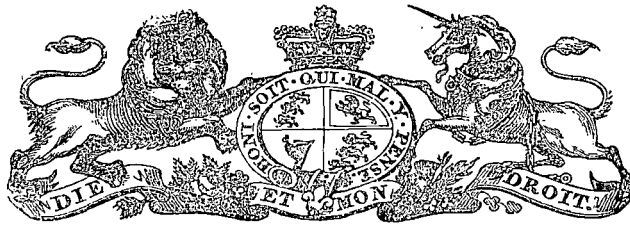


(No. 16.)



1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY:

REPORT FOR 1891.

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



THIRTY-SECOND Annual Report of the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, for Year ending 31st December, 1891.

THE Annual Meeting of the Benevolent Society was held on Friday, February 12th, at the Offices, Bathurst-street. The following gentlemen were present:—His Worship the Mayor (in the Chair), Messrs. C. Harbottle, John Mitchell, G. Seabrook, John Hamilton, Thomas Mather, G. Kerr, James Salier, J. D. Shaw, Chas. Butler.

The Secretary (Mr. Seabrook) read the Annual Report of the Association as follows:—

A clear statement of principle applicable to the management of charitable institutions has for some years past appeared on the title page of our Annual Reports, as follows:—“The object of all good citizens should be to work towards the abolition of a pauper class, and, whilst it exists amongst us, so to alleviate its lot that it shall not be driven to despair. It is quite possible to show sympathy with those who have been brought to misfortune, and yet to so relieve distress as to give no encouragement to idleness or vice.” It may be asked, therefore, whether the work of the Society has been in the direction of this lofty ideal? The following comparative statement may suggest an answer:—

	1881.	1891.
From previous year	122	76
During year	235	115
On account of illness	88	49
Widows	27	20
Husbands away.....	23	12
Husbands in prison	4	8
Destitute	64	3
Accidents	4	4
Aged and infirm	10	9
Total individuals	552	404

Subscribers interested in noting the changes of time will not fail to observe still more striking differences in methods of work and service.

Colonists may be congratulated that during the year work for labourers has been fairly good. Steady willing men have been introduced to employment with scarcely a day's delay. Unfortunately, benevolent societies are positive evils to drunkards and idlers, such persons feeling satisfied that charity cannot allow their wives and children to want for bread. Perhaps a greater kindness would be to place such thoughtless persons in gaol, and there compel them to work for those so shamefully neglected and dishonoured.

Messrs. Simmons and Kerr attended, at the request of the Committee, the second Charity Congress in Melbourne, Reports of which will be circulated when received. During the Chairman's absence from the Colony his place was ably filled by Mr. J. E. Salier.

Careful observers of charitable statistics cannot fail to note that multiplication of agencies leads to the increase of poverty. In the report of work for 1881 the following statement was made:—“It must not be lost sight of that up to the year 1866 all the poor of the City were relieved through one channel, and that was the Hobart Benevolent Society. At that time every legitimate claim was met; none were permitted to want.” Whether things have improved by the establishment of rival agencies is a question that may be left to the consideration of colonists generally.

The Registrar reports for 1891:—

New cases for the year, 115, comprising 71 males, 94 females; children, 132 males, 107 females; total, 404. Of the adults there were 49 cases of illness, 20 widows, 12 husbands away, 10 husbands out of work, 8 husbands in gaol, 9 aged and infirm, 4 accidents, 3 destitute, 4 cases refused.

The Treasurer in Account with the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

1891	Dr.	£ s. d.	1891	Dr.	£ s. d.
to	To Balance in Bank, 1st Jan.	1 12 4	to	By Expenditure as per Pass	
Dec. 31.	Subscriptions and Donations	164 5 6	Dec. 31.	Book	450 8 0
	Ditto Christmas Treat	20 2 0		Fixed Deposit	150 0 0
	Donations for Fuel	18 10 0		Ditto.....	500 0 0
	Government Grant for 1890	200 0 0		Balance Current Account	
	Dividend 4s. in the £ on			V.D.L. Bank, Aug. 3,	
	all Deposits in the V.D.L.			1891	103 13 7
	Bank with 12 months'			Balance Commercial Bank	19 9 11
	interest, and 4s. in £ on				
	Current Account.....	574 16 8			
	Interest on Capital Account	244 5 0			
		<u>£1223 11 6</u>			<u>£1223 11 6</u>

G. S. CROUCH, *Treasurer.*

INVESTED CAPITAL.

	£	s.	d.
Debentures, due January 1st, 1893.....	2000	0	0
Ditto, due October 5th, 1894	500	0	0
Deposits, Commercial Bank, December 11th.....	500	0	0
Ditto, Hobart Mutual B. Society, December 6th	600	0	0
Ditto, ditto, January 30th	150	0	0
Ditto, ditto, April 17th.....	25	0	0
Deposits, (8), V.D.L. Bank	£2638	10	7
12 months' Interest	131	19	0
Current Account.....	103	13	7
	£2874	3	2
Less Dividend 4s. in £	574	16	8
		2299	6 6
		<u>£6074</u>	<u>6 6</u>

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.
As per List.....	6074	6	6
Society's Premises, Bathurst-street, say	1000	0	0
Fire and Flood Emergency Fund, Fixed Deposit, Union Bank...	105	0	0
Accrued Interest, Savings Bank	60	4	4
	<u>£7239</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>10</u>