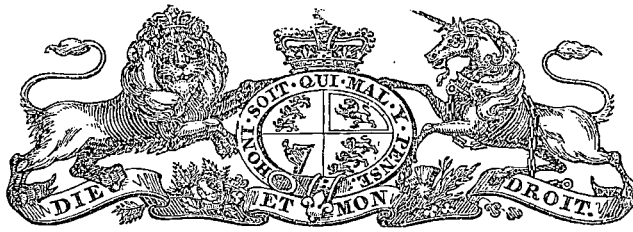


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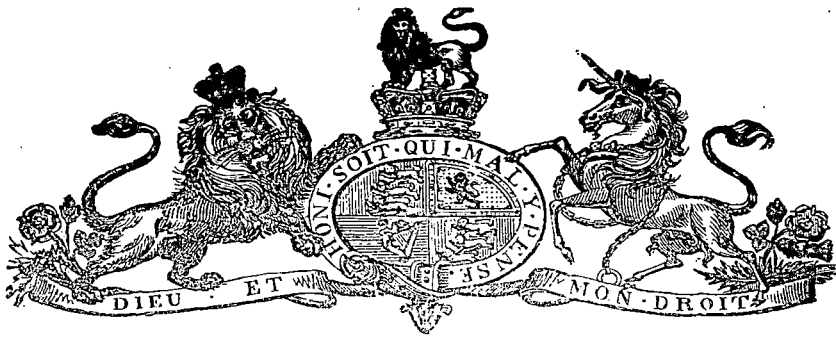
1893.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY:

REPORT FOR 1892.

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



HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT, FOR THE YEAR ENDING
31st DECEMBER, 1892.

THE thirty-third Annual Meeting was held at the Offices, Bathurst-street, on February 2, 1893. The following gentlemen were present:—His Worship the Mayor (Mr. G. S. Crouch), who presided, and Messrs G. Seabrook, Thos. Mather, T. A. Reynolds, J. Baily, Chas. Butler.

The Chairman (Rev. J. W. Simmons) read the Annual Report of the Association as follows:—

Considering the extreme pressure in nearly every branch of trade during 1892, the Registrar's summary, taken from the books of the Society, and appended to this statement, may, perhaps, be accepted as being singularly satisfactory. The warmest thanks of the Executive Committee are due, and are hereby tendered to subscribers, whose donations present a total showing an advance on the previous year; to contributors of goods, not only for Christmas, but constant gifts of bread, meat, vegetables, clothing, &c., making an appreciable difference in the annual expenditure; to His Worship the Mayor (Mr. Reynolds) and Corporation for the readiness with which the request to provide employment was met; and to Mr. Back, Manager of Railways, for his welcome aid in the same direction. In the discharge of an arduous duty, the Members of Committee have been much cheered by the marked sympathy of the press and the people, and can only repeat that good words and deeds have helped them on their way.

The work of 1892 has brought out strongly the contrast between methods ancient and modern. In times not very remote, to give a sufferer a loaf, or to send him into the "House," was deemed sufficient in the way of relief, and so far as the almoners were concerned, it must be allowed to have been an easy way of discharging a painful duty. Now the scene is entirely changed: The matter to be thought of is whether we can help people to help themselves, and thus save them and their little ones from sinking into the depths of pauperism. Only those who face this work day by day know the ease with which a pauper is made, and the consequent difficulty of redeeming the needy from destruction. Once made, the pauper ceases from all sense of shame. It would not be necessary to turn over many pages of our records to tell the story of some artful dodges—men who wish to collect money to bury a wife every few months; women who have come from the interior and found their husbands dead, wanting a trifle to take their clothes back; or it may be that money is wanted for the funeral of a child existing only in imagination, or a shilling for a cab to take a cripple to the hospital, perhaps to bring a mate out of the bush. It may be stated that printed forms are always available in the hope of preventing the public from imposition. Perhaps work is found for some applicant for charity, and refused because the wage is not high enough; or it may be a young fellow does very well for a time, but the wet weather sets in, and "really he could not think of going out on such days"—to the discomfort of well-wishers and discouragement of workers. Fortunately there is another side, where families have been aided, kept together, tided over misfortune, and are now well able to run alone. No set line of relief can meet the exigencies of the poor. In every instance the facts must be mastered, and each case dealt with on its own merits. Classification is as much a necessity in the administration of outdoor as of indoor relief.

The difficulties of administration may be illustrated by a typical case. There is a young fellow in gaol for a short term—offence, disorderly conduct—reason, in all probability, want of settled work. This man apparently does not belong to the criminal class; he is not always in his right mind, and is subject to strange delusions. Lodging-house keepers naturally object to his presence; workmen, for obvious reasons, do not like him in the shops. Clearly this Society, however willing, cannot cover such a case. In the co-operation rather than in the division and splitting up of

charitable agency, not only should large sums of money be saved, but a ready way found to give such a man employment under the care of our surgeons in lunacy, who could watch and probably cure him of his malady.

