

(No. 31.)



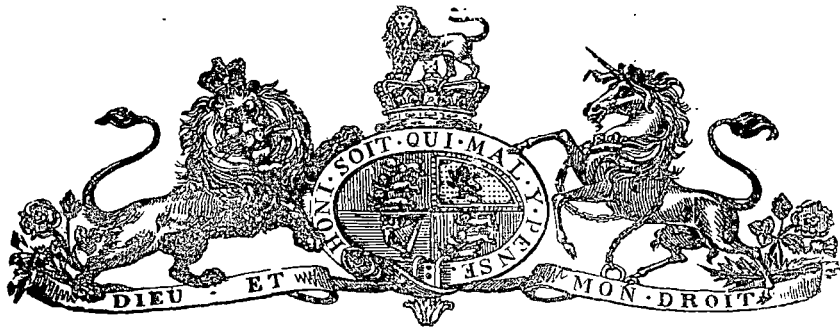
1886.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA :

REPORT FOR 1885.

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



REPORT of the ROYAL SOCIETY of TASMANIA for the Year 1885.

It must be a subject for congratulation to the Fellows that the papers read during the session of 1885 were not only of great variety, but of special interest and importance. The monthly meetings were all numerously attended, and on several occasions many ladies were present.

The papers, 26 in number, were as follows:—

Zoology of Australia: by the Hon. W. Macleay, F.L.S.

“Fresh contributions to our knowledge of the character and relationship of the Upper Palæozoic and Mesozoic Formations of Tasmania with the associated Diabasic Rocks.”—“Notes regarding the Silurian Fossils of the Gordon Limestones, with generic descriptions and a specific list of the organisms already named and classified.”—“Notes on the discovery of new species of leaf impressions from the Tertiary sandstones at Mount Bischoff, belonging to the Genera *Eucalyptus*, *Laurus*, *Quercus*, *Zamia*, etc.”—“General observations regarding the classification of the Upper Palæozoic and Mesozoic Rocks of Tasmania, together with a full description of all the known Tasmanian coal plants, including a considerable number of new species.”—“Description of two new species of Tertiary fossil plants belonging to the genera *Eucalyptus* and *Taxites*.”—“Tasmanian fossil plants of the upper and lower coal measures of Tasmania.”—“Local distribution of the fossil plants of the upper and lower coal measures of Tasmania.”—“Geological table showing the proposed provisional classification of stratified rocks for Tasmania, also showing corresponding divisions elsewhere:” by R. M. Johnston, F.L.S.

“The Lunar Eclipse of 30-31st March, 1885.”—“The Tasmanian earth tremors, 1883-4-5:” by Mr. A. B. Biggs.

“*Jungemania reticulata*.”—“On the identification of Tasmanian mosses, etc.”—“Mosses of Tasmania” (continued): by R. A. Bastow, F.L.S.

“New species of Tasmanian Marine Shells.”—“Description of two apparently new species of *Ancillaria*, Lam. :” by W. F. Petterd, C.S.M.Z.

“Notes on Jean Julien Houten De-Labillardière:” by Baron F. Von Mueller, K.C.M.G., M.D.

“Remarks on Tin Ore Deposits at Mount Bischoff:” by Baron F. Von Groddeck.

“Earthquake Phenomena in Tasmania, with table:” by Captain Shortt, R.N.

“Notes on boring operations in search of Coal in Tasmania, 1884, (*continued*), with the abstracts of Records of boring in Upper Palæozoic Beds at Cascades, Hobart, 1884, and in the Coal Measures at Tarleton, Mersey, 1884:” by T. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S.

“Water and Typhoid:” by W. F. Ward, A.R.S.M.

“Iceland and the Icelander:” by the Rev. J. B. Woollnough.

“Shells of the Group *Polcystina*:” by C. J. Atkins.

“The Scientific treatment of Waste Material:” by W. H. Charpentier.

“Australian Topography; Edel’s Land, De Witt’s Land, and Carpentaria:” by J. R. McClymont, M.A. Edin.

“Sketch Map General Geological Features of Tasmania:” by C. P. Sprent and R. M. Johnston.

Discussion took place, as usual, on the various papers, to some of which additional interest was lent by means of microscopic illustrations by Mr. Bastow and Mr. C. J. Atkins. In reference to the paper by the former, it may be mentioned that Mr. Bastow is at present engaged on a monograph of Tasmanian mosses, which will, no doubt, be of the greatest value to the future workers in that interesting branch of natural history.

