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Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,  
October 1, 1845.

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

By His Excellency's command,  
PETER BROWN.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

General Register Office, Perth,  
August 31, 1845.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, the fourth Annual Report of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

The results of this, the fourth year of the establishment of the general registration, again afford proofs of the continued success and great popularity of the system. And so satisfied are the colonists of its legal advantages, that many persons have urged for permission to register children, born previous to the passing of the act. To the diffusion of a true knowledge of the tendencies of the law, and to the activity of the gentlemen entrusted with the operative department, is to be ascribed the good working of the general registration in Western Australia.

INTRODUCTORY.

The last annual report was prefaced by a few observations on the important advantages derivable from statistical inquiries; and more particularly those comprehended in the term vital statistics. These inquiries were observed to be absolutely essential to the welfare of the Colony, inasmuch as without them a correct judgment could not be formed regarding most branches of our economic polity. Whereas with them, we possess the most decisive mark, and indeed the only unerring test, of the physical and moral prosperity of the community. It was observed likewise, that the smallness of our numbers would not lessen the importance of such inquiries: for it is not the mere array of numerous and extensive calculations, which demand and fix the attention of those who may be engaged in pursuing the tedious track of scientific research; and it must be conceded, that the limited results of a narrow field of observation, are more likely to be correct and intelligible, and therefore in a greater degree useful and valuable to the patient searcher after truth.

These and other collateral matters, however, were only glanced at, so that they may be taken up and investigated more fully, if it should be deemed desirable on a future occasion. At present, it is proposed to submit a few remarks, which have been suggested since the publication of the third report.

As the subject attempted to be elucidated is one but little understood by colonists in general, I deem it alike prudent and necessary to revert to topics which it may not be found requisite again to discuss. Ere many years elapse, a conviction of the paramount importance, interest, and utility, of statistical analysis, will, we may expect, so generally prevail among us, as to establish a progressive interest in reports upon a topic, which many eminent philosophers and leading statesmen in Europe have emphatically announced, as claiming a rank among the most profound and useful inquiries in which the intellectual powers of man can be engaged.

Although the popularity of the general registration is abundantly manifested among all classes, there appears to exist in the minds of a few people an unwillingness to concede a practical value to the study, from a mistaken apprehension, lest it should lead to an indulgence in theoretical empirical notions. The moral good and physical benefits, however, resulting from the promotion of sound inquiry, justify us in pronouncing, that conclusions based on registered facts, of the science of vital and medical statistics, cannot reasonably be subject to any such objections; whilst we may fairly consign to scepticism the ingenious visionary calculations, whereby attempts are made to account for that which lies beyond the reach of human investigation.

The statistical inquirer contents himself with the legitimate purpose of accumulating and investigating facts, of pointing out analogies, and indicating the inferences to which they lead;—this is far different from that presumption which would establish axioms upon mere theory, or the weakness that would found a system of vital statistics upon vague hypotheses.

To lessen disputation is the main purpose of these reports. Disputable matters require infinitely more time and thought in their consideration than those which are ascertained. Those things frequently occupy most attention, regarding which no positive proof or scientific demonstration can be offered. And it is precisely these things about which men dispute with most pertinacity, each one urging his own unfounded opinions, with as much assurance as if they were supported by the most incontrovertible data. Bent alone on disarming controversy, and advancing the best interests of his fellow-men, the laborious statist in different countries, silently gathers decisive and tangible knowledge respecting life, health, and mortality; the deductions from which, will gradually form a groundwork for a mighty change in the social operations of the world.

To explain more clearly the great value of such inquiries as are made public by means of these reports, I will instance a few facts already obtained. And possessed of these, it will be those persons alone, who may prefer feelings and fancies, who will continue to doubt the expediency of arithmetical inquiries concerning our population.

Amongst the common ideas respecting our population, it has been thought by many to be little other than stationary, independent of immigration. But the application of statistics proves it is rapidly progressing. During the existence of the registration our numbers, by natural increase alone, have advanced at the rate of 4.4 or nearly 4½ per cent. per annum; which rate, if continued, will occasion, *per se*, a doubling of our population in 19 years! And there can be no cause to which to attribute this increase, but the well-doing of all classes of our society, and the abundant production of food admitting of a large additional number of consumers. Another cheering fact to those anxious for the moral as well as the political advancement of Western Australia, is the relative increase of our female population by births;—the actual increase of female over male births in three years has been 77!—thus rapidly bringing about, without any artificial means, a due proportion of the sexes. It may be also observed, that the male and female infants are nearly equal in the total population; while in Perth female are to male infants as 100 to 85! By such calculations, also, we find adults to have increased only 27 per cent. more than infants since 1836.

