

(No. 14.)



1864.

T A S M A N I A.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA.

REPORT, 1863.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 29 June, 1864.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of Tasmania for the Year 1863.

THE Council of the Royal Society have again the pleasure of laying before the Fellows their usual Annual Report. During the past year the meetings have been held without intermission, and papers on a great variety of subjects have been read and discussed. Many of these have been of a strictly practical character, the aim of their authors having been to indicate some new and profitable industry by the development of which material benefit might accrue to the community; whilst others of a more scientific character have gained the favourable notice of learned societies at home. Early in the session, arrangements were made for printing our Papers and Proceedings in a form which allows of their economical transmission by post, and on terms which are found not to press too heavily on the finances of the Society. By these means, and by the publication of our monthly discussions in the local press, a wide publicity is given as to our natural productions and capabilities; and this is still further extended by extracts from these reports which occasionally appear in the journals of the neighbouring colonies.

In the beginning of the year a Physical Section was formed for the purpose of investigating and discussing in detail matters of scientific interest, and of bringing the results under the notice of the General Meetings. This section has met regularly since its formation.

As we shall persevere in our efforts to promote the best interests, not only of the Royal Society, but of the public at large, we are emboldened to hope for a still greater accession of new members than we have had during the past year. Circumstances of various kinds are always in action to diminish the numbers of any society: we can prove no exception to the rule; and a longer roll of Fellows will alone enable us (by yielding the necessary funds) to give practical effect to many desirable objects, which, although lying strictly within the sphere of the Society's action, would be of very general benefit. We may instance, as an example, the importance of acquiring for exhibition a complete series of our Coals, Marbles, Freestones, Granites, Woods, &c., with full information attached as to their qualities, cost of production, &c. &c.

FINANCE.

At the close of 1862, our debt, with estimated liabilities, was shown to be about £132. It was then calculated that this would not only be extinguished, but that we should have a balance to our credit at the end of 1863. And our anticipations would have been fully realised had it not been for two circumstances,—the withdrawal by Government of £50 of our Annual Grant, and our unexpected liability for Municipal rates and taxes. From the latter, we are happy to say, we have lately been freed by an Act of the Legislature, but not until we had paid £23 8s. 9d. for the first three quarters of the year. The annual subscriptions have yielded £163 10s., which, although a larger amount than was received in 1861, is less by £12 than the receipts of 1862. The total income for the year was £999 13s. 8d.; the expenditure was £889 1s. 3d.; and our total debt (inclusive of all liabilities) is now reduced to about £33.

We regret to be obliged to reiterate the complaint to which we gave expression last year as to the tardiness which some Fellows still exhibit in paying their subscriptions. Had all, which we think we may fairly calculate upon, been realised, we should ere now have been free from every encumbrance, and able in consequence to devote a large portion of our funds to the effectual carrying out of those objects for which the Society was instituted.

GARDENS.

To the Fellows resident in Hobart Town or its vicinity it is needless to make any remarks as to the perfect order in which the Society's Gardens are kept. The public too, who are freely admitted, show

their appreciation of their beauty by the numbers in which they resort to them, 20,488 visitors having been admitted during the year. Mr. Abbott reports the acquisition of many very valuable fruit and ornamental trees: among the former may be specified,—the Boston Russet, the Hambleton Deux Ans, and the Northern Greening Apples, the Biggareau Napoleon Cherry, and the Lady Downs Seedling Grape; among the latter, the scarlet-flowered Horse Chestnut (*Æsculus carnea*), the *Juniperus sabina*, &c.

As no charge is made by the Captains or Owners of vessels for freight on the cases of plants shipped to and from the Gardens, the thanks of the Society are due to those gentlemen who have thus so kindly and liberally assisted us.

THE COUNCIL.

Two vacancies have occurred in the Council,—one we much regret to say by the departure from the Colony of E. S. P. Bedford, Esq., who from the first formation of the Society has been its warm and steady supporter; the other by the departure also of J. J. Stutzer, Esq., several of whose valued contributions appear in our transactions, and who, we are happy to say, promises still to favour us with periodic contributions to our Monthly Meetings.

