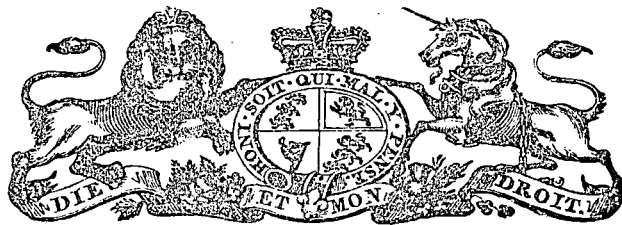


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1873.

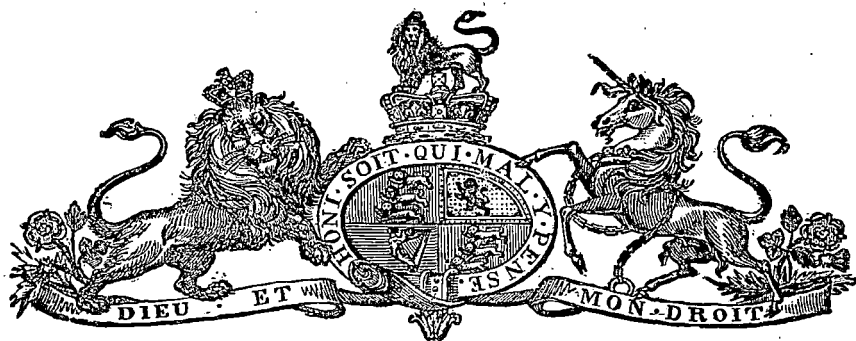
TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA.

REPORT FOR 1872.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Scott, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
June 17, 1873.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1872.

THE Session of 1872 was opened on the 12th March with a Paper by F. Abbott, F.R.A.S., F.R.M.S., entitled "Notes on the results of Five Years' Meteorological Observations made at Hobart Town;" and the following papers were read at the various subsequent monthly meetings, which were held without intermission:—"Climate and Vital Statistics of Tasmania," by Dr. E. Swarbreck Hall;" "Tasmanian Pisciculture," by Judge Francis; "Political Economy," by E. C. Nowell; "Observations on changes which have taken place in the Nebula surrounding the Star η Argus," by F. Abbott, F.R.A.S., &c.; "On the existence of large animals, probably Seals, in the upland Lakes of Tasmania," by C. Gould, F.G.S.; "Account of an exploratory Tour from Port Esperance to Adamson's Peak, and discovery of a supposed new species of Tree Fern," by J. R. Scott, M.H.A.; "Irregularity in the growth of the Salmon," by M. Allport, F.L.S., F.Z.S.; "Technology of a Beet Sugar Factory," by J. Barnard.

In addition to the above papers the following subjects have been under discussion:—"Mineralogical specimens from the neighbourhood of Oyster Cove (with correspondence)," "Development of Foetal Marsupial," "Mineralogical specimens (Porphyries) from near Black Bluff Mountain, Middlesex Plains," "Manufacture of Iron from Tasmanian Ore," "A Tree Fern lately discovered on the North Coast of Tasmania," "Artificial hatching of Trout Ova," "The economic growth of Angora Wool," "The growth of Sugar Beet in the Colony," &c., &c.

The Meteorological Observations have been carried on as hitherto at the various stations; and abstracts of the results of five years' registers for Hobart Town have been incorporated with the 25 years' abstract already published, affording, in a condensed form, a meteorological record extending over thirty consecutive years. These latter have, by the permission of Government, been printed at the Government Printing Office, and copies have been forwarded to various Governments, Institutes, Hospitals, Libraries, and individuals of scientific repute throughout the world.

The Society is much indebted to Dr. E. Swarbreck Hall for his very elaborate and valuable paper on "The Climate and Vital Statistics of Tasmania," which is printed with the Meteorological Abstract.

We have, as usual, received many valuable donations of books from learned Societies. In this respect America has been, so far, our largest contributor that the Council, in recognition of such liberality, have determined to set apart a special case in the Library for the exhibition of books from that country.

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.

The total income from all sources was as follows:—Government Grant to Museum, £200; ditto to the Gardens, £400; subscription, £123; from Marine Board, £20; deducted from salary of Curator on account of repairs to his residence, £10; sale of Plants, &c. at Gardens, £66 4s.; special donation to Garden Funds, £1. This with £30 12s. in the hands of the Superintendent of the Gardens for payment of wages, £30, which will certainly be realised from the amount of subscriptions in arrear, and £6 in the hands of the Collector, will give a total of £886 16s. The expenditure and liabilities as per balance sheet amount to £901 17s. 6d., leaving a balance to debit of £15 1s. 6d.

It is much to be regretted that some of the Members are dilatory in paying their subscriptions. Reminders have been regularly sent when payments were due; and, had these in all cases been responded to, we should at present have been quite clear of debt.

GARDENS.

The portion of the sea wall referred to in last year's Report has been completed, and a continuation of it is now in process of construction.

During the year the line of the Main Railway has been laid out through the lower part of the gardens, and it is probable the work will be carried out to completion without delay. It is not anticipated, however, that any inconvenience will accrue from the work, as the contractors are most desirous of meeting the views of the Society in taking such measures and adopting such precautions as will ensure the safety of visitors.

Very little progress has been made with the new entrance, but this work will be resumed forthwith.

The expenses for the gardens have, to the detriment of the funds of the Society, exceeded the income by about £13. This unusual outlay has been incurred in part by repairing damages done by the floods, and partly by laying on water. The latter work has long been a great desideratum for the comfort of visitors, and will also be to some extent reproductive.

New plants, in greater variety than usual, have been introduced, many being of considerable interest. To Dr. J. D. Hooker, of the Royal Gardens, Kew, we are indebted for a very liberal donation (about 600 packets) of seeds, many of which have not hitherto been under cultivation here.

The number of visitors has been estimated at 24,666.

MUSEUM.

As will be seen by the list of presentations, many objects of interest have been added to the collection. The majority of these have been placed in their appropriate sections, some (chiefly skeletons) are in course of preparation, and others (shells, specimens in spirits, &c.) have been placed in store until proper cases, glass jars, &c., can be procured for their reception and display.

Among the donations to the Museum worthy of special note may be mentioned two complete skeletons of the Dugong (*Halicore dugong*) presented, and very liberally forwarded to Hobart Town free of all charge, by Captain H. O'Reilly, of Brisbane, Queensland.

To H. S. Lewes, Esq., of Geelong, the Society is also indebted for a fine collection of weapons of the Australian Aborigines, procured in various parts of Victoria and New South Wales, especially for this Museum.

R. Gatenby, Esq., of Macquarie River, has presented (and forwarded free of cost) several specimens of our Mammals, Reptiles, &c. Many of these have been added to our collection, and others, as a means of effecting exchanges with other Museums, have been of special value. The Native Tigers (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) have been particularly useful in this respect, special requests for this animal having been received from Adelaide, and Christchurch, New Zealand.

Correspondence with Dr. Haast, of Christchurch, New Zealand, has been entered into for the purpose of enlisting his interest for our acquisition of some perfect skeletons of the Moa.

Specimens of iron ore from various parts of the Colony have been received, and have excited much attention.

The number of Visitors to the Museum was 14,956, being an increase of nearly 4000 on that of any previous year.

