

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

(PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1848.

[No. 152

The following Address has been presented to His Excellency:—

To His Excellency CAPTAIN CHARLES FITZGERALD Governor and Commander-in Chief of the Colony of Western Australia, &c., &c.

SIR,—We, the undersigned, representatives and members of the Congregational Connexion established in the colony of Western Australia, respectfully assure your Excellency that it is with much satisfaction we congratulate your Excellency on your safe arrival at the appointed seat of your Government, and sincerely hope that the period which Providence shall allot for your residence in this colony, will be attended with uninterrupted satisfaction to, and be in accordance with, your Excellency's most sanguine expectations; that your Excellency's administration may be successful in advancing the temporal interests and prosperity of the colonists at large; and especially that piety, the true source of happiness, may abundantly flourish, and the cause of God, without regard to sect or race, be extended more widely throughout this part of Her Majesty's dominions, with respect as well to the aboriginal as to the white population.

And we beg respectfully to acquaint your Excellency, that whereas for some years there existed a cause of grief in the minds of many colonists on account of the absence of opportunities of worshipping Almighty God in the manner more in conformity with their own conscientious opinions on Church Government, it is only within the last three years that a church holding the doctrines of the Congregational Independents has been formed here; and whereas, on the one hand, we feel it a privilege of no ordinary value that the facilities now exist which were but lately unknown, your Excellency will also perceive, on the other hand, that the opportunities we enjoy will not fail in removing a hindrance which would be likely to prevent settlers from emigrating to a colony where they would otherwise be compelled to do violence to their consciences.

And we further inform your Excellency, that whereas continual grants have been made by the Government in aid of the erection of churches and chapels of other Christian denominations, we have been enabled, by the help of God, to complete a building for divine worship by means of voluntary contributions, according to the strict principles of the Independent body; and while unable to bear the expense of a regularly ordained ministry, we have laboured and continue to provide, by lay agency, the bread of life at Perth and other places in the colony, and to administer the holy ordinances of religion to the people.

We do, therefore, sincerely trust that your Excellency, by a liberal and unbiassed government, will so rule this land as to induce a large influx of population into our now adopted country, that by this means we may have our hands strengthened and our churches supported by truly pious persons, who, knowing that an Independent Chapel exists here, duly sanctioned by our denomination in Europe, may be induced to settle with their families upon these shores; that no enactment shall be allowed to pass the Executive or Legislative Council during your Excellency's administration which may in any wise deprive us of the facilities and privileges which it is now our happiness to enjoy; that any measures which may tend to the advancement of true religion may be effectually carried; and, lastly, that the blessing of God may rest on the efforts that may be made to promote his glory, as well as upon your Excellency.

And that you may be enabled to exercise all your powers, privileges, and trusts in health and happiness, shall ever be the earnest prayer of your Excellency's obedient and faithful servants.

To which His Excellency was pleased to make the following reply:—

GENTLEMEN,—I thank you for the success you wish my administration of the Government of this

settlement, and agreeing, as I do, with you, that piety is among the first sources of happiness, I trust its benign influence may be felt by all within this colony, without distinction of creed or colour.

I rejoice that the former difficulties you allude to, are no longer in existence, and that, in common with all other christian persuasions of this settlement, you are afforded the facilities your struggles, and unasked and unaided endowment richly entitle you to claim, to worship God in conformity with your conscientious opinions, as is the right and blessing of all within the rule and realm of England's Queen.

Colonial Secretary's Office Perth,
September 23, 1848.

TENDERS will be received at this Office up to 12 o'clock on Tuesday the 3rd proximo for supplying,—

30,000 Sound Stock Bricks.

For further particulars application to be made to the Superintendent of Public Works.

By His Excellency's command,
R. R. MADDEN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
September 21, 1848.

His Excellency the Governor directs it to be notified for the information of all whom it may concern that the following Tenders have been accepted:—

G. Lazenby—for Repairs at Government House.

G. Stokes—for supplying sundry articles required for Light House on Rottneet.

M. E. Okeley—for 31 blue Shirts and 24 Scotch Caps.

By His Excellency's command,
R. R. MADDEN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
September 23, 1848.

Depasturing Licenses.