Many facts are being established connected with health and mortality. The mortality of children under one year was not believed to be so low as the statistics have shewn it to be,—only 7.2 per cent. of the births! The number of persons who annually die from any given disease was not known, whereas by statistics we ascertain correctly the annual deaths from every possible cause. And although the duration of life of any one individual among us is uncertain, yet it is competent to the statist, when he has ascertained the total deaths in a series of years, to say with tolerable certainty, under ordinary circumstances, the number likely to take place of any particular class of diseases in succeeding years. In single instances of course there can be no certainty; but when the aggregate is taken into account, it can be shewn that all things connected with population are subjected to fixed and regular laws. "Were a man always to examine individual drops of water, he could never conceive the phenomenon of the rainbow; it is only when the drops are aggregated in masses that he can contemplate that glorious arch spanning the horizon, and seeming to connect earth with heaven."

When, therefore, we consider the accumulating number and value of statistical facts, relating to this highly important subject, it is impossible not to be deeply impressed with a desire for the prosperous working of the established system of registration; which offers such highly important advantages to the public generally, as well as to families and individuals. For, the registration, be it observed, does not merely enjoin a record of statistical details, but the establishment of a central office in Perth, where only, evidence of the date and every other requisite particular connected with births, marriages, and deaths, throughout the Territory, may be obtained with little trouble, and at a trifling expense.

Among the many circumstances which should ensure a due appreciation of the science of vital statistics, there is none more obvious than an explanation of some of the acknowledged principles which serve to guide research. The science of vital statistics is not intuitive any more than mathematics. The mind cannot draw conclusions without having been previously furnished with premises. With a view, therefore, of assisting the public in regard to the application of the facts collected in these reports, I have appended a few remarks on the subject of population, which I had prepared to accompany the last report. As an adjunct to the reports the enquiry may be of value. Readers, however, who have not entered upon the study of population, should beware of supposing any paper of a limited extent will make them acquainted with it. Those who would accurately estimate vital statistics must still go to the fountain heads of information. But, although delusive as a perfect guide, these remarks may be found not wholly useless. At all events, they may prove adequate to the wants of such as have neither the time, the inclination, nor the need of a thorough acquaintance with the science.

The present report is confined to two sections: the one the annual movement of the population; the other the Medical Statistics.

The annual movement embraces the facts collected during the past year, connected with the natural increase of our numbers; omitting many comparisons instituted in my last report, which it is unnecessary to repeat every year.

In the medical statistics an analysis has

been made of such facts in the tables as throw light on the causes of death, and the public health, including such inferences therefrom as the statements appeared to justify.

The concluding section on Education, as illustrated by the signatures in the registers, I trust may be found not less useful than interesting.

SECTION I.

*The Annual Movement of the Population.*

Notwithstanding the partial depression which is every day yielding to activity and enterprise, it is encouraging to know that the colony has constantly progressed in the number of its inhabitants. The last year's increase, however, is small. After adding the births and arrivals to the population of Sept., 1844, and subtracting therefrom the deaths and departures, we have a progress of 1½ per cent. during the year. Inconsiderable as this progress may appear, compared with that of previous years, it is satisfactory with reference to the late departures, temporary and otherwise, from the colony. True, children do not immediately supply the place of adults or grown persons, but in a young community, they soon become capable of doing some sort of work, and ere they leave their paternal roof fully replace the charges incident to their infant maintenance.

The number of births occurring during the past, is somewhat less than that of the previous year; but the difference is very trifling. The proportion to the total population is 1 to 23.8, being 10 less than the former year. The proportion of births to marriages is nearly 6 to 1, whereas in the previous year it was a little above 5 to 1; the difference in favor of births being solely occasioned by a decrease in the number of marriages, which I will presently allude to.

The proportion of births to deaths for the year is nearly 3 to 1. But the increase in the deaths has caused the relative proportion of births to be lower than that of the previous year. The increase of population by the excess of births has been at the rate of nearly 3 per cent. per annum during the year;—the average of the three first years was 4.4 per cent. per annum; the minimum annual per centage being 4.2. So that it seems our population has not gained its usual yearly accession of numbers by births.

