

(No. 8.)



1867.

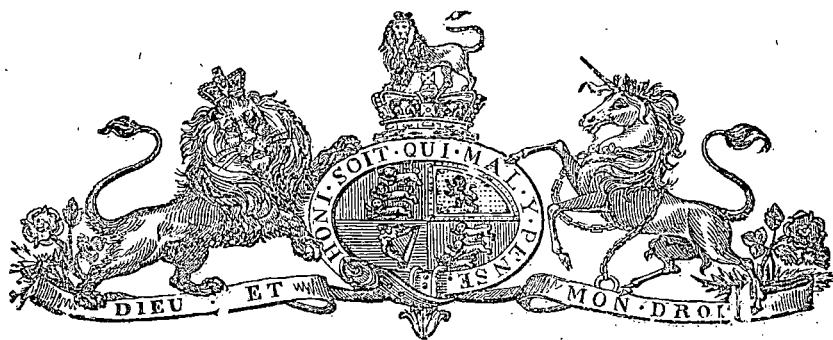
TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA.

REPORT FOR 1866.

Laid upon the Table by Sir R. Dry, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 20, 1867.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1866.

THE Session of 1866 opened, as did that of the preceding year, by a Microscopical Soirée, which, as in the former case, was so attractive as to bring together a very large number of visitors. Fourteen Microscopes, with a varied supply of interesting objects, also the Spectroscope and the Magnesium Light, were exhibited.

An abstract of the Hobart Town Meteorological Tables, for which the Society is deeply indebted to Mr. Abbott, has been printed at the expense of £35, and copies of it have been forwarded not only to all the learned Societies with which we are acquainted, but to many private individuals of scientific repute in various parts of the world.

Several papers of interest have been read at our Monthly Meetings: among others may be mentioned—"A Report on the present state of the Fry of Salmon and Salmon Trout, and of the taking of the first Spawn of the Brown Trout," by M. Allport, Esq.; "On the position of the Gordon Limestone relatively to other Palæozoic Formations," by C. Gould, Esq., F.G.S.; and "Notice of some Fossils lately discovered near Risdon," by M. Allport, Esq.

Meteorological Returns have, as usual, been received monthly from Mr. Abbott, Hobart Town; Mr. Boyd, Port Arthur; Dr. Story, Swansea; Mr. F. Belstead, Westbury; Mr. M. Duncanson, Ross; Mr. R. Henry, Tamar Heads; and from the Superintendents of the various Lighthouses and Signal Stations. The thanks of the Society are justly due to all those gentlemen who have been at so much trouble in keeping these important records.

The valuable "Monthly Analysis of the Observatory Records in conjunction with those of Births, Deaths, &c.," by E. Swarbreck Hall, Esq., has been read at the Meetings. Our Monthly Proceedings have been regularly published, and for the free transmission of these to many Country Members residing in remote localities the Society is much indebted to the courtesy of Messrs. Walsh.

GARDENS.

Considerable additions have been made to the collection of Plants during the year, upwards of one thousand new ones having been acquired, a great number of which are ornamental, medicinal, or economic. To Dr. F. Mueller, Director of the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, we are indebted for many of them.

There has also been a great number of Grasses and Cereals received, nearly all of which have been grown and their seed harvested.

From A. Verschaffelt, Ghent, Belgium, we have received several fine collections of Bulbs, most of which have already produced off-sets.

The ground intended for the continuation of the Pinetum having been laid out, and nearly all the standard plants planted, is now thrown open to the public. This was by far the most difficult part of the Gardens to bring under cultivation, on account of the rocky nature of the ground, and the steep banks, which form the greater portion of it.

The thanks of the Society are again due to the Government for permitting a gang of boys from the Hobart Town Gaol to assist in bringing the at present uncultivated ground into a fit state for planting.

The total number of visitors during the year was 21,886.

COUNCIL.

No vacancy has occurred in the Council during the year.

Agreeably to Rule XXXII, the required list from which four Members are to be elected has been exhibited in the Library for the last fortnight.

FINANCE.

As misconception in the minds of some of the Fellows still exists in reference to the Government grant, the Council think it advisable in this place to give a more detailed explanation than the Balance-sheet affords of the terms on which it is received.

The total grant to the Museum and Botanical Gardens is £750. Of this we (for the Museum) receive £200. By far the larger portion, £550, goes to the Gardens.

For this sum the Society acts only as a steward, and disburses it after a careful scrutiny of all accounts and claims upon it, furnished by the Superintendent of the Gardens. The books in which these accounts are kept are quite distinct from those of the Museum, and it is therefore evident that the supervision of the Gardens is in no sense a source of profit to the Society. Hitherto, indeed, it has invariably been the reverse, as can be seen on reference to the Annual Balance-sheet. It will also be seen that the Government grant to the Museum has not been sufficient for its requirements, but has been supplemented to the amount of nearly £40 from subscriptions of the members.