September 6, 1848, G. De C. Lefroy 20,000 acres Melbourne district.

By His Excellency's command,
R. R. MADDEN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office Perth
September 20, 1848.

1st. His Excellency desires it to be notified for public information that henceforward no expenditure for the public service shall be incurred without the direct authority of the Governor; and that the usual mode of obtaining such authority and also for the issue of Government Stores is through the Colonial Secretary.

2nd. A Copy of such authority in every instance shall be furnished to the Colonial Auditor from the Secretary's Office.

3rd. All accounts involving expenditure of Public money or of Stores expended in the public service shall be forwarded to the Colonial Auditor monthly, on or before the last day of each month, previously to their being submitted to the Go-

vernor for examination, approval, and authority for payment.

By His Excellency's command
R. R. MADDEN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Perth,
September 21, 1848.

Depasturing License.

The following application has been received:—

Sept. 20—Lionel Lukin, 6000 acres, Avon district; adjoining the fee simple lands of L. Lukin, and F. H. Byrne.

By His Excellency's command.
R. R. MADDEN,
Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office Perth,
September 23, 1848.

His Excellency has been pleased to direct the publication for general information of the Seventh Annual Report of the Registrar General of Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

By His Excellency's command,
R. R. MADDEN,
Colonial Secretary.

Seventh Annual Report
OF
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

General Register Office, Perth,
Aug. 31, 1848.

Sir,—I have the honor to submit to His Excellency the Governor my Seventh Annual Report under the Ordinance for the Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths in Western Australia.

In adverting to the signal success and popularity of the registration, which I ascribe to the diffusion of accurate information of the importance of the measure, its popularity among all religious denominations, and the activity of the Registrars, I would express regret that the useful working of the system should have been put to hazard by an alteration of the principles of the Marriage Act. In justice to the registration, and the gentlemen striving to carry out its details successfully, I would report, that since the repeal of the original Marriage Act and substitution of the present Ordinance, extreme dissatisfaction throughout the colony is the marked result.

Births.

The number of Births which have taken place during the year is 186, of whom 110 were females. During the past six years registration the relative proportion of females in our community has much increased by natural causes, the excess of female births together with the comparatively small number of female mortality, having jointly operated in their favor. The actual increase of the female over the male population by births and deaths, is 115. The extraordinary deficiency of females, which forms an anomaly in the population of most if not all young colonies, is a deplorable evil, being prejudicial to the domestic, social, and moral welfare of society; therefore any law of nature by which the balance of the sexes can be adjusted must be highly advantageous. That such a law exists among our population would seem to be the case, though to be certain thereof we must observe the registers during a lengthened period.

The births exceeded the deaths during the past year 118, which is the net annual increase of the population by births. Such a mode of increasing our numbers may be unsatisfactory to those who view the im-

migration of the vicious outcasts of poor-houses and gaols as of superior importance, though the statesman must admit it forms the best and surest resource for assisting to keep up a supply of labour—the best, because born and reared in, and therefore attached to their native colony; the surest, because a supply can be annually expected and depended upon. I do not mean to assert a child upon its birth is equal to an able bodied British peasant, and supplies his place, but that children, constantly being born and continually advancing in years, keep pushing their seniors up in the scale of ages, and, as colonists become old and gradually drop off from the active stage of life, they form not only a reservoir of youth and vigour ready to step into their places, but also a means of increasing the available productive industry of the colony.

Marriages.

Marriages were less numerous during the past and preceding years, being as low as 28 in each year, or 1 to every 168 living persons. They had been as numerous as 44 in previous years, when a smaller population existed. The extremes were in 1843, when they were 44, or 1 to 88·068 of the estimated population, and either of the two past years, when they were 28 or 1 to 165·5 of the estimated population. The proportion of marriages to the total population, it is seen, has been fluctuating, much depending upon the progressive prosperity for the time being of the colony. To the unsettled state of the community, the allurements to emigrate held out by the deceitful glitter of minerals in a sister settlement during the past 3 or 4 years, its paralyzing effect upon enterprise, industry, employment and wages, and consequent check to marriages by inducing a “moral restraint,” may be chiefly attributed the gradual falling off in the marriages.

