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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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O U T - D O O R R E L I E F :

REPORT FOR 1891.

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



## O U T - D O O R R E L I E F .

### R E P O R T for 1891.

*Charitable Grants Department, 13th May, 1892.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1891 on the subject of Out-door Relief, &c. to Destitute Persons throughout the Colony, and the expenditure for transport and funeral expenses.

In a Return attached hereto is set forth the total sum disbursed for Out-door Relief in the Cities and Suburbs of Hobart and Launceston and in each of the Municipal and Police Districts, amounting in all to £3120 17s. 3d. From this the sum of £59 7s. 2d. received as repayments, including £24 4s. 5d. from the Imperial Government, has been deducted, making the actual expenditure £3061 10s. 1d.—a decrease of £85 16s. 4d. as compared with the previous year.

The number of cases in which relief was given, and the number of persons amongst whom it was distributed, were as follows:—Total number of cases, 444; number of individuals, 1039—560 adults and 479 children, belonging to 131 families.

Of the 444 cases—

222 were those of aged, infirm, and afflicted persons without family ties—males, 80; females, 142.

91 were of the same class, but composed of married couples.

5 were deserted wives with families.

68 were widows also with children to support.

50 were parents to whom assistance was given during illness or recovery from accidents; and

8 were the mothers of children whose fathers were undergoing imprisonment for various offences.

444 total; 174 of which were relieved in Hobart, 44 in Launceston, and the remainder 226 in other Municipalities, &c.

Further details will be found in the Return forwarded herewith.

The circumstances of applicants for relief were fully inquired into, and unless satisfactory proof of destitution and of the inability of relatives to afford the relief asked for was forthcoming, the applications were not entertained.

Authorities for the payment of cash or the issue of rations according to circumstances were, as usual, given for limited periods not exceeding six months, and on the expiration of such authorities, if the necessity for assistance still existed, applications for renewal accompanied by certificates were made by the officials through whose agency previous payments had been made, and thereupon the extensions asked for were granted.

With regard to Hobart, the applications for relief were investigated and reported upon by the Inquiring Officer, who discharged his duty in this respect in a most careful and thorough manner. On the 1st January, 1891, there were 131 cases on the books. During the year 43 new cases were added (22 of which were transfers from the Benevolent Society), and 54 were removed from

the list, leaving 120 on the 31st December—11 less than the number with which the year commenced. The expenditure, as shown in the annexed Return, amounted to £734 17s. 19d.,—viz. cash. £155 4s. 6d., and cost of provisions. £579 13s. 3d., or £82 19s. 9d. less than for the preceding year.

In Launceston the work was carried on under the supervision of Mr. H. G. Quodling, and in the Municipal and Police Districts every assistance was cordially rendered by the Chief Magistrates and Superintendents of Police.

Of the vote £4400 for the maintenance of destitute persons, &c., and to which the expenditure for Out-door Relief £3061 10s. 1d. has been charged, the sum of £1208 4s. 6d. has also been expended, making a total of £4269 14s. 7d. Included in this amount is the sum of £183 for the maintenance, clothing, and education of five children in the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind; £73 10s. for two boys in the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, St. Kilda Road, Prahran; £28 12s. in connection with the board and lodging of the lad who was transferred in January, 1890, from the New South Wales Institution to the Industrial Blind Institution, Boomerang-street, Sydney, and whose position there was explained in the Report for the year 1890; £50 to defray the cost of medicines supplied at the General Hospital, Hobart, to Out-door Patients; £50 salary Inquiring Officer, Launceston; and the balance to the liquidation of claims for medical attendance and medicines to Out-door Paupers residing in the Country Districts; fees for medical examination in cases of lunacy; maintenance of paupers in Cottage Hospitals; salary of Matron and maintenance of inmates of the Lying-in Home, Hobart; the supply of food and lodging to casual paupers and tramps at the Campbell Town Police Station; cost of Christmas treat and fuel to recipients Out-door Relief, Hobart; commission to Collectors for Charitable Institutions; three special compassionate allowances; expenses connected with the nursing and treatment of cases of typhoid fever at the West Coast, &c., and other items of a similar character.

Repayments, however, amounting to £38 18s. 9d. in addition to the sum already credited to Out-door Relief were received, which reduced the actual outlay to £4230 15s. 10d., leaving an unexpended balance of £169 4s. 2d.,—a result which, considering the numerous calls upon the funds for medical attendance, medicines, and nursing, in cases in which removal to Hospital was impracticable, has greatly exceeded my expectations.

