

(No. 26.)



1882.

T A S M A N I A .

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA:

REPORT FOR 1881.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed
July 12, 1882.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1881.

THE session of 1881 was opened on April 12, with an inaugural address by His Excellency Sir J. H. Lefroy, K.C.M.G., C.B.; F.R.S., as President of the Society. This was followed by a paper read by Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., entitled "Notes showing that the estuary of the Derwent was occupied by a Freshwater Lake during the Tertiary period." The following papers were brought forward at the various subsequent meetings:—"Notes on two new Marine Shells (*Delphinula Johnstoni* and *Leda Lefroyi*)," dredged off Three Hut Point, D'Entrecasteaux Channel, by Lieut. C. E. Beddome, I.N.—"Suggestions for an extended elucidation of the Plants of Tasmania," by Baron F. Von Müller, K.C.M.G., M.D., F.R.S.—"Notes on a species of Eucalyptus (*E. hæmastoma*)," not hitherto recorded in the Flora of Tasmania, by T. Stephens, Esq., M.A., F.G.S.—"On Auriferous Country and Gold-bearing Rocks," by Charles E. Barnard, M.D., F.L.S.—"On Type Species of Tasmanian Shells unrecorded in 'Census of Tasmanian Shells,'" by Professor R. Tate, Assoc. Linn. Soc. F.G.S.—"Notes on a species of *Zieria* (*Z. veronica*)," by Augustus Simson, F.L.S.—"On the Queen's Domain, Hobart, with suggestions for its improvement," by E. J. Crouch, M.R.C.S., Eng.—"Remarks on the Abstracts of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Lighthouses and other Coast Stations in Tasmania during the years 1871, 1872, 1873, 1874, and 1875," by E. C. Nowell, Government Statistician.—"On the question of establishing a 'Botanical Class-Ground' in the Society's Gardens," by T. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S.—"On the Magnetic Variation at Hobart, and its change in amount since last determined," by His Excellency Sir J. H. Lefroy, K.C.M.G., C.B., F.R.S., President of the Society.—"On the Scamander Gold Field," by S. H. Wintle, F.L.S.—"Notes on *Leontopodium catipes*," by Baron F. Von Müller, K.C.M.G., M.D., F.R.S.

The Council have to record the loss sustained during the year by the death of Mr. Ronald Campbell Gunn, F.R.S., F.L.S., a distinguished botanist and man of science, and who had been associated with the earliest history of the Society; and also of Mr. John Gould, F.R.S., the eminent ornithologist, whose publications are of world-wide celebrity. One of the original Members of the Society, the late William Henty, deserves mention from his uniform support to the interests of horticulture and botany during his lengthened residence in Tasmania. The list would be incomplete without a reference to Dr. E. S. Hall, whose labours in the cause of sanitary science in conjunction with meteorology and vital statistics were so well known and highly appreciated both at home and abroad. Seventeen new Members were elected into the Society during the year, and there was but one resignation.

Meteorological Returns have, as usual, been received from the various Lighthouses, through the Marine Board; and Mr. W. E. Shoobridge has furnished the results of his observations taken at New Norfolk during the past year. An Abstract for the five years ending in 1880, of the Lighthouse Tables, is in the press. No observations have, as yet, been resumed at Hobart, but steps are in progress to effect this desirable object early in 1882. In connection with this subject, the Council has to acknowledge the presentation to the Society by the late President, Sir J. H. Lefroy, of ten Rain Gauges, for the purpose of instituting a systematic enquiry into the local distribution of rain in Tasmania,—an act of thoughtful kindness and liberality which well deserves acknowledgment.

The movement, initiated at an evening meeting of the Society, for the improvement of the Queen's Domain, has received the sanction of the Government, who have placed a sum of money at the disposal of the Committee which has been formed for the purpose of carrying out the work.

COUNCIL.

A vacancy in the Council has occurred during the year, occasioned by the retirement of Mr. Francis Abbott, F.R.A.S., which has been filled up by the re-election of the Right Rev. Bishop Bromby. The list of retiring Members has been posted in the Library for the last three days, agreeably to Rule 33.

FINANCE.

The income from all sources was as follows:—Government grant in aid to Museum, £200; ditto to Gardens, £600; annual subscriptions, £166; special donation from Sir J. H. Lefroy, £5; from Marine Board, £20; sale of plants, &c. at Gardens, £70 4s. 10d., giving a total of £1061 4s. 10d. The expenditure amounted to £1046 4s. 4d., thus leaving a balance to credit in the Commercial Bank of £15 0s. 6d. The outstanding liabilities will probably amount to not more than £20, against which must be placed £30 12s. in the hands of Mr. Abbott for weekly payment of wages at Gardens, and arrears of subscriptions estimated at £20.

