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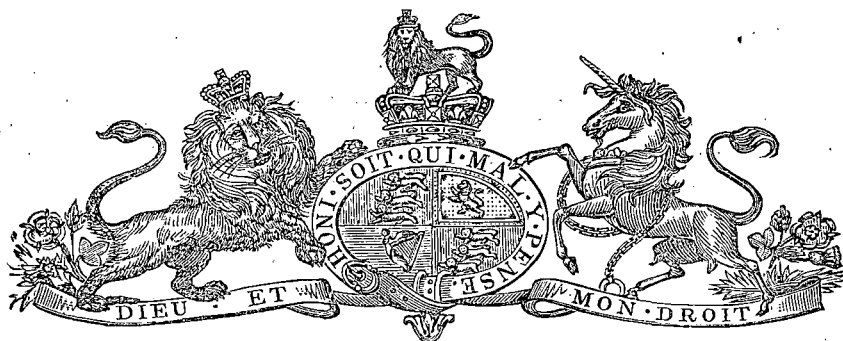
1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

SURVEY DEPARTMENT:

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEPUTY SURVEYOR-GENERAL.

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



SURVEY DEPARTMENT.

ANNUAL REPORT.

Department of Surveys, 1st August, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to place before you the Annual Report of this Department for the twelve months ending June 30th, 1892, in which several matters of considerable importance are dealt with.

CROWN LANDS.

Notwithstanding the progress that has taken place in the sale of Crown Lands during the last ten years—averaging about 46,000 acres per year—there are still large areas in various parts of the Colony suitable for selection, notably in the Counties of Wellington, Devon, Dorset, Buckingham, and Franklin. Much of the unalienated land in Wellington is no doubt at too great an elevation for the profitable production of grain crops, but its character will be found to be admirably adapted to pastoral purposes.

For years past selection in the heavily timbered districts of the Colony, has, in almost every instance, extended far beyond settlement. There can be no doubt that a considerable percentage of these selections has been made for speculative purposes, and that this has hindered *bonâ fide* settlement and improvement. To counteract this abuse of the intention of the framers of our Land Laws, "The Crown Lands Act" of 1890 was introduced, which insists upon improvements being effected to the value of one pound per acre before a grant is issued by the Crown; and though its operation may partially account for the decrease in the number of agricultural selections in the past year, the practical result must prove beneficial to the Colony. Much of the selection in advance of settlement has undoubtedly been due to the assumption by the applicants that the extension of roads would be carried on year by year under the Public Works Scheme; and the fact that it has been found necessary to suspend this expenditure for a time will, to a large extent, account for the falling off already experienced in the receipt of applications.

Selection is almost stationary in the western portion of the County of Buckingham. The land recently taken up in the valley of the Russell's Falls River is being improved and settled upon. When the outlet to this land is extended into the valley of the Florentine River a large increase in selection is certain to follow. After careful inspection of this country, Mr. Frodsham, District Surveyor, has estimated the area of first-class land available there at 12,000 acres, and some 6000 acres of medium quality. It is hoped that an early effort will be made to open up this important district.

The Reports from the District Surveyors of the Colony, attached, refer to the Crown Lands in each respective district. In the report from Mr. Chalmers he points out that there is a considerable extent of land locked up unnecessarily by reason of the mining operations along the Mersey and Forth Rivers. That lying along the River Mersey is reserved for dysodile, and is within seven miles of Latrobe, and that referred to on the River Forth is situated in the vicinity of the Middlesex gold discovery. The latter is somewhat remote from settlement and at considerable elevation from sea level, but if thrown open it would probably lead to selection. Mr. Chalmers also draws attention to large areas of second and third-class land in his district, which are likely to remain for a long time in their natural state under the present price and conditions of purchase. He suggests that such lands would be taken up if long improving leases with a right to purchase, or if the price

were reduced from £1 per acre to a sum commensurate with its value. Such a proposal would necessitate an alteration in our Land Laws, but it will undoubtedly form a question for the future consideration of the Legislature.

SURVEYS.

In the County of Devon, Mr. Richard Hall reports having surveyed 51 lots under "The Crown Lands Act," containing 2700 acres, and 24 sections, comprising a total area of 1700 acres, applied for under "The Mineral Lands Act." He refers to the few improvements that have been made on the land in the Wilmot country, where the adjoining sections cover an area of some 15,000 acres of good land.

