

1896. Session II.

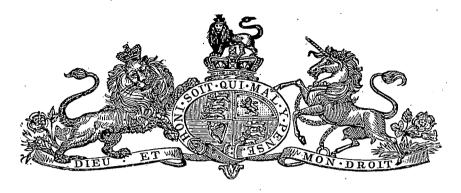
# PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

# TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS:

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR 1895.

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

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# THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

## REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 1895.

To His Excellency the Governor and the Executive Council.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY.

THE Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens, incorporated by the Act 49 Victoria, No. 34, have the honor to submit to Your Excellency, in accordance with the 11th Section of that Act, this, their Tenth Annual Report.

- 1. The Museum and Art Gallery during the year 1895 has been open to the public on week days from 10 A.M. until 5 P.M. in the Summer, and until 4:30 P.M. in the Winter; on Sundays, from 2:30 P.M. till 5 P.M. in the Summer, and until 4:30 P.M. in the Winter.
- 2. It is the pleasure of the Trustees to again report that the Institution has been largely patronised, and, from an educational point of view, has been increasingly useful. Although on Sundays as many as six and seven hundred have visited the Museum and Art Gallery during the afternoon, the conduct of visitors has been most exemplary.
- 3. At the close of the Tasmanian International Exhibition some valuable Tasmanian minerals were presented to the Museum, and have been placed in the Tasmanian Room. This room is now, owing to want of space, becoming overcrowded, as indeed are most of the rooms in the building.
- 4. Owing to the increasing collection, the Trustees would again urge upon the Government the necessity of extending the building according to the original plans.
- 5. The Trustees are greatly indebted to the Captains and Officers of Her Majesty's ships for additions to the Museum collections, many interesting and rare ethnological specimens from the South Sea Islands having been presented to the Museum.
- 6. The Art Gallery.—The Trustees are pleased to report that the success of the Gallery has been beyond their most sanguine expectations. During the year prior to the close of the Tasmanian International Exhibition a letter was sent to the Royal Commission of England asking if any of the British artists who had paintings at the Exhibition would present or loan any of their pictures. The request was most favourably entertained, a reply being received that several of the artists agreed to lend their paintings for a period of "not less than twelve months," and in three instances the artists very generously presented their paintings to the Gallery. Some 96 oil and water colours have been, and are still in most instances, on loan to the Gallery. The Trustees desire to convey their sincere thanks to the members of the Royal Commission of England, and particularly to the Agent-General of Tasmania (Sir Robert Herbert), for their great help in securing such a valuable loan.
- 7. The Trustees have again to place on record, with thanks, the very handsome gifts of three oil and one water-colour paintings to the Gallery from Miss Wilson and Miss Ada Wilson; a painting by a French artist, the gift of Sir Francis Smith; and three water-colours, the gift of three English artists—Messrs. Andrew Ulcoq, A. B. Donaldson, and J. Muirhead.

- 8. The Trustees would again urge upon the Government the desirableness of setting aside a small annual sum to be applied for the purchase of works of art for the National Gallery as opportunity arises. In all the other colonies this course is adopted.
- 9. The extensive additions to the Art Gallery have necessitated considerable alterations, which entailed expenditure. The Trustees would point out that no sum has so far been placed on the Estimates for the maintenance of the Art Gallery, and that the amount voted for the Museum is insufficient to provide for the cost of such alterations. The Trustees would urge that, as in similar institutions in the neighbouring colonies, Parliament may be pleased to vote an additional sum.
- 10. The average attendance at the Museum and Art Gallery during the year 1895 was greater than any previous year, doubtless owing to the large additions to the Gallery.
  - 11. Annexed to this Report are the following Appendices:-

    - (1.) Balance-sheet of the Museum and Gardens.(2.) Report of the Superintendent of the Gardens.

ALEXANDER MORTON, Curator and Secretary.

J. W. AGNEW, Chairman. June 25, 1896.

# TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

RECEIPTS and Expenditure, 1895.