LIBRARY.

The usual additions of periodic literature have been made to the Library, but special mention must be made of a valuable donation accruing from the interest on the "Morton Allport Fund," *i.e.*, seven volumes Bleeker's Atlas Ichthyologique, two vols. Day's Fishes of India, Gunther's Fishes of Zanzibar, and 13 parts Journal Museum de Goddefroy. Of still greater importance, however, for the general interests of the Society was the receipt of the very large legacy of £350, in accordance with the will of the late Dr. Milligan. Of this valuable bequest due notice was taken at the monthly meeting held in May.

It will be noticed with much satisfaction that, for the second time at so early a period, the Transactions of the year are already bound and ready for distribution.

FELLOWS.

Twenty-two new Fellows have been elected, and 12 have been lost through death or resignation. The total number is now 176.

METEOROLOGY.

Meteorological observations have been carried on as in last year.

COUNCIL.

The Council have to deplore the loss of one of its oldest members, Mr. John Swan. From Mr. Swan's practical knowledge of much of the natural history of the colony, his death creates a void in the ranks of the Society not readily to be filled. Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., has been appointed to the vacant seat in the Council.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Messrs. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., Justin M'C. Browne, A. G. Webster, and H. A. Perkins, M.D., the retiring Members of the Council, were re-elected, as also Messrs. John Macfarlane and Francis Butler, hon. annual Auditors.

FINANCE.

The income has been:—Government grant in aid to Museum, £300; grant to Gardens, £800; annual subscriptions to Royal Society, £22 10s.; sale of plants, £169 7s.; legacy by the late Dr. J. Milligan, £350; making, with balance from 1885, £1871 4s. The expenditure amounted to £1452 18s. 1d.; leaving a balance to credit with fixed deposit, £419 3s. 7d.

MUSEUM.

The Museum has undergone a change of government, in accordance with an Act passed during the recent session of Parliament. Having by that Act been incorporated, it is now a national institution, with an annual endowment of £500. The management of its affairs is vested in a Board of Trustees, consisting of five officials, a Crown Trustee named by the Governor, and six others elected from the Council of the Society.

The fact that the Museum has thus for the first time been placed on a secure and permanent basis will unquestionably exert a happy influence over its future development. The number of visitors has been very large, including temporary residents from other colonies and passengers by the various steam routes who make a short stay on their way to and from New Zealand.

The collection is still being steadily increased, chiefly, it is pleasant to remark, by specimens illustrative of the colony. In the geological collection special to Tasmania, printed tablets, compiled by the Curator, and explanatory of the various Orders and Families, have been placed. In an educational point of view these will be found to be of the greatest value.

For a collection of New Guinea birds, in which visitors take a great interest, we are indebted to our excellent friends the Trustees of the Sydney Museum. The Trustees of the Brisbane Museum have also kindly contributed to our ornithological collection. Owing to the rapidly increasing number of specimens our space is becoming very limited, and it is therefore with great satisfaction that we have to acknowledge our obligation to Government and Parliament for a vote of £3000 for the purpose of giving largely increased accommodation.

The approximate number of visitors, including Sundays, was 27,069.

GARDENS.

Consequent on the annual grant being increased to £800, more labour has been employed, and a marked improvement in the appearance of the Gardens has already taken place, and many urgently needed repairs and additions have been effected.

By the Act of Parliament already referred to, the Gardens have also been incorporated and placed under the same management as the Museum.

A large bush or lath house has been constructed for the combined purposes of growing the more hardy varieties of florists' flowers and general nursery stock. For both purposes the house promises to be of great utility, the plants in it having done remarkably well.

About 450 new plants have been received, and a large number of seedlings of many plants suitable for planting parks or public reserves have been raised.

The beautiful *Picea amabilis*, the Japan silver fir (*Picea*), and the Crimean fir (*Abies Nordmanniana*) are producing cones for the first time. As these three plants are much sought after for ornamental purposes, their fresh seeds will be highly valuable.

The heavy rains which fell in November cut up the beds and walks, but were very beneficial to the plants generally. From the same cause the grass lawns have also remained green without artificial watering longer than in ordinary seasons.

The estimated number of visitors was 67,000.

DOMAIN.

The improvement of the Queen's Domain has been continued so far as the funds provided for the purpose would permit. The drive leading past the new cricket ground is now complete, and promises to become very popular.

