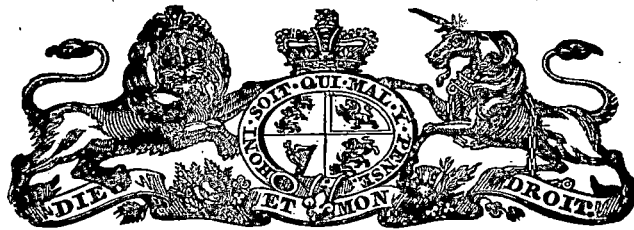


(No. 38.)



1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

BOARDS OF HEALTH:

REPORT OF CONFERENCE OF MEMBERS.

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

To the Honourable the Chief Secretary.

Hobart, 27th June, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE been instructed to forward to you the enclosed Report presented to and adopted by a Conference of Members of the Central Board of Health and the Local Boards of Health of the City of Hobart, the Health District of New Town, and the Health District of Queenborough.

The Conference arose from the action taken by the Municipal Council of the City of Hobart, which, at a meeting held on the 27th May, passed the following Resolutions:—

“That it is desirable, without any delay, to take the necessary steps to prepare for and carry out the proper drainage of the City.

“That whereas the proper drainage of the City will require that the portions of the surrounding districts which naturally drain into the Hobart, Wellington (or Sandy Bay), and Park Rivulets should also be provided for, a conference be asked for with the Central Board of Health in order to make arrangements as to the best means of securing the sewerage of the whole drainage area comprising the City.

“That, in order to give effect to the foregoing Resolutions, a deputation from the Council do wait upon the Ministers of the Crown to secure the co-operation of the Government, and that Members of the Central Board of Health be asked to join the deputation and support its purpose.”

The first meeting of the Conference was held on the 5th June current, and was attended by the President and four Members of the Central Board of Health, and by the Mayor and four Aldermen of the City, and the following Resolution was passed:—

“That this Conference is of opinion that as it is desirable, in order to carry out the Resolutions of the Municipal Council, that a further Conference should be held, embracing the Local Boards of Glebe Town, New Town, and Queenborough, the Central Board of Health be requested to arrange that such a Conference be held at an early date.”

A second meeting was accordingly held on the 12th June, attended by the President and three Members of the Central Board of Health, the Mayor and five Aldermen of the City, by five Members of the Glebe Town Board, three Members of the New Town Board, and three Members of the Queenborough Board, at which a Resolution was passed affirming the desirability of establishing a system of drainage for the whole drainage area of the City and suburbs; and a Committee was appointed to report to the Conference upon the best means of carrying out the Resolution and on matters connected therewith. This Committee consisted of the President and two Members of the Central Board, the Mayor and two Aldermen of the City of Hobart, and two Members of each of the Local Boards of Health of New Town and Queenborough; the Glebe Town Board declining to be represented.

It is the Report of the Committee thus appointed that has been adopted by the Conference at a meeting held yesterday, and that I am instructed to forward to you, with a request that it may be presented to Parliament.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your faithful Servant,

A. MAULT,

Secretary to the Central Board of Health.



HOBART DRAINAGE AREA.

To the Conference of Members of the Central Board of Health, and of the Local Boards of Health of the City of Hobart, the Town of Glebe Town, the Health District of New Town, and the Health District of Queenborough.

GENTLEMEN,

WE, the Members of the Committee appointed at your meeting held on the 12th June current to report to you upon the best means of carrying out the Resolution you passed affirming the desirability of establishing a system of drainage for the area comprising the City of Hobart and the adjoining districts, and upon matters connected therewith, beg to report to you as follows:—

In the matter of the area that should be embraced in the proposed system, we appointed a Sub-Committee to examine the whole district, and have received from them the following joint Report, which we recommend to you for adoption.

To the Committee of Conference of the Local Boards of Health of the City of Hobart, of the Health District of New Town, and the Health District of Queenborough, with the Central Board of Health.

