

(No. 11.)



1882.

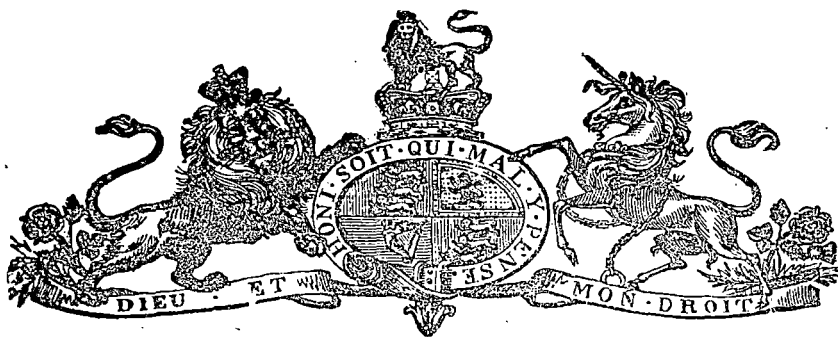
T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

**CHARITABLE AID IN HOBART AND
SUBURBS :**

REPORT FOR 1881.

Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 12, 1882.



Hobart, 17th February, 1882.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in accordance with your request contained in the Circular of the 14th instant, to submit the following Report upon the administration of the funds voted by Parliament for the relief of the destitute poor in Hobart and Suburbs, entrusted to the Executive Committee of the Hobart Benevolent Society, for the year 1881.

For the 10 months of the year 1880, during which the Committee had the control of the Out-door Relief in Hobart and Suburbs, the expenditure in money allowances amounted to £740, or at the rate for the year of £222 per quarter; while for the year 1881 it was £814, or at the rate of £203 10s. The saving, therefore, has been about £19 per quarter.

Of those receiving relief, 96 are so aged and infirm as to be unfit for labour of any kind. There are also 50 couples of aged cripples, many of whom are bedridden; and 46 families with children,—in all, 242 persons receiving relief, exclusive of children.

With regard to the families, in the majority of cases the mother is a widow, and where the father is alive, he is either sick or in prison.

The Committee strictly enforce the rule requiring the attendance of children at school under the age of 12 years, under the penalty of having the rations allowed to the family stopped.

No case is transferred from the books of the Benevolent Society and charged upon the funds of the Government until the person has been from 3 to 4 months in receipt of relief from the Society, and the permanency of the case ascertained. This practice is most strictly adhered to.

The Committee abstain from using pressure to induce destitute persons, men or women, to enter one of the Charitable Institutions. The investigations into the merits of each case are so searching, and the surveillance exercised by Mr. Witt over the recipients of relief so unremitting, that they deem it more desirable, as well as more economical, to provide food, and in exceptional cases a little money, and thus keep alive in them the desire to labour for their own support. None go into the Invalid Depôts but those whose very helplessness makes it necessary to seek a shelter where they can be attended to.

The Government may rest assured that under the present Committee of Management not one deserving applicant for relief is sent empty away, and that all cases are examined into thoroughly, but with care to prevent indigent persons from suffering unnecessary humiliation,—while at the same time the public interests are duly protected.

I annex a Statement of the Expenditure on account of Provisions and Money Allowances respectively, during the years—

1880.			1881.		
<i>Rations for 12 Months.</i>			<i>Rations for 12 Months.</i>		
Scale No. 1.	Scale No. 2.	Scale No. 3.	Scale No. 1.	Scale No. 2.	Scale No. 3.
5070½	2128½	267½	4135½	2049½	199

I have given the 12 months in each year as a comparison of results, although the Committee only had the administration for 10 months, from March to December.

The cost of Provisions for 1880 was £1020, and for 1881, £957 12s., or a saving of £53 8s.

The Money Allowances for the 10 months of 1880 were £740, and for the 12 months of 1881, £814.

Trusting that the results will prove satisfactory to the Government, and assuring you that the Executive Committee are most careful in all their dealings with the public funds,

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R. ANDREW MATHER.

To the Hon. the Colonial Secretary.