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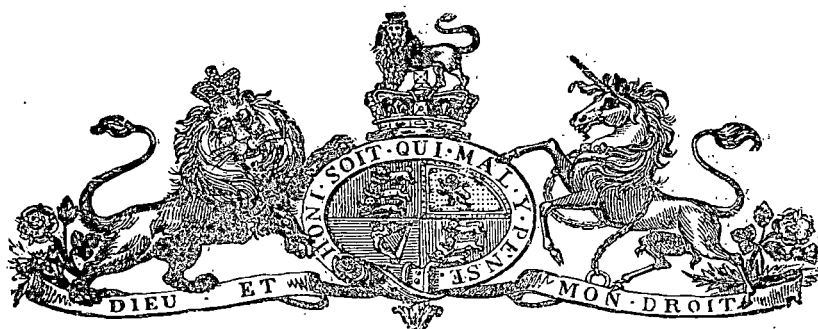
1894.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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

REPORT FOR 1893.

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



OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

REPORT FOR 1893.

Charitable Grants Department, 5th April, 1894.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit the following Report for the year 1893 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 is set forth the total sum disbursed for Out-door Relief in the Cities of Hobart and Launceston, and in each of the Municipal and Police Districts, amounting in all to £2943 7s. 11d. From this the sum of £53 1s. 7d. received as repayments, including £31 16s. 7d. due by the Imperial Government, has been deducted, making the actual expenditure £2890 6s. 4d.—£289 19s. 3d. less than in 1892.

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, 447; number of individuals, 1090—558 adults and 532 children, belonging to 138 families.

Of the 447 cases—

216 were those of aged, infirm, and afflicted persons without family ties—males, 74; females, 142.

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

16 were deserted wives with families.

64 were widows also with children to support.

48 were parents to whom assistance was given during illness, &c.

10 were the mothers of children whose fathers were undergoing terms of imprisonment.

447 total; 197 of which were relieved in Hobart, 46 in Launceston, and the remainder, 204, in other Municipalities, &c.

Further details will be found in the Return forwarded herewith.

For purposes of comparison, the totals under each head for the years 1890, 1891, 1892 are also given.

Each application for assistance was thoroughly investigated, and care was taken that persons who had means or relatives who were in a position to afford the necessary help did not become charges on the public.

According to practice, the authorities for the payment of cash allowances or the supply of provisions were issued for terms not exceeding six months, and on their expiration, if applications for an extension of the period were made, and it was found that necessity for the grant still existed, the authorities were renewed for a further term.

On the 1st January, 1893, there were 122 Hobart and Suburbs' cases on the books. 75 new ones were added during the year, of which 30, representing 108 persons—viz., adults, 46, children, 62—were transferred from the Benevolent Society, and 49 were removed from the list, leaving 148 on the 31st December, an increase of 26 since the beginning of the year. Notwithstanding this increase, and the addition of the duty issued on sugar for the last six months of the year, on tea for four months, and primage also for six months, amounting in all to £34 12s. 2d., the expenditure was less by £47 0s. 2d. than in 1892, viz.—Cash, £24 13s. 3d., provisions, £22 6s. 11d.

The above cases, as occasion necessitated, were inquired into and reported upon by the Inquiring Officer, Mr. Pearce, who also drew and issued provisions and made such payments in cash as were authorised, accounting for the same monthly through me to the Auditor General and Government Storekeeper. These duties were discharged in a careful and satisfactory manner, and the Officer in question, by his close and constant supervision, enabled changes to be made from time to time during the year by which grants in some instances were reduced, and in others suspended for a time or dispensed with altogether before the expiration of the term for which they had been authorised.

Sixty cases in all were sought to be transferred from the books of the Benevolent Society, but for various reasons 30 of them were not entertained or relieved.

In Launceston the work connected with the Department was carried on under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Invalid Depôt, and in the Municipal and Police Districts the Wardens, Police Magistrates, and Superintendents of Police reported upon the circumstances of applicants, and disbursed such relief as was authorised.

