

(No. 13.)



1875.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, HOBART TOWN.

REPORT FOR 1874.

Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 27, 1875.



*FIFTEENTH Annual Report of the Committee of the BENEVOLENT SOCIETY,
Hobart Town, for the Year ending December, 1874.*

THE Committee thankfully acknowledge that they are able to present this, their Fifteenth Annual Report, with feelings of pleasure, believing that every case of real destitution brought under their consideration has been fully and promptly attended to, and at no time has the financial state of the funds been in a more satisfactory condition. The Committee have always kept in view one of the objects of the Society, viz., to encourage industry among the indigent.

The year was commenced with 32 cases (comprising 108 individuals) on the books receiving aid from the funds, being 57 cases and 192 individuals less than were on the books at the close of 1873. During the year 1874, 173 fresh applications for aid were received and enquired into; of these 168 were relieved and 5 refused. Of those cases relieved (comprising 471 individuals), 67 were caused by sickness, 10 from accidents, 17 were widows, 6 the husbands were in prison, 24 the husbands were away, 6 were from aged and infirm persons, 26 were cases of destitution, 12 were for children only, and 5 were refused.

The Committee have afforded casual relief in bread, soup, &c. to 62 individuals returning home from Hospital, going to seek work in the country, and others just discharged from gaol, or waiting to be invalided. In the Wood Yard 29 men, mostly with families, have been employed until they found better employment. There were less applicants for food in this way than in 1873. 318 dozen bundles of small wood were made up and sold by the Boys' Wood Brigade during the year. The Committee acknowledge with thanks 25 tons of wood from friends to the poor, while the Committee have purchased 20 tons, the whole of which has been carefully issued in those cases urgently requiring assistance in this way.

Allusion was made in last year's report to many among the poorer classes being induced to subscribe weekly small sums for the purchase of blankets at cost price; and the Committee feel gratified in being able to state that the sum of £15 5s. 3d. had thus been collected, and blankets issued to the parties, for which many expressions of thanks have been received. In several cases the Committee have issued blankets on loan, marked to prevent their being pawned or sold by the parties. The Committee acknowledge the receipt of 200 old blankets from the Government, which has enabled them to add comfort in many destitute deserving families. The Committee still issue lodging tickets in cases of necessity, and have done so to the amount of £4 15s. 10d.: one instance of gross imposition was detected, where the man brought a recommendation late one evening from a clergyman in the town, to whom he had applied for lodging, stating he had come out of the Hospital that afternoon, and had nowhere to sleep, when in fact he had left one of the invalid establishments the day before at his own request. It being too late that night to investigate the truth of his statement, he got the lodging ticket, but was refused it the following day when the imposture was discovered. The sum of £2 9s. 6d. has been expended in cab-hire for the removal of destitute sick to the Hospital, where they have always been received and attended to. It is with satisfaction the Committee announce that the sum of £7 6s. 11d. has been received for soup sold to applicants, and upon tickets issued by several friends to the poor instead of money; and the Committee cannot too strongly press upon the minds of the generous this mode of relieving the wants of the necessitous instead of by money, which too frequently finds its way into the publican's till, thereby increasing, in many cases, the wretchedness and misery of the dependents. The Committee feel persuaded that very many of the tickets given away do not find their way back to the Dépôt, thereby giving a proof that in most cases it is money which is sought by the applicant.

The stores issued by the Society during the year were as follows:—Bread, 32,924 lbs.; tea, 425 lbs.; sugar, 3816 lbs.; oatmeal, 1389 lbs.; rice, 1288 lbs.; and soup, 6755 pints; likewise used in making the soup, 4475 lbs. meat, 515 lbs. rice, 505 lbs. pearl barley, and 606 lbs. peas. By

the use of the latter articles the soup is varied three times a week, and which is appreciated by the recipients. Good wholesome 20 per cent. bread, contracted for quarterly, is supplied, with fine bread in special cases; and the members of the Executive Committee very frequently inspect the supplies during the quarter, as also the soup. Visitors from the other Colonies, as well as residents who have inspected the supplies, have expressed their satisfaction.

