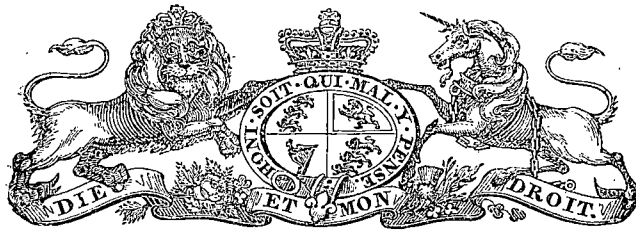


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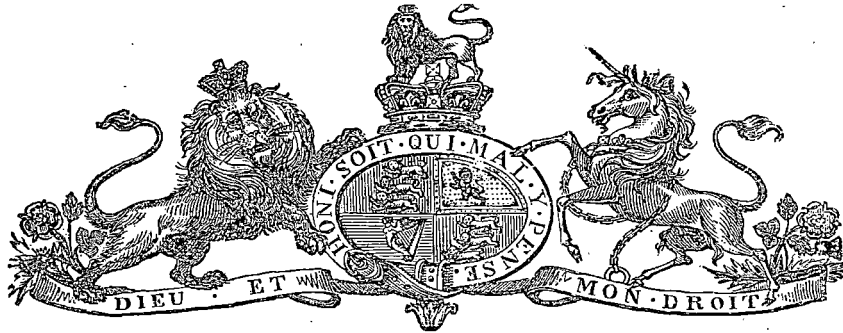
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES:

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR AND THE STATISTICIAN
FOR THE YEAR 1897.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

Cost of printing—£1 7s.



FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Public Buildings, Hobart, 3rd October, 1898.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to furnish the following Report of transactions registered by me as Registrar of Friendly Societies and Trades Unions during the year 1897:—

Friendly Societies.

Notices of establishment of Branch.....	4
Amendment of Rules	3
Appointment of Trustees	18
Notice of Change of Office.....	5
Certificates of Registration	1
Certificates of Trustees.....	1

Trades Unions—Nil.

I have, &c.

PHILIP S. SEAGER, *Registrar of Friendly Societies.*

The Honourable the Attorney-General.

REPORT OF THE STATISTICIAN FOR THE YEAR 1897.

*General Register Office, Hobart,
9th September, 1898.*

SIR, IN accordance with the provisions of "The Friendly Societies Act, 1888," I have the honour to furnish the following Report with respect to the year 1897.

Model Forms of Accounts and circulation of Information.

The usual Tables disclosing the operations and state of the finances of each District and branch Society which furnished Returns to this Office for the year 1896, together with a copy of my previous Report regarding them, were duly despatched to the various Societies throughout the Colony. (Copy of Tables enclosed.)

The usual difficulties with some Societies still continue as regards the lack of promptitude in forwarding Returns. I am glad to say, however, that all Societies (127) have furnished complete statements for the current year, all of which have been carefully examined and corrected where necessary, and I am now enabled to make the following comparisons:—

Progress between the Years 1880 and 1897.

	Absolute.					
	1880.	1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Societies, Branches, and Districts..... No.	47	113	111	118	123	127
Members	3937	10,139	9768	10,087	10,426	11,347
Net Receipts	£ 13,289	£ 32,695	£ 32,029	£ 31,901	£ 32,979	£ 35,535
Net Expenditure.....	£ 10,415	£ 29,743	£ 30,143	£ 27,963	£ 29,490	£ 31,217
Capital	£ 30,026	£ 77,294	£ 79,907	£ 85,413	£ 89,145	£ 91,948
	Per Member.					
Net Receipts	£ 3 7 6	£ 3 4 6	£ 3 5 7	£ 3 3 3	£ 3 3 3	£ 3 2 8
Net Expenditure.....	£ 2 12 11	£ 2 18 8	£ 3 1 8	£ 2 15 5	£ 2 16 7	£ 2 15 0
Capital	£ 7 12 6	£ 7 12 6	£ 8 3 6	£ 8 9 4	£ 8 11 0	£ 8 2 0

It would appear that rapid progress has been made within the 17 years ending in year 1897. Branches and Societies have increased 170 per cent.; members, 188 per cent.; net receipts, 167 per cent.; net expenditure, 199 per cent.; and capital, 203 per cent.

Analysis of Net Expenditure, 1897.

The net expenditure of the 127 Societies whose accounts have been examined afford a clearer insight of the noble and important work carried out by the 11,347 bread-winners, who, with their wives and families, represent fully one-fifth of the entire population, and at the same time it shows to what extent the thoughtful provision for the future, and the spirit of "self-help" or independence, animates the great bulk of the wage-earners of this Colony.

Thus, in the year 1897 the benefits distributed by the 127 Societies alone amount to £27,388, or £2 8s. 3d. per member, exclusive of charges for management; thus:—

(Members, 11,347; cases of sickness, 1798; aggregate sickness, 11,309 weeks; deaths, 98.)

Particulars.	Amount.	Per cent.	Per Member.	Per case per year.
	£	£	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sick Pay (1798 cases).....	8796	28.19	0 15 7	4 17 3
Medical Expenses.....	10,433	33.43	0 18 4	...
Funeral Donations	3884	12.45	0 6 10	...
Other benefits	3819	12.23	0 6 9	...
Management.....	4275	13.70	0 7 6	...
Total Net Expenditure...	31,207	100.00	2 15 0	...

The average duration of sickness of the 1798 cases recorded for 1897, viz., 37.70 days per case, was 1.40 above the average of 1890, 5.68 above the average of 1891, 2.07 days above the average of 1892, 3.43 days per case below the average of 1893, .23 days below the average for 1894, 6.13 days per case below the average for 1895, and .82 days above the average for 1896.

Provision for unemployed Sick Members.

Those who were disabled for work during 1897 absorbed £8796, or 28.19 per cent., of total expenditure in respect of sick maintenance alone; £10,433, or 33.43 per cent., was absorbed in medical expenses; £8094, or 25.93 per cent., was absorbed in distress allowances, widows' and orphans' support, and other provisions, together with the expenses of management; while only £3884, or 12.45 per cent., was absorbed as the annual disbursement in connection with funeral allowances in respect of deceased members or their wives.

These disbursements clearly distinguish the nature of the provisions of Friendly Societies from those of Life Assurance Societies. In the latter the provisional benefit is almost wholly composed of an accumulated sum of money for the benefit of the insurer's family at his or her death. In the former the bulk of the benefits, such as sick pay, medical attendance, medicines, and distress allowances, are received during the life of the member, while on the average only about 10 per cent. of total expenditure is absorbed by death-payments (funeral expenses, &c.) corresponding to the main objects of ordinary Life Assurance Societies.

The present capital of the various societies invested (average of three years, £88,835) gives an inadequate conception of their financial importance, as this capital sum only relates to benefits accruing at death, while the bulk of benefits in relation to annual contributions are discharged annually, and therefore do not enter into capital invested for the discharge of obligations consequent upon death.

Valuation.

Section 14, (c.) of 51 Vict. No. 16, sets forth that once in every Five years a Report of a Valuer shall be supplied to the Statistician, and it is my intention to apply for the same at the end of the present year, at any rate so far as the District Lodges are concerned.

Audit and Preparation of Accounts.

The Audit and preparation of accounts of many of the smaller branch societies is improving, yet many defects due to lack of skill have yet to be overcome, and I still urge the recommendations contained in my previous yearly Reports.

I have, &c.

ROBT. M. JOHNSON, Registrar-General
and Government Statistician.

The Hon. the Attorney-General.