

(No. 22.)



1877.

SESSION II.

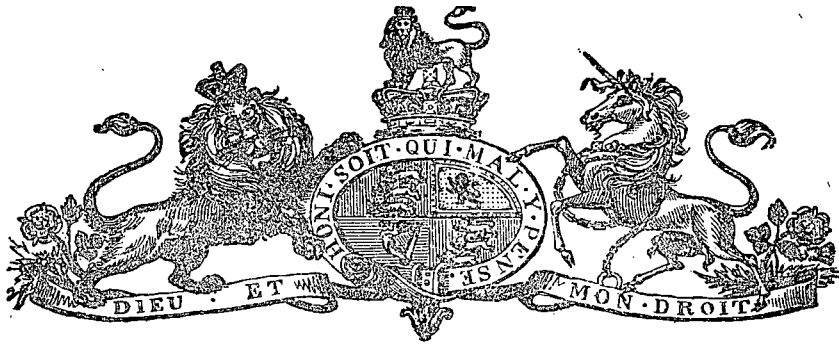
TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HOBART TOWN PUBLIC CEMETERY:

REPORT FOR 1876.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
April 24, 1877.



HOBART TOWN PUBLIC CEMETERY.

Public Buildings, 22nd March, 1877.

SIR,

IN presenting their Report for the year 1876 the Trustees have the honor to state that the Hobart Town Public Cemetery is still increasing in public favour. A reference to Return (1), annexed, will show that the interments in 1876 nearly equalled in number those of 1875, although the death-rate had decreased 150.

The Cemetery is now in very fair condition as to order and ornament considering the limited amount of labour at the disposal of the Trustees. New borders have been prepared and planted with suitable trees and shrubs during the past season, and the trees planted previously are thriving well.

The boundary fence being in a very dilapidated condition, requiring immediate attention, the Trustees have taken the necessary steps to have the same put in proper repair.

As the number of visitors to the Cemetery is largely increasing, a necessity exists for some shelter being provided against sudden rain, &c. The Trustees therefore submit that a sum, not exceeding £100, be placed at their disposal to be expended in the erection of one or more structures of an ornamental character for the purpose stated.

Owing to the residence of the Invalids at the Cemetery the Trustees have to supply the water necessary for their use, which has to be conveyed in casks from the New Town Rivulet near the Orphan School several times each week. This mode of obtaining water is anything but satisfactory, as it occupies several hours of a man's time each week to obtain it, and occasionally, when graves are required to be dug at once, causes very considerable inconvenience to the Cemetery. The Trustees would therefore suggest that they be authorised to expend a sum not exceeding £120 in laying on water to the Cemetery from the main at the Risdon Road.

In concluding their last Report the Trustees drew attention to the fact that their revenue was not sufficient to meet the heavy charges imposed upon it. At the same time they reviewed the history of the Cemetery in order to show that the failure of revenue arose through no act of theirs.

The 3rd Section of "The Cemeteries Amendment Act, 1870," provides that out of the moneys received by the Trustees of every Cemetery on account of fees, &c. there shall be paid into the Colonial Treasury, at such periods as the Governor in Council directs, so much money as may be necessary to pay interest at 6 per cent. on the capital expended on any Cemetery, and a further sum of 1 per cent. for the formation of a Redemption Fund.

The capital of the Hobart Town Public Cemetery is £8000, and this sum was borrowed as follows in the year 1871 :—

£4000 in Debentures at 5 per cent. redeemable October, 1881.

£4000 in Debentures at 6 per cent. redeemable August, 1881.

Premiums to the amount of £240 were received on the sale of these Debentures; such premiums have been credited to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The annual interest, £440, has been paid up to the end of 1875, and six months interest for 1876 has been paid, and the Trustees still expect to be in a position shortly to pay the balance; but no payment has ever been made in aid of the Redemption Fund.

The Trustees addressed the Government on the subject of the Redemption Fund on the 17th April, 1875, suggesting that the premiums received on the sale of the Debentures should be paid to the Redemption Fund. The Trustees are still of that opinion.

The Trustees desire to call the attention of the Government to the fact that the land now comprising the Cemetery was, in the year 1858, sold by the Government for the sum of £5200 to sundry purchasers, and that its re-purchase and adaptation to the requirements of the Cemetery cost £8000; the difference in the cost to the public therefore is £2800, the remaining £5200, constituting the State value of the cemetery, might reasonably be looked upon as a gift—or if preferred, a loan—to the Trustees, who are after all a part of the Public Service.

Should the Government be pleased to adjust the difference as above, it will be only necessary to provide interest on the balance, £2800, and then a considerable portion of revenue would go towards the Redemption Fund, *i.e.*, a restoration to the Treasury of the capital lent in and for the re-purchase of the land.

The matter stands thus:—

The Government <i>pro formâ</i> are in receipt of 6 per cent. interest on the cash received from the purchasers in 1858, amounting to.....	£312 per annum.
It has borrowed £8000 under "The Cemeteries Act" for the re-purchase at 5 and 6 per cent., equal to.....	£440 per annum.
Difference to pay.....	£128 per annum.

The Trustees cannot see any other mode which will enable them to carry out "The Cemeteries Act" of first paying Government interest on the money borrowed, £440, and then a Redemption Fund of 1 per cent. to be provided besides all the expenses; and it is hoped the Government will either take up the view of the matter as now represented, or in some other way relieve the Trust of the responsibilities which cannot be met by the mortuary business carried on by them at the present time.

The following Returns accompany this Report:—1st. Return showing the place of interment of all persons deceased within the Registration District of Hobart for the years 1875 and 1876.

2nd. Return showing the number of interments in the Public Cemetery, Hobart Town, during the years 1874, 1875, 1876.

3rd. Return showing the revenue received for interments during the years 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

HENRY COOK, *Chairman Cemetery Trustees.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

(1.)

RETURN showing the Place of Interment of all Persons deceased within the Registration District of Hobart for the Years 1875 and 1876.

Total Deaths, Hobart District.		Hobart Town Public Cemetery.	Queenborough Public Cemetery.	Cascades Burial Ground.	Davey-street Congregational Burial Ground.	St. John's Burial Ground, New Town.	Baptist Burial Ground.	Friends' Burial Ground.	Congregational Burial Ground, New Town.	Other Places.
Year.	Total Number Deaths.									
1875..	753	319	256	54	24	26	6	1	9	58
1876..	613	317	153	48	15	26	6	1	4	43

(2.)

RETURN showing the Number of Interments in the Public Cemetery, Hobart Town, during the Years 1874, 1875, and 1876.

YEAR.	PRIVATE.		PUBLIC.		PAUPER GRAVES.	STILL-BORN CHILDREN.
	<i>Vaults or Graves.</i>	<i>Re-openings.</i>	<i>Graves.</i>	<i>Re-openings.</i>		
1874.....	28	16	26	5	158	3
1875.....	35	22	103	15	166	11
1876.....	57	12	79	18	169	8

(3.)

RETURN showing the Revenue received for Interments during the Years 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876.

YEAR.	AMOUNT.
1873.....	£ 832 s. 0 d. 0
1874.....	371 4 10
1875.....	455 14 2
1876.....	720 18 0