These vacancies have been filled up by the election of T. Stephens, Esq., and J. Barnard, Esq., the latter of whom for a long period previous to his late absence from the Colony held a seat in the Council. Four Members now retire by rotation, but are eligible for re-election. Agreeably to Rule XXXII. the required list from which Six Members are to be elected by ballot has been exhibited in the Library for the past fortnight.

MUSEUM.

It will be observed that progress is being made in fitting up the Museum. The Library is quite finished, and the books are all arranged in due order.

The room of Geology is completely fitted up with extensive cases, which are gradually being furnished with valuable and properly classified specimens.

Fittings to the value of £334 1s. 5d have been put up in the large lower room, where Mr. Roblin has already systematically arranged our collection of Birds. The Tasmanian series, though not quite perfect, is very creditable.

In the Report for 1862 the effort made to recruit the Building Fund by the establishment of an Art Treasures Exhibition was noticed. We are happy to say that the Exhibition was a decided success, and was highly appreciated by the public. The total Receipts were £229 13s.; expenses connected with it amounted to £149 7s. 3d., leaving in our favour £80 5s. 9d. Great credit is due to Capt. Chesney, R.E., M. Allport, Esq., H. Hunter, Esq., and W. Pitt, Esq., for the very effective manner in which all the arrangements connected with the Exhibition were carried out.

The Building Fund, however, although managed with the strictest attention to economy, long since became exhausted; and the Council determined to apply to the Government for permission to expend the balance of the Crystal Palace Fund, amounting to £300 11s. 6d., which had long lain to the credit of the Society in the Bank of Van Diemen's Land, in completing the internal fittings of the Museum.

This application has been acceded to, and the Council will thus be enabled speedily to arrange and exhibit to public view the numerous and valuable objects of Natural History in the possession of the Society.

The Council deem this a fitting opportunity to express their sense of the credit due to those gentlemen, who, by their generous contributions, have entitled themselves to be regarded as the Founders of the Institution,—to the Government and Parliament of the Colony, by whom the amount raised by private subscription was liberally supplemented; and in a special manner to their late Secretary, Dr. Milligan, to whose zeal and personal exertions a large portion of the success of the undertaking is to be ascribed.

The Council desire further to record their obligation to Dr. Milligan for the warm interest which, although absent from the Colony, he continues to take in the well-being of the Society, of which, during the past year, he has given practical proof in the gift of valuable books and geological specimens.

The thanks of the Council are due to W. Archer, Esq., of Cheshunt, for the valuable assistance which his scientific attainments and personal acquaintance with similar Institutions in England enabled him to give in the general construction and arrangements of the Museum. Of the skill and taste displayed by our Architect, Mr. Hunter, the Building itself affords ample and satisfactory evidence.

STATEMENT of the FUNDS of the ROYAL SOCIETY for the Year 1863.