With reference to the children in the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind, three of them, all deaf and dumb, left the Institution at the end of the year—two returned to their friends, but the other, having no home to go to, was taken by the Governors of the Girls' Industrial School until other arrangements were made. She is still there, but inquiries have been instituted with a view to her admission to an Institution in one of the other Colonies. The ladies under whose care she has been since her return to the Colony speak well of her, consider her very intelligent, and think it would be a pity not to afford her the opportunity of receiving further instruction. She had been nearly five years in the Institution at Sydney, when she was unexpectedly sent back, the Board of Management being of opinion "it was useless to keep her there, as she has made very little progress during the past 12 months, and is not likely to make much in the future." The two remaining children, boy and girl, who are blind, were awarded £4 15s. and £3 12s. respectively at the third distribution of the special prize fund for the blind, that took place on the 17th December. This money will be deposited in a Savings Bank for them until they leave the Institution.

The cost of transport and funeral expenses amounted to £538 11s. 9d., but repayments amounting to £20 10s. 3d. were received, which reduced the expenditure to £518 1s. 6d.

In the expenditure for transport, &c. is included the cost of the conveyance to the New Town Charitable Institution of 52 destitute persons for whom there was no accommodation at the Invalid Depot, Launceston. Of these 34 (29 males and 5 females) came from Launceston, 1 male from Evandale, 10 males and 1 female from Campbell Town, 1 male from Fingal, 3 males and 1 female from Deloraine, and 1 male from Ulverstone. In 1890 the number under this head was 69, 17 in excess of 1891.

Several instances occurred in which destitute persons were assisted to leave the colony to join relatives who were able to provide for them, or measures were adopted to prevent the introduction of some, and the stay of others, who there was reason to believe would become a charge on the Government. Early in the year a man landed in Launceston from one of the neighbouring colonies, and immediately applied for admission to a charitable institution. Inquiries were set on foot without delay, and it was ascertained from the man that he had been aided in obtaining a passage to Tasmania by one of the benevolent institutions of the colony to which he belonged. Steps were at once taken under the Act of Parliament 49 Victoria, Number 4, intituled "An Act to regulate the Conveyance of Passengers to Tasmania," and the steam company by whose ship the man came consented to take him back free of charge.

In another case a young lad about 17 years of age, suffering from a bad leg, applied for and obtained admission to the depôt at Launceston. It having been elicited from him that he had relatives in Victoria, they were communicated with, and although his father refused to have anything to do with him, his sister paid his passage back to Melbourne.

In two instances women, each with an infant, having relatives in other colonies willing to receive and provide for them, were assisted in the payment of their passages; and a young woman, with two infant children, who had been deserted by her husband, was provided with a passage to Scotland to her relatives, who had undertaken to aid in her support. She was quite unable to maintain herself and children, and would have needed assistance from public funds for years if she had remained in the colony. It was therefore considered more economical to take advantage of the offer made by her friends than to compel her to remain here.

Arrangements were also made for a free return passage for a woman, a new arrival, who was in destitute circumstances and wished to return to her friends in Victoria.

It having been ascertained that a woman who had resided in the Colony for some time and was in receipt of a compassionate allowance, but who went to Melbourne to join her husband, had quarrelled with him and made up her mind to return with her children to again become the recipient of the public bounty, the Managers of the various steam companies were communicated with and the provisions of the Act of Parliament previously quoted brought under their notice; this had the desired effect, for the woman was unable to obtain a passage, and had to remain with her husband.

The following are the particulars connected with the issue of orders for out-door treatment at the Hospital during the year:—Orders issued for one month, 492; renewed, 677; single visit only, 82; refused, 39.

Dr. Barnard also received 239 orders to visit cases in the city. Total applications, 1529.

Orders were also given for the admission from Hobart of 403 destitute men and women to the New Town Charitable Institution.

The issue of each order, except in cases in which the recipients were well known to be friendless, was followed by an inquiry for relatives, and such as were found to be in a position to contribute to the cost of maintenance were called upon to do so, the result being, that since the 1st January, 1890, when the Government resumed control of the work, the receipts from this source have increased between fifty and sixty per cent. Similar inquiries have always been made on the occasion of each admission to the Depôt at Launceston, the Hospital for Insane, New Norfolk, the Girls' Industrial Schools, Hobart and Launceston, St Joseph's Orphanage, and the Training Schools for boys and girls, and advantage taken of every opportunity that presented itself to obtain contributions from relatives of inmates.

Returns of the Annual Expenditure for Out-door Relief and the Daily Average Number of Inmates of the several Depôts in the Colony from 1879 to 1891, both years inclusive, are forwarded herewith.

It will be seen that the figures for 1891 compare very favourably with those of previous years.

