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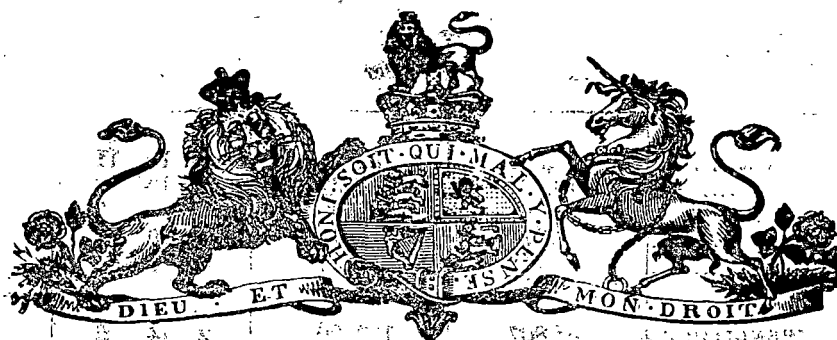
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES:

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR AND THE STATISTICIAN
FOR THE YEAR 1899

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

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FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

REPORT OF THE STATISTICIAN FOR THE YEAR 1899.

General Register Office, Hobart,
12 December, 1900.

SIR,

IN accordance with the provisions of "The Friendly Societies Act, 1888," I have the honour to furnish the following Report with respect to the year 1899:—

Model Forms of Accounts and circulation of Information.

The usual Tables disclosing the operations and state of the finances of each District and branch Society which furnished Returns to this Office for the year 1898, together with a copy of my previous Report regarding them, were duly despatched to the various Societies throughout the Colony. (Copy of Tables enclosed.)

The usual difficulties with some Societies still continue as regards the lack of promptitude in forwarding Returns. I am glad to say, however, that all Societies (129) have furnished complete statements for the current year, all of which have been carefully examined and corrected where necessary, and I am now enabled to make the following comparisons:—

Progress between the Years 1880 and 1899.

	ABSOLUTE.						
	1880.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.	1899.
Societies, Branches, and Districts No.	47	111	118	123	127	130	129
Members No.	3937	9768	10,087	10,426	11,347	11,871	12,883
Net Receipts £	13,289	32,029	31,901	32,979	35,385	37,837	39,761
Net Expenditure £	10,415	30,143	27,963	29,490	31,277	34,639	34,807
Capital £	30,026	79,907	85,413	89,145	91,948	95,202	100,562
	PER MEMBER.						
Net Receipts £	3 7 6	3 5 7	3 3 3	3 3 3	3 2 8	3 3 9	3 1 9
Net Expenditure £	2 12 11	3 1 8	2 15 5	2 16 7	2 15 0	2 18 5	2 14 0
Capital £	7 12 6	8 3 6	8 9 4	8 11 0	8 2 0	8 0 5	7 16 1

It would appear that rapid progress has been made within the 19 years ending in year 1899. Branches and Societies have increased 174 per cent.; members 227 per cent.; net receipts, 199 per cent.; net expenditure, 234 per cent.; and capital, 234 per cent.

Analysis of Net Expenditure, 1899.

The net expenditure of the 129 Societies whose accounts have been examined afford a clearer insight of the noble and important work carried out by the 12,883 bread-winners, who, with their wives and families, represent fully one-fifth of the entire population, and at the same time it shows to what extent the thoughtful provision for the future, and the spirit of "self help" or independence, animates the great bulk of the wage-earners of this Colony.

Thus, in the year 1899 the benefits distributed by the 129 Societies alone amount to £29,396, or £2 5s. 8d. per member; exclusive of charges for management; thus :—

(Members, 12,883; cases of sickness, 2489; aggregate sickness, 13,896 weeks; deaths, 95.)

Particulars.	Amount.	Per cent.	Per Member.			Per Case per Year.		
	£		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Sick Pay (2489 cases)	10,910	31·35	0	16	11	4	1	3
Medical Expenses	10,322	29·67	0	16	0	—	—	—
Funeral Donations	4190	12·03	0	6	6	—	—	—
Other benefits	3974	11·41	0	6	3	—	—	—
Management	5411	15·54	0	8	4	—	—	—
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE..	34,807	100·00	2	14	0	—	—	—

The average duration of sickness of the 2489 cases recorded for 1899, viz., 33·50 days per case, was 3·97 below the average of 1898, 4·20 below the average of 1897, 3·38 days below the average of 1896, 9·33 days per case below the average of 1895, 6·43 days below the average for 1894, 7·63 days per case below the average for 1893, and 4·13 days above the average for 1892.

Provision for unemployed Sick Members.

Those who were disabled for work during 1899 absorbed £10,910, or 31·35 per cent., of total expenditure, in respect of sick maintenance alone; £10,322, or 29·67 per cent., was absorbed in medical expenses; £9385, or 26·95 per cent., was absorbed in distress allowances, widows' and orphans' support, and other provisions, together with the expenses of management; while only £4190, or 12·03 per cent., was absorbed as the annual disbursement in connection with funeral allowances in respect of deceased members or their wives.

These disbursements clearly distinguish the nature of the provisions of Friendly Societies from those of Life Assurance Societies. In the latter the provisional benefit is almost wholly composed of an accumulated sum of money for the benefit of the insurer's family at his or her death. In the former the bulk of the benefits, such as sick pay, medical attendance, medicines, and distress allowances, are received during the life of a member, while on the average, only about 10 per cent. of total expenditure is absorbed by death payments (funeral expenses, &c.) corresponding to the main objects of ordinary Life Assurance Societies.

The present capital of the various societies invested (average of three years, 95,904) gives an inadequate conception of their financial importance, as this capital sum only relates to benefits accruing at death, while the bulk of benefits in relation to annual contributions are discharged annually, and therefore do not enter into capital invested for the discharge of obligations consequent upon death.

Valuation.

Section 14 (e.) of 51 Vict. No. 16, sets forth that once in every Five years a Report of a Valuer shall be supplied to the Statistician. The requirement was neglected by some of the Societies, though specially asked for. It is my intention to insist on their production this year.

Audit and preparation of Accounts.

The audit and preparation of accounts of many of the smaller branch societies is improving, yet many defects due to lack of skill have yet to be overcome, and I still urge the recommendations contained in my previous yearly reports.

I have, &c.

ROBT. M. JOHNSTON, *Registrar-General,*
and Government Statistician.

The Hon. the Attorney-General.