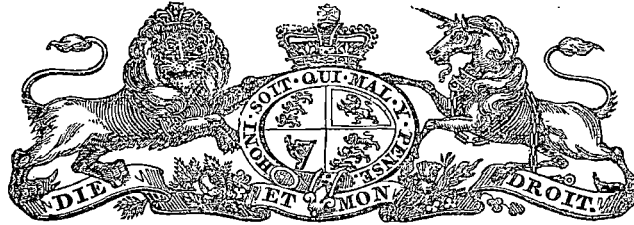


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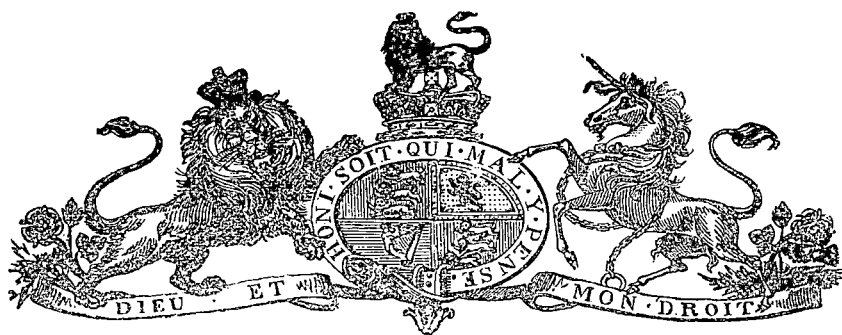
1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE
AND PUBLIC LIBRARY :

REPORT FOR 1890.

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



LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE AND PUBLIC LIBRARY.

REPORT for 1890.

THE past year of this Institution's operations includes the short period during which it has been in existence as a Public Library, and its designation will henceforth be "The Launceston Mechanics' Institute and Public Library." Whilst, therefore, the Report now submitted is the forty-ninth of the Institute, it is the first under its altered title.

The Board of Managers have to report regarding the four important matters referred to in the annual report for 1889, and provided for in the amended rules passed at the annual meeting for that year, viz. :—

1. Addition of words "Public Library" to the Institute.
2. Transfer of the books and funds of the Public Library to the Institute.
3. Transfer of organ to Corporation.
4. Transfer of cases and exhibits in Museum to the building erected for a Public Museum, and body having control of same.

The first three have been carried into effect, and the fourth will very soon be so.

In order to effect the first, it was found that an Act of Parliament was necessary. Messrs. G. W. Waterhouse and R. J. Parker kindly drafted a bill, which was introduced by the Ministry and became law. By this Act the members of the Institute are constituted a body corporate, with perpetual succession, and have transferred to them all property of the Institute which was before vested in trustees. The estimated value of this property in land and buildings is £10,000; books, furniture, &c., £4000.

Your Board lost no time in giving effect to the changes sanctioned. In order to do this efficiently, they found it essential to appoint an assistant librarian, Mr. W. Shelly, and extend the hours for delivery and return of books. This has proved a great convenience and advantage to the members in town and country.

By-laws for the information and guidance of members and visitors were also drawn up, and copies of same placed in the Reading-rooms.

Your Board have had to deplore the loss by death during the year of Mr. C. J. Kent, a member of the Board, and Mr. John Reid, one of your auditors and also a member of the Board; and now gratefully record the remembrance of the services they rendered the Institute.

From the audited accounts it will be seen that the receipts for the year from all sources amount to £1312 2s. 10d. This includes £100 Government grant, £612 0s. 3d. received from the trustees of the Public Library—£537 17s. 3d. being ordinary revenue, and £62 5s. 4d. interest. The expenditure has been £514 1s. 2d., and the credit balance invested is £1644 13s. 2d. This balance will be lessened by about £300, amount of liabilities accruing under contracts entered into during the year for necessary repairs to the Institute buildings. There is also a credit balance to piano fund of £115 2s. 6d.

The cost of freight, packing, and insurance of the grand piano to England and back was £21 13s., the instrument having been thoroughly repaired by Messrs. Collard and Collard in accordance with the promise made by one of the firm when on a visit here.

Your Board have gratefully to acknowledge receipt of gifts as under :—

Books.

New South Wales Government—Parliamentary Journals, 17 vols.; Jenolan Caves, 1 vol.
 Victorian Government—Parliamentary Journals, 4 vols.; Sessional Acts, 1 vol.; Official Record of the Melbourne Exhibition, 1 vol.
 South Australian Government—Parliamentary Journals, 3 vols.
 Tasmanian Government—Parliamentary Journals, 3 vols.; Statutes, vol. 5; Tasmanian Official Record; Burdell's Hospital Annual, 1889; Royal Colonial Institute Proceedings.
 E. C. Nowell, Esq.—Relations between the Houses of Parliament in Tasmania and Australia.
 Wise, Caffin, and Co.—Directory of New Zealand.
 Walch Bros. and Birchall—Reference Catalogue.
 A. W. Birchall—Victorian Congregational Jubilee.

Newspapers and Periodicals.