The following observations submitted to His Excellency in explanation of the last written inference, may not be altogether foreign to the subject of a report on Vital Statistics.

It is not only among the better class of colonists that the proportion of marriages constitutes an index to their physical condition. The fashions and customs of life influence all classes alike in every country throughout the world, and the measure of ability to conform to those fashions and customs it is which encourages or discourages marriage. The settlers, equally of both classes, are habituated to that mode of living which places them far above the careless recklessness and calculation upon charity, said to be incentives to marriage among the destitute poor of old countries; forethought as to their ability to maintain a family is commonly observed among our lower class. They do not marry to rush into poverty and distress and endure the poignant scorn of their equals. They do not calculate on charity as a source of subsistence, knowing full well they must look to their own exertions alone for the needful support of their children; they have no poor-laws to fall back upon; the Government professing to relieve no distress however pinching, except abject destitution occasioned by sickness or decrepitude. High colonial wages admit of domestic comforts of a nature unknown to the British peasant, and our well-paid and fully employed labouring class are become habitually obnoxious to destitution and misery. They are above the want which drives to desperation; and would be found to have acquired a comparatively elevated

moral feeling, and a characteristic independence of spirit. Their desire being to better their circumstances and rise among their fellows, they do not contract marriage "lightly or wantonly."

Hence, in this colony at least, the annual proportion of marriages in connection with the mortality, may be received as a test of its progressive, stationary, or declining condition, for, if the number of marriages in proportion to its population continues high, it may be thence inferred the *customary* means of subsistence can be obtained with ease and certainty, and, on the other hand, if the proportion of marriages to the population is very low, it may be generally concluded there exists a comparative difficulty in procuring the *customary* necessities of life.

A little practical observation may be convincing of the truth of these remarks, offered in explanation of a principle, which, however inapplicable to an old country where stringent poor laws obtain, the state of Western Australia bears out.

Deaths.

We now come to a consideration of the mortality of the colony, and the circumstances which direct it, being the most important portion of the inquiry. For nothing is more true than that the mortality of the colony is the best gauge of its happiness and prosperity: among a community wallowing in vice, whether from the plethora of luxury or recklessness of poverty, it is invariably found that the wages of sin are death.

On analysing the mortality table, and comparing it with those of former years, we perceive a very marked increase in the deaths from disease, of children between 1 and 10 years of age. Without further remark on this head at present, I would invite attention to the tabular comparison instituted below of deaths from disease, which, in connexion with table No. VII, exhibits the startling fact:—

Years.	Age.				
	Under 1	1 to 3	3 to 10	Under 10	10 and upward
1843—4	14	2	2	18	22
1844—5	19	4	4	27	28
1845—6	4	3	2	9	21
1846—7	15	6	3	24	21
1847—8	18	10	7	35	17

A glance at this table (from which accidental deaths are excluded) is sufficient to shew that children between 1 and 10 years of age have been unusual sufferers during the year; and it becomes interesting to ascertain the particular shaft of death that has played such havoc among them. This is readily done by referring to the virulent Epidemic scourge under the form of Hooping Cough, which unfortunately effected an alarming stride from one end of our community to the other, entering almost every domestic circle, and sweeping away in its rapid and destructive course, "in one fell swoop," 15 children! To the cruel ravages of this active agent of death may be attributed the increased mortality among our little ones. Its cause, therefore, and the proper mode of eradicating it and preventing its reappearance among us in future,—are subjects which should not in a thriving young colony that should be exempt from such ills, be left to the discussion of medical men alone, but be taken in hand by the statist and philanthropist. I would wish to offer something in so good a cause, and to convey some practical con-

siderations on the subject, were I not desirous to avoid the least appearance of usurping what might be considered perhaps the peculiar province of others.

Hooping Cough visited the population many years since, and in the early part of the year 1845, a spasmodic affection of the stomach and throat with symptoms of Croup, very nearly assimilated to the peculiarities of the Hooping Cough prevailed among children, without any fatality. Epidemics do not always become extinct, but may lurk as a fatal spark among the neglected embers of society, ready to burst forth into a blaze at every favorable opportunity. How necessary is it, then, to take prompt and vigorous steps to prevent their reappearance.

