution of Government Funds for the relief of destitute persons for a monthly payment at the rate of £1300 per annum, and to the Under Secretary's letter of the same date, you will note that the Registration of the Society was referred to as part of the proposal.

My interview with the Members of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society took place on the 12th July, before which date the Committee had considered the question of Registration, as you informed me in your letter of the 5th of that month. This reference to letters and dates disposes of the first inaccurate statement made at the meeting of the Committee referred to.

With regard to the unfounded assertion that since I had been in office the Committee had been subjected to a number of little departmental annoyances, I desire to refer you to your letter of the 13th September, in which, as Chairman of the Executive Committee, you express your "thanks for the invariable courtesy you have always extended to the Committee," and regret the impossibility of a more favourable termination of suggested "service."

I have always fully appreciated the good work of the Committee, and have on many occasions given expression to my opinion of the value of the services rendered by them to the community.

I am totally at a loss to understand to what the speaker can have referred, unless he alluded to the occasion when, in order to comply with the Audit Regulations, I was compelled to revoke an authority for the issue of rations according to the particular need of each case.

I concurred at the time in the desirability of providing a greater variety in certain cases, and at a personal interview it was arranged that you should draw up ration or diet scales to meet the difficulty, and still comply with the requirements of the law. This was in May, 1888, but since that time I am not aware of the subject having been brought under my notice.

On one other occasion I had to call your attention to a difference in certain returns as published in the annual Report of the Society and those furnished to the Statistician, and this was ultimately satisfactorily adjusted.

As the Resolution of the 19th instant renders it impossible for the Government to continue to avail themselves of the services of the Society from and after the 1st proximo, the relief of the poor and destitute in Hobart and suburbs will be undertaken by the Administrator of Charitable Grants; and I have to request that Mr. Catley may be instructed to report himself to that officer at once, so that arrangements may be made to secure the uninterrupted issue of provisions, &c. to the authorised recipients.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

*The Chairman Executive Committee Benevolent  
Society, Hobart.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, 24th December, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Government have decided upon relieving the Executive Committee of the Hobart Benevolent Society of the duty of administering the Government funds provided by Parliament for the relief of destitute persons in Hobart and suburbs, from and after the 1st proximo. I have therefore to request that you will undertake this duty, and make the necessary arrangements accordingly.

The Chairman of the Executive Committee has been requested to instruct Mr. Catley to report himself to you without delay, in order that he may furnish you with all the necessary information to secure the due continuance of the relief to the recipients enjoying the same at the present time. In the course of a few days I purpose again communicating with you as to the system which I should desire you to adopt in providing relief to meet the various cases of distress which may need assistance from Government funds.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

*The Administrator of Charitable Grants.*

*Benevolent Society, Hobart, 28th December, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your communication of the 23rd instant, intimating the withdrawal of all Government work from this office on and after the 1st January next. The Resolution of the Committee to which you refer deals with the verbal agreement made in your private office before the matter was reduced to writing in any form, and the Committee has not seen its way clear to accept your written version of that agreement. One illustration on this point may be sufficient. The verbal agreement was "£1300 or £1500, according to conditions"; you write £1300. When I remind you that the duty on rice alone would have been a loss of at least £50 per annum against the Society, the value of this distinction becomes immediately obvious.

Concerning the personal items in your letter, so far as I remember the gentleman to whom you refer did not make a single personal remark, his observations being directed against a Department, and I regret that you should have thought them capable of a personal construction. There are other matters in your communication regarding which, unfortunately, I am not able to accept your interpretation. It is not necessary, however, for me to trouble you with any further reply.

I forward herewith for your information copies of Resolutions passed unanimously at yesterday's meeting of the Society.

I have, &c.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

J. W. SIMMONS.



*Benevolent Society, 27th December, 1889.*

Copy Resolutions:—

Moved by Mr. Salier, seconded by Mr. Seabrook, it was unanimously resolved that—

“The Benevolent Society, Hobart, at the request of the Government, having administered the Charitable Grant for Hobart and suburbs for the past eight years to the entire satisfaction of the Government, and at a saving to the ratepayers of £5811, or from £700 to £800 per annum (calculated upon the smallest amount expended by the former administration), desire to place on record their sense of regret at the action of the Chief Secretary in the proposal to withdraw the grant to the Society, as it appears on the Estimates for 1890 (because they refuse to register under “The Charitable Grants Act, 1888”), and they cannot but feel the great slight offered to the Committee, who have given much valuable time and attention to the cases treated by them, all without fee or reward, except the small allowance given to the Chairman.”

It was also resolved—

“That the rule in existence limiting cases on the Society’s books to three months be strictly applied to the future working of the Society.”

It was also unanimously resolved—

“That the Executive Committee avails itself of this opportunity to express its sense of the faithful work done by Mr. Catley for the Government under the direction of this Society.”

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*Chief Secretary’s Office, 30th December, 1889.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th instant forwarding, for my information copies of Resolutions passed at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society held on the 27th instant.

I have, &c.

*The Chairman Executive Committee  
Benevolent Society, Hobart.*

P. O. FYSH.

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*Chief Secretary’s Office, 2nd January, 1890.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that you will be good enough to inform me of the date up to which payments in cash, and the issue of rations to recipients of Government out-door relief in the city and suburbs, have been made; also, to forward to me as soon as possible the names and addresses of such recipients, with particulars as to the allowance authorised in each case by the Executive Committee.

I have also to request that the issue books made up to the 31st ultimo, and all papers connected with the cases of the several recipients, may be handed over to the Administrator of Charitable Grants.

In order that the due continuance of the relief to persons enjoying the same at the present time may be secured, I trust this matter will receive your prompt attention.

I have, &c.

*The Chairman Executive Committee  
Benevolent Society, Hobart.*

A. INGLIS CLARK,  
*for the Chief Secretary, absent.*