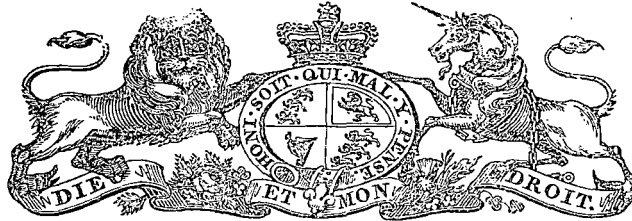


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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

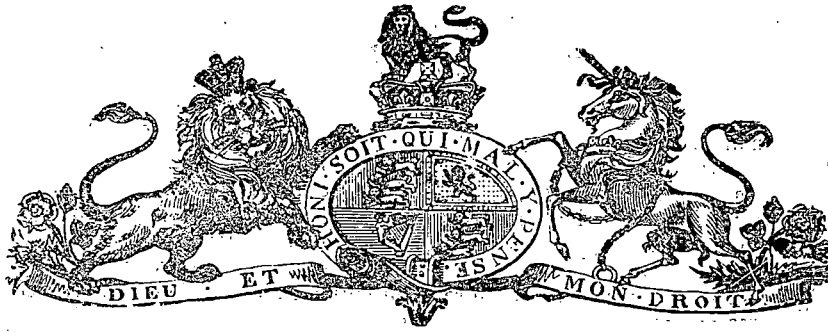
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TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY:

REPORT FOR 1890.

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



TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

REPORT for the Year 1890-1.

Trustees :

HON. J. W. AGNEW, *Chairman.*  
 HON. T. C. SMART.  
 ALDERMAN CRISP.  
 ALDERMAN HIDDLESTONE.

C. J. BARCLAY, Esq.  
 C. M. MAXWELL, Esq.  
 J. B. WALKER, Esq.

*Chief Librarian and Secretary*—MR. ALFRED J. TAYLOR, F.L.S.

1st April, 1891.

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 of its working during the Year 1890-1.

During the year, 40,142 visits to the Institution have been recorded, indicating a much larger attendance than for any previous year.\*

168 volumes have been added by purchase and presentation.

The Trustees have to acknowledge with thanks presentations received from kindred Institutions in England, and from the Governments of the various Colonies.

The City Council has voted a sum of £464 7s. for Library purposes for the year 1890, the estimated expenditure being as follows:—

	£	s	d.	£	s	d.
Salaries—Librarian .....	178	7	0			
Assistant .....	75	0	0			
Hallkeeper, cleansing Library .....	20	0	0			
				273	7	0
Lighting .....				35	0	0
Fuel .....				9	10	0
Newspapers, Periodicals, and purchase of Books ...				120	0	0
Binding .....				20	0	0
Stationery .....				4	0	0
Postage .....				1	0	0
Printing .....				5	0	0
Freight .....				5	0	0
Sundries .....				7	0	0
Insurance .....				4	10	0
<b>TOTAL .....</b>				<b>£464</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

To be provided for by contribution from Trustees (£75) and appropriation of Municipal Funds.

\* The numbers are approximate.

The Trustees wish again to impress upon the Government and Parliament that the time has arrived when additional accommodation will have to be provided if the present national character of the Institution is to be properly maintained. They also desire to repeat the following paragraphs contained in last year's Report, as indicating the pressing necessity that exists for an extension of Library buildings—

“When the Tasmanian Public Library was established in the year 1870, the accommodation then provided was necessarily very limited, no provision whatever being made for a classification upon modern principles of the books in the Institution. The shelves were made fixtures and placed flat against the walls—reaching up to the ceilings—thus rendering the proper classification of works in the Library an utter impossibility, and interfering very considerably with the usefulness of the Institution. With additional floor space the Librarian would be in a position to classify the works in separate cases or compartments, the higher shelves of which could be reached without inconvenience or danger.

“Besides the increased accommodation referred to above, additional space will have to be provided for the convenience of the large number of visitors who frequent the Reading Room, where there is no room at present to expose back files of newspapers that are constantly being required for reference.

“Additional rooms are also required in which works of great value may be placed for safe keeping; in which maps, charts, and bound volumes of newspapers may be exhibited; for storeroom and lavatory purposes; and for the convenience of the Librarian and his Assistant.

