

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

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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 BROUN.

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

[CONTINUED.]

SECTION II.

Medical Statistics.—Public Health.

We have next to notice the number of registered deaths, which it will be seen were greater by 10 in the year ending 31st August, 1845, than in the preceding year. This number indicates a serious increase of mortality; and cannot be ascribed to the increase of population. Allowing for the increase of our numbers, the deaths would be more numerous by 16 than in the year ending 31st August, 1843; and more numerous by 1 or 2 only than in the year ending 31st August, 1844; whereas the actual increase of mortality during 1844-5 is 29 more than in 1842-3, and 10 more than in 1843-4.

An examination of the ages at which deaths have occurred during the last three years, shews the increase of mortality to have been chiefly among children under 3 years of age. The increase of deaths at all ages in 1844-5 over 1842-3 being 29, it will be seen that 15, or more than half, consisted of children under 3; and the increase of 1844-5 over 1843-4 being 10 the excess of infant mortality was 7, or much more than half: but this is more clearly shewn in the following table:—

YEARS.	AGE.		
	under 3 yrs.	3 yrs. and upwards.	All ages.
1842-3	8	26	34a
1843-4	16	37	53
1844-5	23	40	63
Excess in 1844-5 } above 1842-3. . }	15	14	29
and above 1843-4. . }	7	3	10

The loss of infant life in 1844-5 as compared with the preceding years, is shewn in the following table of the proportions of those that died under one and three years (not including still-births) out of 100 registered births throughout the Colony:—

	1842-3.	1843-4	1844-5
Died under 1 year.			
To 100 regis. births	3.8	7.2	10.4
Died under 3 years			
To 100 regis. births	5.0	8.3	12.4

It therefore becomes highly interesting to find out the particular causes of death

(a) Deducting "still and premature births."

which may have influenced this increased mortality; which important point will be adverted to when we come to treat of the diseases that affected the population during the year.

On comparing the tables in this and my previous report, it will be seen that the increase of deaths has arisen solely from disease; for the deaths from violent causes were less by 2 during the past than the preceding year. And even the deaths from diseases of uncertain seat were less by 4 than they were during the year previous.

In proceeding, however, to remark on the Diseases, it may not be uninteresting to present some account of the general character of the seasons during the year: the temperature adduced is not intended to apply to the whole Colony, but more particularly to Perth, Fremantle, and Guildford.

We cannot disguise the fact, that the past year has been marked by a striking increase of sickness among all classes. Many persons have referred it to a peculiar state of the air, rendered less genial than usual; some have attributed it to sudden atmospheric changes; while others persist that the late Comets may have had much to do with it. That the weather has been remarkably unseasonable throughout the past summer; very unlike the generally mild, temperate, seasons experienced in previous years; is certain. Why it was so, or how it was caused, we do not pretend to explain.

In referring, however, to the Meteorological Journal kept in the Survey Office, I find the lowest point at which the thermometer fell in the day time during the three summer months was 58 at 10 a.m., and 60 at 4 p.m.; and it seldom rose above 75; though it frequently, and I may say commonly, fell below 66. But the annexed memorandum transcribed from the journal (in connection with Table No. 7) will serve to exhibit the prevailing coldness of the past summer:—

1845. at 10 a.m. at 4 p.m.	
Jan. 6.	66
7.	68
11.	68
12.	61
13.	64
14.	65
15.	66
16.	70
23.	67
24.	68
25.	67
29.	65
30.	67
Feb. 3.	64
4.	65
5.	61
11.	64
19.	64
23.	60
24.	63
25.	64
28.	A tremendous squall of wind from northward and westward, and tempestuous night.
Mar. 3.	65
4.	64

Note. The thermometer from which the above observations are taken is placed against the wall outside the Survey Office, on a southern aspect, and is always in the shade.

