

FINANCES SHOW IMPROVEMENT.

To the meeting of the committee of management of the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum yesterday the treasurer (Mr. G. Mackay) reported the debit balance was £4267/9/11. This was much less than it had been for some time.

There were present at the meeting Messrs. W. Wright (president), W. Crowley, G. J. Sweeney, G. Mackay, A. J. Hamilton, J. A. Michelsen, R. A. Rankin, Z. S. Martin, and the acting-superintendent (Mr. E. Betteridge).

A communication was received from Mr. J. B. Newman, manager of the Bendigo branch of the Commonwealth Bank. Mr. Newman forwarded a cheque for £23/9/6, being the proceeds of the performance of "Nothing but the Truth," by the Commonwealth Bank Melbourne staff dramatic club, in the town hall. A vote of thanks to all who had assisted to make the performance a success was carried unanimously.

Mr. E. G. Ham, secretary of the Bendigo Easter Fair Society, forwarded a cheque for £200, being the final distribution of profits of the fair.

The acting-superintendent reported that the amounts received during the month were:—Alfred Felton bequest, £60; children, White Hills school, 13/3; Mrs. G. M. Frew, £10/10/, Mr. A. G. Palmer, £1/1/; Mr. Edward Thomas, £1/1/; Shire of Rochester, £7/7; Messrs. Tomlins, Simmie, and Co., £3/3/; Miss N. Gibson, £5; Ed. Wilson's charitable fund, £30; Commonwealth Bank (Melbourne branch) dramatic club, per J. B. Newman, £23/9/6; Bendigo Easter Fair final payment, £200; Mr. Gordon Carter, £1/1/; "One Interested," £3/3/; William Beatty Trust, £14/19/1; Mrs. Chesterfield, £2; government grant, £1225; deputy commissioner of pensions, £549/14/7; Mr. Perry, 5/.

In the superintendent's monthly report Mr. E. Betteridge reported that on June 30 there were 101 males and 56 females in the asylum. The daily average number of inmates during the period was 155.3. During the month 445 distributions of outdoor relief were supplied to families in destitute circumstances, at a total cost of £65/8/6. Included in this amount was the sum of £6/4/, which represented the cost of foodstuffs supplied by orders on stores to families residing in distant parts of the district.

ASYLUM RELIEF WORK.

Increase in Applications.

SUSTENANCE WORK.

Evidence of the hardships which many people are facing in the State at the present time owing to the depression was witnessed at the benevolent asylum yesterday, when the monthly board meeting was held. A large number of men and women had assembled to ask the board for urgent relief to carry them on until employment could be found. The majority of the applications came from men passing through the city from other centres in search of work. Many of the men had invaded Bendigo en route to Eppalock in the hope of securing employment on the new work. The asylum authorities informed the applicants that they had insufficient money to meet local cases for relief, but distributed rations to the men to carry them on their journey to seek employment. Mr. W. Wright presided.

Mr. A. J. Hamilton, honorary secretary in charge of sustenance distribution in Bendigo, reported that the relief work had been running smoothly. Up to date 500 applications for relief had been dealt with, and at present 150 applicants were receiving weekly sustenance from 7/6 to 15/. Work provided by the water commission and other government departments, with the city council, was lightening the burden slightly. In Bendigo £35/12/6 had been distributed up to the present, and additional assistance would be forthcoming from the government.

Mr. Wright complimented Mr. Hamilton on the work he was doing, and offered the thanks of the board to him.

In submitting his report, the treasurer (Mr. G. Mackay) reported that the debit balance of the institution had increased slightly during the past month from £4267 to £4711.

The acting-superintendent (Mr. Betteridge) reported that on July 31 there were 97 males and 55 females in the asylum. The daily average for the month was 155. In outdoor relief during the month 388 distributions were supplied to families in destitute circumstances at a total cost of £59/14/8. The quotations of supplies issued from the asylum to outdoor relief cases were as follow:—148½ lbs. tea, £6/18/3; 560½ lbs. sugar, £9/19/11; 953 lbs. beef, £11/18/3; 4262 lbs. flour, £6/11/5; 1258 lbs. bread, £8/16/11; 361 lbs. meal, £3/4/5; 182 lbs. rice, £2/7/3; 324 lbs. sago, £3/14/3.

In the weekly report the acting-superintendent said that donations of four cases of tomato sauce had been received from Reed Bros., and other gifts from the Sandhurst cafe.

Donations were reported to the committee as follow:—Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Company of Australia Ltd., £2/2/; R. J. Stevenson, £1/1/; F. T. Dumphy, £1/1/; and Mrs. Chesterfield, 19/.

For the valuable services rendered to the Easter fair society in raising funds for charity, Mr. E. G. Ham, secretary of the society, forwarded recommendations that Mrs. Edith Ann Gibbons and Mrs. Annie Elizabeth Pearce, of the Bendigo branch of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, should be appointed life governors of the institution. Mr. Ham also stated that the abattoirs charity club had recommended Miss Daisy Richards, Mrs. Alice Daley Jones, and Mrs. Elizabeth Mary Gotja for appointment as life governors. The committee granted honorary life governorships.