

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

(PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1844.

[NUMBER 426

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
October 9, 1844.

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the following report of the Registrar of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, to be published for general information.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROWN.

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT
OF
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

General Registry Office, Perth,
September 30, 1844.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the Third Annual Report of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in Western Australia, pursuant to the provisions of the General Registration Act.

In entering upon the periodical duty entrusted to me, I would congratulate His Excellency, and the Government, on the satisfactory proofs afforded by the report, of the full measure of success which has crowned the operation of the system throughout the Colony. Much of which success is to be attributed to the creditable exertions of the Sub-Registrars; but I think it may also be ascribed to the diffusion of correct information among colonists as to the advantages of an accurate and legal registration.

Encouraged by this success and popularity, and strongly feeling the great colonial importance of the subjects it is my duty to treat of, I am led to bestow more attention on the statistical branch of my duties; and to endeavor, by every means in my power, to render the annual reports more deserving the flattering notice which has been bestowed upon those already before the public.

INTRODUCTION.

Having urged the necessity and advantages of the registration in a legal point of view in the former reports, it is now proposed to offer a few general remarks on the advantages of statistical inquiries as regards Western Australia: and also to allude to a few subjects intimately connected with the proper working of the general registration.

"Statistical facts," says an able member of the Statistical Society in England, "are the ipsa corpora of science, the tables of the statist, like the formulæ of the analyst, embody the past, and guide to the future;" and they enable us to distinguish the casual or accidental from the casual or consequential.

When considered in all their bearings, the statistics of the Colony are most important and useful. They have a connection more or less intimate with almost every question of our local politics and morals; and whether with respect to the conduct of private life, or the administration of public affairs, cases are perpetually occurring, in which, without a knowledge of the statistics of the Colony, it is impossible either to judge correctly, or to act with wisdom.

Vital and medical statistics have lately engaged particular attention in England, and have equal claim to our regard in this country. Indeed, if the subject be considered in a political light alone, it is of high importance; as it affords objects of research and meditation, and points out fruitful sources of benefit and instruction.

A little thought may serve to convince us, that a correct knowledge of the number of births, marriages, and deaths, occurring

in the Colony, in connection with the amount of its population, and the causes and characteristics of its increase, is necessary to the full development of the colonial resources; and that, by a consideration of the progress made by the Colony as regards the circumstances which might be included in the inquiry, the duties of the Government, both Executive and Legislative, would be greatly assisted; and, on the other hand, it appears scarcely possible, without such a correct acquaintance with the progressive condition of the Colony as can alone be obtained by means of the minute details of statistical inquiries, that their proceedings should be otherwise than experimental. Measures for the administration of the resources of the Colony—its supply of food produced or imported—its revenues—its labor, and laborers' wages—its immigration—its strength—its branch life insurance and friendly societies—its diseases, and rate of mortality—are, or ought to be, in a great measure dependant on a proper knowledge of the conditions of its population, embracing a thorough acquaintance with the characteristics of its increase; without which, much legislation must be guess work, and subject to errors in calculation, which may tell unfavorably on the comforts and interests of every class of persons in the Colony.

These inquiries have the effect in some degree of foresight on our minds, as whilst they enable us to trace many incidents of the past affecting the progress of our population to their primary source, they teach us at the same time to anticipate the results from similar and analagous causes for the future.

However limited may be the field of observation, the importance of such inquiries is the same. And the tabulated returns of the thinly inhabited territory of Western Australia, if carefully and scientifically compiled, may be more correct and therefore more valuable than general views over a much wider and more thickly populated expanse. A deeper insight into the economies of society may be obtained from an acquaintance with the details of a single household or family, than from observations which must be superficial and theoretical in proportion to their extension, and which may display feeble splendor, instead of possessing solid strength.

Indeed the vital statistics of a new country such as Western Australia, possessing a fertile soil and a good climate, are exceedingly interesting, inasmuch as they afford a fair illustration of the tendency in the human species to increase their numbers when unchecked by precarious subsistence, and its usual effects, vice and disease. This circumstance alone, in connection with other features in the tables of new countries possessing a free and intelligent population, cannot fail to excite and sustain a lively curiosity in the mind of the statist, if not that of the general reader.

