

(No. 132.)



1888.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL
GARDENS :

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1887.

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



TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1887.

*To His Excellency SIR ROBERT GEORGE CROOKSHANK HAMILTON,
Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of
Tasmania and its Dependencies.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

THE Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens, incorporated by the Act 49 Victoria, No. 34, have the honor to submit to Your Excellency, in accordance with the 11th Section of that Act, this, their second Annual Report.

1. The Museum has during the year of 1887 been open to the public on week days from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. in the summer, and until 4 P.M. in the winter; on Sundays, from half-past 2 P.M. till half-past 4 P.M. in the summer, and until 4 P.M. in the winter.

2. During the year the new wing was completed, and will shortly be ready for reception of exhibits.

3. The room set apart purely for the Tasmanian collection, the Trustees are pleased to say, is very highly appreciated by the general public, and particularly by visitors to the Colony. It is pleasing to note that several pupils attending the different schools in Hobart visit the Museum for educational purposes, proving that the Institution is becoming instructive as well as popular.

4. A new addition to the Museum, which will be most attractive, has lately been erected. The Government having decided to dispense with the Fisheries Establishment at Battery Point, determined to transfer the Aquarium connected with that establishment to the Museum. This addition cannot fail to form a most popular branch of the Institution.

5. Several donations to the Museum Collection have been contributed by the general public.

6. Annexed to this Report are the following Appendices:—

- I. Balance Sheet of Museum and Gardens.
- II. Report of the Superintendent of the Gardens.
- III. Attendance of the Trustees during 1887.

The Common Seal of the Tasmanian Museum is affixed, by Order
of the Board, this sixth day of September, 1888.

ALEX. MORTON, *Curator and Secretary.*

J. W. AGNEW, *M.D., Chairman.*

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT of the Funds of the TASMANIAN MUSEUM and BOTANICAL GARDENS for the Year 1887.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance	9	19 8	<i>Museum—</i>		
<i>Museum—</i>			Curator's Salary.....	250	0 0
Grant in aid from Treasury	500	0 0	Attendant's Salary	96	0 0
<i>Botanical Gardens—</i>			Ditto, Sunday	13	0 0
Grant in aid from Treasury	800	0 0	Petty Cash	18	16 0
Sale of Plants	157	2 1	Labour	9	17 0
			Cheque Book	0	16 8
			Ironmongery	10	19 3
			Chemicals.....	6	18 4
			Gas	5	9 1
			Printing	8	10 0
			Stationery	2	14 6
			Insurance	5	10 0
			Fittings	40	18 0
			Specimens	13	12 6
			Water	7	13 4
			Paints, &c.	1	17 6
			Timber	0	18 6
			Fuel	12	6 6
			Freight.....	0	3 0
					501 0 2
			<i>Botanical Gardens—</i>		
			Salary, Superintendent	210	0 0
			Wages	596	10 0
			Sundries	36	18 1
			Plants	5	12 6
			Freight.....	2	15 6
			Horse Hire and Feed.....	30	1 5
			Ironmongery	26	7 2
			Stationery	1	3 6
			Provisions	1	2 6
			Cartage	6	8 6
			Blacksmith	3	19 0
			Pots	5	12 10
			Water Rates	2	18 1
			Timber	14	8 1
					943 17 2
			Balance.....	...	22 4 5
					£1467 1 9
					£1467 1 9

Audited.

J. M'C. BROWNE.

12th September, 1888.

ALEX. MORTON, *Curator and Secretary.*

APPENDIX II.

Botanical Gardens, 15th February, 1888.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward a Report on the Botanical Gardens and Queen's Domain for the year 1887.

Season.—It is with regret that I again have to report, as last year, that the plants in the Gardens have suffered severely from drought; the rainfall during the active period of plant growth was less than recorded last season, when 4·47 inches fell during October, November, and December, against 3·82 inches for the like period of 1887. This is considerably below the average. Herbaceous plants generally have suffered severely, and in many cases died out altogether, for the want of adequate moisture.

It is generally to be desired that means for furnishing a better supply of water in future will be devised, more especially as a small sum has been sanctioned by Parliament for aiding in this direction.

Improvements.—The funds voted in aid of the Gardens being all absorbed in maintenance, it has not been possible to carry out any extension or improvements: for this purpose special appropriations are essential.

I have again to urge the necessity of making better provision for the house and pot plants generally; these are not only overcrowded in unsuitable houses, fast falling into decay, but there are no means of exhibiting them to the public, who are thus deprived of what would be one of the principal attractions of the Gardens.

I would strongly point out the desirability of immediate steps being taken to secure this much needed addition.

In the rougher garden operations assistance has been given by the supply of prison labour from the Gaol.

The numerical strength has not been equal to that of past years, but yet material aid in maintenance works has been derived from this source.

Plant Additions.—From 300 to 400 new plants have been acquired during the year, principally by exchange with kindred institutions. The following are worthy of more special notice :—

Chlorocodon Whitei (Umondi). The roots of this plant are used by the natives of Natal as a tonic and for other purposes; so much is it in repute that it is in danger of being extirpated in its native habitat.—*Pinus sinensis.* This is said not only to be a handsome tree for avenues, but also produces a valuable timber. In Hong Kong it is extensively planted for this purpose. A large number of this pine has been raised from seeds forwarded by the Director of the Botanic Gardens, Hong Kong.—*Cyphomandra betaceum*, the Tree Tomato. This plant has stood our winter in the gardens and is now flowering freely, but as yet has not set fruit; this it will probably do during the autumn.—*Chamærops Ritchiana*, a hardy palm from Afghanistan, said to be very ornamental. Seeds of this plant received from Kew have germinated freely, and a large quantity will shortly be available for distribution.—*Punceria coagulans (Withania).* This is the vegetable rennet much used in Afghanistan and North India for coagulating milk; it forms a good substitute for the ordinary rennet where this is difficult to procure.—*Cedrus Libanus*, var. *Crevifolia*. This is a very rare variety of the well-known *Cedrus Libani*. Only a small number of this plant has been raised.