From diseases of the *Endemic, &c.* class, females suffered more than males, particularly among children. The mortality of the two sexes from this class was 12; of whom 8 were children under 3 years. It is pleasing to observe in this class, the total absence of Croup, as the prevalence of a spasmodic affection of the stomach and throat among infants in the early part of the year, portended a fatality from this dangerous complaint. The chief malady was *Dysentery* (endemic) which destroyed 10 lives in the year, being 8 more than in the previous year; of these 7 were children under 3 years of age. It is therefore to this disease that we may ascribe the increased mortality among the younger part of the population. From the register it appears these deaths took place principally in Perth, Fremantle, Toodyay, and Guildford: 8 of the returns to this complaint were under 4 years; 7 under 14 months; and 3 under 6 months. It is the deaths of this class which may be found to affect the average mortality of the Colony to the greatest extent; and it is this class which may be most aggravated by any unusual change in the seasons. But much may be done, if a medical man is applied to in the earlier stages of the complaint, to mitigate and control the ravages of dysentery, which, although endemic, is at its commencement easily arrested.

We may here allude to the case of continued fever, which appears among this class of diseases. And it is a subject of congratulation, that out of the many persons attacked by this severe sickness during the year, only one fatality has taken place. This malady, though mistaken by unprofessional persons for the Typhus of old countries, has only been occasional—or (to use medical language) a sporadic disease. It has not proved contagious, or infected the healthy who have held intercourse with the sick; except in one or two instances, at most, where its nature may have been changed, by crowded apartments, deficient ventilation, and uncleanness;—sufficient of themselves to aggravate any malady.

Eleven persons have died of diseases of the *nervous system*, or 17.77 per cent. of total deaths; of whom only 3 were children under 1 year; the remaining 8 being persons above 20 years of age. The increase from this class on the previous year is 2.6 per cent.,—being occasioned by an increase in apoplexy and delirium tremens,—there were three from the latter disease! That marked as tetanus (lockjaw) arose it is believed more from accident than otherwise.

Respiratory diseases increased as much as 3 during the year; but considering the prevalence of wet weather, it is satisfactory to know that the number of deaths from this class have not increased so rapidly as those in the endemic class. And it may be found, that when the absolute mortality is low, the number in the endemic class may be less than in this class; and on the other hand, when the absolute mortality is high, the endemic class will be more numerous. I may add, from among the individuals who have sunk under this complaint that several, indeed all, arrived in the Colony seriously affected. One is a familiar instance of a gentleman, taken on board a vessel bound to Swan River 17 years since, in a very dangerous state from an affection of the lungs, whose life had been prolonged in a very remarkable manner under the influence of our dry, warm climate.

Although the unseasonable weather al-

luded to may have been primarily instrumental to the deaths from diseases of the organs of respiration, and the endemic dysentery; yet it appears to have been peculiarly favorable to diseases of the Digestive Organs. Out of the 4 deaths 2 only can be properly included in this class. The previous years shewed 100 per cent. more from this class,—averaging 6 annually. May we not, therefore, reasonably infer that the comparative coolness, or peculiar state of the weather during the past summer (the season most inimical to these complaints) had some beneficial influence in this respect? The existence of a special condition in the air, as the leading cause of liver-complaints, is by no means without close analogy in its favor. For example, it is well known that in the East Indies liver-complaints are remarkably frequent, though the climate, as far as heat and moisture are concerned, is like that of the West Indies, where such complaints are comparatively rare.

The next class of diseases occasioned 4 deaths—all females—of whom two died in child-bed. Taking the average of three years, the proportion of deaths from this cause to the births is 1 to 268; while in England the usual proportion is 1 to 170.

Diseases of uncertain seat include those maladies which pervade several organs; such as inflammation, tumour, atrophy, &c. Sudden deaths embrace two in which the cause, sudden in its effects, was stated with insufficient precision. The deaths from this class have decreased 4; the decrease being in inflammation, of which there were 5 in the previous year—last year 1 only.

The violent deaths, as previously stated, are less. They comprise 13; of these 12 were males, 6 of whom were under 20 years of age, and 3 under 1 year! Out of the total deaths more than a fifth occur annually from this cause; which is a fearful proportion. Accidental deaths from drowning, &c., which make up this item chiefly, are, however, numerous in most young countries. The active occupations, and hazardous employments of colonists, render them habitually hardy; and enterprise, a characteristic feature in the young settler, is generally patient of labor and prodigal of life.