The County of Wellington, as usual, takes the record for the year in regard to settlement surveys, Mr. Windsor having surveyed 94 lots, comprising some 8000 acres. About 2300 acres have also been surveyed by Messrs. H. P. Dove and Thomas Frodsham in the western portion of the county. These surveyors were despatched to assist Mr. Windsor, who was unable to cope with the requirements of selectors. In the eastern portion of Devon and in Dorset and Cornwall surveying has been anything but brisk; the respective District Surveyors, Messrs. H. J. Chalmers, J. A. Sorell, G. T. Eddie, and E. G. Walpole have been only moderately employed, and that principally upon the survey of mineral lands. In Cornwall and Glamorgan Mr. G. C. Smith has found it necessary to obtain assistance; Messrs. Thos. Clark and A. T. Mason have performed a good deal of survey work for him. In Pembroke, Monmouth, and Cumberland Messrs. W. M. Hardy and Thos. Frodsham have been aided by their respective assistants, E. T. Miles, W. R. Pitfield, and others. Mr. Hardy is at present, and has been for some months, employed on the survey of Hobart by the Metropolitan Drainage Board. The surveys on Tasman and Forestier Peninsulas have been made by Mr. J. H. Hinsby. In Buckingham, Mr. H. Coombes has been kept going; whilst in Franklin, the energies of Mr. E. G. Innes have been pretty well taxed to keep pace with the demands for selection. Mr. David Jones has been in constant employment for the whole of the year, principally on the West Coast, in effecting surveys under Part IV. of "The Crown Lands Act." Another batch of surveys has recently been completed by Mr. Dove on Flinders Island, covering a total area of 1892 acres.

There are no arrears of surveys calling for special remark in any of the Survey Districts. In some instances the Surveyors are pressing for outside employment. From the inspections I have been enabled to make of their work, it appears that the Regulations of the Surveyor-General are being fairly well carried out by the Surveyors. I have revisited four districts and inspected in a general way some 100 allotment surveys. I found the lines of the Agricultural lots in passable condition, and in most instances the corner pegs connected with a permanent mark in the nearest large tree for future reference. The town surveys of Stafford and Heazlewood, Whyte River District, were not so satisfactory, some of the marking being defective, and one of the sites chosen objectionable. This mistake is not due to the Surveyor, as the land had been already built upon, and adopted in response to local petitions.

Return of Selection and Auction Surveys received during Twelve Months ending 30th June, 1892.

SURVEY DISTRICT.	SELECTION SURVEYS.		AUCTION SURVEYS.		TOTAL.	
	Area in Acres.	No. of Lots.	Area in Acres.	No. of Lots.	Area in Acres.	No. of Lots.
Wellington and part of Devon	13,171	97	1	1	13,172	98
Devon (part of), West.....	4046	60	81	7	4127	67
Devon (part of), East	1418	36	133	343	1551	379
Westmorland, Lincoln, Cumberland, Devon, (parts of).....	1038	15	—	—	1038	15
Dorset (part of), West.....	2184	34	115	90	2299	124
Dorset (part of), East.....	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cornwall, Dorset, Glamorgan, and Somerset, (parts of).....	4788	78	25	3	4813	81
Buckingham, South, (part of).....	1406	44	—	—	1406	44
Cumberland, Monmouth, Buckingham, (parts of).....	2753	36	4	1	2757	37
Pembroke, Monmouth, Somerset, Gla- morgan, (parts of).....	4838	73	12	15	4850	88
Kent and part of Buckingham.....	1611	28	31	3	1642	31
Tasman's Peninsula and part Pembroke	602	13	15	1	617	14
Montagu	1917	61	354	1390	2271	1451
King's Island	1925	13	—	—	1925	13
TOTAL.....	41,697	588	771	1854	42,468	2442

*New Towns subdivided for Sale during the Twelve Months ending
30th June, 1892.*

<i>Name of Town.</i>	<i>Situation.</i>	<i>Area in Acres.</i>	<i>No. of Lots.</i>
Dundas.....	Near Mount Dundas	62	282
Zeehan.....	West Coast	286	1205
Lietinna	Railway Line Launceston to Scottsdale	3	14
Wiangata.....	Golconda Railway Station	15	54
Pagunta.....	Railway Line Launceston to Scottsdale	4	16
Strahan, East.....	Macquarie Harbour	18	72
Argenton	Vicinity of Zeehan	30	113
Mallana	Henty River	193	} Not subdivided.
Warrentinna.....	Vicinity of Branhholm	167	
		778	1756

ROADS.

In my Report for last year I made special reference to the difficulties, delays, and expense entailed in providing roads of access under the system of selection before survey. I have given this subject earnest consideration, and would be gratified were I able to recommend the adoption of a system of survey before selection, since this would remove most of the defects now too evident. But the difficulties of bringing this system into practical operation are numerous, and the risk of incurring a large expenditure in surveys, without any tangible results perhaps for many years, would I fear, be a fatal obstacle to such a scheme. An amendment of the existing system is, however, required. A widespread but erroneous impression prevails that the fault lies with the Surveyors who laid out the reserved rights of road in the first instance, but all the professional skill and care possible would not obviate the necessity for occasional alterations or deviations at subsequent periods; and the utter uncertainty as to the locality, area, and position of future selections, and the adaptability or otherwise of the roads first reserved to subsequent requirements further inland, must always result in deviations being found requisite. But the cumbrous system under which several surveys are required and the services of six or seven departments having to be brought into requisition before the matter of one of these petty cases can be finally disposed of, might be simplified with both advantage and profit.

