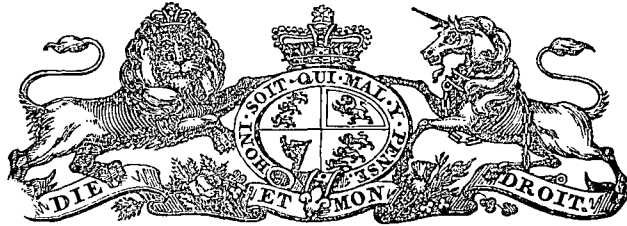


(No. 89.)



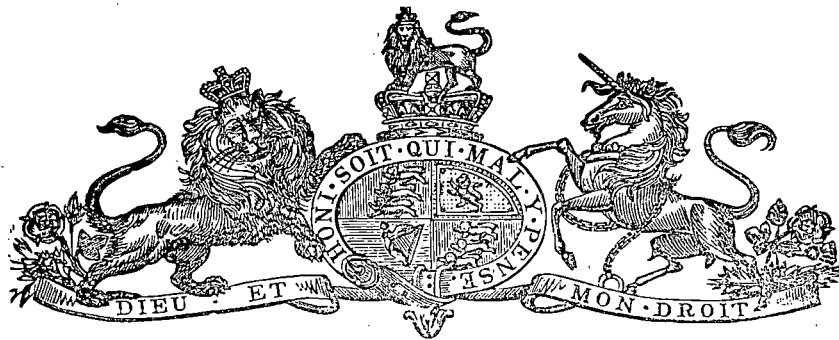
1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL
GARDENS:

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1891.

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



TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1891.

To His Excellency the Governor and Executive Council.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

THE Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens, incorporated by the Act 49 Victoria, No. 34, have the honor to submit to Your Excellency, in accordance with the 11th Section of that Act, this, their Sixth Annual Report.

1. The Museum, during the year 1891, has been opened to the public on week days from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. in the summer, and until 4 P.M. in the winter; on Sundays, from half-past 2 P.M. till half-past 4 P.M. in the summer, and until 4 P.M. in the winter. The attendance has been increasingly large, and the conduct of visitors on all occasions has been eminently satisfactory.

2. Your Trustees have much pleasure in reporting that Parliament during the past session voted a sum of £5000 for the erection of an additional wing to the Museum. This addition will be the means of affording an excellent room adapted for the purposes of an Art Gallery, and will supply two very much needed rooms, one of which is intended to be devoted to the display of Tasmanian Minerals. The large additions to the Museum collection make the proposed wing a most urgent necessity.

3. The Art Gallery during the past year has been largely attended. Several students have taken advantage of the facilities afforded them to copy, and many of the citizens of Hobart have most generously loaned pictures and given their consent to these being copied. Several of the leading residents have promised to present valuable paintings on the completion of the new wing.

4. Large additions have been made to the Tasmanian Room, and strenuous efforts are being made to get together a thoroughly representative collection of Tasmanian Minerals.

5. The thanks of your Trustees and the Colony are again due to Mr. T. W. H. Clarke, of Secheron, who, during his recent visit to Africa, among his collections secured a magnificent specimen of the "Beatrix Antelope" (*Oryx beatrix*). After having the specimen mounted in London he presented it to the Museum.

The Trustees of the Australian Museum have again most generously assisted this Museum by the presentation of many valuable specimens.

During the year a unique collection, representing the Minerals of Queensland, has been received from the Trustees, but owing to the want of space it has been impossible to arrange them.

6. Attention was drawn in the last Report to the proposed Museum in Launceston. Your Trustees are pleased to report that the citizens of Launceston have now a very creditable collection in the Victoria Museum and Art Gallery. At the request of the Municipal Council of Launceston, the Trustees have allowed their Curator to take charge of and to render all possible assistance

towards establishing the Institution, which they are glad to report has been an unqualified success. Your Trustees, among many other donations to the Victoria Museum, were able, through the kind assistance of Mr. Bernard Shaw, the Commissioner of Police, to send a large and valuable collection of *Salmonidae*, similar to that in the Tasmanian Museum, which has been, they are glad to learn, specially attractive both to residents and visitors to the Colony.