III.

Statistics of Education among the Adult Population of Western Australia.

The interesting inquiries into the state of education among our adult population through means of the limited signatures in the marriage registers, were stated in a former report to be almost impracticable at present. The number of marriages were so few as to cause considerable variations in the annual proportions.

It is found to be otherwise, however, with the register of births and deaths, which comprise every year upwards of 200 signatures and marks. These comparatively numerous registers, indiscriminately signed by all classes, afford a more satisfactory test of the general ability to write; which may doubtless be regarded as indicative of proficiency in other kinds of education. Persons who have acquired any skill in writing are generally found to read with tolerable fluency. And they who read with facility have the road opened to them to obtain general information. I will not attempt to inquire minutely into the extent to which such information may from thence be inferred; or offer any precise estimate of its effects, either on the conduct of persons who are able to write, or on the community in which they reside. That it is on the whole favorable to industry and morals, though doubtless with some individual exceptions, seems to be pretty generally admitted; and it may conduce to that spirit of adventure which leads mankind to emigrate from their native country. This view of the subject is in a high degree curious:—A person in proportion as he is informed, has his wishes enlarged, as well as the means of gratifying those wishes.

He may be considered as taking within the sphere of his observation, a larger portion of the globe on which we tread, and discovering advantages at a greater distance on its surface. His desires or ambition, once excited are stimulated by his imagination, and distant and uncertain objects giving free scope to the operation of this faculty, often acquire, in the mind of the youthful adventurer, an attraction from their very uncertainty.

Having received a good education, but disappointed with his prospects in a nation crowded with rising talent and striving thousands, he reads of a distant country possessing alluring inducements to the intelligent and enterprising. He forthwith pictures to himself ideal advantages, and led on by ambition, or a desire for gain, he hastens to embark for the fancied elysium;—a place which he fondly hopes, and perhaps subsequently proves, capable of realising his most sanguine expectations.

If this view be correct; it follows that free immigrants may be, and generally are, of the better instructed and more enterprising class;—an encouraging reflection for all who may be interested in the moral and intellectual advancement of colonial society.

These observations are preliminary to the remarkable and important results of the inquiry into the knowledge of reading and writing, possessed by parties as far as regards the instruction of colonists previous to their arriving in Western Australia; and affords no test of the means of education at present obtaining among us.

Keeping what is here said in mind, let us proceed to consider the following average proportions of persons capable of writing. These calculations are obtained from a *bonâ fide* examination of the signatures, in every duplicate register of birth and death, with especial reference to the degree of skill severally evinced by them. The signatures were those, either of the father or mother of the child, or the occupier of the house in which the birth or death took place; and therefore may be regarded as presenting a fair average of the population.

During the four years registration, 637 male and 124 female informants signed the registers; or, 159 males and 31 females annually. Of this annual average—

18 males and 12 females could not write	26 “	6 “	wrote imperfectly.
	72 “	9 “	wrote well.
	42 “	4 “	wrote in a superior manner.

The several annual centesimal proportions may be seen in Table No. 6. The variations there appearing, in any year, were by no means so great as to lessen, in the least, the value of the average results.

From the foregoing statement, however, no definite idea can be conceived of the degree of instruction until we compare it with similar tables in the United Kingdom. In Western Australia, out of nearly 800 signatures and marks, the average yearly male and female proportions per cent. are:—

	Males.	Fem.
Could not write	10.5	43.9
“ write imperfectly	16.7	16.3
“ well	44.2	29.5
Had received superior instruction	28.6	10.2

In England the proportions are:—

	Males.	Fem.
Could not read or write	34.4	39.8
“ read and write imperfectly	54.1	55.0
Could read and write well	11.1	5.1
Had received superior instruction	0.4	0.1

In Scotland:—

Could not read and write “ read and write imperfectly	17.1	29.3
“ read and write well	58.0	63.1
Could read and write well	21.8	7.3
Had received superior instruction	3.1	0.3

In Ireland:—

Could not read or write	41.6	62.0
“ read only	20.4	23.9
“ read and write well	38.8	14.1

The proportion of males totally uneducated is about a tenth of the total number;—while in England about one-third of the adult male population cannot write;—in the London district, however, from whence a large portion of our population emigrated, the proportion is about one-seventh.