Receipts.	£	<i>s</i> .	d.	£	s.	d.	Expenditure .	£	s.	d.	£	s.	ď.
Museum— Government grant	500	Λ	Λ				Museum— Salaries	383	Ω	O.			
			v				Sundries		-	_			
Botanical Gardens Government grant	800	0	a				Botanical Gardens—				559	4	1
By sale of plants, &c	72						Salaries	210					
Balance, 1895	280	12	8	1372	7	3	Wages	$539 \\ 105$		0			
		<del></del>		280	12	8	Balance from 1894			9			
			•	···			-	<u> </u>			1093	15	10
	•		£	£1652	19	11	·				£1652	19	11
1.3 (a) 1.5 (b) 2.5 (c) 2.5 (c)			ŧ		-		[·			;		_	_

J. W. AGNEW, Chairman. June 25th, 1896.

### REPORT of the Botanical Gardens, Hobart, Tasmania, for the Year 1895.

Owing to the absence of summer rains and the prevalence of N.W. winds, vegetation has not been so luxuriant as usual during the latter months of the year. Annuals and herbaceous plants generally have suffered considerably in consequence; even large trees, such as Oaks, have had their leaves browned in an unusual manner, and this more from the effects of the blighting winds than from the absence of root moisture.

The absence of an adequate supply of water has been much felt, and many newly-planted things have been lost in consequence of this defect.

The surplus soil obtained in widening the Domain Road has to a great extent been utilised in grading the borders immediately within the Garden boundary, and surfacing such of the Buffalo Lawns as it has been deemed desirable to retain. The greater bulk of the Buffalo Grass has been taken up from the ground occupied by the arboretum, as it was found it formed such a close mat on the surface that the rains could not penetrate, and the trees were suffering as a consequence. At this part it will only be retained as a broad edging to the plantations.

The collection of Bulbs having become somewhat mixed by natural increase, seeding, and otherwise, it has been deemed desirable to form a new border, to which the more valuable are being transferred as rapidly as possible, the old site being re-trenched and planted with the stronger-growing kinds.

Many of the old plants of hybrid perpetual roses having become worn out from age or unsuitable soil, a new plantation has been commenced, which will be added to greatly in the coming Autumn.

The old Box edging, which is composed of the Tree Box, some of which has been planted upwards of 40 years, having become overgrown and the borders much exhausted, is being replaced by the dwarf Dutch Box as opportunity offers. The propagation of this for the purpose is being pushed on as rapidly as possible.

Space being required for the many plants constantly accumulating, it is proposed to at once lay out a portion of the ground at the end of the Gardens near the railway bridge for the extension of the arboretum, and also to utilise a further portion of the old Fruit Square for clumps of Cannas, Palms, and other plants forming distinct features on grass.

The carpet bedding on the lawn near the cottage continues to attract a good deal of attention, plants being utilised in it that by many were not deemed sufficiently hardy for outdoor culture in the Tasmanian climate. The past season has not on the whole been a good one for this style of gardening; the colours in many of the plants have not been fully developed owing to the comparatively cool summer and prevalence of cold westerly winds, but on the whole the beds have been very attractive.

The entrance gates and fences in the vicinity have been repaired and re-painted, and in the nursery yards the walls of one of the propagating pits have been taken down and rebuilt, and the house put in repair. Several bush-house shelters have also been constructed for the shelter of young plants. These structures greatly reduce the amount of watering that would otherwise be required.

Prison labour has as usual rendered great assistance in the performance of all the rougher operations.

During the year eight band performances took place in the Gardens, the attendance at which was close on 10,000 persons. The approximate total number of visitors to the Gardens was 71,800.

F. ABBOTT, Superintendent.

#### PLANTS and Seeds received at the Botanical Gardens during the Year 1895.

From the Botanic Gardens, Bangalore, India—Seeds.
From the Botanical Gardens, Madras—Seeds.
From the Botanical Gardens, Calcutta—Seeds.
From the Botanical Gardens, Sabarumpur, N.W. Provinces India—Seeds.
From the Botanical Gardens, Kew, London—Seeds.
From the Botanical Gardens, Jamaica—Seeds.
From the Botanical Gardens, Queensland—Seeds.
From the Botanical Gardens, Sydney—Seeds.
From Baron Ferd. von Müeller, Government Botanist, Melbourne—Various sendings of Seeds.
From the University, California—Seeds of Coniferæ.
From the Botanical Gardens, Port Natal—Seeds.
From the Acclimatisation Society, Queensland—Seeds and Plants.
From Messrs. Damman & Co., Germany—Seeds.
From Messrs. Brunning & Sons, Nurserymen, St. Kilda—Plants and Seeds.