GENTLEMEN,

WE, the Members of the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the matter of the limits of the proposed drainage area, beg to report to you as follows:—

We have examined the country with the view of ascertaining what are the natural drainage basins comprised within it.

On the north-west of the city we find—

- 1st. The ridge of the spur of Mount Wellington passing by Knocklofty, Swan's Hill, and the Domain, separates the basin of the city from that drained by the rivulet that flows by the *Maypole Inn* into New Town Bay.
- 2nd. Another ridge, crossing the Main Road about opposite St. John's Avenue, New Town, and thence trending south-westwards and southwards to Mount Wellington, divides the basin of the *Maypole Rivulet* from that of the *New Town Rivulet*; and
- 3rd. A ridge running out near Risdon Ferry and crossing the Main Road about ten chains beyond the *New Town Rivulet*, and thence also trending south-westwards and southwards to Mount Wellington, separates the *New Town Rivulet* basin from the *Glenorchy* basin.

On the west, Mount Wellington itself bounds the drainage basin; and the ridges of the spurs dividing the valleys of the various rivulets which have a common outfall in the *Hobart Rivulet* form the divisions of subsidiary basins.

On the south, the ridge of the spur that ends in Mount Nelson forms the boundary of the natural basin, and this is again subdivided into smaller basins that are drained by the various rivulets emptying into *Sandy Bay*.

Taking into consideration the fact that the disposal of the sewage, whether by immediate discharge into the *Derwent* at certain points, or by discharge after purification or utilisation for irrigation purposes, will in all probability require the construction of outfall sewers or conduits that

may extend from New Town Bay on the north to Sandy Bay on the south, we think it desirable that the proposed Drainage Authority should have jurisdiction over the whole area naturally draining into the Derwent between Stanhope Point and Sandy Bay Point, as generally shown on the accompanying plan.

The jurisdiction thus taken does not necessitate nor imply that sewers would be at once constructed to drain the whole of the district. The Drainage Authority should have power to establish special drainage districts, and deal with these districts independently. The boundaries of these districts would be partly natural by being dependent upon the conformation of the ground, and partly arbitrary by being dependent on the circumstances of the locality, such as whether it is urban, suburban, or rural. Thus, a district might be formed of the urban portion of the Hobart basin, bounded naturally on the north west by the Swan Hill and Knocklofty ridge, on the south east by the watershed line near Lord-street, Sandy Bay, and on the west arbitrarily by a line a little beyond the Cascade Brewery. And in like manner other districts might be formed.

Nor would the assumption of this jurisdiction imply uniform rating over the whole area. On the contrary, the Authority should have power to levy special district rates, proportionate to the requirements of each special district. Districts that required complete drainage would be rated to pay for it, and those requiring little or none, accordingly. And the accounts of the Authority would have to be so kept that the common expenses for administration, the common cost of sewage disposal, and the special expenses for the work of every drainage district should each be distinctly ascertainable, and provided for equitably and rateably to benefit secured.

While this distinction of districts is thus preserved, it is evident that one administration and one system of sewage disposal will be more efficient and more economical than several; and that by placing that administration in the hands of one authority the separate interests of each district may be duly safeguarded with respect to matters in which local work may be sufficient, while at the same time conflict and expense may be avoided in matters in which common action must be taken.

We have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servants,

JAMES GREGORY.
T. A. REYNOLDS.
JAMES H. R. CRUICKSHANK.
WM. BENSON.
J. WEMYSS SYME.

Hobart, 22nd June, 1889.

In the matter of the constitution of the Drainage Authority we have, after due consideration, resolved to make the following recommendations:—

That as Government will be asked to contribute from the General Revenue to the funds of the Authority, it should be represented thereupon by Three Members; that the rest of the Members should be appointed by bodies elected by ratepayers, namely—

- Five Members from Hobart, being the Mayor and Officer of Health for the time being *ex officio*, and Three Aldermen elected by the Council.
- One Member elected by the Municipal Council of Glenorchy.
- One Member elected by the Town Board of Glebe Town.
- One Member elected by the Road Board of Augusta Road Trust.
- One Member elected by the Road Board of Loinah Road Trust.
- One Member elected by the Road Board of Sandy Bay Road Trust.
- One Member elected by the Road Board of Queenborough Road Trust.