The proportion of the males among such as can write well, and those who have received superior instruction are certainly remarkably high; and it is to these proportions that I would chiefly direct attention.

The proportions among the females are not of course so favorable. It is satisfactory, however, to observe the number who can write well, and who wrote in a superior way.

On the whole, it would appear, on a comparison of the difference existing in the degree of instruction possessed by adults of both sexes in Western Australia and that possessed by adults in many old countries of Europe, that our colonial population is made up of, generally well instructed, and consequently, intelligent and energetic individuals.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
GEO. FRED. STONE,
Registrar.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Perth.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
October 9, 1845.

The Governor directs it to be notified for general information, that the under-mentioned Lands have been marked out, and their permanent description recorded in the Survey Office pursuant to the Ordinance 4 & 5 Vict. No. 20

The description of such lands as are marked with an asterisk differ from those in existing Title Deeds,—and as under the provisions of the above mentioned Ordinance they will be deemed to be the true and final record of the boundaries, certified copies of the same will be given on application at the Survey Office.

Swan District.		
Grant.	Name.	Acres.
12.	Church Trustees,	866
27.	D Scott	100
30.	J Drummond	1,000
31.	Do.	1,000
32.	Do.	1,000
34.	J P Beete	1,832
41.	W H Edwards	200
42.	C Farmer	200
81.	F C Irwin	12
91.	G F Moore	6,000
94.	W L Brockman	320
95.	E Hamersley	160
96.	W L Brockman	643
98.	T W Haslewood	320
99.	W L Brockman	320
100.	E Hamersley	180
101.	W L Brockman	320
102.	G F Moore	320
103.	R Edwards	226
104.	W L Brockman	320
105.	G F Moore	160
106.	Do.	160
107.	W L Brockman	320
112.	J Smith	50
Aa.	W Tanner	194
A2.	M MacDermott	17 2r.
B.	Irwin & Mackie	1,106
G.	R Edwards	1,500
M.	C Heal	1,125
Q1.	W Tanner	1,531
U.	W H Drake	1,000
V.	W Tanner	1,000
W.	J Drummond	1,000
X.	M Hutton	968
YNF.	L Lukin	3r. 8p.
2NF.	J Butler's kin	3r. 21p.
3NF.	W Pearse	1 5p.
4NF.	J W Davey	1
FGH.	Joseph Hardey	102

Grant.	Name.	Acres.
Q2.	W Tanner	40
MN.	M Hutton	20 2r.
R1.	W Tanner	20
<i>Canning District.</i>		
1.	P P Smith	573
2.	S Bickley	5,320
3.	W Bickley	640
*4.	W H Drake	28
*5.	A Waylen	578
6.	W Knight	65
*7.	S Moore	1,026
*8.	{ Louis, Houghton { and Yule	{ 200
9.	J Shipton	200
*10.	H Bull	200
11.	G Merritt	640
*12.	R Dawson	1,280
13.	W Nairn	3,280
*14.	L Samson	202
*14a.	T Helms	393
*15.	W Habgood	600
20.	J Haggerty	25
21.	Willett & Co.	2,560
22.	G & J Armstrong	420
27.	J Adams	320
33.	S Henty	1,250
37.	T Middleton	1,386
*39.	C Farmer	10
<i>Cochburn Sound District.</i>		
4.	H E Hall	126
5.	C Macfaull	113
13.	R G Meares	15
14.	T Peel	261
19.	M Quin	25
8.	H Lewis	424

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROUN.

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 BROUN.

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 BROUN.

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 Vict. No. 14 have not been obtained.

By His Excellency's command,
PETER BROUN.

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 BROUN.

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 emm barking	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 BROUN,
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 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.

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.

COMMISSARIAT NOTICES.

Commissariat Office, Perth,
October 7, 1845.

SALE OF BRAN.

TO be sold by public auction, at the Commissariat Store, on Wednesday, the 15th instant, at 12 o'clock,

A quantity of Bran.

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

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Government Printer.