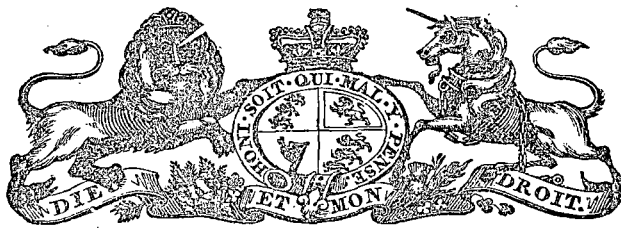


(No. 12.)



1873.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, HOBART TOWN.

REPORT FOR 1872.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Scott, and ordered by the House to be printed,
June 17, 1873.



*THIRTEENTH Annual Report of the Committee of the BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,
Hobart Town, for the Year ending December, 1872.*

It is with feelings of pleasure that your Committee present this, their Thirteenth Annual Report, to the subscribers and friends, for in no instance since the Society has been in existence has its financial position been in such a satisfactory state; whilst your Committee believe that every legitimate claim on the Society has been met, still our Treasurer has a good balance in hand, as will appear from his statement: nevertheless, your Committee would urge upon its friends and supporters a continuance of that aid so liberally bestowed heretofore.

One of the principal sources of this year's income has been a surplus of £142 13s., contributed in the Colony and by its friends in Victoria, towards the relief of the sufferers by the severe and destructive flood with which Hobart Town was visited on the 5th day of June last, which funds the public meeting held in the Town Hall deputed to this Society the labour of investigating the cases and relieving the several sufferers. This took them several hours daily for a considerable time,—a duty they cheerfully performed,—and were gratified with the thankfulness expressed by a large majority of the recipients; and, owing to the kindness and liberality so generally evinced, the Committee were able, in accordance with the resolution of the public meeting, to carry a surplus of £142 13s. to the General Fund.

Whilst engaged in the distribution of the "Flood Relief Fund" (which in almost every instance was by orders on the various shopkeepers or tradespeople in the City for a supply of such articles as the sufferers were most in need of), your Committee were led to see the necessity of an alteration in Rule 7 of the Society; and the Chairman of the Executive Committee has given due notice of motion to propose its being altered at this annual meeting, which the Committee trust the subscribers will sanction, seeing that the Executive Committee are responsible for the ordinary working of the Society, and are elected for three months only, consequently they can be removed, or their number augmented periodically during the year, if their proceedings are unsatisfactory.

A brief statement of the "Flood Relief Fund" will appear as an Appendix to this Report, although such did appear in the *Mercury* newspaper of September 13th last, yet the Committee deem it advisable to adopt this course of recording the facts.

The Committee continue to obtain, by quarterly contract, a supply of bread of second quality: and during the year the following stores have been issued; viz., 58,988 lbs. of bread, 704 lbs. of tea, 5771 lbs. of sugar, 2880 lbs. of oatmeal, and 2708 lbs. of rice. 8827 pints of good nutritious soup, made as heretofore, were issued; soup to the value of £3 8s. 2d. was sold, and only 7s. realised by the sale of soup tickets. The Committee are convinced that, in most instances, were soup tickets given instead of cash to the importunate beggar, it would prove a more satisfactory mode of relief; for in almost all cases in which money is given by the charitable it is improperly applied. For making of the soup there have been expended 6230 lbs. of meat (chiefly bullock heads), 610 lbs. of rice, 627 lbs. of barley, and 626 lbs. of peas, with the usual seasoning of salt, pepper, &c. Your Committee would invite any subscriber to taste the soup any morning: the members of the Committee frequently do so, and consequently are able to speak as to its quality. During the year 85 individuals were casually relieved with bread and soup,—they going into the country to seek work, or on their way to the Invalid Depôts.

At the close of the year 1871 the Committee had 91 cases (comprising 287 individuals) on the books; and the total number of applicants for assistance investigated during the year just expired were 210,—being 61 more than the previous year, and only 18 were refused. Of the applicants 65 were on account of sickness, 29 were widows, 32 were cases of destitution, 24 were husbands away, 13 husbands in prison, 11 accidents, and 18 were children. The 192 cases relieved comprised 81 adult males, 159 adult females, 205 male children, and 214 female children,—making a total of 659 individuals,—showing 220 more than in 1871, exclusive of the flood cases.

