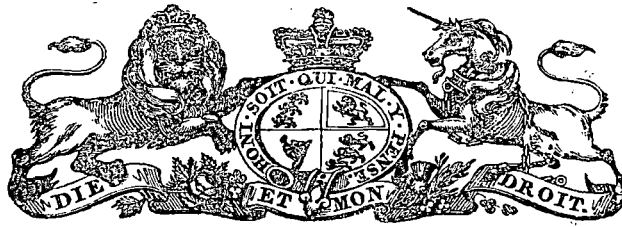


(No. 25.)



1871.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA.

REPORT FOR 1870.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
November 8, 1871.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1870.

THE Session of 1870 commenced on the 8th of March, with a paper by Baron F. Von Müeller, C.M.G., F.R.S., &c., entitled "Contributions to the Phytography of Tasmania;" and the following papers were read at the meetings during the year:—"Additional Observations on the Changes which have taken place in the Star η Argus and its surrounding Nebula," by F. Abbott, F.R.A.S.; "On the Land Shells of Tasmania, with a list of new species," by Mr. W. Legrand; "On the habits of the large Crayfish (*Astacus sp.*) of the Northern Rivers of Tasmania," by C. Gould, Esq., F.G.S.; "Notes on an Excursion to Cummings's Head and the Falls of the Meander," by W. Archer, Esq., F.L.S.; "Notes on an Experiment with the Fumes of Sulphur, and on other methods for the Destruction of Rabbits in their Burrows," by W. Archer, Esq., F.L.S.; "Notes on the Salmon Trout (*Salmo trutta*) at the River Plenty," by M. Allport, Esq., F.Z.S., F.L.S.; "The Sun and its Office in the Universe," by F. Abbott, Esq., F.R.A.S.; "Continuation of Notes on an Excursion to Cummings's Head and the Falls of the Meander," by W. Archer, Esq., F.L.S.; and "Notes on the Californian Thistle," by the same author.

In addition to the papers read, the following subjects were brought under discussion at the monthly meetings:—"The occurrence of Gold at Port Cygnet;" "The Red Spider of the Hop Grounds;" "The Smolt captured in the Derwent and forwarded to Dr. Günther for identification of Species;" "The arrest of development of the Salmon when detained in fresh water;" "Dr. Günther's opinion as to species of the Smolt sent to him;" "The Caterpillars by which the grain and other crops were so much injured in the early part of 1870;" "The Manufacture of Beet-root Sugar in Tasmania, with correspondence thereon;" "The capture of a Smolt by an angler at New Norfolk;" "Coal from Three Hut Point;" "The rapid growth of the English Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*) in Tasmania," &c.

The monthly Meteorological Tables have been regularly published, and copies of them forwarded to the Government Observatories in the neighbouring Colonies, from all of which similar returns have been received. The thanks of the Society are again due to Mr. F. Abbott of Hobart Town, Mr. J. Boyd of Port Arthur, Dr. Story of Swansea, and Mr. F. Belstead of Westbury, for their trouble in keeping these important records; also to the Superintendents of the various Light-houses and Coast Stations, who, by direction of the Marine Board, furnish monthly returns.

The Council has much pleasure in reporting that the monthly "Notes on the Meteorology and Mortality of the Hobart Town Registration District," by E. Swarbreck Hall, Esq., have been regularly supplied and printed during the year.

Our Transactions have as usual been transmitted to learned Societies in various parts of the world; and the Fellows will no doubt have observed, by our acknowledgments at the monthly meetings, that very valuable presentations have been received in return.

In order to aid in the advancement of the objects of the Society, it was thought advisable to make an appeal to the public for such increased assistance as they might be enabled to afford, whether by scientific contributions, or by joining as permanent Members. The results have been such as to justify us in still keeping the subject under notice during the present year.

COUNCIL.

No vacancy has occurred during the year. The required list according to Rule XXXII., as amended at the General Meeting of 1868, has been exhibited in the Library for the last fortnight.

FINANCE.

On reference to last year's Report it will be noticed that it was expected our debt would be considerably reduced at the end of the current year. We are happy to say such has been the case, and the state of the Balance Sheet warrants us in hoping that the debt will almost be extinguished by the end of the present financial year.

The total income from all sources was as follows:—Government Grant to Museum £200; to the Gardens £400; subscriptions £127 10s.; sale of Plants, &c. £71 3s. 4d.; amounting to £798 13s. 4d. This with £30 12s. in the hands of the Superintendent of the Gardens for payment of current expenses, 9s. petty cash in hands of Curator of Museum, and £40 which we calculate will be available from arrears of subscriptions, will give a grand total of £869 14s. 4d. The expenditure and liabilities amount to £899 11s. 4d., leaving a balance to debit of £29 17s.

