

(No. 44.)



1894.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY:

REPORT FOR 1893.

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



## HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

### THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1893.

In submitting Report and Balance-sheet (1893) for the consideration of subscribers, it is the merest justice to state that the information as to methods of working, so regularly and cordially supplied by the Press, leaves little or nothing more to be said.

Notwithstanding the exercise of care on the part of the officers, the increase in the number of persons seeking aid is extremely unsatisfactory. Of course there are aged, infirm, and incapable, who must be fed. For such the shelter of an asylum would appear to be the greatest good. Liberty, however, even with the most scanty food, appears to have attractions far beyond the comforts of a charitable institution. Inability to obtain employment has caused many, for the first time in their lives, to seek assistance. Having got over the pain and shame of living on public charity, the rapidity with which persons descend to lean on others is most distressing. This difficulty is one of the greatest problems facing the Committee. The absence of self-reliance means the loss of self-respect, and a constantly growing burden on the public purse. Perhaps when our State School system includes the necessity for every boy learning a trade, and every girl the daily routine of domestic life, the homes of the people may show a vast improvement, and the capacity for labour a distinct advance on the present condition of things.

Every opportunity is used to obtain employment for the needy. In the case of young people who have never been from home the want of discipline and training tells seriously against success. An industrial school for boys, such as may be found attached to Poor Law Unions, has been proposed, and subscribers may be asked for a definite expression of opinion.

The liberality of citizens, both in cash and kind, has been very marked. Notwithstanding a large increase in receipts, however, it has been necessary to draw over £300 from capital account.

For the long term of 33 years Mr. Witt, in his capacity as Registrar, has been present at the Annual Meeting. This year, owing to age and weakness, he is absent, and the records of the Society remain the best monument of his life work. Under these circumstances it was found necessary to make arrangements for carrying on the work of the office. If agreeable to subscribers it is proposed that the Chairman of the Executive Committee shall take the general management, Miss Witt being the Relieving Officer and Visitor, and Mr. Charles Witt Assistant, with oversight of wood-yard and labour register.

Judge Northrup, of the United States of America, puts the work of charity very clearly: "A poor family helped in just the right way may be saved from pauperism; helped in the wrong way it becomes a burden for the life of the family, and generally for the life of the children, for pauperism is hereditary. In one town in this country, New York, the Poormaster is now assisting the fourth generation of one family, notwithstanding there is now an able bodied man in the family, but one to whom work is too irksome to be borne so long as the treasury of the town is open."

The detailed statement of distribution is as follows:—New cases for the year, 545 families, comprising 408 men, 443 women; children, 589 boys, 611 girls; total 2051. Of the adults there were 400 cases out of work, 61 illness, 31 widows, 5 husbands in gaol, 8 accidents, 13 aged and

infirm, 20 husbands away, and 7 destitute. Cases have been carefully investigated, and 825 visits made. On the books from last year there were 65 families, comprising 286 individuals. The rations issued were,—bread, 77,667 lbs.; tea, 1272 lbs.; sugar, 7049 lbs.; rice, 4945 lbs.; oatmeal, 1549 lbs.; and for sick cases, cornflour, 37 lbs.; sago, 32 lbs.; cocoa, 30 lbs. Twenty men were employed in the wood-yard, and situations obtained for men, women, and children. During the winter months, wood, coal, blankets, and clothing were distributed. Amongst the special gifts of the year may be mentioned milk, meat, bread, flour, biscuits, and wearing apparel. The Christmas and New Year's treat was given to 130 families, numbering 611 individuals. The supply consisted of 100 lbs. flour, 353 lbs. of raisins and currants, 1345 lbs. meat; 250 lbs. cakes, 750 buns, 200 lbs. biscuits, and 30 lbs. lollies.