GARDENS.

About 300 new plants have been added to the collection, many of which, when fully developed, will doubtless prove of an ornamental character. From Mons. J. Linden, of Ghent, was received a collection of Camellias and Azaleas, packed in an ordinary case, and sent in the hold of one of the Orient steamers. The plants arrived in excellent condition, the Camellias especially, not having lost a leaf. The experiment will prove of interest to persons introducing plants of this description. It may be worthy of note that the American Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*), introduced into the Gardens a few years ago, has increased sufficiently to fill a large tub, and is apparently thriving. This plant is valuable for cultivation on wet peat bogs, but suitable for little else. In Canada and the United States it is subjected to regular culture, and is a source of great profit. About ten thousand Norfolk Island Pines have been raised from seed received from Norfolk Island. This is worthy of record, as being the first batch raised from seed in the Colony. The plants will be valuable for effecting exchanges. In the propagating yards various alterations, necessitated by the decay of the old fencing, and additions have been made. A rough fern house has been erected, and also a large trellis-work shelter for pot plants. Progress is being made with the new plant labels. About 1000 have been prepared, and several hundreds of the names printed ready for mounting. This work will be pushed on as expeditiously as possible. Thanks are due to the Directors of the Royal Gardens, Kew, London; the Botanic Gardens, Adelaide and Melbourne; Baron Von. Müller the Chamber of Agriculture, Washington, U.S.A.; Messrs. Low of London; Verschaffelt, and Linden, of Ghent, Belgium, and others, for their valuable donations and exchanges during the year; also to the owners and captains of vessels, who have on many occasions gratuitously carried cases of plants, &c. for the Gardens. The Government has rendered its usual assistance, as far as was in its power, in the supply of labour necessary for the performance of the rougher garden operations. The approximate number of visitors to the Gardens during the year was 51,914.

MUSEUM.

As stated in the monthly reports of the meetings, many objects of interest have been added to the collection during the year. As deserving special notice may be mentioned a large number of mineral specimens received, through the Tasmanian Commissioners for the Melbourne Exhibition, from the Sandhurst School of Mines; a collection of named casts of fossils, &c. presented by Professor Ward, of Rochester, United States; a collection of bird skins from Singapore, the gift of His Excellency Sir F. A. Weld, K.C.M.G.; a collection of British birds' eggs, from Mr. W. R. Stephens; 2 carved masks, worn by the natives of New Ireland in their dances, from the Rev. George Brown; a specimen of that peculiar fish, the *Ceratodus Forsteri*, from the Burnett River, Queensland, from Mr. R. B. Sheridan, &c. The task of re-naming and cataloguing the collection of birds, comprising several hundred specimens, has been undertaken by Mr. E. D. Swan, who has made considerable progress with the work. The mounted specimens, also, are being thoroughly cleaned and re-arranged under Mr. Swan's supervision; and the best thanks of the Society are due to that gentleman for his unremitting attention to this important matter. A few specimens have been added to the conchological collection. Mr. Legrand has, as usual, attended to this part of the Museum, and has rendered assistance in various other ways during the year. The very limited amount of assistance available for Museum purposes renders it impossible to make much progress with the collection,—the services of a skilled Taxidermist and Articulator, for whom ample employment could be found, being greatly needed. Additional table cases are required for minerals and fossils; also book cases, or shelving, for the Library. The attendance of visitors to the Museum keeps up well, as will be seen by the following figures; viz.—On week-days, 9685; on Sundays, 5884,—making a total for the year of 15,569. It is only between the hours of half-past 2 and 5 in the afternoon of Sunday that the Museum is opened; and this arrangement, as will be seen by the number availing themselves of the opportunity, may be pronounced to be no longer an experiment, and to be fully justified by the quiet and orderly demeanour of the visitors.

J. BARNARD, *Hon. Secretary.*

STATEMENT of the MORTON ALLPORT Memorial Fund, 1881.

1881.	Dr.	£ s. d.	1881.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Jan. 1.	To balance as per Statement for 1880...	11 0 0	Feb. 1.	By Pass Book.....	0 0 6
31.	Interest	0 3 3	Dec. 31.	Balance to credit of Fund	21 10 9
Feb. 28.	Interest	0 0 10			
May 9.	Cash from A. G. Webster, Esq.	10 0 0			
Aug. 31.	Interest	0 7 2			
		<u>£21 11 3</u>			<u>£21 11 3</u>

Examined and found correct.

FRANCIS BUTLER.
JOHN MACFARLANE.

26th January, 1882.