7. During the past year the Tasmanian Exhibition having been held in Launceston, your Trustees, at the request of the Commissioners, were pleased to exhibit the very handsome Timber Trophy designed for the Melbourne International Exhibition of 1888-9 by Mr. G. S. Perrin, F.L.S., late Conservator of Forests in Tasmania. The trophy attracted a great deal of attention, and cannot fail to make known the valuable timber resources of this Colony.

8. The Aquarium has been a great source of attraction, and your Trustees would strongly urge upon the Government the desirability of enlarging this highly popular and instructive adjunct to the Museum.

9. Your Trustees, having in view the importance of extending the educational usefulness of the Art Galleries of both Hobart and Launceston, would respectfully submit that the time has arrived when an annual sum should be placed on the Estimates for the purchase of one or more pictures for each gallery, to be selected by a Purchasing Committee or by the Agent-General. Largely as the success of the Galleries must for some years depend on the generosity of donors and lenders of pictures, it is surely not too much to ask, in the interests of the increasing number of Art students that, following the precedent set by the other Colonies, some addition should be made annually by the Government to the permanent collection of each Gallery.

10. Annexed to this Report are the following Appendices:—

- I. Balance Sheet of Museum and Gardens, duly audited.
- II. Report of the Superintendent of the Gardens.

J. BARNARD, *Chairman.*

ALEX. MORTON, *Curator and Secretary.*
July 7th, 1892.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT of Funds of THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM and BOTANICAL GARDENS for Year 1891.

Receipts.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Museum—</i>							<i>Museum—</i>						
Grant to Museum	500	0	0				Salaries.....	388	12	6			
Ditto, Aquarium.....	50	0	0				Current Expenditure	177	16	8			
				550	0	0					566	9	2
<i>Botanical Gardens—</i>							<i>Botanical Gardens—</i>						
Grant	800	0	0				Salary of Superintendent ...	210	0	0			
Sale of Plants.....	122	19	10				Wages	581	9	0			
				922	19	10	Current Expenditure	122	10	8			
Balance.....	...			72	1	10					913	19	8
							Balance from 1890			64	12	10
											£1545	1	8
				£1545	1	8					£1545	1	8

I HAVE examined this Balance-sheet, and compared the Entries with the Vouchers and Bank Books, and find the Balance (£72 1s. 10d.) to be correctly stated.

JOHN H. ECHLIN, *Auditor.*

Hobart, 27th June, 1892.

APPENDIX II.

GENTLEMEN,

I HAVE the honor to submit the Annual Report on the Botanical Gardens for the year 1891.

During the year the lower portion of the Fruit Square has been cleared of all old trees which had become stunted and barren from age, many of them having been planted in 1844. It is intended to temporarily devote the ground thus cleared to nursery purposes. The upper or Northern portion of the ground, which was cleared last year, has been put down in grass and planted with groups of *Yuccas*, *Aloes*, and *Palms*, and eventually it is proposed to treat the whole of the ground in like manner.

Arboretum—The trees in this department have now attained to fair dimensions, and need all the room possible for their future development. Hitherto the intermediate space has been utilised for nursery purposes, but as this will no longer be desirable, the ground will be cleared of all but permanent plants as quickly as possible, and the ground brought into a higher state of keep.

New Plants.—About the usual number of plants have been acquired by exchange during the year, but as an effort is being made to as far as possible confine new introductions to plants of recognised merit only, it is probable there may be a reduction numerically of yearly introductions, but intrinsically the plants will be of higher merit. The following introduced during the year are of special interest:—*Stilbocarpus polaris*, from the Auckland Isles; *Aralia lyalli*, *Capparis herbacea*, the herbaceous caper; *Abutilon peraplocifolium*, a good fibre plant; *Rhus semialata*, from Japan, having a bright red autumnal tint; *Hyphane natalensis* and *Phoenix acaulis*, two good palms. Plants have been raised for the first time from home-grown seed of *Juglans nigra*, the black American walnut; *Betula pendula*, the weeping birch; and *Fagus sylvatica*, the common beech; *Halesia tetraplera*, a good North American flowering shrub, which has hitherto proved difficult of germination, grew freely from seed well soaked in boiling water.

