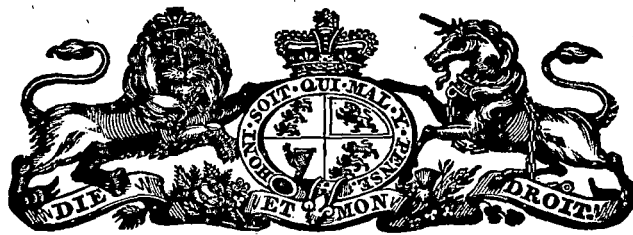


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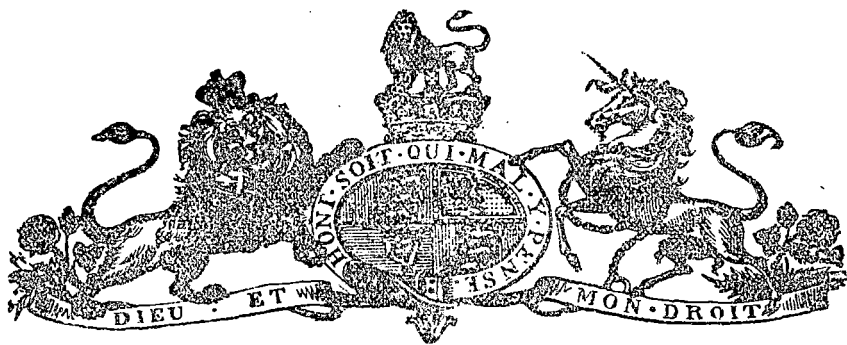
TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, HOBART TOWN.

REPORT FOR 1875.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 12, 1876.



*SIXTEENTH Annual Report of the Committee of the BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,
Hobart Town, for the Year ending December, 1875.*

IN presenting the Sixteenth Annual Report of the Benevolent Society, Hobart Town, to the subscribers and friends, the Committee do so with much satisfaction. In the first place they firmly believe that cases needing the assistance of the Society are not so numerous as they were; and secondly, that the financial state of the Society in no previous year stood better than it does at the present time, while the Committee lament the want of support by public subscriptions and the attendance of members at the several meetings. The Committee continue not to lose sight of one of the features or objects of the Society, viz., to discountenance mendicity and vagrancy and to encourage industry.

The Committee wish to record with thankfulness the receipt during the year of a legacy of £500 by the will of the late Mr. William Broadribb, which has been vested in the Corporation Waterworks. It is with the aid of interest on sums thus invested that the funds have been sustained; and if the public will generously assist the Society in finance, the Committee hope in a few years that it will become self-supporting, to a great extent at least.

At the commencement of the year there were 30 cases (comprising 102 individuals) on the books of the Society, being a decrease of 2 cases and 6 individuals than at the close of the previous year, while during the year 160 fresh applications for aid have been received and each case minutely inquired into, 154 relieved, while 6 were refused. Of those relieved (comprising 439 individuals, viz., 73 males, 129 females, and 237 children), 78 arose from illness, 7 from accidents, 18 were widows, 5 husbands in prison, 13 husbands away, 4 were from age and infirmity, 21 were cases of destitution, 8 were for children only, making a total of 154 cases relieved, and in several instances with thankfulness on the part of the recipients.

The Committee have continued to afford casual relief in bread and soup, &c. to 51 individuals discharged from Hospital while on their way home, going to seek work in the country, others who were just discharged from gaol or waiting to be invalided. The Wood Yard has found employment for 37 men (mostly with families) until they procured more profitable employment. In this branch of your Committee's labours they are glad to report the numbers have been less than in previous years. The Wood Brigade still continues in operation, and 242 dozen bundles were made and sold during the year, with a stock of 50 dozen bundles on hand. It is right that the Committee should acknowledge receipt of 70 tons of wood and coal from "friends to the poor," the Committee having only purchased 20 tons during the year: fuel has been judiciously issued and gratefully received. It is with pleasure your Committee record that the sum of £7 5s. has been received (in small sums from time to time) for the purchase of blankets at cost price, for which the purchasers have expressed thanks when receiving these necessary articles. While the Committee have in this way been encouraging frugality, they have issued marked blankets (on loan only) in several instances of wretchedness and destitution. The sum of £1 1s. has been expended in lodging tickets. In this branch of their labour they find it necessary to exercise watchfulness against those who are found to have discharged themselves from the Invalid Establishments and applying to the charitably disposed for a night's lodgings at least; and upon being referred to the Registrar their cases are at once recognised. The sum of £4 6s. 6d. has been expended in car-hire for the removal of the sick to the Hospital during the year. The Committee feel pleasure in finding that the hint thrown out in the last Report with reference to soup tickets being given instead of money (which, in too many instances, would find its way to the public-house) has been acted upon; for they discover the sum of £7 17s. 3d. has been realised by the sale of soup.

The Society has issued the following stores during the year, viz.:—28,031 lbs. bread, 396 lbs. tea, 3924 lbs. sugar, 1040 lbs. oatmeal, 1410 lbs. rice, and 5986 pints of soup. In the making of soup, 3630 lbs. of meat, consisting principally of bullocks' heads and shins of beef, 415 lbs. rice, 390 lbs. pearl barley, and 488 lbs. peas have been used. The soup continues to be varied three times a week.