In addition to the sum already referred to, viz., £2890 6s. 4d., out-door relief, £1334 16s. 2d., was expended on account of the maintenance of destitute persons not otherwise provided for, making a total of £4225 2s. 6d. Included in this amount is the sum of £96 9s. 7d. for the maintenance, clothing, and education of three boys in the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind; £325 7s. 8d. for nine children in the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, St. Kilda Road, Melbourne; £28 16s. 9d. in connection with the board and lodging of the lad in the Industrial Blind Institution, Boomerang-street, Sydney, whose position there was explained in the Report for 1890; £41 14s. 3d. for the maintenance and instruction in a trade of two young women in the New South Wales Home for Blind Women, Albert Road, Strathfield, near Sydney,—making a total under this head of £492 8s. 3d.; £75 to defray the cost of medicines supplied at the General Hospital, Hobart, to out-door patients, and the balance to the liquidation of claims for medical attendance and medicine to paupers residing in the country districts; fees for medical examination in cases of lunacy; £47 1s., allowance for investigation of applications for relief and clerical assistance, Launceston; maintenance of paupers in cottage hospitals; salary of matron, £40, and maintenance of inmates of the Lying-in-Home, Cascades; the supply of food and lodging to tramps at the Campbell Town and other police stations; cost of Christmas treat, £28 4s. 2d., and winter fuel, £49 17s. 6d., to the recipients of out-door relief, Hobart; commission to Collectors for Charitable Institutions; £54 15s., three special compassionate allowances, and other items of a similar character.

Repayments, however, amounting to £73 7s. 7d., in addition to the sum of £53 1s. 7d. already credited to out-door relief, were received, which reduced the actual expenditure to £4151 14s. 11d., or £48 5s. 1d. under the total sum voted, viz., £4200.

With regard to the deaf and dumb and blind children referred to above, and for whose maintenance the sum of £492 8s. 3d. was paid, two of the three boys in the New South Wales Institution are blind, and the other is deaf and dumb. At the annual distribution of prizes among the blind pupils one of the above was awarded £5 14s. 8d. and the other £3 6s. Of the nine inmates of the Royal Victorian Institute for the Blind, Melbourne, seven were males and two females. Three of the former left the Institute during the year, one of whom was taken to New Zealand by his sister; another was discharged to his father, having been found mentally deficient and incapable of benefiting by instruction, and the third returned to Launceston, and is working for his living as a pianoforte tuner in the northern and western districts of the Colony. The blind lad in the Industrial Blind Institution, Boomerang-street, Sydney, and the two young women in the Home for Blind Women, Albert Road, Strathfield, near Sydney, it is hoped will be able to earn their own living when they have received two years' further training.

Transport and Funeral Expenses.

For this service the sum of £500 was provided, but there has been charged against the Vote the sum of £531 15s. 9d. The actual expenditure, however, was only £256 8s. 9d., as £36 1s. 4d., including £3 7s. 4d. from the Imperial Government, were received as repayments, and £242 12s. 2d. represents payments made to the Railway Department for the conveyance of paupers, in reality a mere transfer of funds from one Department to another. Included in this expenditure is the cost of the conveyance to their homes of 16 prisoners on discharge from sentence, and to the New Town Charitable Institution of 118 destitute persons for whom the Superintendent of the

Invalid Dépôt, Launceston, could not find accommodation. Of these 70—males, 68, females, 2—came from Launceston; 22—males, 20, females, 2—from Campbell Town; 13—males, 12, females, 1—from Deloraine; 4 males from Latrobe; 3 males from Ross; 2 males each from Westbury and Evandale; one female from Penguin, and one male from Longford. In 1892 the number under the last-named head was 79.

The following are the particulars of the number of orders issued during the year for out-door treatment as paupers at the Hospital, Hobart:—New cases, 555; renewals, 820; single visits, 138; refused, 86. Dr. Barnard also received 714 orders to visit cases in the city. Total applications, 2313.

Orders were also given for the admission from Hobart of 338 men and women to the New Town Charitable Institution. Except in cases in which the persons to whom these orders were given were known to be destitute and friendless enquiry was made for relatives, and such as were found to be in a position to supply the medical aid or medicine needed, or to contribute to the cost of maintenance, were required to do so. Similar inquiries were also made on the occasion of each admission to the Dépôt at Launceston, the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, the Girls' Industrial Schools, Hobart and Launceston, St. Joseph's Orphanage, the Boys' Home, the Training Schools for Boys and Girls; and advantage was 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 Dépôts in the Colony from 1879 to 1893, both years inclusive, are forwarded herewith. It will be observed that, as regards admissions to these Institutions, the total number was less than in 1892.