Perhaps the most important of the services to the Colony, and to science generally, which a report on vital statistics may confer, is that which arises from its connection with the registry of deaths. The object of a medical registration has been provided for in assigning a column in the entry of deaths, wherein may be inserted the cause of death, in juxtaposition with the other important illustrative circumstances, such as the age, sex, and calling of the deceased, and the part of the Colony in which each death occurs. If, therefore, the cause of death is correctly inserted by the Sub-Registrar, on the careful statement of the medical attendant, their will exist thenceforward documents exhibi-

ting numerous important and interesting particulars, which may be made subservient to the advancement of medical science, and greatly conducive to the good of the community.

In the following report I have endeavored to illustrate the various characteristics of our population with reference to its increase, its sexes, and its diseases, &c. The report is divided into four sections. In the first section I have attempted to afford some insight into the population by an analysis of the census. In the second I have remarked upon the births, and the natural increase of our numbers. The third embraces some interesting deductions relative to marriages; and the fourth treats of the subject of mortality and the climate.

In the distribution fixed on, at least in its minor details, practical utility has some times been consulted rather than scientific precision; and my wish has been to render the report easily intelligible to all classes. For this reason I have desired: to avoid unusual words and technical terms; lest to those who have no opportunity of study, or of acquainting themselves with a system of vital and medical statistics, I should propound riddles rather than offer pleasing and edifying truths.

To the tables in the appendix I would request particular attention. His Excellency will perceive the nomenclature of the list of diseases has been materially altered to meet as nearly as practicable the most approved modern method; that the age is placed opposite to the disease in decennial periods; and that some newly arranged tables on marriages, mortality, &c., are added; which I trust will render the report as a whole, somewhat more useful and satisfactory to scientific men.

In compiling the tables with the numerous calculations spread over the report, I have spared no pains or labor to avoid inaccuracies of any kind.

SECTION I.

An analysis of the Census.

To render the vital statistics more useful and intelligible, it seems advisable to institute a brief analysis of the characteristics of our population, so far as the annual census tables will allow; by which means we may form more correct opinions regarding the various incidents connected with the births, marriages, and deaths; and hence be better able to judge of the annual movement of our fast-growing population.

The annual census returns give only the following particulars, viz:—

Male and female;

Above and under twelve;

the present investigation, therefore, though not entirely devoid of interest, will be limited.

The census of Sept. 1838 gave a population of 1,928 (see Journal of the Agricultural Society for 1843, p. 9), and that taken in Sept. 1843 gave 3,855; there appeared to have been added, therefore, to our numbers, during the interval of five years, 1,925 persons, being about 20 per cent. per annum increase. From a comparison of the two censuses for 1838 and 1843 respectively, Western Australia appears to have doubled its population in five years by births and immigration conjointly—a very striking circumstance, as the extensively immigrating colony of New South Wales is said to double itself in 7 years (a), from the same sources of increase, the Canadas in 16 years (b), and the United

(a) Mansfield's Analytical View, 1841.

(b) M. Martin's Statistics of the Colonies.

States in 5 years (a), the two latter, however, principally from procreation. Now, assuming the annual rate of increase from births during the above mentioned 5 years to have been as much as 4 per cent., it would leave 16 per cent. for the annual rate of increase from immigration, or 80 per cent. during the 5 years; in other words, the increase from births would have been 385, and the increase from immigration 1,540, during the five years ending Sept. 1843.

The total population of 1843, exclusive of the military, was 3,853 persons. Table No. XIV in the appendix, gives an estimate of the increase of the population during the past year ending 31st August, 1844, by births and arrivals; and the decrease by deaths and departures; and by deducting the deaths and departures from the births and arrivals, and previously adding the census of 1843 together with the military; it gives as the probable population of this year 4,301 men, women, and children. The increase during the past year, assuming this estimate to be correct, has been at the rate of 5.8 per cent. per annum. The increase of the population in each county since 1838, may be seen in table No. XVI, in the appendix.

