

(No. 9.)



1882.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

ADMINISTRATOR OF CHARITABLE GRANTS :

REPORT FOR 1881.

Laid upon the Table by the Attorney-General, and ordered by the House to be printed, July 12, 1882.



OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

REPORT for 1881.

Charitable Grants Office, 8th May, 1882.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, as requested in your letter of the 14th of February last; to submit the following Report for the year 1881.

A Return is attached, in which are set forth the sums disbursed monthly for Out-door Relief in the town of Launceston and the several Municipal and Police Districts, and the total expenditure for the year, amounting to £3542 9s. 9d., a decrease of £241 7s. 7d. as compared with 1880, and 1414 7s. 10d. less than was required in the year 1879.

As full particulars of the grounds upon which each payment was authorised, and the circumstances connected therewith, appeared in the abstract submitted weekly for your approval, I presume it will not be necessary for me on the present occasion to undertake the laborious task of recapitulation.

Applications for assistance were, without exception, carefully inquired into, and none were complied with until evidence was forthcoming of the existence of such poverty and distress as appeared to demand attention at the hands of the Government.

In the cases of paupers whose names were already on the list of recipients, and on behalf of whom a continuance of aid was solicited, further payments were not sanctioned unless it was clearly established that their necessities were such as to call for an extension of the period for which relief was originally granted.

Many of the applicants were very old, infirm, and helpless, some of them aged couples, who had struggled on together for years with little or nothing to depend upon but the bounty of the Government and the charity of their neighbours; not a few were widows, friendless and in indigent circumstances, with large families of young children to provide for; and others were husbands and fathers who, stricken by disease or disabled by accident, had been rendered incapable of providing for the wants of those dependent upon them.

Notwithstanding the care taken, there may have been cases in which imposition was practised; but the representations made by officials who had the very best means of knowing, and who had frequently, and I have every reason to believe minutely, investigated the circumstances of the recipients, were of such a nature as to leave little room for doubt that a disregard of those representations, and a refusal of the assistance asked for, would be a denial of much-needed help to the sick and distressed, and a withholding from aged and destitute people of the means of procuring the actual necessities of life.

In every instance enquiries were instituted with a view to its being ascertained if applicants had any relatives in the Colony in a position to assist them, and whenever any such persons were discovered they were immediately called upon to fulfil their obligations and contribute to the wants of those who had a claim upon them.

In the city and suburbs the sum expended for Out-door Relief amounted to £1633 9s. 11d., of which £835 18s. 6d. was the cost of provisions issued, and £795 11s. 5d. was paid in cash. That expenditure having been authorised by the Executive Committee of the Benevolent Society (under whose immediate supervision the poor residing in Hobart, New Town, and Sandy Bay were), it does not come within my province, neither am I in a position to supply any further information on the subject.

Of the vote £6500 for the "Maintenance, &c. of Paupers not otherwise provided for," and to which the above-named sums of £3542 9s. 9d. and £1633 9s. 11d. have been charged, there has also been expended £696 5s. for medical attendance, medicines, and miscellaneous items incidental to pauperism, making a total of £5872 4s. 8d. Deducting therefrom the sum of £45 1s. 1d. received from relatives, &c. during the year as repayments on account of Out-door Relief, the actual expenditure under the vote was £5827 3s. 7d.

The sum provided for the "Transport and Funeral Expenses of Paupers,"—viz., £600,—has also proved more than sufficient, £554 8s. only having been required for the service of the year.

Other demands, however, may yet be made upon both those votes, and to afford a reasonable time for them to be sent in I have delayed this Report; but I do not anticipate that the surplus of £672 16s. 5d. for maintenance, &c. will be materially lessened thereby, or that the outstanding claims upon the votes for Transport and Funeral Expenses will absorb the unexpended balance of £45 12s.

Included in the expenditure for transport is the sum of about £80, the cost of the conveyance of 104 paupers—92 males and 12 females—from the north, who could not be received into the Invalid Dépôt at Launceston, and had therefore to be sent down to the New Town Charitable Institution. Of that number 38 came from Launceston, 12 from Deloraine, 4 from Longford, 2 from Evandale, 1 from Torquay, and 47 from Campbell Town.

Owing to the inadequate dépôt accommodation in Launceston, similar arrangements have had to be made for some years past; and as the annual introduction into the capital of a large number of paupers from all parts of the Colony is for many reasons undesirable, besides being at times a great hardship upon the invalids themselves, and the cause of much embarrassment and inconvenience to all concerned in their removal, the erection of the contemplated buildings in Launceston may be regarded as a work of pressing importance. The facilities which would then be afforded for housing the poor on both sides of the Island would avert many existing difficulties, and be of material assistance in keeping down the expenditure for Out-door Relief. Under present circumstances I have found it necessary to grant aid in that form to paupers who would have been much better off in a charitable institution, but who were physically incapable of undertaking the journey to New Town.