That, to give as permanent a character as practicable to the Authority, the Members should be appointed for five years, except those named by the Government and those who are Members *ex officio*.

With respect to the powers to be conferred and the duties imposed upon the Drainage Authority, such powers and duties will have to be defined by Act of Parliament, and we recommend that in such Act provision should be made for the following matters:—

- (1) For defining the drainage area in the manner proposed in our Sub-Committee's Report, and for alterations thereof.
- (2) For the mode of appointment and election of the Authority constituted as above recommended; for the filling up of occasional vacancies; and for the continuation of its corporate existence.
- (3) For the mode of conducting its business, including matters connected with its offices, meetings, quorum, committees, annual report, estimates, accounts, audit, &c.
- (4) For its appointment of officers and the making of regulations for their guidance.
- (5) For giving such officers powers corresponding to those given by Public Health Acts to officers of Local Boards.

- (6) For vesting in the Authority, and giving it control over, all existing and future sewers, except those belonging to a Road Authority, used exclusively for road drainage. "Sewer" to be interpreted as in Public Health Act, 1885.
- (7) For imposing on the Authority the duty of properly making, ventilating, and maintaining all necessary sewers.
- (8) For empowering the Authority to make sewers through private property, streets, roads, &c., in its district, and, under certain conditions, outside its district.
- (9) For preventing the Authority from polluting streams, &c., with sewage.
- (10) For empowering the Authority to alter sewers.
- (11) For empowering the Authority to make plans of its district, and imposing upon it the duty of making such plans, and marking thereon all sewers, and allowing ratepayers to inspect it.
- (12) For empowering the Authority to construct works for sewage disposal, or make contracts for such disposal, and lease or purchase lands for such disposal.
- (13) For repealing the 3rd Section of 18 Victoria, No. 16, when the Authority shall have certified the Chief Secretary that main sewers sufficient to take all the sewage flowing into the Hobart Rivulet are completed.
- (14) For transferring from Local Boards of Health to the Authority the carrying out within its district of the provisions of Sections 117, 118, 119, 121, 127, and 137 of the Public Health Act, 1885, and Section 18 of the Public Health Act, 1887, and so much of Section 136 of the Public Health Act, 1885, as refers to drainage.
- (15) For empowering the Authority to take over existing sewers, and paying compensation therefor.
- (16) For the making and enforcement of By-laws by the Authority, and of Regulations as to conditions under which sewers are to be used.
- (17) For empowering ratepayers to use sewers subject to such conditions.
- (18) For empowering the Authority to compel the drainage of all houses within feet of any existing sewer belonging to it, and to compel the alteration of existing drains.
- (19) For preventing the building of new houses without proper drains when within feet of a sewer.
- (20) For preventing the laying out or selling of land for building purposes without provision of sewers to the satisfaction of the Authority, to whom plans must be submitted.
- (21) For preventing the building of houses over sewers without consent of the Authority.
- (22) For empowering the Authority to make general rates for sewerage purposes, and to define special drainage districts, and levy therein special district rates.
- (23) For empowering the Authority to make private improvement rates.
- (24) For giving the Authority borrowing powers upon security of the rates or otherwise; and
- (25) For all necessary legal proceedings, including prosecutions and recovery of penalties; recovery of rates; the making of contracts; the mortgaging of rates, &c.; the acquisition of lands, &c.; compensation for damages, &c.; proceedings against the Authority; appeals, &c.

All which matters we beg to submit to you.

We have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servants,

P. O. FYSH.
WM. BENSON.
JAMES H. R. CRUICKSHANK.
T. A. REYNOLDS.
JAMES GREGORY.
WILLIAM PERKINS.
J. WEMYSS SYME.
G. S. CROUCH.