Sexes.—The variation in the proportions of the sexes has been in favor of females since 1836 (b). In that year males were to females as 5 to about 3, or 1 to 0.605; while in 1843 they were as 5 to 3.6, or 1 to about 0.705—the increase upon their own numbers respectively within the last seven years ending 1843, being as follows—

Females . . . 114 per cent.
Males . . . 93 “

So that females have increased 21 per cent. more than males during that period; and the present years amount of births gives a further relative increase of 3.2 per cent., independent of immigration. The deficiency of females in our total population, which is a usual feature in colonies continually increasing by immigration, appears rather remarkable when compared with the mother country and America; but we can appreciate our favorable position in respect to New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land:—

Proportions of the sexes in the total population respectively.

	Males.	Fem.
(c) Great Britain and Ireland	97 to 100	
(d) United States in 1836 . . .	100 to 97	
(e) Upper Canada “ . . .	100 to 90	
(f) Western Australia 1843 . .	100 to 67	
Perth, W. A., 1843	100 to 87	
(g) New South Wales 1841 . .	100 to 50	
Sydney 1841	100 to 75	
(h) Van Diemen's Land 1836	100 to 38	

The following interesting returns for the whole Colony in 1836, 1840, and 1843, and for the town and vicinity of Perth in 1842 and 1843, of the sexes under twelve years of age, give a much more satisfactory equality—

Proportions of the sexes under twelve years of age.

Of the total population in		
1836	100 males to 87 females.	
1840	100 “ 97 “	
1843	exactly equal!	
Of the town and vicinity of Perth		
1836	97 males to 100 females.	
1842	80 “ 100 “	
1843	85 “ 100 “	

(a) Pitkin's Statistical View.

(b) My information regarding the population of 1836 is taken from Martin's Statistics of British Colonies, in which work there were shown to be, in that year, 100 males to 58 females—the population being stated at 1,282 males and 750 females. It appeared, by recently published tables, that in 1837, only the year following, males were in respect of females as 100 to 67! I therefore offer my authority.

- (c) Porter's Progress of the Nation.
- (d) Pitkin's Statistical View.
- (e) Martin's S. B. Colonies.
- (f) Appendix to this Report.
- (g) Mansfield's Analytical View.
- (h) Martin's S. B. Colonies.

It would appear from these facts, that the increase by natural causes has been greatly in favor of females, particularly in Perth; and if the disturbing causes through immigration were suspended, the greater relative mortality among males, coupled with a continuance of the preponderance of female births, might speedily adjust the balance of the sexes in the total population of Western Australia.

From the foregoing statements, I think the following results may be deduced:—

1. Supposing the whole population were now grown up and married; out of every 100 bachelors as many as 67 could find wives; and only 33 would have to “bide their time.”

2. Supposing the total population under 12 were now grown up, and wished to be married, out of every 100 males as many as 97 could find wives!

3. Supposing the total population of Perth were now grown up and married, out of every 100 males as many as 87 could find wives.

4. But supposing the population of Perth under twelve were grown up, and wished to be married, out of every 100 females only 85 could find husbands.

The relative proportions of the sexes in each county throughout the territory, may be seen in table XVI.

Ages.—It is much to be regretted the census did not extend its inquiries into the ages and employments of the Colonists, as well as to some other interesting particulars. Although in England it appeared, by the census of 1831, that one half of the male population were under, and one half over 21 years of age, and consequently the inquiry was discontinued in 1831, “as imposing too much labor in combination with other inquiries,” it may not therefore follow it should be so in Western Australia; indeed, the census of 1836 (a) showed that there were in that year 522 males over, and 384 males were under, 21 years of age; the proportions being males over 21 to males under 21 as 1 is to more than 0.7; and females over 21 to females under 21 as 1 is to 1.3; so that there were in 1836 a greater number of males over 21, and a preponderance of females under 21, which will be accounted for in section No. 11. But by taking the total population of Western Australia, males and females, over and under 21, we find the proportions were in 1836 nearly equal, being as 1 is to about 0.95.