The disinclination to enter the Invalid Dépôts still exists; and although it may, to some extent, be attributed to a dislike to the confinement and discipline necessary to their proper and efficient management, I believe respectable persons, who have been reduced to poverty, frequently decline to avail themselves of these institutions in consequence of the necessity they would be under of mixing and associating indiscriminately with the other inmates; and when the antecedents, character, and habits of a very large number of the men and women generally to be found therein are borne in mind, it is, I think, hardly to be wondered at that people who have led honest and industrious lives should, when overtaken by adversity, shrink from such uncongenial companionship, and prefer to rely upon their own exertions to obtain food and shelter, such as it is, aided by the trifle granted to them in the shape of Out-door Relief.

The adoption, where practicable, of some system of classification, whilst it would not necessarily involve any relaxation of the rules and regulations, or interference with the ordinary routine of the Dépôts, would do much towards removing the prejudice that now prevents many who really need it from seeking admission, and be a great boon to others whose destitute condition leaves them no alternative.

Appended is a Return of the daily average number of inmates of the several Invalid Dépôts during the years 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, and 1881.

In connection therewith, I beg to ask your attention to the following statements in my Report for the first six months of the year 1880, dated 30th July* :—"Although so large a saving has been effected in the expenditure for Out-door Relief, the number of inmates of the Charitable Institutions has not been increased, &c." "The Colony, therefore, whilst benefiting by a diminution in the outlay on account of Out-door Relief, has not been saddled with additional expense in providing for the maintenance in Charitable Institutions of persons from whom that relief has been withdrawn."

As the information given in the Return shows that simultaneously with the decrease in the cost of the maintenance of paupers outside in the year 1880, there was a reduction of 54 in the number supported in the Invalid Dépôts, reasonable grounds are afforded for the assertion that advantage was not taken of the Charitable Institutions to bring about a saving in the expenditure for Out-door Relief.

Although in 1881 there were 33 paupers admitted to the Dépôts in excess of 1880, there still remained 21 less than were provided for in 1879; and if that number, small though it be, is considered in conjunction with the decreased expenditure under the other heads referred to in this Report, it will be seen that some measure of success has attended the efforts made to check the spread of pauperism throughout the Colony.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. O'BOYLE,

Administrator Charitable Grants.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

* Ordered to be printed by the Legislative Council and House of Assembly on 26th August following.—Papers No. 56 and 77 respectively.

RETURN of Expenditure for Out-door Relief in the Town of Launceston and the several Municipal and Police Districts during the Year 1881.