SURVEYS FOR THE MINES.

It is exceedingly gratifying to me to be able to state that matters in connection with these surveys are in a much more satisfactory condition than they were this time last year, and that the opinion I then expressed of the good results that might be expected to follow the appointment of an Inspector of Surveys has been fully realised. This improvement is largely due to the temporary allotment of districts, by which every surveyor was held responsible for the surveys within the locality assigned to him, and by prohibiting the employment of private surveyors by the applicants. Beyond these considerations, the very great falling off in the number of applications made for mining leases has aided the efforts of the Inspector of Surveys in reducing irregularities to an orderly system. Field inspections have been confined to surveys effected subsequent to the appointment of the Inspector of Surveys. Of those examined, the work of four surveyors was condemned and some glaring irregularities in previous surveys have been exposed by those of more recent date. The Report of the Inspector of Surveys attached bears out the views I have previously expressed as to the necessity for exercising supervision over these surveys, and it is quite evident that had the "cutting out" and "overlapping," &c. which formerly prevailed been permitted to continue, or had all the sections proved to be as valuable as they were at one time represented to be, the Government would have had every reason to fear serious consequences arising out of disputed boundaries.

During the year 550 diagrams for mining leases have passed through the Inspector's hands. They have been overlooked by him generally, and transmitted to the Department of Mines, which department is responsible for their final examination. Much more inspection and checking the surveys in the field would have been accomplished but for the time necessarily taken up by the Inspector in the discharge of his office duties, and in supervising the extension survey of residence areas for sale at Zeehan and Dundas. His services could be constantly employed checking the work of the District Surveyors throughout the Colony with great advantage to the Department. He has shown himself to be a capable, painstaking, and reliable officer for the position he holds. The necessity for such officers has been universally recognised in the other colonies, and our experience in Tasmania has proved the advantage of field inspection in checking the laxities inseparable from a contract system of surveying.

EXPLORATION TRACKS.

Considerable prominence is given to this subject in the Reports of the District Surveyors, particularly in the one from Mr. Innes. He indicates various localities in which facilities for opening up the country are required. If the work could be undertaken there can be little doubt that a judicious and moderate expenditure in track-cutting in these parts would lead to further selection and also to important mineral discoveries being made. The recent discovery of alluvial tin deposits in the extreme southern portion of the Island, locally known as Cox's Bight, is now shown to be of considerable value, and others are likely to follow as the country becomes better prospected.

Much of the Counties of Kent and Arthur is believed to be mineral-bearing; but inasmuch as the former particularly is largely covered with an almost impenetrable scrub, it is likely to remain undeveloped for some time to come if its exploration is left to the unaided efforts of private enterprise.

The votes for track-cutting are under the control of the Public Works Department; but having regard to the fact that probably the principal portion of the information on which such votes are expended is supplied by the District Surveyors, it has been customary to refer to the subject in this Report.

DRAFTING ROOM.

The compilation of town plans has proceeded very satisfactorily during the year; but it is to be regretted that the same cannot be said with regard to the county plans, which are so intricate and complex in their construction that the work can only be entrusted to experienced draftsmen, and it is only occasionally the most competent officers can be spared from their ordinary duties to undertake these plans; this has especially been the case during the last six or eight months, in which residence areas at Zeehan and Dundas, with other important work, commanded preferential attention. I anticipate, however, making more rapid progress in these compilations during the current year, for many of the plans which we are now compelled to use for photo-lithography are still merely on tracing paper, and in such a bad state that it is almost impossible to obtain legible copies from them. Since the introduction of photo-lithography into this Department the demand for copies—both by the public and other departments—has increased enormously, so that new issues have to be constantly made, and every fresh issue means the further destruction of these tracings.

The plans prepared during the half year ending December 31st, 1891 are as follows:—10 compiled and drawn, one traced and lithographed, and 12 posted up to date; number of grants prepared in duplicate, 482, or 964 skins. For the subsequent six months six plans have been compiled, two traced and lithographed, and seven posted up to date. Number of surveys examined by the computing draftsman during the year, 2500, including the unprecedented number of town allotments on the West Coast. The number of applications charted and otherwise dealt with in this Department for same period is 1698, and the roads recorded on the plans in this office from diagrams forwarded by the Public Works during the last six months are 72. This record was not kept previously.

LITHOGRAPHIC WORK.

