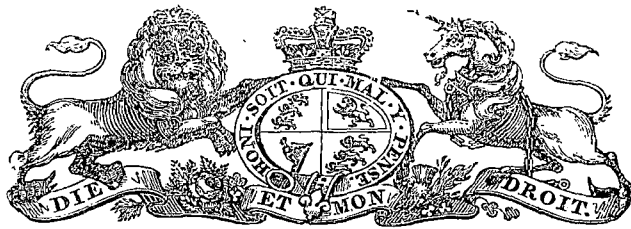


(No. 14.)



1895.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY:

REPORT FOR 1894.

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

Cost of printing—£1 1s.



HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1894.

IN presenting report of work for the year 1894, the members of the Executive desire to ask special attention to the large increase in the number of the applicants, the decrease in the amount of annual subscriptions, and to the fact that it has been found necessary to transfer £500 from capital to current account; this with former withdrawals, making a total of £1000 taken from reserve funds.

After much discussion, the Executive decided to accept the proposal of the Government to undertake the outdoor relief of Hobart during 1895 for the sum of £740. In addition to this, the Society will be allowed a grant of £1 for £1 up to £250 on subscriptions only, not on interest from capital. The friends of the Society are thus afforded special encouragement for generous giving during 1895. The contract with the Government is terminable at the end of the year, or any time afterwards by three months' notice on either side. This service of charity may therefore be looked upon as an experiment, and, as such, watched with interest, if not anxiety.

The matter of building cottages for the working-classes has been mentioned so frequently that subscribers will be pleased to learn that a start has been made, and that 12 cottages are in course of erection in George and Smith streets on land given by Mr. Baily. By this means it is hoped to provide comfortable homes at fair rentals, and to secure something beyond present bank interest for the purchase of bread for the perishing.

It may gratify subscribers to learn that in the neighbouring colonies a sharp distinction is drawn between persons who are destitute and those who are "out of work," and the funds of benevolent institutions are kept quite distinct from any provision which may be necessary for the unemployed. Were this the rule in Tasmania the Society might be able to meet the constant demands upon its limited resources.

We miss from our ranks this year, and are quite conscious of our loss, an earnest fellow-worker, the late Mr. James E. Salier.

Subscribers will not fail to notice the legacies received during the year, indicating kind thoughts of old friends in their last days, the late Mr. Joseph Solomon, £1000, and Mr. R. C. Smith, £300.

To what extent, and in what form, should charitable agency meet the necessities of the undeserving and the immoral? The question is asked: will friends of the Society think over the problem, and endeavour to formulate an answer acceptable to all classes and conditions of men? Possibly the words of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, addressed to the Charitable Society of that city, may not be inapplicable in this colony:—"I have had a great deal of experience of poverty in England, and have always held myself that the first thing to be done was to lay hold of the children. There was nothing which helped to drain the fountains of pauperism more effectually

than by educating the children of the poor, by imbuing into them higher aspirations, so that they might be able to go into the world, and try to be something better and worthier than their pauper parents, and try to work and support themselves."

During the year the relieving officer (Miss Witt) and the assistant officer (Mr. C. Witt) have worked with a will in the cause of the poor.

The detailed statement of distribution is as follows:—New cases for the year, 602 families, comprising 482 men, 465 women; children, 579 boys, 631 girls; total, 2152. Of the adults there were 419 cases out of work, 67 illness, 31 widows, 28 husbands away, 6 husbands in gaol, 9 accidents, 42 aged and infirm. Cases have been carefully investigated, and 1064 visits made. On the books from last year there were 130 families, comprising 565 individuals. The rations issued were—bread, 100,965 lbs.; tea, 1700 lbs.; sugar, 9283 lbs.; rice, 2159 lbs.; oatmeal, 3951 lbs.; and for sick cases, cornflour, 31 lbs.; sago, 13 lbs.; cocoa, 15 lbs. Thirty-four men were employed in the wood-yard; number registered for work, 137 men and boys, 33 women and girls; total 170. During the winter months, soup, wood, coal, blankets, and clothing were distributed. Amongst the special gifts of the year may be mentioned meat, fruit, fish, vegetables, soap, candles, boots, and clothing. The Christmas treat was given to 159 families, comprising 681 individuals. The supply consisted of flour, currants, raisins, potatoes, and biscuits.

The amounts distributed in 1894, as compared with the previous 12 months, were as follow:—

	1893.	1894.
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Bread.....	77,667	100,965
Tea.....	1272	1700
Sugar.....	7049	9283
Oatmeal.....	1549	3951
Rice.....	4945	2159
Cornflour.....	37	31
Sago.....	32	13
Cocoa.....	30	15

J. W. SIMMONS, *Chairman.*

The HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY *in Account with Treasurer for the Year ending*
31st December, 1894.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
To Bank Balance.....	3	17 1	By Salaries.....	200	0 0
Donations.....	182	5 0	Bread and Soup.....	380	19 8
Interest on Capital.....	553	0 2	Groceries, Blankets, & Christmas		
Capital withdrawn.....	500	0 0	Treat.....	287	18 10
Debenture matured.....	500	0 0	Gas, Coal, Wood, & Special Cases	68	15 8
Legacies, R. C. Smith.....	300	0 0	Printing, Insurance, Lodgings,		
„ Jos. Solomon.....	1000	0 0	&c.....	26	1 8
			Addition to Capital.....	0	9 7
			Bank Interest, Overdraft.....	2	11 2
			Treasury Bills.....	1500	0 0
			Fixed Deposit, Commercial Bank	300	0 0
			1st Instalment on Cottages.....	100	0 0
			Balance.....	172	5 8
	£3039	2 3		£3039	2 3
Balance.....	£172	5 8			

E. & O. E.

G. S. CROUCH, *Treasurer.*

Examined and found correct.

CHAS. E. WALCH, }
THOS. BENNISON, } *Auditors.*

Hobart, 14th February, 1895.

INVESTED CAPITAL.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Treasury Bills, 11th September.....	100	0	0			
Ditto, 13th September.....	1000	0	0			
Ditto, 3rd October.....	500	0	0			
Ditto, 3rd December.....	3400	0	0			
				5000	0	0
Fixed Deposit, Commercial Bank, 3rd January.	2000	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 10th February.....	100	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 4th May.....	300	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 12th December.....	100	0	0			
				2500	0	0
Fixed Deposit, Building Society, 30th January	150	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 6th February.....	140	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 17th April.....	25	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 21st April.....	70	0	0			
Ditto, ditto, 6th December.....	600	0	0			
				985	0	0
Ditto, Union Bank, 26th June.....	...			147	0	0
Ditto, V.D.L. Bank.....	...			1580	15	7
Fire and Flood Account—Union Bank.....	115	15	0			
Savings Bank.....	63	16	1			
				179	11	1
Society's Premises, say.....	...			750	0	0
Cottages, 1st Instalment.....	...			100	0	0
				£11,242	6	8

G. S. CROUCH, *Treasurer.*

Audited and found correct.

CHAS. E. WALCH, }
 THOS. BENNISON, } *Auditors.*

14th February, 1895.