DISTRICT.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	TOTAL.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bothwell	4 6 1	7 8 9	5 17 6	4 11 11	4 15 3	4 12 2	4 15 3	4 15 3	3 10 9	3 13 1	3 10 9	3 17 1	55 13 10
Brighton	5 15 3	4 8 0	6 11 3	8 4 11	5 15 4	5 0 11	7 19 4	7 1 11	6 10 11	6 6 5	6 2 4	6 6 5	76 3 0
Campbell Town.....	6 10 0	6 11 4	6 4 0	5 19 11	7 6 1	6 6 5	7 1 5	7 1 10	5 15 8	7 10 4	7 18 6	8 4 0	82 9 0
Clarence	4 15 2	3 6 0	3 13 0	3 10 7	3 1 11	3 4 11	3 1 11	3 1 11	2 19 11	3 10 9	2 15 8	2 17 6	39 19 3
Deloraine	14 6 8	13 5 11	14 0 1	15 11 0	16 5 7	17 5 7	16 10 2	18 10 11	18 2 5	19 11 2	16 11 6	15 8 0	195 9 0
Evandale	5 18 9	5 0 0	5 10 9	4 14 3	4 17 6	4 14 3	4 2 0	4 2 0	3 19 3	4 2 0	3 19 3	4 2 0	55 2 0
Fingal	5 14 6	4 16 0	5 6 4	5 2 11	5 6 2	5 7 2	5 10 9	5 10 9	5 7 2	7 1 9	6 2 2	4 11 5	65 17 1
Franklin	15 6 1	11 9 3	14 16 10	14 7 3	14 15 9	13 7 11	13 16 11	13 16 11	14 9 6	13 17 3	13 18 8	13 5 10	167 8 2
George Town.....	3 10 9	3 4 0	3 10 9	3 8 4	3 10 9	3 8 4	3 10 9	3 10 9	3 8 4	3 10 9	3 8 4	3 10 10	41 12 8
Glamorgan	4 17 5	4 6 0	4 15 1	4 12 1	4 15 1	4 18 6	5 1 9	5 1 9	4 18 6	5 1 9	4 18 6	5 1 9	58 8 2
Glenorchy	10 3 2	8 2 0	8 19 6	8 13 7	8 8 5	7 12 1	7 17 4	7 12 2	7 16 5	6 4 1	4 18 7	5 1 11	91 9 3
Gordon	0 15 6	0 14 0	0 15 6	0 15 0	1 6 7	1 5 9	2 2 1	1 9 6	0 15 0	0 15 6	0 15 0	0 15 6	12 4 11
Green Ponds.....	20 5 1	17 0 0	19 16 10	19 6 0	20 15 0	19 10 3	20 3 5	20 3 5	18 16 3	18 2 2	19 9 10	18 4 5	231 12 8
Hamilton	3 12 10	3 12 10	2 15 5	2 13 9	3 4 0	3 16 6	3 10 10	2 17 7	2 5 1	2 6 6	2 5 1	2 6 6	35 6 11
Kingston	10 1 4	8 18 0	9 17 1	9 10 10	9 17 1	9 10 10	8 17 2	8 6 1	8 0 10	8 19 4	8 13 8	8 19 4	109 11 7
Launceston	41 3 8	39 2 3	42 10 5	41 2 2	42 12 9	40 18 7	43 0 6	44 3 2	43 7 11	47 14 10	44 17 4	45 19 11	516 13 6
Longford.....	27 5 3	24 4 0	26 14 2	26 0 8	26 13 11	26 5 0	27 8 6	26 14 0	24 17 0	25 18 9	25 17 0	26 7 0	314 5 3
New Norfolk	9 19 5	8 16 0	9 6 2	9 0 1	9 6 2	9 1 0	8 10 8	8 10 8	8 19 7	8 1 9	7 16 6	8 1 9	105 9 9
Macquarie Plains	4 9 6	4 9 6	4 10 10	4 7 10	4 10 10	4 7 10	4 10 10	4 10 10	4 7 10	4 10 10	4 7 10	4 10 10	53 15 4
Oatlands.....	22 16 3	23 12 0	13 3 8	12 15 1	14 5 10	14 17 11	14 16 11	13 14 9	12 15 0	13 3 8	11 13 7	12 1 6	179 16 2
Richmond	7 0 7	5 16 0	6 8 4	6 4 2	6 8 4	6 4 2	6 0 6	5 19 5	6 17 0	5 13 5	5 15 7	5 19 5	74 6 11
Ross.....	1 19 10	1 16 0	1 19 10	1 18 7	1 19 10	1 18 7	1 19 10	1 19 10	1 18 7	1 19 10	2 12 1	3 2 0	25 4 10
Russell	1 17 7	1 14 0	1 17 8	1 16 5	1 17 8	1 16 5	1 17 8	1 17 8	1 16 5	1 17 8	1 16 5	1 17 8	22 3 3
Sorell	24 5 1	21 13 0	23 14 0	19 12 3	21 7 6	19 7 9	20 16 1	22 7 1	22 10 1	22 4 9	21 6 7	21 12 2	260 16 4
Spring Bay.....	4 9 10	3 14 0	4 1 11	3 19 3	4 1 11	3 19 3	4 1 11	4 1 11	3 19 3	4 1 11	3 19 3	4 4 2	48 14 7
Torquay	19 17 1	15 2 0	15 19 1	15 6 5	15 16 10	14 11 5	16 3 6	17 5 8	17 15 8	17 16 9	17 0 8	18 2 1	200 17 2
Westbury	21 5 6	20 18 0	23 3 2	22 5 9	21 18 9	21 19 4	22 14 3	24 3 0	24 6 6	24 11 11	23 15 9	25 5 10	276 7 9
Wynyard	7 11 8	7 14 10	7 17 3	7 12 2	8 19 5	8 0 0	7 17 3	7 17 3	10 10 0	10 17 0	10 10 0	10 1 6	105 8 4
Portland.....	1 8 9	1 16 0	1 19 10	1 17 10	1 8 9	1 7 10	0 13 3	0 13 3	0 12 10	0 13 3	0 12 10	0 13 3	13 17 8
Mr. Quodling.....	1 19 3	1 8 0	1 11 0	1 10 0	1 11 0	1 10 0	1 10 9	1 11 0	1 10 0	1 11 0	1 10 0	1 11 0	18 13 0
Ulverstone.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0 10 9	1 1 5	1 2 2	1 1 5	1 2 2	4 17 11
Beaconsfield.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1 3 0	1 11 0	2 14 0
	313 7 10	283 17 8	297 7 3	286 11 0	296 19 0	286 7 8	296 3 6	299 3 0	294 1 1	302 12 4	291 3 8	294 15 9	3542 9 9

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J. O'BOYLE, Administrator Charitable Grants.

8th May, 1882.

RETURN of the Daily Average Number of Inmates of the several Invalid Depôts during the Years 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, and 1881.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Brickfields.</i>	<i>Cascade.</i>	<i>New Town.</i>	<i>Launceston.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>
1877	264	273	146	125	808
1878	268	312	145	124	849
1879	222	..	550	125	897
1880	134	..	569	140	843
1881	119	..	611	146	876

J. O'BOYLE, *Administrator Charitable Grants.*

8th May, 1882.