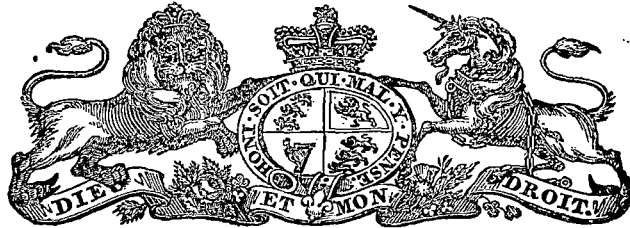


(No. 28)



1876.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA.

REPORT FOR 1875.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 12, 1876.



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA for the Year 1875.

THE Session of 1875 opened on the 9th March with a paper by the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods, F.L.S., F.G.S., F.R.G.S., &c., "On some Tertiary Fossils from Table Cape."

The following papers were brought forward at the various subsequent meetings:—"On some new Species of Tasmanian Marine Shells," by the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods, F.G.S., &c.; "On the Fossil Genus *Fenestella*," by the same; "On the Frilled Lizard (*Chlamydosaurus Kingii*) of Queensland," by Dr. G. Bennett, F.Z.S., F.L.S.; "On the beautiful Sponge from the Philippine Islands known as Venus's Flowerbasket (*Euplectella aspergillum*)," by the same. "Further Notes on the Salmon Experiment," by M. Allport, F.L.S., F.Z.S.; "On the Freshwater Shells of Tasmania," by the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods, F.Z.S., &c.; "Account of a Visit to Port Davey," by the Hon. J. R. Scott, M.L.C.; "On the Vital Statistics of Tasmania," by E. C. Nowell, Esq., Government Statistician. "On the Queensland Grasses," by F. M. Bailey, Esq., Corresponding Member of the Society. "On some new and hitherto undescribed Shells of Tasmania," by the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods, F.G.S., &c. "A Census of the Plants of Tasmania," by Baron F. von Mueller, C.M.G., M.D., F.R.S., &c.

The names of the authors of the above papers are sufficient guarantee for their value. Most of the papers have already been published, others will appear immediately; and it may safely be said that at no former period of the Society have papers of higher value and interest ever appeared in our Proceedings. The special thanks of the Society are due to the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods for the vast trouble he has taken in describing and classifying various collections of our shells; and as this description could not have been well accomplished without the invaluable assistance of Mr. Legrand, (see Mr. Woods' remarks at the November meeting) our cordial thanks are justly due to that gentleman also.

Our old and highly esteemed correspondent, the Baron Ferd. von Mueller has laid the Society under the deepest obligation by his learned and elaborate "Census of the Plants of Tasmania," a work which will be invaluable for all time as a standard of reference. The best thanks of the Society are also due to Dr. G. Bennett, of Sydney, for his valuable contributions, both to our publications and Museum; and we are greatly indebted to Mr. F. M. Bailey, of Queensland, for his paper on the grasses of that colony, and for his presentation (noticed elsewhere) to the Museum.

In addition to the papers above referred to, communications on the following subjects have been read and brought under discussion during the session; viz. "On the occurrence of the 'Reed Warbler,' (*Calamoherpe Australis*) in Tasmania," from E. D. Swan, Esq. "On the desirability of steps being taken to prevent the destruction of the Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) in the Colony," from A. K. Chapman, Esq. "On the improvement of the Domain," from J. Sayce, Esq.; and on the same subject, from the Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens. "On the locality whence the Tasmanian Aborigines obtained the stone from which their cutting implements were formed," from J. Scott, Esq., M.H.A., &c.

The monthly meetings have been very well attended, and the chair has, on several occasions, been occupied by His Excellency the President.

As will be noticed in the printed list, donations of books to the library have been numerous. Among other donors may be mentioned Sir Robert Officer, the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods, the

Secretary of State for India, the Malacological and Entomological Societies of Belgium; the Department of Agriculture, United States; Dr. G. Bennett, of Sydney; the Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India; the Trustees of the British Museum; the Royal Academy of Sciences, Munich; Baron F. von Mueller; the Royal University of Norway; His Highness Maharajah of Travancore; the Director Meteorological Office, Calcutta; the Director Meteorological Office, Canada; Hon. J. Whyte, Esq., M.L.C.; Dr. J. Hector, of New Zealand; Captain F. W. Hutton, &c.

Mr. F. Abbott and Mr. W. E. Shoobridge have carried on the meteorological observations with their usual zeal and accuracy, and the superintendents of the various lighthouses have forwarded their returns as heretofore. The Hobart Town table for December completes a series of observations extending over five years, and when this is added to the published abstract for 30 years we shall have an uninterrupted record extending over 35 years. Certain changes in the meteorological observations are now being made in order to assimilate them more closely to those of Europe, America, &c. Forms for these have been executed at the Government Printing Office.

As usual our thanks for the conveyance of parcels, &c., free of cost, are due to the Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company and to several of our merchants. Of the latter Messrs. W. Crosby & Co., Macfarlane Bros., and Belbin & Dowdell have particularly favoured us during the past year.

Thanks are also due to Messrs. Walsh & Sons for the gratuitous distribution of the Society's publications to members residing in the country.

COUNCIL.

No vacancy has occurred during the year. The list of retiring members has been posted in the library for the last three days, in accordance with No. 32 of the amended rules of the Society.

FINANCE.

The income from all sources was as follows:—Government Grant-in-aid of Museum, £200; ditto of Gardens, £400; subscriptions, £153; from Marine Board, £20; sale of plants, &c. at Gardens, £111 6s.; this, with £30 12s. in the hands of the Superintendent of the Gardens for payment of wages and £20 arrears of subscriptions, will give a total of £934 18s.

The expenditure as per balance sheet was £932 2s. 10d., leaving a balance to credit of £2 15s. 2d.

We greatly regret to say that although the usual notices have been forwarded, some members have not yet paid their subscriptions for the past year, and several are even in arrear for former years.

GARDENS.

In last year's report it was stated that in all probability the new entrance would be ready for opening in a few months. This expectation has not yet been realised, as up to the present time our efforts to procure suitable gates have been unsuccessful. This is much to be regretted, as it is generally felt that the present entrance is exceedingly inconvenient, and at the same time out of character with the place. It is to be hoped that the completion of this public entrance will not be much longer delayed.

As usual many new plants and seeds have been introduced. From Mons. J. Linden, of Ghent, Belgium, was received a fine collection of cool-house orchids and palms, which arrived in good condition. Valuable donations of plants have also been received from the Botanic Gardens, Adelaide, Melbourne, and New Zealand, and from nurserymen in the neighbouring colonies. From the Chamber of Agriculture, Washington, a fine collection of Conifers and other forest trees was received. Advices have also been had from Mons. J. Verschaffelt, of Ghent, Belgium, of the dispatch of a very valuable case of plants, consisting of a selection of what are known as pictorial trees, and 50 varieties of the best Rhododendrons extant.

The number of visitors to the Gardens during 1875 is estimated at 38,837.

MUSEUM.

Many objects of interest have been acquired during the year. Deserving special mention is the collection of gigantic Fossil Marsupials from Darling Downs, Queensland, the gift of Dr. G. Bennett, of Sydney. To the same donor we are indebted for the two specimens of the *Euplectella*, which have attracted so much attention. Mr. W. Legrand, with great liberality, presented type specimens of the new Marine and Freshwater Shells described by the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods.

Hitherto we have been unable to make any satisfactory display of our shells, but a number of well-arranged show cases are now being constructed, which will enable the entire collection to be properly arranged and exhibited.

