

(No. 9.)



1870.

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T A S M A N I A .

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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**BENEVOLENT SOCIETY, HOBART TOWN.**

**REPORT FOR 1869.**

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
August 23, 1870.



*REPORT of the Committee of the BENEVOLENT SOCIETY of HOBART TOWN for the Year ending 31st December, 1869.*

In presenting the Tenth Annual Report to the public, the Committee do so with feelings of pleasure and satisfaction, arising from the financial condition of the Society, as will be seen from the Treasurer's Report being so very different to what it has been for several years past.

This state of things has not arisen from augmented income in subscriptions, but by rigid economy in its issues, and the striking off many cases in which the Committee, after searching investigation into them, found the recipients unworthy, and by the issue of good sound coarse bread instead of fine. The contracts for meat were generally found unsatisfactory; and about three months ago the Committee came to the decision not to issue meat, but augment the issue of bread, tea, sugar, &c. to equal value, and to purchase daily such meat as was requisite for the soup-kitchen, which has been at less cost, resulting also in producing more excellent soup. The Committee feel this branch of their issue to be of the most satisfactory character,—for it not only checks imposition, but in cases in which the Committee feel the charity would be misapplied, the food is directed to be eaten on the premises.

During the last year 123 fresh applications were investigated, embracing 364 individuals, i.e. 35 male and 90 female adults, 100 male and 139 female children. Of these cases 22 were rejected. Of the 101 relieved—44 were cases rendered destitute by illness of the parent, 7 were widows, 12 husbands away, 9 husbands in prison, 5 aged and infirm, 3 accidents, 14 children owing to parental neglect, 7 destitute from various causes.

The stores issued during the year were as follows:—bread 46,239 lbs., meat 13,250 lbs., tea 336 lbs., sugar 2868 lbs., oatmeal 2050 lbs., rice 2740 lbs., and 7738 pints of soup,—soup tickets sold amounting to £4 2s. 9d., and soup sold £1 7s. 8d.

The issue of 20 per cent. bread continues to be satisfactory, and is found a great saving in expense: its quality is rigidly examined by various members of the Committee.

Several friends contributed 46 tons of wood and coal during the winter, thus benefitting the needy in a manner which was pleasing to witness, besides proving of much advantage in affording employment, or testing those who sought relief on the plea of want of work, as in some instances the labour was refused, although payment is always made in food; thus the receipt of wood proves of double advantage. The kindness of the Superintendent of the Queen's Asylum was again shown by the donation of a quantity of old rugs, which were gratefully received by the poor. The Committee feel indebted to the heads of the Invalid Establishments for the weekly Returns furnished, which are found of considerable service.

The last year commenced with fewer cases on the books than the previous year; and the Committee would again urge the sustaining of this and similar institutions by the public, in order to prevent the necessity of a Poor Rate being established, which, while it would compel each to contribute, the cost of machinery in collecting and distributing it would very considerably augment the sum required. The Committee would here again reiterate the necessity of support being afforded by the Country Districts, as the sick and destitute invariably fly to the Cities for assistance in their necessity, and the contributions from the Country are by no means equal to the expenditure in such cases.

The Committee would again venture to invite the attention of the Government to the necessity of some measures being adopted to prevent husbands, on the plea of seeking employ, quitting the Colony, leaving wife and children to become a burden upon the public.

The Committee would here remark that, notwithstanding the Act recently passed by the Legislature "for the better Education of the People of Tasmania," the great number of children who are still found in the streets instead of being at school, it is to be greatly feared, are not only

learning vice, but too frequently practising it to the great detriment of their future well-doing,—consequently the Committee feel called upon to urge that some steps should be forthwith adopted to enforce the clauses of the Act by compelling parents to send their children to school, as hitherto no case, the Committee believe, has been enforced through the Police.

The usual appeal was made to all clergymen south of Ross for collections in their various congregations, but which your Committee regret to say was responded to by only a few, as will appear by the Treasurer's Report. The Davey-street Choral Society kindly gave an Entertainment in the Town Hall (freely lent for that occasion) on the 21st ultimo, and, although it was under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor, the Mayor and Aldermen, it yielded only £11 12s. 6d. towards the funds, which will appear in the accounts for 1870.

The Committee wish to record that the Registrar (Mr. Witt) has discharged his duties to their satisfaction.

The Executive Committee cannot but feel regret at the apathy manifested by the General Committee, while the number is so large (24 besides the various Ministers), yet the same individuals year after year are compelled to serve on the Executive Committee; and it has occurred once or twice that the Executive did not muster a quorum owing to unavoidable circumstances; and the Quarterly Meetings are frequently delayed in getting together the requisite number of members. There are those on the Executive Committee desirous of giving place to others who may feel disposed to work.

The Committee would thank Subscribers for the aid rendered, and at the same time earnestly solicit a continuance, while they beg that support may be more generously afforded by all who have the ability.

HOBART TOWN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY in account with the Treasurer.

1869.	Dr.	£ s. d.	1869.	Cr.	£ s. d.
Jan. 1.	Balance .....	429 7 1	Dec. 31.	Private Subscription for the year	402 8 2
June 30.	Payments, 6 months .....	523 13 10		Government Grant .....	400 0 0
Dec. 31.	Ditto .....	460 7 10		Additional .....	400 0 0
	Interest .....	13 12 6		Repayments, Government .....	232 9 1
	Balance .....	7 16 0			
		£1434 17 3			£1434 17 3

  

<p>Audited, and having been compared with the Vouchers, we have found this correct.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">GEO. SALIER, } HUGH M. HULL, } <i>Auditors.</i></p>	<p>1870.</p> <p>January. Balance .....</p>	7 16 0
	Debitures .....	500 0 0
		THOS. GIBLIN, <i>Treasurer.</i>

HOBART TOWN BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

1869.	Expenditure.	£ s. d.	1869.	Receipts.	£ s. d.
Dec. 31.	To cash paid for Bread .....	180 7 2	Dec. 31.	By Subscriptions .....	402 8 2
	Ditto Meat .....	114 6 6		By Government Grant .....	800 0 0
	Ditto Groceries—Tea, Sugar, &c. ....	160 7 9		Ditto Repayments .....	232 9 1
	Ditto, Oatmeal .....	39 0 0			
	Ditto, Printing and Advertising .....	6 16 6			
	Ditto, Fuel for Soup-kitchen .....	6 14 8			
	Ditto Rent of Depôt .....	55 0 0			
	Ditto Salary, Registrar .....	150 0 0			
	Ditto, Cook, Soup Kitchen .....	39 0 0			
	Ditto, Interest on overdrawn Account .....	13 12 6			
	Ditto Government cases, Rations, &c. ....	232 9 1			
	Balance due last year .....	429 7 1			
	Balance in Bank .....	7 16 0			
		£1434 17 3			£1434 17 3

T. J. CROUCH, *Hon. Secretary.*  
W. WITT, *Registrar.*