From Mr. S. Purchase, Nurseryman, Parramatta, N.S.W.—Plants.

From Messrs. Shepherd & Co., Nurserymen, Sydney, N.S.W.—Plants and Seeds.

From Wm. Bull & Co., Seedsmen, &c., London—Seeds and Plants.

From Messrs. Vilmorin & Co., Seedsmen, Paris—Plants, Bulbs, and Seeds.

From Mr. J. Latham, Seedsman, Hobart—Seeds and Plants.

From Messrs. J. Smith & Sons, Nurserymen, Victoria—Plants.

From Messrs. Creswell & Son, Seedsmen, Hobart—Seeds.

From Mr. F. Walker, Seedsman, Launcestou—Plants.

From F. Back, Esq., Hobart—Tree Ferns.

From E. L. Hall, Esq., Strahan—Seeds and Plants.

### Plants and Seeds sent from the Botanical Gardens during the Year 1895.

To the Botanic Gardens, Sydney—Seeds.
To the Botanic Gardens, Queensland—Seeds.
To the Royal Horticultural Society, London—Seeds.
To the Botanic Gardens, Jamaica—Seeds.
To the Botanic Gardens, Calcutta—Seeds.
To the Botanic Gardens, Port Natal, South Africa—Seeds.
To the University of California—Seeds.
To the Acclimatisation Society, Queensland—Seeds and Plants.
To Messrs. Vilmorin & Co., Seedsmen, &c., Paris—Seeds.
To Mr. Wm. Bull, Seedsman, London—Tree Ferns.
To Messrs. Brunning & Son, Nurserymen, St. Kilda, Victoria—Plants and Seeds.
To Mr. J. Smith & Sons, Nurserymen, Victoria—Seeds

To Messrs. Shepherd & Co., Seedsmen, Sydney—Seeds and Plants.
To Mr. S. Purchase, Nurseryman, Parramatta—Seeds and Plants.
To Messrs. J. Veitch & Sons, Nurserymen, Kew, London—Seeds.
To Messrs. Damman & Co., Seedsmen, &c., Germany—Seeds.
To Baron Ferd. von Müeller, Government Botanist, Melbourne—Seeds.
To Mr. J. Latham, Hobart—Seeds and Plants.
To Messrs. C. F. Creswell & Son, Hobart—Seeds and Plants.
To Mr. F. Walker, Seedsman, Launceston—Plants.
To E. L. Hall, Esq., Strahan—Plants and Seeds.

### Plants supplied for planting Public Places.

J. G. Davies, Esq., M.H.A.—24 Plants for Fingal.
Rev. Father Murphy, for Church, New Norfolk—20 Plants.
The Westbury Municipality—70 Plants.
Hon. Wm. Moore, M.E.C.—24 Plants.
The Hamilton Municipality—104 Plants.
Crosby Gilmore, Esq., M.H.A., for Beaconsfield Hospital—100 Plants.
Crosby Gilmore, Esq., M.H.A., for Lefroy Cemetery—50 Plants.
Dr. Macfarlane, for New Norfolk Asylum—73 Plants.

and Plants.

The Hon. the Premier, for Schoolhouse, Launceston—40 Plants.

The Railway Station, Ross—24 Plants.

The Railway Station, Scottsdale—12 Plants.

F. Belstead, Esq., for West Coast—36 Plants.

For planting Public Streets, Parattah—120 Plants.

The University Grounds—8 Plants.

H. Murray, Esq., M.H.A.—51 Plants.

F. Back, Esq., Railway Department—50 Plants.

F. Back, Esq., for Railway, Zeehan—60 Plants.

The Hon. the Minister of Lands, for Zeehan—60 Plants.

F. ABBOTT.