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1890.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE :

REPORT FOR 1889.

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



LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

REPORT for the Year 1889.

ON this, the 48th anniversary of the Institute, the Board of Managers have much pleasure in complimenting the members on the steady progress that still continues to attend the Institution; and the ensuing year, they trust, will see it entering on a new era of prosperity as a Free Public Library.

The number of subscribers during the year has been 512, of whom 107 are new members, and 102 have ceased to pay their subscriptions. There are 38 life members.

As mentioned in last year's Report, a correspondence had been opened with the Secretary of the late Public Library, and it has resulted in an offer having been made to hand over the books, property, and funds of the Launceston Public Library to the Mechanics' Institute as soon as the necessary rules and regulations for a free reading-room have been carried into effect. This was submitted to a special general meeting of the members on November 28th last, and approved. The necessary alterations in the rules to carry this into effect will be brought forward for your confirmation.

The exhibits in the Museum in connection with the Institute were intended to form a nucleus for a larger collection, and as the building erected by the Government for that purpose will shortly be available for occupation, and will be taken charge of by the City Council, your Board now ask your sanction to hand over the collection to that body.

The question of the disposal of the organ was brought before a special general meeting of the members on 6th June last, and at the adjourned meeting on 6th December it was resolved—"That the Board of Managers be authorised to hand it over to the City Council, if that body will undertake to erect and maintain the same in a suitable public building." The Council have agreed to accept the offer, and place the instrument in the new pavilion.

One of the firm of Messrs. Collard and Collard being on a visit to the city, generously offered to give the concert grand piano a general overhaul, and return the same in the very best possible condition without any charge whatever, on your Board arranging to send the instrument to England. Your Committee accepted this offer, and have arranged with Mr. Munnew to forward it to England at as early a date as possible.

The Parliamentary Debating Society has been successfully carried on during the winter months, and many young men have availed themselves of its privileges. It may be justly regarded as a fitting training school, preparing them to take their proper places in the future in the management of the affairs of the city and government of the Colony.

Your Committee have earnestly endeavoured to establish a School of Mines, but without success, and have now placed the rooms at the disposal of Mr. A. Montgomery, the Government Geologist, for the purpose of giving lectures, &c.

One lecture has been given by Dr. Pike on "Typhoid Fever, Measles, and Scarlatina—their Prevention and Treatment;" also an evening's series of lecturesses on "Money," by Mr. A. B. Biggs; on "Doctors," by Mr. J. D. Johnstone; on "Children," by Rev. C. H. Young; on "Prison Life on Board a Convict Ship," by Mr. W. F. Wathen. And your Committee hope that these will be more fully adopted during the coming session, for they are assured that a varied entertainment will be more calculated to interest the public, where single lectures fail. Mr. R. C. Baynham gave an evening's recitals. The thanks of the Institute are due to the various gentlemen for their services.

The following gifts have been presented to the Institute during the year, to the donors of which the sincere thanks of the members are due:—Mr. R. Kerkham, snake skin and eggs of snail. Mr. G. Ricketts, golden eel from the Meander. Government New South Wales; mineral specimens. Pastor White, a small grebe and a crane. Mr. Richard Brown, a deer's antler malformation. Hon. T. Reibey, a book published 1647, and seven portraits of criminals. Mr. H. Button, portfolio. Mr. G. Thureau, mineral specimens. Mr. J. G. Sherwin, squirrel skins. Captain Holyer, a pig malformation. Mr. A. W. Birchall, a bronze jubilee medal, golden eel, topographical Dictionary of England, 4 vols., and Victorian Congregationalism, 1 vol. Mr. G. P. Hudson, portrait of the late Mr. John Crookes. Mr. C. H. Smith, *Illustrated London News*, 25 vols. Mr. John Hudson, Morphy's Games of Chess, and Tænisch's Chess Preceptor. Mr. R. L. Parker, Vassili Verestchagin, 2 vols., and Jennings's Biography of Tennyson, 1 vol. Messrs. C. H. Smith and Co., P. and O. Pocket-book Guide. Britannia Company, Turning Lathes, 1 vol. Mr. M. Sholl, Handy Book of Mines and Mining. Government New South Wales, Parliamentary Journals, 4 vols., and Sessional Acts, 1 vol. Victorian Government, Sessional Acts, 1 vol.; Year Book, 3 vols.; Parliamentary Journals, 3 vols. South Australian Government, Parliamentary Journals, 3 vols. Tasmanian Government, Parliamentary Journals, 3 vols. Johnston's Geology of Tasmania, 1 vol. Royal Society, Proceedings, 1 vol. Royal Colonial Institute, Proceedings, 1 vol.

