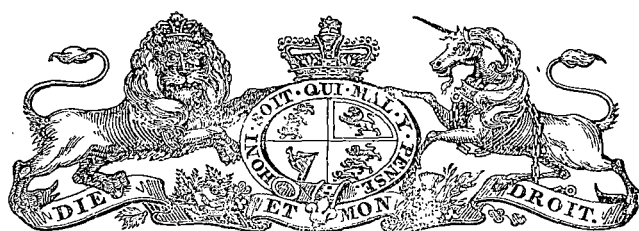


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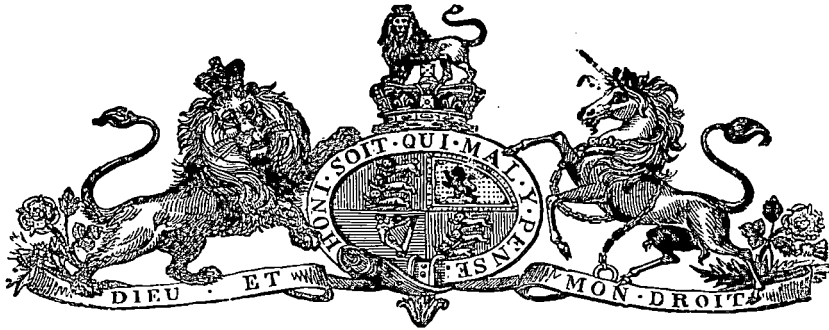
1888.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY:

REPORT FOR 1887.

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



TWENTY-EIGHTH Annual Report of the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

In submitting the Balance Sheets for 1887 it may not be altogether uninteresting to compare results with those recorded in the Report for 1886. The subscriptions and donations for 1886 amounted to £158 19s.; in 1887 to £206 5s. 9d., being an increase of £47 6s. 9d. Christmas gifts, 1886, (cash and goods), £23 18s. 6d.; in 1887, £32 1s. 6d. Goods given during 1886, £58 5s. 8d.; in 1887, £61 0s. 10d. Fuel account, 1886, £63 17s.; in 1887, £58 3s. Thus, beyond a slight decrease in the last item, the statement shows a marked improvement in public interest in the work of the Society.

Coming to the Registrar's statement:—In 1886 there were 150 distinct cases; in 1887, 205, showing the large increase of 55 cases. In 1886 the applications through illness numbered 56; in 1887, 75; being an increase of 19. In 1886 there were 30 cases in which destitution was the plea; in 1887 there were 59. In 1886 the painful item "widow" does not appear; in 1887, 23 claim under that title. Lodging tickets and rent in 1886, £15 17s. 10d.; in 1887, £58 0s. 6d.,—an increase of £42 2s. 8d. In 1886 the total number of individuals relieved was 417; in 1887, 589,—being an increase of 172. After making every allowance for the severe epidemic to which the city has been exposed, these figures reveal the telling fact that pauperism is not on the decline, and may lead up to an investigation of the causes of poverty.

The ninth rule reads as follows:—"That as one great object of the Society is to encourage the poor to assist themselves, relief shall not be given in money but in food, clothing, and other necessities, except in special cases approved of by the Executive Committee." This was the principle upon which the Institution was founded, and, when the rules have been under revision, subscribers have steadily maintained the position. In the neighbouring colonies and in England this principle is finding marked support, as one of the strongest factors in checking the growth of an admitted difficulty.

"We have," remarks Canon Blackley, speaking of England, "three exceptional national sins, which dishonour the English over the whole civilised earth; these national sins are English improvidence, English pauperism, and English drunkenness . . . Some people regard them as unconnected evils, and seek in vain for separate reasons of their being. Others, again, according to their bias, always lay the charge of one of these sins upon the other. Thus the total abstainer cries that the pauperism is caused by the drink; the savings bank promoter says the drunkenness is caused by the improvidence; the charity organiser says the improvidence is due to the pauperism. This is like accounting for the turning of a windmill by saying that each sail drives on the others, instead of seeing that it is one wind which drives them all;" and that "wind," rightly or wrongly, according to the Canon's interpretation, is the encouragement given by the State to those who do not feel any necessity for making provision for the future.