The appointment on the 13th of May of a Ladies' Visiting Committee for the Lying-in Home, of which Lady Hamilton is President and Mrs. Fagg Honorary Secretary, has proved a great boon to the unfortunates who availed themselves of the shelter of the Institution. During the year there were seventeen inmates, and the Members of the Visiting Committee did all in their power to promote their comfort, and upon their discharge gave practical proof of their desire to reclaim them by providing a home for such of them as needed it in which they were cared for and encouraged to make a fresh start in life. In addition to this the Committee, after a certain period had elapsed, obtained suitable employment for the girls, thus enabling them to support their children instead of seeking to make them permanent burthens on the public, as in all probability they would have been compelled to do but for the action of the Committee, whose praiseworthy efforts it is to be hoped will meet with the success they undoubtedly deserve.

A competent Midwife resided at the Home, and the inmates were under the medical care of Dr. Crouch, who, since the retirement of Dr. Coverdale, has held the position of Visiting Medical Officer.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

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

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*RETURN showing the Number of Cases, &c. in which Relief was given.*

DISTRICT.	Total Number of Cases.	Individuals relieved.			Number of Families to whom the Children belonged.	Adults, Aged and Infirm.			Aged and Infirm Married Couples.	Deserted Wives and Families.	Widows with Families.	Illness or Accidents.	Mothers of Children whose Fathers were undergoing Sentence.
		Adults.	Children.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.					
Hobart .....	174	224	154	378	50	25	72	97	27	3	25	17	5
Launceston .....	44	54	49	103	13	9	13	22	9	1	7	5	0
Municipalities, &c.....	226	282	276	558	68	46	57	103	55	1	36	28	3
	444	560	479	1039	131	80	142	222	91	5	68	50	8

*RETURN of Expenditure for Out-door Relief in the Cities of Hobart and Launceston, and the several Municipal and Police Districts, during the Year 1891.*

Bothwell .....	£	s.	d.	Kingborough.....	£	s.	d.
Brighton .....	7	19	6	Launceston.....	111	6	1
Campbell Town.....	83	1	3	Longford.....	375	3	1
Clarence.....	160	7	0	Macquarie Plains.....	173	1	9
Deloraine.....	14	13	9	New Norfolk.....	22	6	10
Evandale.....	76	3	11	Oatlands.....	84	12	5
East Devon.....	88	6	5	Portland.....	35	10	0
Emu Bay.....	123	2	9	Ross.....	5	9	4
Fingal.....	38	10	11	Richmond.....	35	4	8
Franklin.....	107	12	0	Russell.....	55	13	7
Glamorgan.....	135	17	1	Ringarooma.....	22	3	4
Glenorchy.....	38	7	0	Spring Bay.....	12	2	7
Green Ponds.....	41	18	7	Sorell.....	24	16	6
George Town.....	49	11	9	West Devon.....	93	8	6
Hamilton.....	35	11	4	Westbury.....	134	17	6
Hedberg, Mr. O. E.....	44	10	0		149	5	7
Hobart { Cash.....	5	4	6				
{ Rations.....	155	4	6				
	579	13	3				
					£3120	17	3

*RETURN of Expenditure for Out-door Relief in Tasmania during the Years 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, and 1891.*

Year.	Expenditure.		Repayments to be deducted.	TOTAL EXPENDITURE.
	Hobart and Suburbs.	Launceston, Municipalities, &c.		
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1879.....	2361 2 3	4956 17 7	...	7317 19 10
1880.....	2088 19 9	3783 17 4	...	5872 17 1
1881.....	1633 9 11	3542 9 9	45 1 1	5130 18 7
1882.....	1579 18 9	3387 15 8	81 5 0	4886 9 5
1883.....	1473 13 10	3222 17 2	76 19 2	4619 11 10
1884.....	1469 8 3	3051 3 9	42 1 5	4478 10 7
1885.....	1329 6 8	2845 13 0	38 3 0	4136 16 8
1886.....	1270 0 1	2945 12 5	33 9 5	4191 3 1
1887.....	1296 15 9	3026 6 11	51 19 4	4271 3 4
1888.....	946 6 11	2996 17 5	39 19 5	3903 4 11
1889.....	900 14 6	2628 8 3	45 15 0	3483 7 9
1890.....	817 17 6	2369 2 6	39 13 7	3147 6 5
1891.....	734 17 9	2385 19 6	59 7 2	3061 10 1

*RETURN of the Daily Average Number of Inmates of the several Invalid Depôts during the Years 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, and 1891.*

Year.	Brickfields.	New Town.	Launceston.	TOTAL.
1879.....	222	550	125	897
1880.....	134	569	140	843
1881.....	119	611	146	876
1882.....	89	577	140	806
1883.....	...	642	139	781
1884.....	...	626	147	773
1885.....	...	609	150	759
1886.....	...	670	128	798
1887.....	...	661	148	809
1888.....	...	624	188	812
1889.....	...	589	217	806
1890.....	...	592	210	802
1891.....	...	545	215	760