“When it is remembered that the Institution—which is mainly supported by the citizens of Hobart—is open to the public at large, it is not unreasonable to expect that the Legislature will readily vote the assistance that will be asked to enable the Trustees to make it worthy of its national character.

“The buildings now being used for Library purposes were erected at the cost of the citizens of Hobart, and since the year 1873 the City Council has voted annual sums in support of the Institution, amounting in all to a sum of £6844—apart from the cost of decorating and furnishing the walls, and providing the interest on the cost of building the rooms (amounting to an additional sum of about £4000).”

Since last Report a deputation, consisting of His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Hobart, the Representatives of the City in the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, and the Trustees and Librarian of the Public Library, waited upon the Premier and requested that a sum might be placed upon the Estimates sufficient to cover the cost of erection of new buildings for Library purposes. The deputation met with a very cordial reception at the hands of the Premier, but it was considered too late to do anything during the Session of Parliament then sitting. The Premier, however, expressed his hearty sympathy with the object the deputation had in view, and promised to give his attention to the matter during the recess.

Under the circumstances, the Trustees confidently look to the Government and to Parliament to give a favourable consideration to proposals that will be placed before them.

The Trustees have to thank the City Council for granting them the use of an additional room at the eastern wing of the Town Hall. In this room a large number of bound volumes of Newspapers, Gazettes, and Magazines have been placed upon the shelves erected, at a cost of £23 12s. 6d., to receive them. Even this assistance has done but very little to relieve the congestion of the shelves in the main book-rooms, and it will be easily understood that it causes a large amount of inconvenience to have parts of the Library in opposite wings of the Town Hall.

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

In conclusion, the Trustees desire to record their special thanks to Baron Ferd. von Mueller, K.C.M.G., for his presentation of “Wight's Figures of Indian Plants” in six volumes (a very rare and valuable work); to the Trustees of the British Museum, for presenting a *fac simile* of “The Papyrus of Ani” (The Book of the Dead); and to the Proprietors of the following publications who have supplied *gratis* copies for the Reading Room:—Mercury, Tasmanian News, Launceston Examiner, Launceston Telegraph, N.W. Post, Tasmanian Mail, Hobart Gazette, Church News, Catholic Standard, Day Star, People's Friend, Presbyterian Magazine, Alliance News, South Australian Advertiser, Dundaberg and Mount Perry Mail, Bendigo Independent, Otago Daily Times, Auckland Weekly News, Imperial Federation.

C. M. MAXWELL, *for Chairman.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Hobart.*

*THE TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY in account with the Trustees, 1890-91.*

Dr.	£ s. d.	Cr:	£ s. d.
Contribution in aid of Salaries.....	106 0 10	Balance from 1889-90 .....	29 14 3
Allowance to Secretary .....	13 0 0	Government Grant-in-aid .....	200 0 0
Interest, Commercial Bank .....	6 16 6	Sale of Waste Paper .....	19 5 0
Cheque Book.....	0 2 1	Interest.....	82 10 0
Wise & Co. (Directories).....	4 0 0		
F. W. Horton (Australian Atlas).....	2 10 0		
Walch & Sons } Books, &c.....	{ 55 3 6		
T. L. Hood } .....	{ 8 8 0		
Newspaper Accounts .....	10 0 0		
Miscellaneous Accounts.....	3 6 0		
Balance in Savings' Bank...£166 1 5			
In hands of Secretary .....	0 19 10		
	£167 1 3		
Less overdraft Commercial			
Bank.....	44 18 11		
	122 2 4		
	£331 9 3		£331 9 3

MEMORANDUM.—The invested funds amount to One thousand five hundred pounds placed in the Commercial Bank as a fixed deposit for one year, bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent. Out of the interest derived a sum of £75 is paid over to the Municipal Council in aid of the Librarian's salary.

ALFRED J. TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

Examined and certified to be correct.

W. LOVETT, *Auditor-General.*  
29th May, 1891.

TASMANIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY.

*EXPENDITURE of the Hobart Corporation for the Year 1890.*

	£ s. d.
Salaries .....	253 7 0
Hallkeeper (cleansing Library).....	20 0 0
Gas .....	35 0 0
Fuel .....	7 6 6
Insurance .....	4 10 0
Books, Magazines, and Newspapers.....	93 8 6
Binding .....	27 2 6
New Shelving .....	23 12 6
	£464 7 0*

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

W. T. BIRCH, *City Accountant.*