The Committee would not close their Report without recording their thanks for the valuable assistance given by several benevolent friends, in shape of fuel, which is not only of very great assistance to the striving poor, but affords the Committee a test of labour highly beneficial in carrying out the design of the Society. Altogether 52 tons of coal and wood were received; viz., 25 tons coal and 27 tons wood, by which means 73 men (most of them with families) were found temporary employment.

The Wood Brigade attached to the Society has worked very satisfactorily during the year, by which a number of destitute deserving boys find employment, by which means 332 dozen bundles have been sold (these include 108 dozen bundles supplied to Government House); and the Committee would solicit the citizens generally to countenance their efforts in this respect, by purchasing bundles of wood for kindling their fires: whilst encouraging an industry, they at the same time enjoy a convenience in a domestic point of view,—for in most instances where households have purchased these bundles they have repeated their orders. At the same time the Committee would solicit a supply of old timber suitable for cutting up into such small bundles.

The Committee have pleasure in stating that the usual visitation of all cases on the books by the Registrar, and his watchfulness in every instance, deserves their thanks.

APPENDIX of "Flood Relief Fund," as appeared in the Mercury of 13th September, 1872.

Benevolent Depôt, Hobart Town.

THE Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society, in presenting a brief sketch of their work as the dispensers of the "Flood Relief Fund," regret that it has not been prepared ere this; but they have been disappointed in getting information from the Flood Relief Committee as to the *exact* amount received for the widow and family of the late Henry Ranahan; and, although several sums appeared through the press as received, the total has not been named. However, this Committee have deemed it best to close the affair, and have paid £150 to the Trustees (appointed in compliance with the Flood Relief Committee), viz., Messrs. W. Murray and Henry Bilton, who have accepted the Trust. The money is placed in the Savings' Bank, and will be applied by them from time to time, as the necessities of the family require.

It will be remembered that the flood occurred on the 5th June last; and, on the application of this Committee, the Government at once placed the late Military Barracks at their disposal as a temporary abode for those families who had been flooded out of their dwellings and lost their all. The Government also kindly supplied bedding, fuel, and light for their *immediate* use; and 25 families were thus accommodated for about three weeks. The Committee at once set to work investigating and relieving each individual case, which occupied them many hours daily for several weeks; and, in many instances, some members of the Committee personally inspected the scenes of wretchedness and misery, making the necessary inquiries into the truth of the losses said to have been sustained through the effects of the flood.

The Committee required that each applicant for relief should enumerate the articles lost, and the value thereof, together with the number in family; and the want was at once partially met by an order on some of the shopkeepers in town for such necessary articles of bedding, clothing, &c., for immediate wants; and, finding the liberality of the inhabitants would justify an augmentation to the sufferers, the list was gone over a second time, and an increased assistance afforded in instances which seemed to demand it under the circumstances.

The Committee complied with the request of the Flood Relief Committee, and gave £50 to Benjamin Wignall and £20 to William Taylor, although their cases never came in the regular way under the consideration of this Committee.

The number of cases inquired into were 154, containing 548 individuals (including children). The losses said to have been sustained through the flood (without including Wignall's) amount to £1118 11s. 7d., and the amount of relief afforded was £812 11s. 9d. These included those sufferers at O'Brien's Bridge and New Town. As before stated, in very few instances indeed were cheques given, but orders on tradespeople for such articles as the parties stood most in need of.

The Committee cannot conclude this brief account without expressing their thanks to the inhabitants generally for the response made—even to their Launceston friends and those in Victoria, who expressed their sympathy in a tangible shape; and it will be seen by the annexed account that the Committee expended *all* the funds raised in the Colony; and, considering the wants of the parties to have been very fairly met, and finding that several cases are on the books of the Benevolent Society (and likely to remain thereon for some time) for relief arising from the flood, which cases could not be met by the funds raised, the Committee have applied the balance, £142 13s., to the Treasurer of the Benevolent Society,—being about the amount received through their late fellow-citizen, Wm. Carter, Esq., of Melbourne.

By Order of the Committee,

T. J. CROUCH, *Hon. Secretary.*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Cash paid into the Bank.....	..	..	..	955	4	9
Relief granted	784	18	7			
Rations, fuel, &c.	27	13	2			
				812	11	9
Balance paid the Treasurer....	..	..	..	£142	13	0

September 5, 1872.

Besides the large money contributions for the sufferers by the flood, the following articles in kind were given:—1 dozen and 5 pairs worsted stockings, and flannel shirt, Mr. J. B. Mather; 6 pairs children's boots, Mr. J. Cuthbertson; 120 lbs. meat, Mr. G. Eady; 3 sheep, Mr. A. Burbury; 160 lbs. meat, Messrs. Clarke and Stevenson; a bag full of clothes for children, Mrs. Toby; 100 lbs. meat, Mr. J. Adcock; a bag full of clothes, from Mrs. Gourley; 1 cwt. potatoes, Mr. Sealey; 5 dozen loaves, Mr. T. Whitney; 20 loaves, Mr. W. Speakman; 1 sack of flour, Mr. S. H. Grueber; a lot of bacon, Mr. J. Sherwin. These gifts were eminently useful; and the Committee feel that the ordinary working of the Society would be most beneficially aided by frequent contributions in this way,—particularly of cast off clothing. Many friends could contribute without feeling it as they would a direct money subscription; and yet the value to the destitute poor would be equally great.

The Committee in conclusion would add that, from the commencement, they have taken the deepest interest in the well-being of the destitute and neglected children of this City; therefore the experiment of boarding out these children is a subject to them of much anxiety: moreover, to guard the funds of this Society it was thought necessary that the Committee should be acquainted with the names, etc., of the parties to whom they were or may be boarded with; and a respectful communication was made to the Commissioner of Charitable Funds for such information, which he has declined to afford; and the subject has consequently been referred to the Colonial Secretary, from whom no reply has been, as yet, received.

HOBART TOWN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in Account with the Treasurer.

Dr.		£ s. d.		Cr.		£ s. d.			
1873.				1872.					
Jan. 30.	To Payments for 6 months, as per Pass Book	399	8 3	Jan. 1.	By Balance	45	19 7		
Dec. 31.	To Payments for 6 months to date	618	2 3	Dec. 31.	By Government grant for year..	400	0 0		
	To Balance	554	9 10		By ditto doubling Subscriptions	400	0 0		
					By Repayments	155	15 8		
					By Subscriptions for the year and Interest on Debentures	570	5 1		
		<u>£1572</u>	<u>0 4</u>			<u>£1572</u>	<u>0 4</u>		
Audited and found correct,				1873.					
GEORGE SALIER, } HUGH M. HULL, } <i>Auditors.</i>				Jan. 1. By Balance				554	9 10
				By Debentures				500	0 0
16th January, 1873.				Ditto				*2000	0 0
				THOMAS GIBLIN, <i>Treasurer.</i>					

* This was the Legacy of the late Mr. T. Y. Lowes, and is invested by Trustees: the Society receives the Interest only.

HOBART TOWN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

1872. Expenditure.		£ s. d.		1873. Receipts.		£ s. d.	
Dec. 31.	To cash paid for Bread	229	4 11	Dec. 31.	By balance in Bank, Jan. 1872..	45	19 7
	Meat	26	19 3		Government grant	800	0 0
	Groceries, tea, sugar, &c.	306	0 8		Ditto repayments	155	15 8
	Printing and advertising	17	4 0		Subscriptions	440	5 1
	Fuel for soup kitchen	7	10 0		Interest on Debentures	130	0 0
	Premises, repairs, &c. (Insurance, 45s.)	25	19 10				
	Oatmeal	51	10 2				
	Blankets, &c.	8	6 0				
	Salary, Registrar	150	0 0				
	Ditto, cook for soup kitchen	39	0 0				
	Government cases, rations, &c.	155	15 8				
	Balance in Bank	554	9 10				
		<u>£1572</u>	<u>0 4</u>			<u>£1572</u>	<u>0 4</u>

T. J. CROUCH, *Hon. Secretary.*
W. WITT, *Registrar.*