Work week by week has been so generously reported by the press that repetition is unnecessary. It is right, however, to mention the death of an old subscriber and auditor, the Hon. G. Salier, and that another subscriber, Mr. Thos. Bennison, has kindly consented to fill the vacant place. In an ancient record, well known to English readers, there is the simple story of two poor women who had heard of a place where there was bread. They went in search of it, and, although well received, bread was not given them. The younger woman of the two was sent into the field to work. She was no pauper, no begger, she had no self-respect taken away from her; in the same way, all-abiding work amongst the poor, capable of service, must teach them and enable them to earn that which they receive. This is the true labourer's cry, Work, not charity. This was the lesson Farmer Boaz gave to Widow Ruth—"In our benevolence let us maintain the self-respect of those we aid while we are aiding them; let us not make paupers of them; let us deal generously and with liberal hand; and let us not sound a trumpet before our alms, but hide ourselves and strive how we can do the most good with the least possible display."

The Registrar reports for 1892:—New cases for the year 259, comprising 174 males, 197 females; children, 257 males, 242 females; total, 870. Of the adults there were 69 cases of illness, 123 out of work, 24 widows, 6 accidents, 12 aged and infirm, 10 destitute, 12 husbands away, 3 husbands in gaol, 3 cases refused: also 25 casual cases relieved. On the books from last year there were 38 families, comprising 110 individuals. The rations issued during the year were:—

	<i>lbs.</i>
Bread	27534
Tea	643
Sugar	3481
Oatmeal	739
Rice	2374

And for sick cases:—

Cornflour.....	42
Sago	22
Cocoa	14

Of persons receiving aid during 1892, 19 cases were transferred to Government account; 21 men were employed in the wood-yard, 96 orders given to men for stonebreaking, about an equal number sent to the Corporation for employment, by order of the Mayor; also several situations procured for men, women, and children in town and country. In the winter months wood, coal, and blankets were given to the poor. A quantity of clothing has been given by friends for adults and children. Several butchers have given large supplies of meat, and a large quantity of bread has been received from a kind baker. The Christmas and New Year's treat was given to 65 families, comprising 286 individuals. Flour purchased, 200 lbs.; flour given, 200 lbs.; raisins purchased, 115 lbs.; raisins given, 45 lbs.; cake purchased, 150 lbs.; buns, 172, and spice; meat, 300 lbs. The usual investigation of cases has been made during the year, with 223 personal visits. Collection of subscriptions has been continued.

J. W. SIMMONS, *Chairman.*

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE for the Year 1892.

1892.—to Dec. 31.	DR.	£	s.	d.	1892.—to Dec. 31.	CR.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in Bank, January 1st		19	9	11	By Bread Account		115	18	2
Subscriptions and Donations.....		183	6	6	Groceries		94	5	10
Donations for Fuel		12	10	0	Chairman		52	0	0
Christmas Treat		18	3	6	Registrar		150	0	0
Interest on Capital Account		286	5	9	Special Cases, Lodgings and Rent		10	7	3
Four Instalments from V.D.L. Bank ...		574	16	9	Blankets		10	0	6
Due to Commercial Bank		8	15	11	Wood and Coal		57	11	7
					Printing and Advertising		7	15	0
					Stationery		1	14	3
					Fire Insurance		1	10	0
					Gas Account.....		8	0	6
					Repairs to Premises		12	7	6
					Christmas Treat		18	3	6
							539	14	1
					Deposits, 3, £140 each... £420 0 0				
					Deposits, 1, £143 14s. 3d. 143 14 3				
							563	14	3
							£1103	8	4
							£1103	8	4

Dec. 31—Balance due to Bank, £8 15s. 11d.

Examined and found correct,

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

WM. WITT, *Registrar.*

30th January, 1893.

The Treasurer in Account with the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

1892.—to Dec. 31.	DR.	£	s.	d.	1892.—to Dec. 31.	CR.	£	s.	d.
To Balance in Bank, January 1st, 1892 ...		19	9	11	By Expenditure as per Pass Book		539	14	1
Subscriptions and Donations.....		183	6	6	Three Deposits of £140 each		420	0	0
Donations for Fuel		12	10	0	One Deposit		143	14	3
Donations for Christmas Treat		18	3	6					
Interest on Capital Account		286	5	9					
Four Instalments from V.D.L. Bank ...		574	16	9					
Amount due Commercial Bank.....		8	15	11					
							£1103	8	4
							£1103	8	4

G. S. CROUCH, *Treasurer.*

19th January, 1893.

INVESTED CAPITAL.

Debenture, due October 5th, 1894.....		500	0	0					
Deposits, Commercial Bank, December 13.....	£500	0	0						
Ditto, ditto, January 1	2000	0	0						
					2500	0	0		
Deposits, Union Bank, June 24.....		140	0	0					
Ditto, Building Society, April 12.....	£100	0	0						
Ditto, ditto, December 6.....	600	0	0						
Ditto, ditto, September 2.....	140	0	0						
Ditto, ditto, April 17.....	25	0	0						
Ditto, ditto, February 6.....	140	0	0						
Ditto, ditto, January 30.....	150	0	0						
Ditto, ditto	143	14	3						
					1298	14	3		
Deposits, V.D.L. Bank, 8 Deposits & Current Account.....	£2299	6	6						
Less 4s. Dividends.....	574	16	9						
					1724	9	9		
					£6163	4	0		

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

As per above List	£6163	4	0						
Society's Premises, say.....	1000	0	0						
Fire and Flood Emergency Fund, Fixed as Deposit in Union Bank.....	110	5	0						
Savings Bank, Accrued Interest	63	4	6						
					£7336	13	6		

G. S. CROUCH, *Treasurer.*

January 24, 1893.

WILLIAM GRAHAME, JUN.,
ACTING GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.