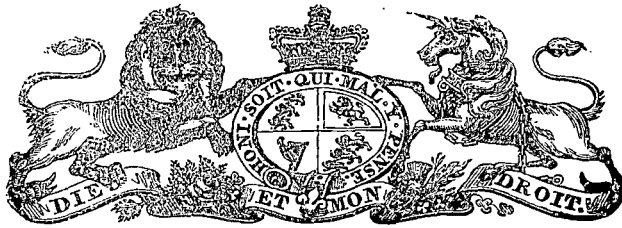


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1895.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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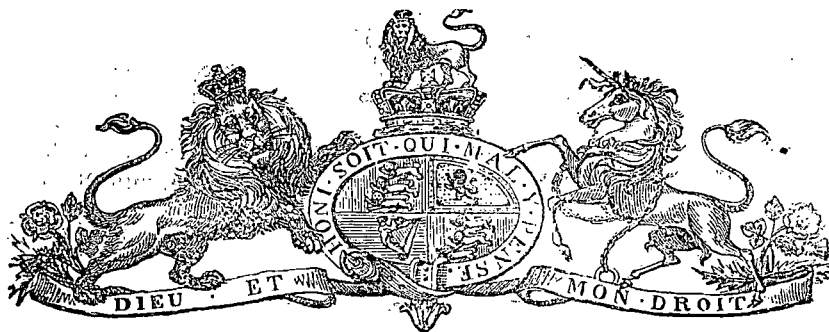
TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY:

REPORT FOR 1894.

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

Cost of printing—£1 7s. 6d.



## TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER, 1894.

Trustees:

SIR J. W. AGNEW, K.C.M.G., *Chairman*.  
 HON. A. INGLIS CLARK, M.H.A.  
 C. M. TENISON.  
 J. B. WALKER.

F. M. YOUNG.  
 ALDERMAN HIDDLESTONE, M.H.A.  
 ALDERMAN BRADLEY, M.H.A.  
 ALDERMAN CRISP, M.H.A.

SIR,

The Trustees of the Tasmanian Public Library, in compliance with Clause 7 of the Act to provide for the incorporation and government of the Institution (34 Vict. No. 27), beg to submit the following Report:—

The Trustees having decided to close the Accounts of the Institution on 31st December in each year (instead of 31st March as heretofore), the Report now submitted relates to the period ending 31st December, 1894.

The Trustees have to record with regret the resignation and death of Mr. C. M. Maxwell, a member of the Board since the year 1870. They desire to place on record their appreciation of the services rendered to the Library by Mr. Maxwell during the many years he filled the position of a Trustee.

On the resignation of Mr. Maxwell, Mr. F. M. Young was appointed by the Governor in Council to the vacant seat on the Board.

During the period under review 67 volumes have been added by purchase and presentation.

The daily attendance of the public shows a decrease of 11 per cent. on that for the previous year, and an increase of 14 per cent. on the average for the past 10 years. The decrease as compared with 1893 results from the fact that the Library proper was closed for nearly two months while alterations were being made to the rooms.

The Trustees have received an intimation from the Treasurer of the Colony that it is not the intention of the Government to include in the Estimates for any year following 1895 the subsidy of £200 heretofore paid to the Public Library.

The Trust funds, amounting to £1500, are invested upon mortgage for a term of three years, and bear interest at the rate of 6 per cent. Out of the interest derived a sum of £75 has been annually paid over to the Municipal Council.

The books, furniture, and fittings belonging to the Institution are insured in the Cornwall Insurance Company for £2000.

The Trustees include in their Report a balance-sheet exhibiting the whole receipts and expenditure of the Institution. Appended to the Report is a balance-sheet drawn up in the manner required by the Auditor-General.

The Trustees have to record with thanks presentations received from Institutions in England and the Colonies; from the proprietors of the following publications, who have supplied gratis copies for Library purposes:—Mercury, Launceston Examiner, Daily Telegraph (one copy each), N.W. Post, Bendigo Independent, Otago Daily Times, Auckland Weekly News, Church News,



## TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

*EXPENDITURE of the Hobart Corporation for the Year 1894.*

	£	s.	d.
Salaries—Librarian .....	170	11	0
Assistant ditto.....	75	0	0
Hallkeeper (cleansing Library).....	20	0	0
Gas.....	35	0	0
Fuel.....	7	5	6
Insurance.....	4	10	0
Books .....	27	11	6
Papers.....	35	15	7
Magazines.....	21	9	8
Binding.....	19	2	10
Alterations to Rooms .....	30	6	0
Sundries.....	13	13	2
	<u>£460</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>3*</u>

\* This amount includes the sum of £75 paid to the Corporation by the Trustees in aid of the Librarian's salary.

J. T. STUMP, *City Accountant.*

## SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

IN September, 1894, the Trustees decided to reorganise the Library, with the view of making it more useful to readers. Messrs. F. M. Young, C. M. Tenison, and J. B. Walker were appointed a Committee for the purpose.

The Committee found the Library in a most unsatisfactory condition. Only some 5500 volumes were accessible to readers, about 7000 volumes being in store-rooms, and practically inaccessible. The Library was without any classification whatever. The condition of the books showed an entire absence of proper measures for their preservation. There was a large number of worthless works and many duplicates. There was, moreover, no efficient supervision.

In order to remedy as far as possible this unsatisfactory state of things, the Trustees, with the consent of the Municipal Council, arranged for extensive alterations of the Library-rooms. The largest room, formerly used for Newspapers and Magazines, was fitted with shelves providing accommodation for 9000 volumes. The remaining space was converted into two large rooms, one for Newspapers, the other for Magazines.

These alterations have enabled the Trustees to effect a complete classification of the whole Library, and to place within easy reach of readers about 10,500 volumes properly classified, in place of 5500 volumes without any classification as heretofore.

By providing for the accommodation of the Librarian in the principal Library-room, some supervision has been secured.

The alterations and the transference of the books to the new shelves were carried out under the direction of the above-mentioned Committee of Trustees, who also themselves planned and performed the work of classification. The larger share in these labours was undertaken by Mr. F. M. Young, whose brother, Mr. Francis J. Young, also gave his valuable help. The time of these two gentlemen was fully occupied by these works for some 7 or 8 weeks.

The alterations occupied altogether a period of three months from November, 1894, to January, 1895, inclusive—the Library being partially closed for about two—and they were effected at a cost of £213, towards which the Municipal Council has made a special contribution of £100.

The result has been a great increase of the value of the Library to readers, and the Trustees can now fairly claim the support of the State to a properly organised National Library.

J. W. AGNEW, *Chairman.*

Hobart, May 7th, 1895.