

(No. 78.)



1890.

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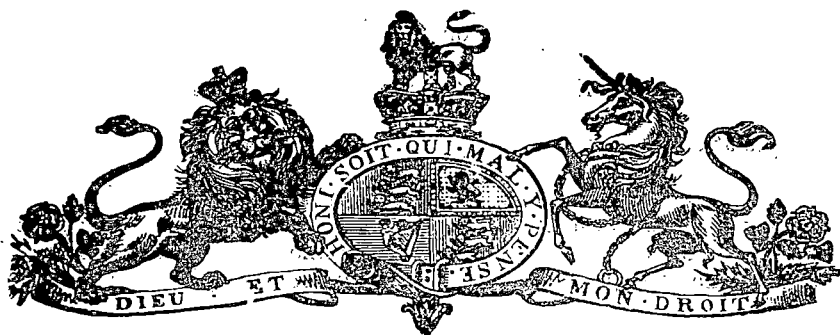
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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REPORT ON COUNTRY BETWEEN OUSE AND  
COLLINGWOOD RIVER.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



## REPORT ON THE COUNTRY BETWEEN THE OUSE AND COLLINGWOOD RIVER.

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*GENERAL REPORT of Exploring Party in connection with Extension of  
Derwent Valley Railway from the Ouse to a point on Loddon Hills.*

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Hobart, 2nd June, 1890.

SIR,

### *The Land.*

I took one man with me to break through and explore the country between Ouse and Mount King William, with a view to ascertaining which was the most practicable route for further exploration.

I walked through some splendid agricultural land on east and west sides of River Nive, also a very extensive flat between the Nive and Derwent Rivers, the grass in some parts being quite thick, long, and green when I walked through this, it being in the height of summer. Exclusive of the grass land, I travelled in a straight line over four or five miles of first-class agricultural land: this I have not cut any line through, it being a little distance from the route I adopted.

There are small patches of good agricultural land along the Derwent and unnamed rivers, which I followed. The latter is a basaltic soil, the sidelings being very steep in places.

There is another very extensive flat of good agricultural land on both sides of the main branch of the Gordon River, the area of which, I should say, is about 8000 acres, as far as I could judge by walking through it in the direction traversed by the line.

On King William Plains, though button-grass country, there is very good cattle and sheep feed, especially near Mount Hobhouse.

### *The Timber.*

In the good agricultural land the chief vegetation is dogwood, musk, silver wattle; large tree-ferns in some places. There is very good gum timber almost all along the line, it being chiefly white stringy-bark, and gum-top. The native willow and brown wattle scrub is very thick on the banks of the Derwent River.

### *The Rock.*

The rock is basalt from the Ouse to King William, with the exception of one place—at the 27-mile peg—for several miles the line passes through some soft freestone, when the rock is again basalt. The next change is on the west side of the divide of the Derwent and Franklin watersheds, when quartzite, quartz, soft slate, limestone, basalt, and conglomerate are met with.

### *Clearing.*

As regards the line being cleared, it is opened sufficiently to admit a free passage for a footman, steps being made over all the large fallen trees, &c.

*General.*

The line is well marked right through. In the forest, the trees are blazed fore and aft, and the large trees on side of line ringed.

Strong pickets being erected, both in the open country and in the forest.

Mile-posts, with the mileage written on, at every mile along the line.

Intersection-posts at every turn in line.

On the west side of divide I found there was a descent of about 1300 feet, and distance to fall could be obtained by keeping on west side of King William Range, running in a southerly direction, heading the Surprise River, and thence descending on the Loddon Hills. This I graded with a clinometer, it being rather rough and steep, though undoubtedly, in my estimation, a line can be easily obtained.

Bearings, heights, new rivers, creeks, hills, &c. have been noted, and full particulars will be forwarded with sketch plan.

Since I started, at the beginning of this year, the weather has been exceptionally good, only having lost two days on account of snow.

In conclusion, I may mention the distance chained is  $51\frac{1}{2}$  miles, it being 18 miles shorter to Iron Store, Mount Arrowsmith, than the road *via* Dee River and Bronté.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAS. L. A. MOORE.

*The Deputy Surveyor-General, Hobart.*