Conservatory and Bush House.—Provision has been made on the Public Works Estimates for the erection of a new Conservatory and Bush House in the Gardens, the former at £1000 and the latter at £500. As soon as the money for these much needed improvements are available, the preparation of the sites for their erection will be pushed on as quickly as possible. Considerable alteration of ground level will be requisite in the vicinity of both structures, but more especially in that of the Conservatory, where it will become necessary to form the ground into terraces to secure the requisite levels.

Bedding-out.—Experiences have been tried during the year with various bedding-out plants, with a view of ascertaining how far those most in popular favour may be suitable for the Tasmanian climate and prove desirable eventually for more extended use in the vicinity of the new Conservatory.

Plants of the various Alternantheras, Iresene, &c., when plentifully supplied with water, colour up and give much better results than was expected, and there is no doubt than when properly attended to these plants will prove very useful for bedding purposes in the warmer parts of the Colony.

Band Stand.—A Band Stand is much needed in the Gardens. A site having been selected in a central position, and put down in grass, it is desirable an effort be made for the purpose of obtaining the necessary funds for the erection of a suitable structure. Possibly a special vote could be passed for the purpose.

Labels.—Since the last Report all the principal plants have had fresh labels attached to them. An improvement has been made in the mode of mounting, which consists in backing them with zinc for the purpose of excluding the weather; this, in addition to the fact of the labels being in all cases kept some distance from the ground level, will no doubt result in a much longer duration of the printed matter. I have every reason to believe that labels prepared in this manner, while comparatively inexpensive, will with proper attention last nearly as long as hand-painted ones, which cost so much for lettering. Preparations are in hand for printing a fresh lot, so as to have a supply on hand when required.

Water.—About 800 feet of iron piping has been put down for the purpose of giving a better supply of water; but owing to the limited amount passing through the main into the reservoir, the full benefit of this extension of pipe is not at present obtained, nor will it be until a new main of a larger gauge has been put down. It is thought that ere long an adequate supply will be available for at least maintaining some of the lawns in good condition during the dry season, which will add much to the improvement of the Garden generally.

Exhaustion of Borders.—The borders in many cases have from long cultivation become much exhausted; to such an extent is this the case, that plants either fail to grow or do so in a very unsatisfactory manner. To obviate this it has become necessary to lay up a good supply of manure; some hundreds of loads have been obtained and is being prepared for future use.

Nursery.—The limited sales of plants during the past year render it advisable to reduce somewhat the pot plants in this department, and on this account less propagation of ordinary plants is now carried on. During the coming season it is anticipated a great reduction will take place in the plants on hand, by planting and distribution to public places. As far as possible, future propagation will be limited to immediate demands, and thus reduce the labour of watering and attention.

Plants for Public Places.—The applications for plants for public places are on the increase, and no doubt, in view of the many new recreation grounds now being formed, the demand will be still greater in the near future. In previous Reports I have called attention to this matter, and urged the necessity of a special vote for the purpose. In all the Colonies the propagation of plants for public purposes is carried on in the State nurseries, which have special funds available for the purpose, and raise plants in large numbers for immediate distribution. The work can only be done by a distinct department or by a branch worked for the special object. I would again urge the necessity of approaching the Government for the purpose of obtaining special funds for this work, which, if properly carried out, is of great public utility.

Prison Labour.—This class of labour has been fully occupied in the performance of all the rougher operations in the Gardens, and has been of material assistance in work of this description. Without this class of labour it would not be possible to maintain the Gardens in good condition on the present annual vote of £800, much less to make any important improvements.

The visitors for the year are estimated at 67,052.

F. ABBOTT, *Superintendent Botanical Gardens.*

To the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens.