

(No. 10.)



1883.

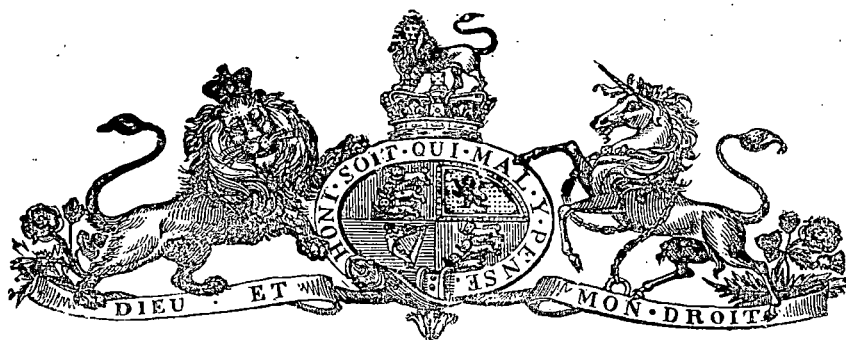
T A S M A N I A.

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

ADMINISTRATOR OF CHARITABLE GRANTS :

REPORT FOR 1882.

Laid upon the Table by the Premier, and ordered by the House to be printed,
July 24, 1883.



OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

REPORT for 1882.

Charitable Grants Office, 25th May, 1883

SIR,

IN submitting my Report for the year 1882, I have the honor to state that of the total vote, amounting to £7890 4s., for salaries, allowances, transport, funeral expenses, and maintenance of paupers not otherwise provided for, the sum of £6802 10s. 4d. only was required.

All claims on account of the year, presented up to the 31st March last, have been paid, and although others may still be outstanding it is not considered probable that they will amount to a sum sufficiently large to very materially affect the unexpended balance, £1087 13s. 8d.

The repayments amounted to £81 5s., and are included in the figures given above.

The sums disbursed monthly for the relief of out-door paupers in Launceston and the several Municipal and Police Districts are set forth in the annexed Return, and amount in the aggregate to £3387 15s. 8d. Compared with a similar detailed statement for the previous year, that now submitted shows a reduction of £154 14s. 1d.

With regard to the persons who were applicants for out-door relief, I availed myself of the best means at my disposal to obtain reliable information as to their position and wants, and the need that existed for assistance being rendered to them, and payments were not authorised in any cases in which the result of those investigations were not, to my mind, perfectly satisfactory, and sufficient to justify a grant from public funds. The authorities, as a rule, were given for six months, but were cancellable at any time on good cause being shown,—such as a misappropriation of the money by the recipients, an improvement in their circumstances, their admission to a Charitable Institution, or other like grounds. On the expiration of the authorities, if the necessity for the grants still existed, applications for renewal, accompanied by certificates to that effect, were made by the Wardens, Magistrates, or other officials through whose agency the previous payments had been made, and thereupon the extensions asked for were granted.

As the causes which led to the authorisation of payments were fully detailed in the Abstract of Expenditure forwarded to you weekly for approval, it may perhaps be sufficient for me at this time to remind you of the destitute condition of the numerous aged and infirm persons of both sexes whose names appeared thereon; of the distress occasioned by the protracted illness or, as was not unfrequently the case, the death of the bread-winner for a large and helpless family, and of the straitened circumstances of deserted wives and children, who, left to their own resources, had no alternative but to seek assistance at the hands of the Government.

The necessity for the adoption of measures for the adequate punishment of men who desert their families and leave them to be cared for by the public, and for the removal of the immunity from arrest now enjoyed by them when out of the jurisdiction of the Colony to which they belong, are matters that appear to demand serious consideration. Were the disregard by offenders of this class of the obligations they are solemnly bound to fulfil more severely dealt with than is the case at present, and were it possible to obtain such reciprocal action on the part of the several Legislatures as would admit of their apprehension in any of the colonies and their enforced return to the place from which they had decamped, a great good would be effected, and wife deserters, instead of taking themselves off as they do now, utterly indifferent to the misery they leave behind, would, in all probability, be constrained to show some consideration for their families, and pause ere they placed themselves within reach of the strong arm of the law.

Respecting the demands for Out-door Relief in Hobart, New Town, and Sandy Bay, the report of the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society will no doubt afford all necessary information. The cash expenditure amounted to £747 9s. 6d., and rations were issued at a cost of £832 9s. 3d., making a total of £1579 18s. 9d., and being £53 11s. 2d. less than the previous year.

There was also a reduction of £114 8s. in the cost of Transport and Funeral Expenses of Paupers as compared with last year. Of the vote, £600, the sum of £440, as against £554 8s. in 1881, was sufficient to meet all demands.

Included in the total expenditure are the sums of £348 10s. 4d. for medical attendance and medicines; £109 4s., the cost of providing for lying-in cases attended to by the Benevolent Society, Hobart; £40 4s. 1d. for the maintenance of children in the New South Wales Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind; £25 3s. 4d. for provisions and remuneration for nursing sick persons in the country districts who were too ill to be removed to hospital, and £31 18s. 7d. in aid of the support of three boys and one girl who, being unfit for ordinary service, have been placed in the way of learning trades, in the hope that, in a few years, they will be able to earn their own livelihood, instead of remaining a permanent charge upon the Government.

Appended is a return of the daily average number of inmates of the several Invalid Depôts during the past six years, from which it will be seen that in 1882 fewer paupers were maintained therein than in any of the five years immediately preceding it. There were—

	2 less than in 1877	
43	”	1878
91	”	1879
37	”	1880
70	”	1881

And, whilst in the year last named it became necessary to provide for 104 paupers in the New Town Charitable Institution who could not be accommodated in the Launceston Depôt, the number for whom that provision had to be made in 1882 was only 65, a difference in its favour of 39. 28 of that number were brought from Launceston, 20 from Campbell Town, 1 from Longford, 2 from Evandale, 1 from Ross, 10 from Deloraine, 1 from Latrobe, 1 from Portland, and 1 from Beaconsfield.

Having referred to the more important sources of expenditure with which I had to deal, I beg to call attention to the “Public Charities Act,” 37 Vict. No. 15, and to suggest a few additions and alterations, which, if effected, would, it is believed, be productive of satisfactory results.

In Section 14 provision is required for the recovery of the cost of transport, in addition to the relief granted from public funds otherwise than in an Institution.

In Section 15 provision is also required for the recovery from relatives of the cost of transport, and all charges connected with the interment of indigent persons, in addition to the relief granted, &c.

Medical attendance and medicines supplied to indigent persons would appear to come within the meaning of the above sections, but should it be considered that they are not recoverable as “relief granted,” they should be included also.

In Section 19 are enumerated the relatives who shall be held liable for the maintenance of indigent persons. For some good reason, no doubt, brothers and sisters are not included; but, as grandfathers and grandmothers are bound to contribute to the wants of their needy grandchildren, it would seem right and proper that, failing other relatives, as sometimes happens, brothers and sisters, who are so closely connected, should be liable to be called upon to aid each other, instead of escaping all responsibility except such as would attach to them as members of the general community.

Before any proceedings can be instituted against a relative to compel him to contribute to the support of an indigent person otherwise than in an Institution, a grant in the shape of out-door relief must be made from public funds, and a certain time allowed to elapse before a demand can be made upon him. This would be avoided were the relatives made liable, in the first instance, to be called upon to show cause why an order should not be made against them, as in the case of a father leaving his children without the means of support. The objections to the present system are that so much time is lost, and so much machinery has to be put in motion before the relatives can be reached, that the delay so caused affords the relatives, especially unmarried sons, time to change their places of residence when they learn they are likely to be called upon to contribute; and the fact that once the Government steps in and supplies relief, and it is known to the relatives that the wants of those who have a claim upon them are being well attended to, they become indifferent on the subject of repayment, allow arrears to accumulate, most likely disappear altogether, and leave the whole expense to be borne by the public.

It would also be an advantage if the meaning of the following provision in Section 29 were more clearly defined, viz. :—“ And any complaint in respect of the non-payment of any sum of money made payable as aforesaid may be made at any time within one year after such sum of money became payable.” Although it may have been intended,—as indigent persons only become liable, under Section 14, to demand being made upon them when they have sufficient means to pay, and relatives of indigent persons are not liable, under Section 15, unless of sufficient means, and such indigent persons are not,—that the limitation in the words “ within one year ” should date from the time the demand was *lawfully* made, doubts have arisen as to the interpretation to be put upon that limitation. It would, therefore, simplify matters and remove all uncertainty upon the subject if the words “ within one year ” were omitted altogether, and the Act were specially exempted from the control of the “ Magistrates’ Summary Procedure Act ” in so far as the time is concerned within which complaints in respect of matters arising out of Sections 14 and 15 must be made. It may be said that, practically, there is no restriction even as the section now stands, consequently no alteration is required; but I would urge the desirability of making the Act so clear upon this point that proceedings instituted under it in the interests of the Government should not be jeopardised by the perpetuation of the grounds for difference of opinion that would now appear to exist.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. O’BOYLE,
Administrator Charitable Grants.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

RETURN of the Daily Average Number of Inmates of the several Invalid Depôts during the Years 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881, and 1882.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Brickfields.</i>	<i>Cascade.</i>	<i>New Town.</i>	<i>Launceston.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>
1877.....	264	273	146	125	808
1878.....	268	312	145	124	849
1879.....	222	...	550	125	897
1880.....	134	...	569	140	843
1881.....	119	...	611	146	876
1882.....	89	...	577	140	806

J. O’BOYLE, *Administrator Charitable Grants.*

25th May, 1883.

RETURN of Expenditure for Out-door Relief in the Town of Launceston and the several Municipal and Police Districts during the Year 1882.

DISTRICT.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	TOTAL.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. .	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Beaconsfield.....	1 11 0	1 8 0	1 11 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4 10 0
Brighton.....	6 6 5	5 14 0	6 6 5	6 2 4	6 6 5	6 2 4	5 8 8	5 8 8	4 8 0	3 8 9	3 6 7	3 8 9	62 7 4
Bothwell.....	3 13 1	3 6 0	3 13 1	3 13 0	4 10 10	3 18 9	3 2 0	3 2 0	3 0 0	3 2 0	3 0 0	3 2 0	41 2 9
Clarence.....	2 17 6	2 12 0	2 17 6	2 15 8	2 17 6	2 15 8	2 4 3	2 4 3	2 2 10	2 4 3	2 2 10	2 4 3	29 18 6
Campbell Town.....	8 4 0	7 18 0	8 15 1	8 9 3	8 15 1	8 11 5	9 10 7	9 10 7	9 14 11	10 1 7	9 14 11	10 18 9	110 4 2
Deloraine.....	15 9 3	12 14 0	15 12 3	13 6 2	13 14 10	15 8 5	14 13 8	15 7 3	13 14 7	13 15 0	16 4 3	16 9 5	176 3 1
Evandale.....	4 2 0	3 14 0	4 2 0	4 10 0	4 13 1	4 10 0	4 13 1	5 3 1	6 12 5	8 1 9	5 11 5	5 15 3	61 8 1
Emu Bay.....	10 17 0	7 16 0	8 12 9	8 7 2	8 12 9	6 15 0	7 4 11	8 14 11	10 12 1	10 19 3	10 19 11	12 1 5	111 13 2
Franklin.....	13 5 10	11 16 2	12 8 1	12 3 5	12 19 2	13 12 4	11 17 1	11 18 2	12 10 11	12 19 3	12 0 2	12 8 2	149 18 9
Fingal.....	3 17 6	5 15 0	4 13 0	5 5 0	4 13 0	4 10 0	4 10 9	4 10 9	4 7 10	4 10 9	4 7 10	4 10 9	55 12 2
George Town.....	3 10 10	3 4 0	3 10 10	4 18 5	5 1 10	4 18 5	4 19 4	4 6 4	4 3 5	3 15 2	3 12 6	3 15 2	49 16 3
Glamorgan.....	4 4 2	4 10 0	5 15 1	5 11 5	5 1 10	4 13 7	4 17 5	4 8 6	4 5 9	4 8 6	4 5 9	3 10 10	55 17 10
Green Ponds.....	16 14 8	15 2 0	16 14 8	16 3 10	16 14 8	16 3 10	16 14 8	16 14 8	16 3 10	16 5 10	15 15 3	16 5 10	195 13 9
Glenorchy.....	7 6 2	4 12 0	4 6 5	4 3 7	4 6 5	4 3 7	4 6 5	4 6 5	3 2 2	3 4 3	3 2 2	3 4 3	50 3 10
Hamilton.....	2 6 6	2 12 0	2 17 7	2 15 9	2 17 7	2 15 9	2 17 5	2 17 7	2 15 9	2 17 7	2 15 9	2 17 7	33 6 10
Mr. Quodling.....	1 11 0	1 8 0	1 11 0	1 10 0	1 11 0	1 0 11	0 17 9	0 17 9	0 17 2	0 17 9	0 17 2	1 5 8	14 5 2
Kingston.....	8 6 1	7 0 0	8 3 10	7 18 8	7 15 0	7 16 1	10 12 6	10 19 6	10 19 9	10 12 6	10 5 9	10 12 6	111 2 2
Gordon.....	0 15 6	0 14 0	0 15 6	0 15 0	0 15 6	0 15 0	0 15 6	0 15 6	0 15 0	0 15 6	0 15 0	0 15 6	9 2 6
Launceston.....	52 4 10	40 14 1	44 1 7	43 4 3	43 15 9	44 2 6	44 17 4	43 17 7	41 3 11	42 3 10	40 18 8	41 5 1	522 9 5
Longford.....	26 15 11	24 4 0	27 0 8	26 13 5	27 11 4	25 3 5	26 5 4	29 6 10	27 4 10	27 17 5	27 14 11	27 1 6	322 19 7
Macquarie Plains.....	4 10 10	4 16 0	5 6 4	5 2 10	5 6 4	5 2 10	5 6 4	5 6 4	5 2 10	5 6 4	5 2 10	5 6 4	61 16 2
New Norfolk.....	8 1 9	7 18 0	8 15 0	8 12 2	9 9 0	8 2 1	8 8 4	8 8 4	8 2 1	8 8 4	8 2 11	8 8 4	100 16 4
Oatlands.....	12 1 6	9 18 0	11 17 2	10 16 10	10 0 0	9 9 8	10 17 9	11 18 11	11 3 0	11 10 6	11 3 0	11 10 6	132 6 10
Port Sorell.....	18 14 6	16 18 0	18 10 1	17 17 10	17 19 0	17 7 1	19 10 1	18 7 11	16 1 5	16 12 5	16 1 5	16 12 5	210 12 2
Portland.....	0 13 3	0 12 0	0 13 3	0 12 10	0 13 3	0 12 10	0 13 3	0 16 3	0 18 0	0 13 3	0 12 10	0 13 3	8 4 3
Ross.....	3 2 0	1 16 0	2 15 4	2 13 7	2 15 4	2 13 7	2 15 4	2 15 4	2 13 7	2 15 4	2 13 7	2 15 4	32 4 4
Russell.....	1 17 8	1 14 0	1 17 8	2 3 3	2 15 5	2 13 7	2 15 5	2 15 5	2 13 7	3 12 8	3 10 9	3 13 2	32 2 7
Richmond.....	5 19 5	5 8 0	5 19 5	6 9 11	7 1 7	6 17 0	7 1 7	7 1 7	6 17 0	6 16 1	6 4 2	6 8 4	78 4 1
Spring Bay.....	5 1 9	3 16 0	4 4 2	4 1 5	4 4 2	4 1 5	4 19 2	5 6 4	5 2 10	5 6 4	4 1 5	4 4 2	54 9 2
Sorell.....	20 10 11	17 10 0	18 8 8	16 11 9	16 11 3	15 16 10	16 0 0	15 12 7	16 7 2	15 10 1	14 19 11	15 13 3	199 12 5
Westbury.....	26 5 2	23 14 0	25 5 2	25 17 11	24 5 3	23 2 11	25 16 3	26 15 9	26 5 1	27 9 6	26 11 6	27 9 6	309 18 0
	300 18 0	260 13 3	288 0 7	279 6 8	283 14 2	274 1 10	284 12 2	289 15 1	280 1 9	286 1 9	276 15 2	284 1 3	3388 1 8

Deduct amount not expended 0 6 0

£3387 15 8

25th May, 1883.

J. O'BOYLE, Administrator Charitable Grants.