

2400-378

THIRTY-FOURTH CELEBRATION OF BENDIGO HOSPITAL SUNDAY

(First inaugurated—in the Colonies—at Bendigo, March, 1873).

COMMITTEE FOR THE YEAR 1906.

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THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF BENDIGO, Cr. J. SEMMENS.

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” F. LEYPOLDT

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Hon. Treasurer :

W. HONEYBONE, Esq.

Hon. Auditors :

MAJOR W. C. BLACKHAM. | I. E. DYASON, Esq.

Hon. Secretary :

R. H. S. ABBOTT.

COMMITTEE ROOM,

TOWN HALL, BENDIGO,

October 3rd, 1906.

DEAR SIR,

At the meeting of the above Committee, held in the Town Hall, Bendigo, on 19th July, it was resolved that the *14th October* should be the day upon which the *Simultaneous Collection* should be made. It was also resolved that, for the current year, the following institutions should participate in the amount received, in equal proportions—

The Bendigo Gold District General Hospital.

The Bendigo Benevolent Asylum.

Appended I have the pleasure of handing you some general particulars of the claims and positions of these institutions, as supplied by their respective officers, and to ask the favour of your valuable aid and kind co-operation in this important work of practical benevolence.

I am, very obediently yours,

R. H. S. ABBOTT, Hon. Sec.

P.S.—I was also requested by the meeting to draw the special attention of the several denominations to the great desirability of taking up all the collections on one and the same day.—I.S.A.

[OVER.]

Bendigo Hospital.



MAINTENANCE.—This department has been always in financial difficulty since the subsidy was so ruthlessly retrenched some 3 years ago, which was not warranted in any sense even at the time. 25 per cent. at one fell swoop was simply dreadful, and this fund still feels the effect and cannot recover under the present Government subsidy.

The Treasurer invited the Hon. the Premier to visit the Institution and see for himself how the Hospital is managed, and that gentleman (who is very practical in all matters connected with State Funds) seemed very favourably impressed with what he saw, and promised to take the matter into his consideration, and we trust some good results may ensue.

Your Committee have been exercising economy to the best of their ability in every way compatible with efficiency. The public are more liberal for the number of the population than any similar place in the State; and as proof of this we have only to refer to the number of entertainments, sports and other means of procuring funds for the poor and others who through accident or disease are compelled to seek medical treatment and come within the walls of this Institution. A casual glance at the Balance Sheet will show this statement to be absolutely correct in every detail, which speaks volumes for the charitable instincts of the people living in the Bendigo District, and is a silent though eloquent reproach to the Government who curtailed the subsidy from £3,300 to £2,600 per annum.

We are pleased to note the prospects of a bountiful season so far as the country is concerned, and trust that those whom the Great Creator of the Universe blesses with His bounties may think of their poorer brethren, stricken with disease and poverty, and cared for in our charitable institutions, and will, out of charity, contribute, as far as their means will permit, to the maintenance and efficiency of an institution which is doing so much good, relieves so much suffering, and is such a boon to all who are compelled to rest within its walls, as the "Old Bendigo Hospital," and thus assist the Committee in their efforts to make both ends meet year by year. "For he that hath pity on the poor lendeth to the Lord."

S. H. MCGOWAN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Benevolent Asylum.



During the year ending 30th June last 365 persons were maintained in the institution, an increase of twenty on the previous year. Of these, 188 were from 65 to 85 years of age, and 37 were 85 years and upwards; the daily average for the year was 200.

Out-door aid amounting to £668 was afforded to a daily average of 95 adults and 118 children.

Notwithstanding the prosperity of the district, the receipts from Hospital Sunday last year were less than the previous year, and the Committee trusts that the receipts this year will be much better, as on the Hospital Sunday movement and Easter Fair the institution has to depend for a considerable portion of its income.

Seeing the large amount of distress alleviated, the Committee confidently appeals to the various denominations to enable them to carry on the good work during the current year.

HY. BIRCH, *Hon. Secretary.*