Walch Brothers and Birchall—Brisbane *Evening Observer*.
 A. W. Birchall—Victorian *Independent*. *Temperance News*.
 F. L. Fysh—The *Independent* and *Nonconformist*.
 Rev. J. Lyle—*Presbyterian Monthly Messenger*.
 Fitzgerald Bros.—The *Age*, *Leader*, *Illustrated Australian News*, and *Melbourne Punch*.
 Hopwood and James—*Church News*.
 B. P. Farrelly—The *Advocate*.
 W. Bishop—The *Banner of Israel*.
 H. Button—The *Speaker*.
 By the Proprietors—The *Launceston Examiner*, the *Mercury*, the *North West Post*, the *Day Star*, the *People's Friend*, the *Catholic Standard*, *Walch's Literary Intelligencer*, *Sydney Echo*, the *Bible Echo*, the *Australian Independent*, *Our Young People's Magazine*, *Imperial Federation*, *European Mail*.

Other Donations.

Mrs. Arthur—Portrait of Admiral Wilson.
 Mrs. Wilkinson—An Elephant's Tooth.
 J. B. Thompson—Photo of the Last of the Aborigines.
 R. F. Digges—A Sod of Bog Turf. Loaf of Native Bread.
 D. Callaghan—Two Bomb Lances.
 H. Button—Moreton Bay Chestnuts.

The Library.

In addition to 2000 volumes received from the trustees of the Public Library, 669 volumes have been added during the year. The total number of volumes is now 17,480. The circulation to members has been 25,975 volumes and 9100 periodicals.

Members.

One hundred and twenty-three persons ceased to pay their subscriptions, and 86 became subscribers; the members at close of the year numbered 511, of whom 36 are life members. The amount of members' subscriptions was £368 7s. 6d., which is £28 16s. less than amount for the preceding year.

Reading Rooms.

Your Board do not anticipate that any permanent diminution of revenue will result from free admission to the Reading-room, and believe much good will follow from making accessible to all the wealth of literature accumulated in the Institute, and are gratified to find the privileges given have been so largely used that it has been necessary to set apart the Committee-room as a Reading-room for the sole use of members.

The room now used as a Museum will soon be available to members for a like purpose and other means of instruction and amusement.

Literary.

The Parliamentary Debating Society was carried on during the winter months with continued success. There were also two successful reciting and spelling competitions given by the Institute for the youth of the city.

The Future of the Institute.

Your Board feel that the Institute, which has in the past been an important factor in the intellectual life of our city, and stimulated the desire for other institutions now rising to meet the higher wants of a rapidly increasing community, should not limit its usefulness to merely accumulating the materials of knowledge, but ought in addition to be a teaching Institute. To this end there should be competent teachers employed receiving fixed salaries from the Institute, and small fees from the pupils. Desultory effort will not suffice, for instruction, to be of permanent benefit, must be regular and continuous. Without endowments for the purpose this cannot be done. Your Board hope these endowments may yet be forthcoming. To the munificent donations of a past generation we are indebted for the buildings we now possess, and we trust the present generation will in the coming year of the jubilee of the Institute show itself equally ready to contribute of its means to extending the sphere of the Institute's usefulness and benefiting future generations.

G. W. WATERHOUSE, *President.*

LAUNCESTON MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, 1890.

The Treasurer, GEORGE PULLEN, in account with the Trustees.

Dr.		£	s.	d.	Cr.		£	s.	d.			
Lighting		45	10	3	Balance 31st December, 1889		846	11	6			
Fuel		11	14	0	Government Grant		100	0	0			
Insurance		10	10	5	Received from Public Library		612	0	3			
Printing and Advertising		23	18	9	Subscriptions		368	7	6			
Licence of Hall		2	0	0	Hire of Hall, &c.		151	16	0			
Salaries		225	0	0	Proceeds of Prize Competitions		4	6	9			
Municipal Water Rates		2	0	0	Sale of Catalogues		6	19	0			
Books, Periodicals, Newspapers, etc.		120	4	8	Ditto Waste Paper and Materials		5	1	0			
New work and repairs		44	8	7	Books lost		1	7	0			
Bookbinding		19	4	9	Interest from Equitable Building Society	£17	15	10				
Petty Expenditure		9	9	9	Ditto Permanent ditto	10	16	6				
Deposit in Equitable Building Society	£744	1	3		Ditto Bank of Australasia	27	19	0				
Equitable Building Society, eight shares	292	18	8		Ditto Launceston Savings Bank	5	14	0				
Deposit in Northern Permanent Building Society	409	9	0						62	5	4	
Deposit in Launceston Savings Bank	198	4	3									
				1644	13	2						
				£2158	14	4				£2158	14	4

Examined and found correct.

MATT. TYSON, }
H. C. LITTLER, } *Auditors.*

PIANO ACCOUNT.

Dr.		£	s.	d.	Cr.		£	s.	d.			
To Premium on Insurance of Grand Piano		1	4	0	By Balance 31st December, 1889		107	2	0			
Refunded to the Librarian (overpaid in last account)		2	5	0	Cash received since		6	11	0			
Balance 31st December, 1890		115	2	6	Interest at Savings Bank		4	18	6			
				£118	11	6				£118	11	6

Audited and found correct.

MATT. TYSON, }
H. C. LITTLER, } *Auditors.*

G. W. WATERHOUSE, *President.*