Our income, inclusive of the grant to the Gardens, has been, from all sources, £827 19s. 4d., which, with £187 10s. due from the Treasury for the last quarter of 1866, and other items specified in the Balance-sheet, will give a total of £1099 1s. 4d. The expenditure and outstanding liabilities amount to £1122 3s. 6d., leaving to our debit a balance of £23 2s. 2d.

It will be observed that a large amount is still due for subscriptions. Applications have already been made to all Members in arrear; but although in some cases the subscription has been promptly sent in, in a large majority it still remains unpaid, leaving the Society at the close of the year in debt when it should have had a considerable sum to its credit.

MUSEUM.

The collection of Minerals referred to in last year's Report has been received from Professor Tennant, and has been arranged by Mr. Gould. The Geological Room, although not yet completely arranged, has been opened to the public, and is available for the purposes of study if required.

About 170 varieties of shells have been added to the collection, for which we are indebted to Dr. Cox (Sydney), Mr. G. Masters (Sydney Museum), and Mr. Thatcher (Melbourne). We are also much indebted to Mr. Legrand for arranging and labelling these, and for having presented us with others from his own collection. The liberal contribution of 385 named specimens of Australian Insects from Mr. Masters is deserving of special notice and thanks. On the other hand specimens have been sent by us to the Museums of Hamburg, Sydney, and Melbourne.

The labelling of various objects in our collection has been proceeded with by the Curator (Mr. Roblin), who has also enriched it by several valuable osteological preparations.

We are still most anxious that Tasmania should be well and fully represented in our Museum; but although our country members have been urgently requested to contribute, and have been supplied with lists of objects required for this truly national purpose, we regret to say scarce any response during the past year has been made to our appeal.

The number of visitors during the year has been 6869.



STATEMENT of the Funds of the ROYAL SOCIETY for the Year 1866.

Receipts.		Expenditure.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance of Building Fund transferred to credit of Society, to close account ..	0 19 5	Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank, January, 1866 ..	24 5 0
Annual Contributions from 91 Members ..	136 10 0	Interest on Overdrawn Account, 1866 ..	9 13 6
Arrears of ditto ..	21 0 0	Printing and Advertising ..	85 18 6
Total Society, exclusive of Museum ..	157 10 0	Postage, Parcels, &c.	3 12 11
<i>Museum.</i>		Collector's Commission, 5 per cent. on £157 10s.	7 17 6
Grant in aid from Treasury (3 quarters only) ..	150 0 0	Furniture ..	2 16 1
Total Museum ..	150 0 0	Messenger, for delivery of Monthly Notices to Members ..	2 10 0
<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>		Library—Books and Stationery ..	26 15 3
Proceeds of Sale of Plants ..	106 19 11	Total Royal Society ..	129 10 3
Grant in aid from Treasury (3 quarters only) ..	412 10 0	<i>Museum.</i>	
Total Botanic Gardens ..	519 9 11	Salary of Curator ..	125 0 0
		Wages of Attendant ..	52 0 0
		Insurance ..	12 15 0
		Purchase of Specimens, Mounting, &c.	19 14 6
		Water Rate ..	2 10 0
		Fuel and Light ..	3 2 5
		Sundries ..	6 19 1
		Spirits of Wine, Camphor, &c.	4 7 0
		Freight and Carriage of Specimens ..	0 10 0
		Gas Fittings, Repairs, &c. ..	11 17 6
		Total Museum ..	238 15 6
		<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>	
		Salary of Superintendent ..	150 0 0
		Wages of Foreman, Laborers, &c.	428 18 0
		Tools and Repairs ..	24 0 5
		Freight and Carriage of Plants ..	3 19 0
		Stationery and postage stamps ..	2 0 3
		Forage ..	29 2 2
		Ironmongery ..	7 9 10
		Flower Pots ..	8 4 3
		Sundries ..	17 9 10
		Total Botanic Gardens ..	671 3 9
			£1073 8 0
Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank, 12th January, 1867 ..	245 8 8		
	£1073 8 0		

NOTE.

<i>Dr.</i>	
To overdrawn Balance at Bank ..	245 8 8
London Booksellers' account not received, estimated at ..	40 0 0
Meteorological Instruments £6 Ss., Printing £27s. 6d. ..	8 15 6
	294 4 2
<i>Cr.</i>	
By Grant in aid, Museum and Gardens (quarter due) ..	187 10 0
Cash in hands of Superintendent, Botanic Gardens ..	30 12 0
Ditto in hands of Collector ..	3 0 0
Arrears of Subscriptions (about) ..	50 0 0
	271 0 0
Balance to debit ..	£23 4 2

Audited and found correct,

HENRY COOK, Auditor.

22nd January, 1867.