The number of visitors to the gardens for the year is estimated at 64,773.

Nursery.—This department remains much as last year, except that, owing to the increased growth of stock plants, the want of additional accommodation is more severely felt, and greater difficulty has been experienced in obtaining a sufficient supply of water.

Domain.—The improvement of this public resort is carried on as rapidly as possible. The funds available for the purpose are not sufficient to make rapid strides with so large an undertaking.

The footpath leading past the Meredith Fountain has been prepared and planted at the sides with *Araucaria imbricata*, and the Cedar Avenue leading to the Upper Cricket Ground has been continued as far as funds would permit. It is hoped to complete this avenue during the coming season, so that future operations may be directed to the quarry near the Government House entrance.

The plants generally put out in the Domain are doing well, the only exception being that of a few deciduous trees which have suffered from the excessive drought. Many of these latter have attained a sufficient size to stand without support, and all stakes are gradually being removed, with advantage to the plants.

Pasturage.—The absence of the usual November rains has had the effect of causing the pasturage to become dry at a much earlier date than usual. This, in connection with the height of the grass, will, no doubt, render fires during the coming autumn imminent. In future years it will be desirable that sheep be allowed to pasture at an earlier date than hitherto, that the pasturage may be kept more in check, and thus avert danger.

I have, &c.

F. ABBOTT, Superintendent.

The Hon. J. W. AGNEW, M.D., Chairman of Trustees,
Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens.

INTERCHANGE OF PLANTS AND SEEDS DURING THE YEAR.

Received from—

The Botanic Gardens, Saharanpur, N.W.P., India—Seeds.
The Royal Gardens, Kew—Various sendings of Seeds.
Baron Ferd. von Mueller—Government Botanist, Victoria—Various sendings Plants and Seeds.
Mr. S. Purchase, Nurseryman, &c., Parramatta, N.S.W.—Case Plants.
Mr. William Bull, Nurseryman, &c., King's Road, London—Seeds.
The Botanical Gardens, Adelaide—Plants and Seeds.
August Van Gurt, Ghent, Belgium—Bulbs and Seeds.
The Department of Forestry, India—Seeds, *Cedrus Deodara*.
The Botanic Gardens, Hong Kong—Various Seeds.
Mr. Dempster, Mauritius—Seeds.
Mr. J. Armstrong, Botanic Gardens, Christchurch—Case Plants.
The Botanic Gardens, Natal—Seeds, various.
Colonel Crawford—Seeds.
Messrs. Law & Somner, Melbourne—Case Plants.
Canon Hales, Launceston—Seeds.
Hon. J. S. Dodds—Seeds.
B. Shaw, Esq.—Plants, Blandfordia.
Mr. G. Brunning—Case Plants.
Mr. J. Smith, Victoria—Case Plants.
Port Louis, unknown donor—Seeds.
Messrs. Shepherd & Co., Sydney—Case Plants.
Mr. J. Latham, Hobart, imported Bulbs and Plants.
Lady Hamilton, Government House—Seeds from New Zealand.

Sent to—

August Van Gurt, Ghent, Belgium—22 Ferns.
 Botanic Gardens, Adelaide—Sphagnum Moss.
 Botanic Gardens, Melbourne—Moss and Seeds.
 Botanic Gardens, Kew—Seeds.
 Messrs. Shepherd & Co., Sydney—Seeds and Plants.
 Mr. S. Purchase, Parramatta, N.S.W.—Seeds and Plants.
 Baron Ferd. von Mueller, Government Botanist, Victoria—Seeds.
 Messrs. E. B. Heyne & Co., Adelaide—Seeds.
 Messrs. Law, Somner, & Co., Nurserymen, Melbourne—Seeds and Plants.

Plants were supplied for planting the under-mentioned places:—

The Government House Grounds.
 Queen's Domain.
 Franklin Square.
 Barrack Square.
 Church of England, Burnie.
 Church of England, Clarence Plains.
 Church of England (Cathedral), Hobart.
 Scotch Church.
 Roman Catholic Church, Glenorchy.
 Roman Catholic Church, Brown's River.
 Congregational Church, Brisbane-street.

F. ABBOTT, *Superintendent.*

APPENDIX III.

ATTENDANCE OF THE TRUSTEES DURING 1887.

His Honor the Chief Justice.....	1
The Hon. the Chief Secretary	0
The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works	1
The Hon. the President Legislative Council	1
The Hon. the Speaker House of Assembly	0

CROWN TRUSTEE.

Matthew Seal, Esq.....	7
------------------------	---

ELECTIVE TRUSTEES.

The Hon. J. W. Agnew, M.D.....	1
James Barnard, Esq.	5
Justin Browne, Esq.....	7
C. H. Grant, Esq.....	7
A. G. Webster, Esq.....	9
Russell Young, Esq.....	6

Number of Board Meetings during the year..... 9

ALEX. MORTON, *Curator and Secretary.*