The proportions over and under 14 in the total population of 1836 were, males as 5 to 2; females as 5 to 3: total population as 1 to about 0.50. The proportions over and under 12 in the total population of 1843 were, males as 1 to 0.33; females as 1 to 0.56: total population, 1 to about 0.44. We thus obtain nearly similar results in the total population of the Colony over and under 12 in 1843, as we obtained in the total population of the whole Colony over and under 12 in 1836; the difference between the two periods being accounted for by the recent immigration from England, which has more than counterbalanced the increase of infants under 12 by adding largely to the number of adults. The increase per cent. of adults and infants on their own numbers respectively will be clearly seen in the following calculation:—

Adults above 12 . . 110.8 per ct.
Infants under 12 . . 82.9 “

Increase in favor of adults 27.9 “
These proportions must, to every one conversant with the subject, afford clear and most intelligible proofs of an unusually rapid increase of our population from births.

Whether the number of infants under 21 is equal to the number of adults above 21, it is impossible to determine; I will, however, venture an inference, that, during the eight years since 1836, the rate of increase of infants on their own numbers may not have equalled the rate of increase of adults on their own numbers; and that, therefore, there may be at present more persons in the

(a) Martin's S. B. Colonies.

Colony over than under 21; at all events, that there is an unequal division of the total population over and under 21 years of age.

Allowing an 8th of the total population for youth between 12 and 21, the proportion of three periods of life would be as follows:—

Children under 11	30.9
Youth 12 and under 21	12.5
Adults above 21	56.6
	100.0
Infants under 21	43.4
Adults above 21	56.6
	100.0

In New South Wales the proportions are:—

Under 12	25.8
12 to 21	8.6
21 up	65.6
	100.0

Here, then, we perceive another favorable characteristic in our young community—the very fair proportion of children and youth of both sexes to men and women; forming, as it does, unperceived, one of the best and safest resources for the supply of labor. But in order to set a proper value on our position in this respect, and independent of immigration, let the inquirer turn again to New South Wales: he will there find the proportions as follow:—In 1841, there were in that Colony for every 100 infants under 21, 192 adults over 21; and I am led to believe, from more recent printed statements respecting the population of New South Wales, that in 1843, for every 100 persons under 21, there were 200 above that age! and in Van Diemen's Land likewise there appeared to exist in 1836, a far greater disproportion.

In the absence of information regarding the number of persons in the more advanced periods of life, it may be said, that the Colony has not yet been in existence sufficiently long to enable many of its supply of grown persons, who have been principally between the ages of 25 and 40, to reach any advanced period of life; and that, therefore, it may probably contain a small proportion, above 45 or 50—not more perhaps than an 8th or a 10th. I have deemed it as well to mention this remark, with a view to account for the all but total absence, in the tables, of mortality beyond 50 years of age.

Having glanced at the past and present, we may, before bidding adieu to this part of the subject, endeavor to gain an insight into the future.

There are two modes of estimating the future increase of the population of Western Australia, from the results of the five years ending 1843—one by single, the other by compound interest. Let us try the more moderate one. The net increase of the five years was 1,925 persons; by taking the same ratio, (5 years: 1,925:: 20 years: 7,700=11,550), the population of Western Australia in 20 years (1864) would approach 12,000; and in 30 years it would be 15,400! (more than half what New South Wales was in 1821. But this is far below what would be the actual rate of increase; as the comparatively satisfactory equality of the sexes—a circumstance congenial to the advance of population,—the rapid and prolific natural increase from births,—together with the ease and certainty with which the means of subsistence can be procured in a young and thriving community, situated in a country offering inducements of no ordinary kind to emigrants,—may combine in securing a kind of geometrical, rather than arithmetical, rate of increase in the Colonial population of Western Australia.

A few additional statistics calculated to afford an insight into the population of the Colony, will be found in the Appendix.

SECTION II.

On the Births.