The following newspapers were presented by—Walch Brothers & Birchall, *Melbourne Daily Telegraph*, *Brisbane Evening Observer*, *Evening Standard*. Mr. A. W. Birchall, *Victorian Independent* and *Temperance News*. Mr. F. L. Fysh, *Nonconformist* and *Independent*. Rev. J. Lyle, *Presbyterian Monthly Messenger*. Messrs. Fitzgerald Bros., *The Age*, *Leader*, *Illustrated Australian News*, and *Melbourne Punch*. Messrs. Hopwood & James, *The Church News*. Mr. B. P. Farrelly, *The Advocate*. Mr. F. Dynan, *American Exporter*.

The following newspapers have been presented by the publishers:—*Launceston Examiner*, *Mercury*, *North-West Post*, *Day Star*, *People's Friend*, *Catholic Standard*, *Walch's Literary Intelligencer*, *Sydney Echo*, *Bible Echo*, *Imperial Federation*.

During the year 651 volumes have been added to the Library, making a total of 14,812, and this will be further added to shortly, an additional order having been sent to England in September last. There have been issued 25,800 volumes, and 9700 periodicals.

The Treasurer's statement shows that the balance in hand from 1888 was £558 5s. 6d.; receipts during the year—Government Grant, £100; transferred from the Museum Fund, £115 3s. 6d.; from other sources, £655 15s. 8d.; deposited in the Equitable Building Society, £150; invested in 8 five years' shares in the Equitable Building Society, £292 18s. 8d.; expenditure, £606 7s.; leaving a balance, including the investment, of £846 11s. 6d. The Piano Account shows a balance from 1888 of £91 2s. 6d.; receipts, £21 4s. 6d.; expenditure, £5 5s.; leaving a balance of £107 2s. Your Committee deemed it judicious to merge the Museum Account in the General Fund. It stands as follows:—Balance, £119 13s.; receipts, £5 6s.; expenditure, £9 15s. 6d.; transferred to the General Fund, £115 3s. 6d.

In conclusion, your Board hope that the Institute, under its proposed more extended constitution, will rapidly progress, and more fully carry out its objects in "the diffusion of scientific, literary, and other useful knowledge," whilst the sympathies of the general public being brought more in touch with the objects of the Institute, they trust there will be an increase in the funds, as an evidence of a warm and cordial support.

DONALD S. BRUNTON, *President*.

LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, 1889, *in account with* GEORGE PULLEN, *Treasurer.*

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
Gas Company's Account.....	62	8	7	Balance 31st December, 1888	558	5	6
Fuel	12	7	0	Government Grant.....	100	0	0
Insurance.....	9	7	11	Transferred from Museum Account.....	115	3	6
Printing and Advertising.....	13	17	9	Subscriptions	396	5	0
Licence of Hall.....	2	0	0	Hire of Hall, &c.....	204	15	6
Salaries	200	0	0	Proceeds of Lectures	4	0	0
Municipal Water Rate.....	2	0	0	Sale of Catalogues	8	3	9
Books, Periodicals, and Newspapers.....	169	8	6	Ditto Waste Paper	5	12	6
New work, Repairs, &c.	80	1	7	Books lost	1	3	6
Bookbinding	20	14	3	Parliamentary Debating Society.....	2	0	0
Parliamentary Debating Society, refunded...	2	0	0	Interest	33	15	5
Sundry Expenditure.....	8	7	7				
Balance Deposit in E. B. Society	530	5	5				
Balance invested.....	292	18	8				
Ditto Savings Bank.....	23	7	5				
	<u>£1429</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>		<u>£1429</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>8</u>

Examined and found correct.

J. REID,
MATT. TYSON, } *Auditors.*

PIANO ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Tuning.....	5	5	0	By Balance 31st December, 1888	91	2	6
Balance at Savings Bank	107	2	0	Hire of Pianos.....	17	0	0
	<u>£112</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>	Interest at Savings Bank	4	4	6
					<u>£112</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>

Examined and found correct.

J. REID,
MATT. TYSON, } *Auditors.*

MUSEUM ACCOUNT *in account with* GEORGE PULLEN, *Treasurer.*

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Sundry Purchases	9	15	6	By Balance 31st December, 1888.....	119	13	0
Balance transferred to General Account...	115	3	6	Interest at Savings Bank	5	6	0
	<u>£124</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>		<u>£124</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>

Examined and found correct.

J. REID,
MATT. TYSON, } *Auditors.*