As the following statement shows, the current expenditure for the year has been well within the income:—

	£	s.	d.
Total receipts from all sources	798	13	4
Total expenditure	757	11	8
Balance for meeting liabilities.....	£41	1	8

GARDENS.

In the upper part of the Gardens considerable progress has been made in laying out and planting the trenched ground, through which a broad walk has also been carried. This walk will be continued round the beach as soon as the necessary tract of ground has been reclaimed by the sea wall now in process of erection. It is hoped that this wall will be completed in the course of a few months; and when the arrangements now in progress are fully carried out, this portion of the Gardens will no doubt become exceedingly attractive.

Preparations for the erection of a new boundary fence have been commenced by the Government. About two-thirds of the necessary quantity of cut timber has been received from Port Arthur, and as soon as the remainder arrives the work will be proceeded with as rapidly as possible. It is hoped that arrangements will be made at the same time for the construction of a new entrance, more in keeping with the general character of the grounds than the present one, which is most inconvenient and unsightly.

Owing to the very low state of our finances, and consequently the want of a proper organisation for the collection of suitable plants, our exchanges with Europe are gradually falling off, and the additions to our plant stock during the past year have chiefly been received from the neighbouring Colonies. To Baron Von Mueller, Director of the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, and C. Moore, Esq., Director of the Botanic Gardens, Sydney, we are indebted for many valuable additions, of which the following are worthy of special notice:—A valuable collection of Tea,—Cinchona,—various oaks, including the Cork Oak,—Coniferæ of economic value,—Hickory and Walnut plants. The above were sent by Baron Von Mueller as test plants to prove the adaptability of Tasmania for their cultivation on a larger scale. Several new palms, which were discovered by himself on Lord Howe's Island, were sent by Mr. Moore. Among them the *Kentia Balmoreana*, *K. Forsteriana*, *K. Canterburyana*, &c., *Panax Murrayii* (the Palm Panax), *Eucalyptus citriodora* (the Lemon-scented Gum,) *Laurus cinnamomum* (the Cinnamon tree), and many others equally interesting. About 250 new plants were received during the year.

The number of persons who visited the Gardens during the year is estimated at 21,444.

MUSEUM.

As will be seen by the list of presentations many specimens in various departments of Natural History have been received during the year. All of these for which room could be provided have been arranged in their appropriate sections of the collection, the remainder being placed in store until additional case room, of which we are greatly in want, has been procured.

The spirit preparations in store have largely increased, but as our funds are not at present adequate to meet the expense of mounting them for exhibition, the most that can be done for some time will be to provide sufficient spirits of wine to preserve them.

The collection of skeletons of native animals has received many additions at the hands of Mr. Roblin, and it is hoped that the majority of these will be placed in the Museum during the ensuing year.

Conchological specimens have been received from several donors, but as they are principally duplicates of those already in the Museum, they will be chiefly valuable for purposes of exchange. Mr. W. Legrand, to whom the Society is indebted for many additions to this department, is arranging a complete series of Tasmanian land shells, including all those recently discovered by himself, and it is his intention to present the collection when completed to the Museum.

The work necessary for the preservation of the general collection, which requires much time and care, has been carried out. Several alterations have been made in various parts of the Museum for the better display of the objects exhibited, and the work of labelling is being proceeded with as opportunities occur. Specimens have been sent to the Museum of Magdalen College, Cambridge, and Brussels, from which places we shall doubtless receive others in return.

The number of visitors during the year was 8718.

STATEMENT of the Funds of the ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA for the Year 1870.

Receipts.				Expenditure.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Annual Subscriptions from 76 Members	114	0	0						
Arrears of ditto	13	10	0				82	4	4
Total Royal Society...	<hr/>			127	10	0			
<i>Museum.</i>									
Grant in aid from Treasury.	200	0	0						
Total Museum	<hr/>			200	0	0			
<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>									
Proceeds of Sale of Plants, Fruits, &c.	71	3	4						
Grant in aid from Treasury	400	0	0						
Total Botanic Gardens	<hr/>			471	3	4			
17th Jan., 1871.—Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank				61	12	10			
				<hr/>					
				£860	6	2			
				<hr/>					
							467	18	4
				<hr/>			£860	6	2
				<hr/>					

NOTE.

<i>Dr.</i>			
To overdrawn balance at Bank.	61	12	10
Balance of account due Orger and Meryon, London.....	19	5	2
Wheatley & Co., to 31st December, 1870 (not received), estimated at.....	20	0	0
Total.....	<hr/>		
	100	18	0
<i>Cr.</i>			
By Cash in hands of Superintendent of Gardens.....	30	12	0
Ditto Curator of Museum .	0	9	0
Subscriptions due	40	0	0
	<hr/>		
	71	1	0
	<hr/>		
	£29	17	0
	<hr/>		

Audited and found correct,
 FRANCIS BUTLER, } Auditors.
 HENRY COOK, }

2nd February, 1871.