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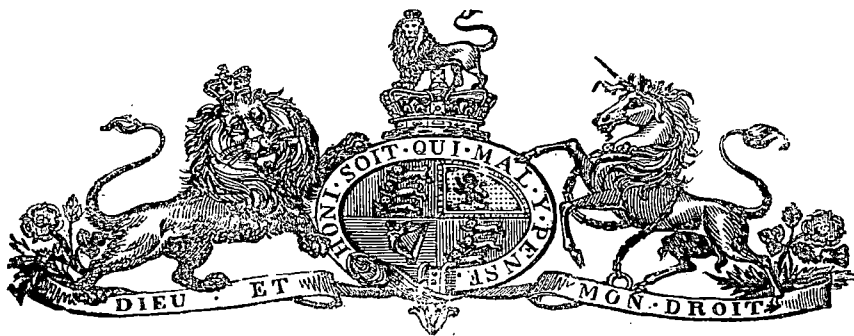
1884.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

**CHARITABLE AID IN HOBART AND
SUBURBS :**

REPORT FOR 1883.

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



CHARITABLE AID IN HOBART AND SUBURBS.

Hobart, 5th February, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to furnish the usual Annual Report upon the administration of the funds voted by Parliament for the relief of destitute persons in Hobart and the suburbs through the instrumentality of the Benevolent Society.

During the year 1883 the Executive Committee have been able to effect a further reduction in the annual expenditure, without disregarding any legitimate claim for relief.

In 1881 the cash expended was	£814
In 1882.....	734
In 1883.....	713

As regards Rations issued, the following comparative Return points to an improvement in the circumstances of the poorer classes in Hobart and the suburbs :—

	Scale 1.	Scale 2.	Scale 3.
1882	4101	2003	239
1883	3458	1676	349

The increase in Scale 3 has arisen from the necessity to provide for the growing infirmities of some of the recipients by allowing them, at their own request, to draw more groceries instead of bread.

In some cases it is found desirable to allow a small sum in aid of rent, which is paid through the Registrar, Mr. Wm. Witt, so as to prevent any misappropriation.

Looking at the names now on the books, I feel it my duty to state that, with few exceptions, independently of children, nothing but death can relieve the Government of the burden of their support; and I may add that the majority of the recipients are worthy of the assistance afforded them in their poverty and old age.

At the present time there are 199 adults receiving assistance,—namely, 39 widows, 5 women whose husbands are unable to do anything through sickness, 26 aged couples, 35 single men, and 68 single women, most of whom are bed-ridden, and, in addition to the above, 119 children.

As soon as a boy or girl attains the age of 12 years the child is considered eligible for service, and is not retained on the books unless there is some physical or mental disability, when the case is again brought under the notice of the Executive Committee.

The attendance of the children at school is very satisfactory, and is closely watched by Mr. Catley. Unless satisfactory reasons are adduced for the absence of any children from school, the authorised rations are withheld; and the enforcement of this penalty has had a most beneficial effect.

In conclusion, I may state that no cases are transferred to the Government books from those of the Benevolent Society which have not proved to be, in all probability, permanent, and never until after the expiration of three months.

I remain, Sir,
Yours very respectfully,

R. ANDREW MATHER, *Chairman*
Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.