On the sides of the road for a distance of some 200 yds. Large numbers of *Cedrus deodara*, the Indian cedar, and *Abies Douglassi*, the Douglas fir, have been planted, and are looking well.

Planting and levelling have also been carried out on the ground in the vicinity of the powder jetty.

The triangular piece near the new cottage has been trenched, fenced, and planted as a mixed shrubbery. The drain creek opposite the powder jetty has been partly levelled, and planted with Norfolk Island Pines.

The palms and *Pinus insignis* trees planted on the side of the main road to Government House have generally done well, the only exceptions being where they are in the vicinity of the indigenous gums, which will therefore require removal.

J. W. AGNEW, *Hon. Secretary.*

STATEMENT of the Funds of the ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA for the Year 1885.

Receipts.	£	s	d.	£	s	d.	Expenditure.	£	s	d.	£	s	d.
Balance as per statement for 1884....	..			30	9	9	<i>Royal Society,</i>						
<i>Royal Society.</i>							Printing and Advertising.....	57	7	6			
Annual Subscriptions and arrears for							Collector's Commission.....	10	18	6			
1885.....	221	10	0				Messenger, Cartage, &c.....	2	15	1			
Legacy, Dr. Milligan.....	350	0	0				Furniture, Fittings, &c.....	17	8	0			
				571	10	0	Library—Books, Stationery, &c.....	65	2	0			
<i>Museum.</i>							Sundries, Cheque Book.....	10	10	6			
Grant in aid from Treasury.....	..			300	0	0	Water-rate, Gas, &c.....	8	10	5			
<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>							Insurance.....	4	18	6			
Grant in aid from Treasury.....	800	0	0				Fuel, &c.....	11	1	0			
Proceeds of sale of Plants, Flowers, &c.	169	0	7				Interest on overdrawn account....	0	3	7			
				969	0	7					188	15	1
							<i>Museum.</i>						
							Salary of Curator.....	200	0	0			
							Wages of Attendant.....	79	0	0			
							Ditto (Sundays).....	13	0	0			
							Purchase of Specimens.....	0	18	9			
							Sundries.....	3	14	7			
							Ironmongery, Brushware, &c.....	5	5	7			
							Freight and carriage of Specimens..	1	5	9			
							Repairs to Building, &c.....	2	13	6			
							Chemicals, &c.....	14	4	4			
							Petty Cash.....	6	14	3			
											326	16	9
							<i>Botanic Gardens.</i>						
							Salary of Superintendent.....	200	0	0			
							Wages of Labourers.....	470	2	0			
							Tools and Repairs.....	2	2	6			
							Freight and carriage of Plants....	15	15	10			
							Stationery and stamps.....	2	19	0			
							Forage.....	16	0	10			
							Horse hire.....	6	4	0			
							Ironmongery and fittings.....	93	4	6			
							Plants and Seeds.....	3	18	3			
							Sundries.....	27	10	7			
							Water rate.....	3	3	4			
							Flower-pots.....	23	0	0			
							Sand, earth, &c.....	10	13	0			
							Timber and repair of buildings....	62	12	5			
											937	6	3
											£1452	18	1
							Balance as per statement for 1885....	30	9	9			
							Receipts.....	1490	10	7			
							Legacy, Dr. Milligan.....	350	0	0			
							Expenditure.....				1452	18	1
							Fixed Deposit Commercial Bank, due						
							5th November, 1886.....				300	0	0
							Balance to Credit, as per Bank Pass						
							Book.....				118	2	3
											£1871	0	4
											1871	0	4
							Balance, as per Bank Book.....	119	3	7			
							Less unrepresented cheque, Weaver £1 1 0				1	1	4
							Less error petty cash.....	0	0	4			
											£118	2	3

Hobart, 31st December, 1885.

Examined and found correct.

JOHN MACFARLANE.

12th February, 1886.

STATEMENT of the MORTON ALLPORT Memorial Fund, 1885.

1886.	Dr.	£	s	d.	1885.	Cr.	£	s	d.
Jan. 1. To Balance as per Statement for 1884....		58	16	3					
1885.									
Aug. 31. Interest, Savings Bank.....		2	12	6	Nov. 30. By Cash, Trubner & Co.'s Account.....		57	1	1
Nov. 28. Cheque.....		10	0	0	Balance at Savings Bank to credit of Fund.....		14	7	8
		£71	8	9			£71	8	9

Examined with Savings Bank Book, and found to be correct.

JOHN MACFARLANE.

12th February, 1886.

WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.