

(No. 23.)



1887.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CHARITABLE AID IN HOBART AND SUBURBS :

REPORT FOR 1886.

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



Benevolent Society, Hobart, 21st February, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward Report of Charitable Aid in Hobart and Suburbs administered by this Society on behalf of the Government during the year 1886. The figures are from Returns furnished by the Enquiring Officer.

There were 141 cases on the books on the 31st December, including 24 single men, 53 women, 21 married couples, 43 families with 149 children. Of the single men 3 are blind, 4 bed-ridden, 1 suffering from asthma, and 1 an inebriate. Of the single women 7 are blind, 3 bed-ridden, and 2 cripples. Among the families are 4 wives deserted by husbands, 38 widows, 2 wives whose husbands are in gaol, and 6 whose husbands are quite beyond work. During the year 3 husbands have returned to families, 3 entered the Dépôt, 15 persons whose circumstances have improved, or whose relatives have engaged to support them, and 22 deaths. The average ages are—men, 75; women, 86. Children under 12 are expected to produce tickets showing attendance at school, the average being about $3\frac{1}{2}$ days per week. It is scarcely necessary to remark the strict supervision kept by the Enquiring Officer over each case.

The cash allowances amounted to £830 4s. 6d., and 4177 $\frac{1}{2}$ rations were issued. Owing to scarcity of work, the strain last winter was somewhat severe. The apparent increase in cash is, however, more than balanced by the decrease in the issue of rations.

During the year there were 43 cases transferred from the Benevolent Society and from country districts. There were also 580 paupers forwarded to Dépôt at New Town. In this relation it is right to state that on several occasions persons overtaken by poverty, and who have known better days, have asked for some special provision to be made for their comfort. If, consistently with the order of the Institution, some classification could be made, a very real favour would be bestowed upon the deserving poor. The number of persons totally blind is also a peculiarity calling for special attention.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. W. SIMMONS,

Chairman Executive Committee Benevolent Society.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.