The amounts distributed in 1893, as compared with the previous 12 months, were as follows:—

	1892.	1893.
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Bread .....	27,534	77,667
Tea .....	643	1272
Sugar .....	3481	7049
Oatmeal .....	739	1549
Rice .....	2374	4945
Cornflour .....	42	37
Sago .....	22	32
Cocoa .....	14	30

J. W. SIMMONS, *Chairman.*

*STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year 1893.*

<p><b>1893,</b> to Dec. 31.</p> <p>To Subscriptions and Donations .....</p> <p>Donations for Fuel .....</p> <p>Donations Christmas Treat .....</p> <p>Interest on Capital Account .....</p> <p>Capital withdrawn .....</p> <p>Is. Dividend V.D.L. Bank .....</p>	<p>Dr.</p> <p>£ s. d.</p> <p>306 19 3</p> <p>8 5 0</p> <p>33 0 0</p> <p>171 2 6</p> <p>190 0 0</p> <p>143 14 2</p>  <hr/> <p>£853 0 11</p>	<p><b>1893,</b> to Dec. 31.</p> <p>By Balance due to Bank, January 1 .....</p> <p>Salaries .....</p> <p>Bread, Flour, Groceries, and Christ- mas Treat .....</p> <p>Blankets, Lodgings, and Repairs .....</p> <p>Gas, Coal, Wood, &amp;c. ....</p> <p>Printing, Stationery, Insurance, and Interest .....</p>  <p>£840 1 7</p> <p>Balance in Bank .....</p> <p>Repaid to Capital Account.....</p>	<p>Cr.</p> <p>£ s. d.</p> <p>8 15 11</p> <p>213 10 0</p> <p>491 5 5</p> <p>36 2 10</p> <p>78 4 10</p> <p>12 2 7</p>  <hr/> <p>£853 0 11</p>
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Dec. 31—To Balance in Bank, £3 17s. 1d.

Examined and found correct.

CHAS. E. WALCH, } *Auditors.*  
THOS. BENNISON, }

G. S. CROUCH, *Treasurer.*

*The Treasurer in Account with the* HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

1893.—Dec. 31.			
To Subscriptions and Donations .....	£	s.	d.
Donations for Fuel and Christmas Treat .....	306	19	3
Interest on Capital Account .....	41	5	0
Capital withdrawn .....	171	2	6
1 <i>s.</i> Dividend V.D.L. Bank .....	180	17	9
Legacies— Late Duncan M' Rae..... £3552   16   11 Mrs. Joshua Moore     100    0    0 S. Baynton .....     100    0    0 Charles Atkins (balance) .....       7   11    3			
	3760	8	2
Capital withdrawn but re-invested .....	9	2	3
			3769 10 5
	£4613	9	1

1893.—Dec. 31.			
By Balance due Bank .....	£	s.	d.
Expenditure as per Pass Book .....	831	5	8
Treasury Bills .....	£3500	0	0
Fixed Deposits, Commercial Bank .....	200	0	0
Building Society .....	69	10	5
			3769 10 5
Balance in Bank .....	...		3 17 1
			£4613 9 1

E. & O. E.

G. S. CROUCH, *Treasurer.*

24th February, 1894.

## INVESTED CAPITAL.

	£	s.	d.
Debentures due 5th October.....	500	0	0
Treasury Bills.....	3500	0	0
Fixed Deposits, Commercial Bank, December 12 .....	£500	0	0
Ditto, ditto, January 3 .....	2000	0	0
Ditto, ditto, February 2 .....	100	0	0
Ditto, ditto, October 9 .....	100	0	0
	2700	0	0
Union Bank, June 26 .....	147	0	0
Building Society, January 30 .....	150	0	0
Ditto, February 6 .....	140	0	0
Ditto, April 17 .....	25	0	0
Ditto, April 21 .....	69	10	5
Ditto, December 6 .....	600	0	0
	984	10	5
V.D.L. Bank as per last Statement.....	1724	9	9
Less 1s. Dividend .....	143	14	2
	1580	15	7
	£9412	6	0

## CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.
Invested Capital (as above) .....	9412	6	0
Society's Premises, say .....	800	0	0
Fire and Flood Fund .....	115	15	0
Savings Bank Interest, less £10 Donation.....	55	3	11
	£10,383	4	11

E. &amp; O. E.

24th February, 1894.

G. S. CROUCH, *Treasurer.*