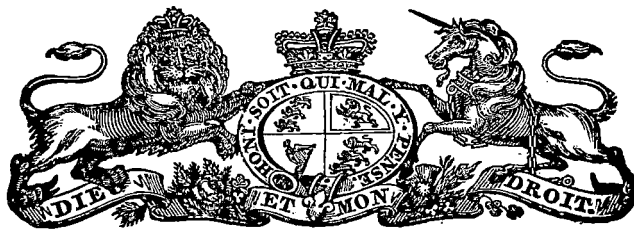


(No. 31.)



1879.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

HOBART TOWN PUBLIC CEMETERY:

REPORT FOR 1878.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 9, 1879.



HOBART TOWN PUBLIC CEMETERY.

Hobart Town, 3rd July, 1879.

SIR,

THE last Report of the Trustees stated that £100 having been authorised to be expended in the construction of a covered seat at the Cemetery, a plan had been obtained, tenders were invited, when it was found that, without further expenditure, the design could not be carried into execution. The Governor in Council having authorised a further expenditure of £30 in addition to £100 already voted, the work has been executed, and the seat proves a great convenience to the public who visit the Cemetery.

The Mortuary business for the year 1878 is shown in the accompanying Returns; the revenue for the year from interments being £505 6s. 0d.

As has been pointed out in previous Reports—and also in correspondence with the Government—the revenue of the Cemetery is insufficient to meet the expenditure necessary for its maintenance and payment of interest on the Cemetery Debentures; and the Trustees would beg to draw especial attention to their Report, dated 22nd March, 1877—House of Assembly Paper, No. 22, Session 2, 1877—wherein the following scheme was suggested, which, if carried into effect, would be the means of relieving the Trustees of a large annual payment, and thereby enable them the more satisfactorily and effectively to manage the affairs of the Cemetery entrusted to their care:—

The 3rd Section of "The Cemeteries Amendment Act, 1870," provides that out of the moneys received by the Trustees of every Cemetery on account of fees, &c. there shall be paid into the Colonial Treasury, at such periods as the Governor in Council directs, so much money as may be necessary to pay interest at 6 per cent. on the capital expended on any Cemetery, and a further sum of 1 per cent. for the formation of a Redemption Fund.

The capital of the Hobart Town Public Cemetery is £8000, and this sum was borrowed as follows in the year 1871:—

£4000 in Debentures at 5 per cent. redeemable October, 1881.
£4000 in Debentures at 6 per cent. redeemable August, 1881.

Premiums to the amount of £240 were received on the sale of these Debentures; such premiums have been credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The annual interest, £440, has been paid up to the end of 1875, and six months interest for 1876 has been paid, and the Trustees still expect to be in a position shortly to pay the balance; but no payment has ever been made in aid of the Redemption Fund.

The Trustees addressed the Government on the subject of the Redemption Fund on the 17th April, 1875, suggesting that the premiums received on the sale of the Debentures should be paid to the Redemption Fund. The Trustees are still of that opinion.

The Trustees desire to call the attention of the Government to the fact that the land now comprising the Cemetery was, in the year 1858, sold by the Government for the sum of £5200 to sundry purchasers, and that its re-purchase and adaptation to the requirements of the Cemetery cost £8000; the difference in the cost to the public therefore is £2800, the remaining £5200, constituting the State value of the Cemetery, might reasonably be looked upon as a gift—or if preferred, a loan—to the Trustees, who are after all a part of the Public Service.

Should the Government be pleased to adjust the difference as above, it will be only necessary to provide interest on the balance, £2800, and then a considerable portion of revenue would go towards the Redemption Fund, i.e., a restoration to the Treasury of the capital lent in and for the re-purchase of the land.

The matter stands thus:—

The Government <i>pro forma</i> are in receipt of 6 per cent. interest on the cash received from the purchasers in 1858, amounting to	£312 per annum.
It has borrowed £8000 under "The Cemeteries Act" for the re-purchase at 5 and 6 per cent., equal to	£440 per annum.
Difference to pay	£128 per annum.