Receipts.		Payments.	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Annual Contributions from 96 Members	144 0 0	Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank, Jan. 1863..	— 104 3 4
Arrears.....	19 10 0	Interest on overdrawn account.	— 1 16 9
Total Royal Society, exclusive of Museum	163 10 0	Assistant Secretary's Salary...	100 0 0
<i>Museum—</i>		Printing and Advertising	35 17 6
Annual Grant from Treasury	200 0 0	Postage, carriage of Parcels, &c.	1 16 8
Total Museum	200 0 0	Collector's Commission, 5 per cent. on £162.....	8 2 0
<i>Botanic Gardens—</i>		Furniture	3 5 0
Proceeds of Sale of Plants, &c.	86 3 8	Instruments for Meteorological Observations	2 12 6
Annual Grant from Treasury	550 0 0	<i>Library—</i>	
Total Botanic Gardens	636 3 8	Books, Stationery, &c.....	6 5 5
		Total Royal Society..	157 19 1
		<i>Museum—</i>	
		Insurance.....	12 15 0
		Municipal Rates	24 1 3
		Wages of Attendant.....	52 0 0
		Sundries	8 4 0
		Fuel	2 16 0
		Light.....	1 0 10
		Total Museum	100 17 1
		<i>Botanic Gardens—</i>	
		Superintendent's Salary	150 0 0
		Wages of Foreman, Labourers, &c.	397 19 0
		Ditto, ditto, 1 Month in advance	30 12 0
		Tools, &c.	13 9 11
		Freight and carriage of Plants	2 8 0
		Stationery	0 10 4
		Forage.....	5 7 3
		Cartage of Fuel, Water, &c..	15 1 3
		Sundries	25 12 7
		Purchase of Horse.....	18 0 0
		Total Botanic Gardens	659 0 4
Balance overdrawn at Commercial Bank, Jan. 1864..	— 24 2 11		— 1023 16 7
	£1023 16 7		£1023 16 7
<i>Dr.</i>			
NOTE.—To overdrawn Balance at Bank	24 2 11		
London Bookseller's Account (not received) say.....	40 0 0		
	64 2 11		
<i>Cr.</i>			
By Wages of Labourers advanced to the Superintendent Botanic Gardens	30 12 0		
Total Amount of Liability, Jan. 1864.....	£33 10 11		
	£33 10 11		
		Examined and found correct,	
		A. KISSOCK, } <i>Auditors.</i>	
		HENRY COOK, }	
		28th January, 1864.	

ROYAL Society of Tasmania,—Statement of CRYSTAL PALACE FUND for 1863.

<i>Dr.</i>		<i>Cr.</i>	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
1863.		1863.	
Jan. 1. To balance as per Statement for 1862	300 11 6	Nov. 10. By Cheque, Colonial Treasurer ..	300 11 6
	300 11 6		300 11 6
		Examined and found correct,	
		A. KISSOCK, } <i>Auditors.</i>	
		HENRY COOK, }	
		28th January, 1864.	

NEW MUSEUM BUILDING FUND *in account with the Treasurer.*

Dr.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	Cr.		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1863.								1863.							
Jan. 1.	To Balance at Banker's.....	—			360	9	6	Jan. 27.	J. Kelly, repairs to old Museum.....	9	3	9			
April 16.	Amount realised by Art Treasures Exhibition, held in aid of Fund.....	80	5	9				Feb. 10.	Seabrook & Sons, balance of account, Fencing, &c.	156	2	1			
June 8.	Subscription from Justin Browne, Esq.	1	1	0				May 12.	G. Whitcomb, additional Repairs, old Museum	5	7	6			
Dec. 9.	Amount of balance of Crystal Palace Fund, transferred to credit of Building Fund	300	11	6				May 12.	Labourer removing Cases	0	4	6			
					381	18	3	May 12.	Seabrook & Sons, Cases, &c.	148	9	8			
								May 12.	Gas Company, Fittings, &c.	65	5	10			
								June 9.	J. Kelly, erection of Outbuildings	15	10	0			
								July 14.	Seabrook & Sons, Shelves	0	15	10			
								July 14.	J. Kelly, repairs to Glass Cases	1	17	3			
								Aug. 11.	J. Kelly, on account of Contract for Shelves	12	0	0			
								Sept. 8.	J. Kelly, balance of account for ditto..	14	16	7			
								Nov. 19.	J. Kelly, fitting up Geological Museum	22	19	1			
								Dec. 8.	J. Kelly, repairs to Glass Cases, &c...	1	12	6			
								Dec. 31.	Marsh & Co., Ironmongery, &c.	3	19	11			
													458	4	6
								May 12.	Hunter, balance of Architect's Commission	26	12	3			
								Dec. 8.	Allport, Roberts, & Allport, Law Charges	1	11	6			
									Balance....	—			28	3	9
													255	19	6
													£742	7	9
1864.															
Jan. 7.	To balance at Banker's.....				£255	19	6								

Examined and found correct,

A. KISSOCK, }
HENRY COOK, } *Auditors.*

28th January, 1864.