The names of gentlemen taking an active part in the work of this Society will be found amongst those seeking to improve the dwellings of the people, to encourage their fellow colonists to avail themselves of the advantages of provident and life assurance institutions, and it will be their misfortune, rather than their fault, if industrial assurance does not find a place in Tasmanian homes. Seeking to relieve the need of the present, they are not less anxious to improve the condition of the future.

The Registrar reports as follows:—

Cases for 1887.—Number, 205: illness, 75; husbands away, 15; husbands in gaol, 7; widows, 23; destitute, 59; aged and infirm, 13; accidents, 4; husbands out of work, 9. Adults.—Males, 80; females, 169. Children.—Males, 156; females, 184. Total, 589 individuals. Four cases refused. On the books from last year—40 cases, 125 individuals.

Casual relief given to 35 individuals going up the country to seek employment; discharged from gaol, or going into the Dépôt, New Town. Work given to 31 men in the wood-yard until they could get employment.

Supplies obtained for making soup.—Meat, 1346lbs. ; barley, 470lbs. ; rice, 84lbs. ; peas, 460lbs.
Soup sold, £1 13s. 9d.

Ration D.—For sick cases, corn flour, 87lbs; sago, 28lbs.; cocoa, 37lbs.; ground rice, 28lbs.

Rations issued.—Bread, 28,888lbs.; tea, 763lbs.; sugar, 3811lbs.; oatmeal, 11771bs.; rice, 2440lbs.; soup, 6528 pints.

Given by friends—68 tons of wood, 24 tons coal, which enabled the Registrar to supply fuel to the poor during the winter months; kindling-wood, 93½ doz.—£4 13s. 6d.

The usual investigation of cases, collections of subscriptions, &c. have been continued. Blankets given to the amount of £10; paid lodging-tickets and rent, £58 0s. 6d.; cab-hire to hospital for poor patients, 19s.

J. W. SIMMONS, *Chairman of the Executive Committee B.S.*

STATEMENT of RECEIPTS and EXPENDITURE from 1st January to 31st December, 1887.

<p>1887. Dec. 31.</p>	Dr.		£ s. d.
To balance in Bank, January 1, 1887		78	1 10
Subscriptions and Donations		206	5 9
Christmas Donations		27	15 0
Interest on Debentures, &c.....		236	0 0
Repayment from Government, Lying-in cases (5 quarters) ...		192	5 2
Balance due to Bank.....		128	3 0
		<hr/>	
		£808	10 9
		<hr/> <hr/>	
<p>Examined and found correct.</p>			
	CHAS. WALCH,	} Auditors.	
	GEO. SALIER,		
<p>January 27, 1888.</p>			

<p>1887. Dec. 31.</p>	Cr.		£ s. d.
By Bread Account.....		125	12 7
Groceries		135	9 0
Meat for Soup		9	7 9
Rent for Refuge		16	16 0
Salaries — Registrar, £170; Cook, £48.....		218	0 0
Cab-hire to Hospital—poor Patients		0	19 0
Printing, &c.		10	12 0
Loans		8	5 0
Wages—Men in wood-yard ...		70	7 7
Meat—Jubilee		12	16 4
Wood		20	8 0
Payment Government Lying- in cases.....		88	16 2
Insurance.....		1	10 0
Rents and Lodging-tickets ...		58	0 6
Christmas Treat.....		27	15 0
Interest on overdrawn account		3	15 10
		<hr/>	
		£808	10 9
		<hr/> <hr/>	
<p>1888. Jan. 1.—Balance due to Bank.....</p>			
		£128	3 0
		<hr/> <hr/>	
	<p>WM. WITT, Registrar.</p>		

THE Treasurer in Account current with the HOBART BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

[illegible]

CAPITAL ACCOUNT.

			£
1	Government Debentures, at £500	500	
1	" " 2000	2000	
5	" " 100.....	500	
3	Waterworks Debentures " 100.....	300	
1	" " 100.....	100	
1	" " 600.....	600	
		<hr/>	
		£4000	

Examined, 10th February, 1888.
ALFRED CRISP, *Mayor*.
JNO. W. SIMMONS, *Chairman Ex. Committee*.

Premises, Bathurst-street..... £750

DEPOSIT.

Available for current account :—	£
V.D.L. Bank.....	100
M.P. Building Society.....	600

EMERGENCY FUND.

See Report, 1885. £100 remains at fixed deposit.