It will be seen from the foregoing that the Trustees desire to be placed in a position similar to that in which they would have been if the land now vested in them had been crown land reserved under the 12th Section of "The Waste Lands Act" for burial purposes.

It is submitted that this proposal is not an unfair one, inasmuch as the Section of "The Waste Lands Act" referred to in the preceding paragraph has actually been called into operation to provide reserves for burial purposes throughout the Colony, even up to a very recent date.

It must be borne in mind that the insufficiency of the revenue of this Cemetery arises through no act of the Trustees. When the Institution was established and the large amount of £8000 expended upon its purchase, &c., it was intended that it should meet the mortuary requirements of the city and suburbs; and the receipts during the first few months of its establishment show that, if the original intention had been carried into effect, the revenue would now be more than sufficient to meet all claims upon it.

But the Legislature passed a measure which not only allowed existing burial grounds outside the City boundary to remain in use, but permitted the establishment of any new Cemetery within 1½ miles of the General Post Office, Hobart Town—being a shorter distance from that office than this Cemetery; and the effect of the Act was the establishment of a rival institution which has received, and is now receiving, a revenue the whole of which, in all probability, would have otherwise formed part of the revenue of the Public Cemetery, Cornelian Bay.

Having thus shown that the failure of revenue arises through no act of the Trustees, they submit that the scheme they have before proposed, and now again draw attention to, should receive the fullest consideration of the Government with a view to its being carried into effect, or some other measure of relief substituted therefor, in order that the financial condition of the Trust may be made such that the Trustees will be in a position to carry out the original design, and thus make the Institution what it was upon its formation intended to be, a credit to the Colony.

If the Trustees were relieved of the annual payment suggested by the scheme now under review, it would then be possible to apply any excess of revenue over expenditure towards the Redemption Fund required by Section 3 of "The Cemeteries Amendment Act, 1870;" and in course of time, the Debentures being redeemed, the Institution would be a source of revenue to the Colony.

It has on a former occasion been pointed out, but may be again mentioned, that the sum of £240 premiums received on the sale of the Cemetery Debentures was paid into the General Revenue of the Colony instead of being credited to the Cemetery Funds, as the Trustees submit it should have been.

The following figures—founded upon the Accounts of the Cemetery for the years 1876, 1877, and 1878—will illustrate the position of the Institution under its present liability, and under the scheme proposed:—

Under present liability.

	£	£
Gross receipts 1876, 1877, 1878	2115
Gross expenditure, not including interest	1120	
Interest for 3 years at £440 per annum	1320	
Redemption Fund, 3 years at £80 per annum	240	
	—	2680
Loss in three years	£565

Under Scheme proposed.

	£	£
Gross receipts, as above	2115
Gross expenditure, ditto	1120	
Interest, three years at £128 per annum	384	
	—	1504
Credit balance in three years	£611

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

RUSSELL YOUNG, *Chairman of Trustees,*
Hobart Town Public Cemetery.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

(1.)

RETURN showing the Place of Interment of all Persons deceased within the Registration District of Hobart for the Year 1878.

<i>Total Deaths, Hobart District, 1878.</i>	<i>Hobart Town Public Cemetery.</i>	<i>Queenborough Public Cemetery.</i>	<i>Davey-street, Congregational Cemetery.</i>	<i>St. John's Burial Ground, New Town.</i>	<i>Baptist Burial Ground.</i>	<i>Friends Burial Ground.</i>	<i>Congregational Burial Ground, New Town.</i>	<i>Interred in distant Burial Grounds.</i>
636	399	158	23	14	3	1	1	37

(2.)

RETURN showing the Number and Description of Graves and Vaults used for Interments in the Hobart Town Public Cemetery during the Year 1878.

YEAR.	PRIVATE.		PUBLIC.		PAUPER	STILL-BORN
	<i>Vaults or Graves.</i>	<i>Re-openings.</i>	<i>Graves.</i>	<i>Re-openings.</i>	GRAVES.	CHILDREN.
1878.....	41	24	112	18	234	7