The number of births registered during the year ending 31st August, 1844, was 193, being at the rate of 22.1 per cent. in-

crease on those during the previous year. The proportion of births to the population is something greater than the former year, being 1 to 22.3, or 4.5 per cent. Such a large proportion elsewhere might be considered indicative of a proportionate increase of misery and disease, accompanied by a high rate of mortality. But as here it is attended with a remarkably low rate of mortality, as appears in the table, it imparts an assurance of the advancing state of the Colony; inasmuch as it may safely be inferred thence, that the capital necessary for the sustenance of such a large proportionate number of children, is previously produced and disturbed. And were it not so, we should inevitably have a high mortality, as it is always upon the young and infantine that the weight of adverse physical circumstances chiefly falls; and they mainly influence the scale of mortality everywhere.

The proportion of births to marriages is a little above 5 to 2—the former year it was 3.5 to 1; the difference is attributable to a diminution in the number of marriages, and a proportionate increase in the births, during the past year.

The proportion of births to deaths throughout the Colony during the year is 36 to 1—a proportion far above that of any other country in the world, from which we have accurate statistical details. During the three years' registration, of 423 births, there have been five cases of twins;—the usual number is said to be 2 in 1,000 births.

Sexes.—In continuation of the analysis in section I illustrative of the partial inequality of the sexes, I now propose to show how the small relative proportion of females is being rapidly increased from natural causes; seeing that the number of births are greater, and the number of deaths less, among the females than the males; and the following statement will show the way in which the births and deaths gradually operate in bringing about a due proportion of the sexes:

<i>Births.</i>		<i>Deaths.</i>	
1842-3, Females	85	Males	32
Males	73	Females	9

Surplus 12 fem. In favor of 23 f.; giving a gain of 35 females in one year.

1843-4, Females	107	Males	37
Males	86	Females	16

Surplus, 21 fem. In favor of 21 f. The net increase in 2 years of females over males has thus been 77.

It is curious to compare the centesimal proportions of females born in the whole Colony; and the same proportions born in Perth—

<i>Females born.</i>	
1843-4, In the whole Colony	55.4 per cent.
In Perth	53.8

In favor of the whole Colony 1.6

In estimating the progress of our population, the first and main object is, of course, to ascertain the actual number of Colonists at different periods. The next is to determine what portion of the increase is attributable to immigration, and what portion arises from births only.

On the first of these points, the yearly censuses, briefly analysed in section I, may be satisfactory. With regard to the second point, all must agree that the influence of immigration upon our population in the two past years has been inconsiderable, compared with the previous years. In proof, therefore, of the rapid increase of our population from births only, I would adduce the following highly interesting facts:

The population of September 1842, inclusive of the military, was 3,676. If from this number we subtract the part

for the diminution of the population in two years by death, the population of September 1842 which should be found living in September 1844, will be 3,592; if we then proceed to add 351, the number of births during the two years, to the number 3,592,

the result will be 3,933; and the difference between 3,676, the population of 1842, and the number 3,933, will express the increase of our population between 1842 and 1844, independently of immigration, or by births only.

In proceeding to ascertain the period of doubling, which would result from this increase in two years, we have only to apply the rules relating to compound interest, and it will be found that when a population of 3,676 increases to 3,933 in two years, the annual ratio of increase will be the decimal 0.0348, or a little under the vulgar

fraction — and if continued, will occasion

a doubling in less than 19 years and 5 months! To appreciate this rapid, though not unprecedented in, let the inquirer view the following comparison between Western Australia and countries not materially affected by immigration; he will then perceive the inherent, rapid, and incessant power in the human species to multiply its numbers when unchecked by want and disease:—

Comparison between W. Australia and some other countries of the periods of doubling the population from births only.

W. Australia may double itself in	19 years
Prussia doubles itself in	26 “
Great Britain	42 “
The Low Countries	56½ “
The two Sicilies	63 “
Russia	66 “
Austria	69 “
France	105 “

Western Australia thus affords a specimen of as rapid an increase as I am acquainted with, excepting that in some parts of the Western States of America.

(To be continued.)

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, October 5, 1844.