Dysentery (our most virulent and fatal complaint) has not proved so severe during the past as in previous years, there being 4 only set down in the tables as having died therefrom. Of these 3 were females. In a previous year there had been as many as 10.

The next class of diseases to which I would solicit His Excellency's attention, are those designated by the term "Nervous diseases," which number 11 during the year. These diseases have usually materially helped to swell out the mortality of the colony. I must, however, observe that Apoplexy and Delirium tremens, arising from intemperance, do not figure so prominently as usual in the registers, nor have children under 1 year of age been such great sufferers from convulsions. If this diminution could be traced either to an improved nursing system, or less spirit drinking, it would afford much for congratulation. Indeed, if the members among both classes of our society would but offer a helping hand to the admirable climate and circumstances in which it is their lot to be cast, by abstaining from indulgence in suicidal habits of converting a gift of Providence into a slow poison fertile in producing sickness and death, the diseases we are considering would continue as low as they have been during the year, and redound to the morality of the colony. The immense quantity of spirits imported and consumed among us, and the laxity in licensing Public Houses to increase the Revenue, are in themselves influencing *inducements* to the population to continue those pernicious habits, which too often end in poverty, vice, disease, and death.

The number set down among nervous diseases between 1 and 10 year of age, were for the most part, there is reason to believe, induced by Hooping Cough. The immediate instead of the primary cause was returned.

Out of the total mortality 16 took place from violence and intemperance, the latter cause forming only 1 of the number. The deaths from this cause represent that portion of the population who died from accidental as well as intentional causes of a violent nature, such as drowning; discharge of a gun by accident; being crushed by the wheel of a loaded cart; being burned by accident, &c. I may add, that not one of the deaths from violence arose at the hands of the public executioner. Happily, our society is not sufficiently criminally inclined to produce, in 19 years, more than two candidates, and they old convicts, for the unenviable notoriety of the gallows. The proportion of violent deaths to the total mortality is nearly 24 per cent., which says much for the healthfulness of the colony.

The remaining classes of disease I pass over with the observation that the small number of each, particularly *complaints of the lungs*, in a remarkable manner tell favorably of our temperate climate.

Table IV, in connection with table IX, exhibits the influence of temperature and the seasons upon 5 classes of complaints. The deaths registered in the colony in the Spring quarter (September to November inclusive) amounted to 36 or 20 per cent; in Summer to 41 or 22·8 per cent; in Autumn 66 or 36·7 per cent; and in Winter 37 or 20·5 per cent. Spring would seem the least fatal season; and from other statistics, as well, it appears that, so far as the experience of 7 years registration goes, and, so far as mortality is a fair test by which to judge of health, Spring is the most healthy season of the year: whilst Autumn (March to May inclusive) is by far the most unhealthy. Probably the enervating effects of our hot summer weather may influence the mortality of Autumn.

Upon a review of the foregoing remarks, then, it may be satisfactory to observe that, with the exception of our cruel Epidemic stranger, the results of the mortality of the past year are no less favorable in respect to our climate and physical circumstances, than those of any previous year of the Registration.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
GEO. FRED. STONE.

Registrar-General.

The Hon. the Col. Secretary.

The Tables in the next Gazette.

*In the Civil Court of }
Western Australia. }*

BETWEEN BERNARD SMITH, PLAINTIFF,
AND

JOHN PICTON BEETE, DEFENDANT.

WHEREAS an Action has been commenced in this Court at the Suit of the above named Bernard Smith against the above named John Picton Beete, to recover the sum of Fifteen pounds, fifteen shillings, and upwards, due on a Bill of Exchange dated 10th September, 1842, drawn by the said John Picton Beete on one Mr. Ridley, payable at sight to the said Plaintiff. And it being alleged that the said John Picton Beete does not reside within this Colony, a Writ of Foreign Attachment has been issued returnable on Tuesday, the 10th October next, wherein Lionel Samson, of Perth aforesaid, Merchant, is Garnishee.

NOTICE is hereby given thereof, and that if at any time before final Judgment in this Action, the said John Picton Beete or any person on his 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 18th day of September, One thousand eight hundred and forty-eight.

BERNARD SMITH.

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