The proportion of males to females is as 105 to 78, giving an excess of male births of 27 during the year. This very unusual excess of males is adverse to the relative increase of females, alluded to in the last report. The following tabular statement will illustrate how materially this excess of males has operated in that respect:—

Births.		Deaths.	
Males..	105	Males..	42
Females	78	Females	21
	27		21

Leaving a surplus of 6 in favor of males; whereas, it may be recollected, that in 1842-3 the gain of females was 35; and in 1843-4 it was 42—the net increase in the two years being 77! It is curious to observe the sudden change in favor of the male sex. Of course, we cannot draw unerring conclusions from the partial results of two or three years; an average of several years may give the usual preponderance in favor of males.

**MARRIAGES.**—The number of marriages throughout the year ending 31st August, 1845, for the whole colony, has been 3 less than in 1843-4; 10 less than in 1842-3; and 4 less than in 1841-2. The actual decrease of marriages, which has taken place during the past two years, may be ascribed to the effects of temporary straitened circumstances. In the districts of Perth and York, however, there was an increase in the number of marriages in 1844-5 as compared with the previous year. In Perth the increase was 68 per cent., and in York there was an addition of 3; and yet these are the districts in which

there was a decrease of births, and a great increase of deaths. In every other district, except Pinjarrah, there was a decrease. The proportion of marriages to the total population, though high since the registration commenced, has been fluctuating, depending of course upon the prosperous state, for the time being, of the colony. The extremes are in 1842-3, when they amounted to 1 in 88.068; and in 1844-5, a year in which the effects of depression were experienced, when they fell to 1 in 128.5. But the extremes in Perth, the most populous district, in 1841-2 were 1 in 54, and in 1843-4 they fell to 1 in 93.5. During the year ending 31st August, 1845, the proportion to the population in Perth was again as high as 1 in 64.

(To be continued.)

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, October 1, 1845.*

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint Mr. Joseph Ridley to act as Superintendent of Police in the York and Toodyay Districts, during the suspension of Mr. John Drummond.

By His Excellency's command,  
PETER BROWN.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, October 2, 1845.*

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, that the appointment of Henry Camfield, Esquire, to the office of Postmaster-General has been confirmed.

By His Excellency's command,  
PETER BROWN.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, October 2, 1845.*

Notice is hereby given that the Resident Magistrates have been instructed to enforce the penalty against the proprietor of any stock found depasturing on Crown Lands, for which Licences according to the Act of Council 7th Viet. No. 14 have not been obtained.

By His Excellency's command,  
PETER BROWN.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth, September 26, 1845.*

His Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct it to be notified for general information, that in order to afford greater accommodation to the public, the Office of Registrar of Deeds will be kept open until 4 o'clock every day excepting Saturday, when it will be closed at noon.

By His Excellency's command,  
PETER BROWN.

**Proclamation.**

To His Excellency JOHN HUTT, Esq., Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Territory of Western Australia and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

Whereas by an Act of the local Legislature, entitled "an act for the improvement of the Towns in the Colony of Western Australia," the Governor is empowered to establish by proclamation the tolls, rates, dues, or charges payable, or by reason of the use of any lines or modes of communication within any town of the said Colony; and whereas by a certain proclamation dated 21st December, 1843, it was declared that the tolls, rates, dues, or charges enumerated in the said proclamation should be payable at the Town Trust Jetty in Perth; and whereas it has been found expedient to alter and amend certain of the said tolls, rates, dues, or charges: Now, therefore, I the Governor, by virtue and in pursuance of the authority conferred upon me by the said recited act, do hereby order and direct that the following tolls, rates, dues, and charges, shall be henceforth payable at the said Jetty, and in lieu of those enumerated in my former proclamation, to wit:—

All goods not otherwise enumerated, for every ton, measurement or weight ..... 2 0

For every pipe, puncheon, or cask equal in size.....	1 0
For every half ditto.....	6
For every quarter or barrel.....	3
For every bag of flour, or other of similar size.....	3
For every horse, or head of horned stock.....	6
For every pig, sheep, or goat (or 1s. the score).....	1
For every bale of wool.....	3
For every ton of hay.....	2 0
For every parcel not carried by owner landing.....	2
For every person landing or embarking.....	2
For every carriage or cart with four wheels.....	2 0
Ditto with two wheels.....	1 0
For every yard of stone.....	3
For every 1,000 bricks.....	2 0
For every cord of firewood.....	6

All goods landed on the Jetty and not removed on the same day, will be liable to an additional half-toll for each and every day they are suffered to remain.

Empty boats are not to be fastened to the Jetty, and the Tollkeeper has orders to cut them adrift, as they block up the approaches and are liable to injure the structure.

Given under my hand and seal at Perth, this twenty-ninth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.

JOHN HUTT,  
GOVERNOR, &c.