His Excellency the Governor is pleased to direct it to be notified, that the following town allotments have reverted to the Crown for non-performance of the location duties within the time specified by the original land regulations—

B 28, Albany
S 32, do.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROUN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, October 10, 1844.

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, that the tender of William Ellis has been accepted for supplying, pursuant to notice dated the 27th ultimo, the Survey Department with (500) five hundred permanent boundary posts.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROUN.

In the Civil Court of }
Western Australia. }

Between *William Henry Scarnett*
(by L. & W. Samson, his Attorneys), Plaintiff,

and,
Frederick Mangles, Charles Edward Mangles, and William Price, Defendants.

WHEREAS an action has been commenced in this Court at the suit of the above named William Henry Scarnett against the above named Frederick Mangles, Charles Edward Mangles, and William Price (lately trading in this Colony under the firm of F. Mangles & Co.), to recover the sum of £1,000 for damages sustained by the said Plaintiff in consequence of the negligence of the Defendants in selling and accounting for goods of the said Plaintiff, received by the said Defendants in this Colony in the years 1841, 1842, and 1843, and which the said Defendants undertook to sell for a certain commission and reward; and it being alleged that the said Frederick Mangles, Charles Edward Mangles, and William Price, do not reside within this Colony, a

Writ of Foreign Attachment has been issued returnable on the fourth day of November next, wherein William Stanhope Stockley, of Perth, Merchant, is Garnishee, notice is hereby given thereof, and that, if at any time before final judgment in this action, the said Frederick Mangles, Charles Edward Mangles, and William Price, or any person in their behalf, will give the security and notice required by Act of Council 6th Victoria, No. 4, intituled "An Act to facilitate actions against persons absent from the Colony, and against persons sued as joint contractors," the said attachment may be dissolved.—Dated the tenth day of October, 1844.

E. W. LANDOR,
Attorney for the Plaintiff.

In the Civil Court of:
Western Australia. :

Between *Elias Abraham Jones, and William Henry Scarnett*, (by L. & W. Samson, their Attorneys)

Plaintiffs,
and
Frederick Mangles, Charles Edward Mangles, and William Price, Defendants.

WHEREAS an action has been commenced in this Court at the suit of the above named Elias Abraham Jones, and William Henry Scarnett, against the above named Frederick Mangles, Charles Edward Mangles, and William Price (lately trading in this Colony under the firm of F. Mangles & Co.), to recover the sum of £1,000 for damages sustained by the said Plaintiffs in consequence of the negligence of the said Defendants in selling and accounting for goods of the said Plaintiffs received by the said Defendants in this Colony in the year 1841, and which the said Defendants undertook to sell for a certain commission and reward; and it being alleged that the said Frederick Mangles, Charles Edward Mangles, and William Price, do not reside within this Colony, a Writ of Foreign Attachment has been issued returnable on the fourth day of November next, wherein William Stanhope Stockley, of Perth, Merchant, is Garnishee; notice is hereby given thereof, and that if at any time before final judgment in this action, the said Frederick Mangles, Charles Edward Mangles, and William Price, or any person in their behalf, will give the security and notice required by Act of Council 6th Victoria No. 4, intituled "An Act to facilitate actions against persons absent from the Colony, and against persons sued as joint contractors," the said Attachment may be dissolved.—Dated the tenth day of October, 1844.

E. W. LANDOR,
Attorney for the Plaintiffs.

COMMISSARIAT NOTICE.

Commissariat Office, Perth, Oct. 10, 1844.

SEALED TENDERS in triplicate will be received at this Office on Tuesday, the 5th November next, at 12 o'clock, from such parties as may be desirous of obtaining Bills of Exchange on the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, payable in London at thirty days' sight.

The Bills will not be drawn, or tenders accepted, for any sum less than (£100) One Hundred Pounds Sterling.

The Tenders must state in figures and words at length the Rate of Exchange offered in Specie for the Bills, and also the description of Coin.

For further particulars application to be made at this office.

W. H. DRAKE,
Dep.-Asst.-Com.-General.

Printed by CHARLES MACFAULL,
Government Printer.