The annual claim upon the Imperial Government for repayment of the cost of Imperial paupers who were a charge to the Colony during the year, and which amounted to £1509 15s 2d., has also been prepared and forwarded to the Treasury.

During the year there were 13 admissions to the Lying-in Home, and the inmates were under the care of the resident midwife, Mrs. Boam, who acted as occasion required under the orders of the medical officer, Dr. Crouch. The Ladies' Visiting Committee supervised the internal arrangements of the Home, and paid every attention to those who sought its shelter.

In my Reports for 1882, 1883, 1884, and 1886 I called attention to certain alterations in "The Public Charities Act, 1867," 37 Viet. No. 15, which appeared to me to be much needed, and I refer to them again in the hope that they may be considered worthy of consideration. It is also very desirable that the provisions of Sections 31 and 32 should be extended, so as to render it unnecessary for officers whose duty it is to take proceedings under the Act to prove ability on the part of the persons sued, whether indigent persons or relatives, to make the payments that have been demanded from them. Evidence of this nature is very frequently most difficult to obtain, and as the onus of proof in other matters is largely thrown upon defendants, the suggestion of additional responsibility in the direction I have indicated would appear to be more in harmony than otherwise with the spirit of the Act.

In conclusion, it affords me much pleasure to acknowledge the courtesy and assistance extended to me by the Wardens, Magistrates, and officials generally throughout the Colony in the discharge of the duties of my office.

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.	Expenditure.	Expenditure per Head.
		Adults.	Children.	Total.		Males.	Females.	Total.							
t	197	270	255	525	63	26	67	93	41	12	23	21	7	£ 740 16 1	£ 1 8 2½
Launceston	46	54	60	114	15	8	15	23	8	1	9	4	1	390 7 11	3 8 5¼
Municipalities, &c.	204	234	217	451	60	40	60	100	44	3	32	23	2	1812 3 11	4 0 4¼
	447	558	532	1090	138	74	142	216	93	16	64	48	10	2943 7 11	
										Deduct Repayments				53 1 7	
														2890 6 4	2 13 0¼
1890.....	470	596	543	1139	173	70	161	231	100	12	75	46	6	3147 6 5	...
1891.....	444	560	479	1039	131	80	142	222	91	5	68	50	8	3061 10 1	...
1892.....	449	571	546	1117	143	69	131	200	106	11	67	59	6	3180 5 7	...
1893.....	447	558	532	1090	138	74	142	216	93	16	64	48	10	2890 6 4	...

RETURN of Expenditure for Out-door Relief in the Cities of Hobart and Launceston, and the several Municipal and Police Districts, during the Year 1893.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Brighton	57	14	0	Hobart { Cash	123	15	6
Campbell Town	169	4	0	{ Rations	617	0	7
Carnarvon	10	2	1	Kingborough	58	5	6
Clarence	19	11	5	Launceston	390	7	11
Deloraine	94	1	6	Longford	181	16	1
Evandale	94	0	9	New Norfolk	115	3	6
East Devon	161	2	0	Oatlands	34	3	5
Emu Bay	22	3	4	Ross	20	16	11
Fingal	73	3	11	Richmond	37	0	7
Franklin	135	17	10	Russell	20	2	4
Glamorgan	16	14	2	Ringarooma	6	17	5
Glenorchy	11	0	5	Spring Bay	9	2	6
Green Ponds	40	17	2	Sorell	50	14	5
George Town	27	4	10	West Devon	149	6	8
Hamilton	36	6	5	Westbury	159	10	9

RETURN of Expenditure for Out-door Relief in Tasmania during the Years 1879, 1880, 1881, 1882, 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886, 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1891, 1892, and 1893.

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	3433 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
1892	787 16 3	2448 15 2	56 5 10	3180 5 7
1893	740 16 1	2202 11 10	53 1 7	2890 6 4

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, 1891, 1892, and 1893.

Years.	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
1892 .....	...	535	224	759
1893 .....	...	541	214	755