By His Excellency's command,  
PETER BROWN,  
Colonial Secretary.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN !!!

**Proclamation.**

By His Excellency JOHN HUTT, Esquire, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Territory of Western Australia and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same.

Whereas by an act of the local Legislature, passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of Her present Majesty Queen Victoria, No. 17, entitled "an act to provide for the construction and management of roads and other internal communications in the Colony of Western Australia," the Governor is empowered to establish by proclamation all tolls, rates, dues or charges which may hereafter become payable at or by reason of the use of any lines or modes of communication within the said Colony; and whereas the Road Trustees have proposed to collect a toll at Mahogany Creek, for the purpose of raising funds for the repairs of the York and Northam roads, and have recommended that the following scale of tolls and charges shall be payable thereat: Now, therefore, I, the Governor, by virtue and in exercise of the authority given to me in and by the said recited act, do hereby establish the following tolls and charges, and do order that the same shall and may be demanded and paid at Mahogany Creek, and be applied towards the repairs of the said York and Northam roads, viz.:—

For every head of neat cattle.....	3
For each horse, ass, or mule.....	3
For each score of sheep, lambs, pigs, or goats.....	3
For each gig, chaise, cart, dray, or other vehicle drawn by one horse, ass, mule, or by one pair of oxen..	6
For each additional horse, ass, or mule, or every additional pair of oxen.....	6

Except, nevertheless, all Her Majesty's officers and soldiers, being in proper staff, or regimental or military uniform, dress or undress, and their horses (but not when passing in any private or hired vehicle), and all recruits marching by route, and all carriages and horses belonging to Her Majesty, or employed on her service under the provisions of the Mutiny Act, when conveying persons or luggage, or returning

therefrom; and all Mail Carriers when actually engaged in their duty, who are respectively to be exempted from any toll or charge whatsoever.

*Given under my hand and seal at Perth, this twenty-sixth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and forty-five.*

JOHN HUTT,  
Governor and Com.-in-Chief.

*By His Excellency's command,*  
PETER BROUN,  
Colonial Secretary  
GOD SAVE THE QUEEN!!

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,  
September 25, 1845.*

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, that 2,679 acres of the Location 15a on the Canning, comprising 2,746 acres of land, which stands in the Books of the Survey Department in the name of the late Mr. John Ferries, have reverted to the Crown for non-performance of the conditions of assignment.

*By His Excellency's command,*  
PETER BROUN.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,  
September 21, 1845.*

Notice is hereby given of the intention of the Government to offer for sale by public Auction, in front of the Public Offices, Perth, on Wednesday, the 22nd of October next,

A Bay Colt, with four black legs, and a few white spots on the forehead, about 4 years old, and 15 hands 3 inches high.

This colt has been running on the estate of S. P. Phillips, Esq., Toodyay, nearly the whole of the last three years, and he was advertised in the *Inquirer* newspaper of the 16th, 23rd, and 30th of August, 1843.

Terms cash, or approved bills at three months' date.

The colt may be seen at Herne Hill.  
*By His Excellency's command,*  
PETER BROUN.

*Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,  
August 15, 1845.*

GOVERNMENT DEBENTURES

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified, that tenders will be received at this Office until noon on Tuesday, the 7th October next, for the purchase of Government Debentures to the extent of £2,000.

Payment will be required to be made in cash on fourteen days' notice from this Office; and the tender may include the whole of the above amount, or any part thereof.

The Debentures will be issued for the sum of £10 each, under the signature of His Excellency the Governor, under the authority of the Act of Council 9th Victoria No. 3; and they will bear interest at a rate not exceeding seven per cent. per annum, payable quarterly at the

Colonial Treasury in Perth. The tenders will specify at what rate of interest the money will be lent.

These Debentures will continue out for a period of ten years, but the Government reserve to itself the right of calling them in at an earlier date, on giving six months' notice in the Government Gazette, after the expiration of which time all interest will cease.

*By His Excellency's command,*  
PETER BROUN.

GENERAL ROAD TRUST.

A QUARTERLY MEETING of the Trustees of the General Road Trust will be held at the Court-house, Perth, on Wednesday, the 1st October next, at 12 for 1 o'clock.

*By order of the Chairman,*  
EDWARD PICKING,  
Clerk to the Trust.  
Perth, Sept. 10, 1845.

In consequence of the Quarter Sessions being held on the same day, the Meeting advertised as above is adjourned until Wednesday, the 15th October, at the same time and place.

*By order of the Chairman,*  
EDWARD PICKING.

*Printed by CHARLES MACFAULL,  
Government Printer.*