Whilst the Committee regret the falling off of annual subscriptions from the public, they congratulate the subscribers and friends that the financial condition of the Society is in a very satisfactory state, as will be seen by the Treasurer's account.

The Committee think it right to state that the Government have felt bound to reduce the Government grant to £400, on the condition that a similar sum be raised by the Committee; they would therefore solicit subscriptions to enable them to draw that amount. For several years past the Government allowed this Society £400 per annum unconditionally (but it was not always drawn from the Treasury by the Committee), and out of which amount the lying-in cases of unmarried women were provided for, and the unexpended sum went to the general fund, and it was thought by the Government that out of the sum granted by Parliament this year such cases should be met. But the Committee finding that many of the subscribers objected to their money being applied to such a purpose, remonstrated with the Government, and declined to entertain those cases at all; but at the instance of the Colonial Secretary the Committee have consented to continue such cases upon being refunded quarterly whatever sum may be expended by them.

The Committee continue to enforce, as far as they are able to do so, the attendance at school of all children of an age to go whose parents receive aid from the Society, by requiring them to produce weekly a certificate of the master or mistress of the children's attendance.

The Committee obtain much assistance in the discharge of their duties from the weekly returns of the discharges furnished by the Superintendents of the several Invalid establishments, Hobart Town, and would accord their thanks to them.

The Committee cannot conclude without expressing thanks to the Committee of the City Mission for the assistance its officers cheerfully afford; and the Registrar (Mr. Witt) continues zealously to visit the cases brought under consideration, whereby he becomes thoroughly acquainted with them.

At the last quarterly meeting held in 1874, an address was unanimously agreed to be presented to His Excellency Governor Du Cane, and which he was pleased to receive at the Levee held previous to embarkation. It was presented by His Worship the Mayor, the Chairman, Secretary, and Members of the Executive Committee, when His Excellency gave a reply thereto.

<i>THE Hobart Town BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in Account with the Treasurer.</i>					
Dr.			Cr.		
1874.	RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	1874.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Dec. 31.	To Balance in Bank, January...	89 17 0	June 31.	By payment for half-year, as per Pass Book	379 10 3
	Government Grant.....	600 0 0	Dec. 31.	By payment for half-year, as per Pass Book	457 16 7
	Subscriptions	151 10 11		Balance	149 1 11
	Interest on Debentures	145 0 0			
		£986 8 9			£986 8 9
1875.					
Jan. 1st.	To Balance.....	£149 1 11		Audited with the Accounts and found correct.	
				HUGH M. HULL, } GEO. SALIER, } <i>Auditors.</i>	
	R. WESTBROOK, <i>Treasurer.</i>			26th January, 1875.	

HOBART TOWN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Dr.			Cr.		
1874.	RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	1874.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Dec. 31.	To Balance.....	87 17 10	Dec. 31.	By cash paid for Bread	163 19 1
	Government Grant.....	600 0 0		Meat	26 17 5
	Subscriptions'.....	161 10 11		Groceries	235 19 1
	Interest on Debentures ...	145 0 0		Printing and advertising..	6 17 6
				Fuel for soup kitchen.....	9 0 0
				Repairs to premises, and Fire Policy	15 1 8
				Cab-hire to Hospital, poor patients.....	2 9 6
				Lodging tickets and rent..	10 12 6
				Salary, Registrar	150 0 0
				" Cook	39 0 0
				Ayton, John, commission	5 12 0
				Bank V.D.L., at interest:..	100 0 0
				Lying-in cases (Govern- ment)	23 4 6
				Wood for "Wood Yard"	37 1 6
				Sundries	10 12 1
				Balance in Bank.....	149 1 11
		£986 8 9			£986 8 9

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