The plans printed and work performed during the year in the Lithographic Room are as follows:—Plans and maps for this Department, 14,470; plans for the mines 13,485; and plans and sections for the Public Works, 8715 copies; miscellaneous items, including charts, diagrams, bills of exchange, &c., 215,797 prints. The total number of pulls involved in this work is 252,467. The printing machine is working well, and is in good preservation.

Mr. Scott has performed a large amount of photographic work, which has given satisfaction.

SPECIAL SURVEY SERVICE.

I had hoped that provision might be made in the Estimates of Expenditure for 1893 for this service; but with the disappearance of this vote it is quite clear that the anticipations foreshadowed in my last annual Report respecting the re-establishment of the original Trigonometrical Survey of the country will not be realised. I have on previous occasions endeavoured to demonstrate the importance of such a survey as a means of detecting and rectifying errors of locating allotment surveys in correct position on the official plans of this office, and in providing a safeguard against costly suits at law in respect to disputed property boundaries. True, no serious consequences may have yet arisen in Tasmania, but they have occurred elsewhere, and the danger of such arising at any time is increasing year by year. "The Crown Lands Act, 1890," 54 Vict. No. 8, establishes the very important principle of legalising the survey marks on the ground against errors in measurements, or in written descriptions in titles. Such provision will, however, be of little avail in the legal adjustment of disputes when the marks have become effaced, and no visible feature remains on the ground by which the original survey can be identified.

Feeling deeply impressed with the importance of this subject, I have taken every opportunity of preparing the basis, so as to facilitate the completion of the work whenever the funds available will permit of the special survey being resumed. The work of checking the lengths and angles on

which the original "Trig" Plan was constructed is in course of progress; but the data available in the old Field Books and records in this Department are very incomplete. The old plan is falling to pieces, and it has been my anxiety for some time to have a fresh one drawn in order to preserve the record. This work is now in hand.

I have been disappointed in my hopes of obtaining through the Engineer-in-Chief co-operation in the erection of "Trig" Stations along the various proposed Railway Lines that have recently been surveyed; but I am looking forward to the receipt of particulars of these surveys as information that should be valuable to this Department. These remarks apply to some seven railway surveys.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

The Board of Examiners attached to this Department has held two examinations for persons wishing to qualify as Land Surveyors in Tasmania,—the first in October, 1891, and the second in April, 1892. Two candidates presented themselves on each occasion, and failed each time. It is satisfactory to note that these examinations are being respected in the other Colonies, as shown by the fact that Mr. George A. Sinclair, one of our young surveyors, was selected without examination in Victoria to fill an important and responsible position in his profession at the Dookie Agricultural College; while Mr. C. S. Wilson has been elected a Member of the Institute of Surveyors in New South Wales by the aid of this Board's certificate.

RECIPROCITY.

A considerable amount of correspondence has recently taken place between the Colonies generally with a view to establishing reciprocity in regard to the Certificates of Surveyors. The initiative on this occasion has been taken by Mr. A. M'Dowall, who commenced his professional career in this office, and who is now Surveyor-General of Queensland. It has led to the arranging of a Conference, to take place on the 31st of October, 1892, to discuss the proposal, and to which Conference all the Colonies have been asked to send representatives. The voting power is restricted to four for any one Colony. South Australia has already appointed two delegates,—the Surveyor-General and the Postmaster-General. Having regard to the importance of the movement, the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works will be asked to approve of a resolution of the Board affirming the desirableness of this Colony being represented by two of its members. Apart from the question of reciprocity, there can be little doubt that an interchange of views on professional matters between the representatives of the Survey Departments throughout Australasia should prove of mutual advantage to all.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

E. A. COUNSEL,
Deputy Surveyor-General.

*The Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works,
Lands and Works Office.*

REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF SURVEYS.

Zeehan, 27th May, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report upon the proceedings of the past year with respect to the survey work carried out in the Zeehan and Dundas District under my supervision.

A total number of about 550 surveys of mineral sections have been made and dealt with. All the plans of the above have been received by me and transmitted to the Secretary of Mines, after being traced and recorded in my books for future reference locally. I have overlooked the plans generally, before sending away, but the final examination has been done, I presume, in the head office.

Two important town surveys have been made, viz., Zeehan and Dundas, and several others of less extent. Special attention has been given to the marking of this work, which is of a most permanent and substantial nature. All corner pegs of allotments are split out of good sound timber, sawn on top and dressed smooth, painted white, and branded with their respective section and allotment numbers.

Eleven surveyors have been engaged on the foregoing work; and the large accumulation of surveys has been considerably reduced, and is now being rapidly disposed of, and complaints of delay are not of frequent occurrence.

The whole field has been subdivided into districts, and allotted to the various surveyors. Each surveyor performs and has charge of all surveys in his sub-division, and thus enables the sections to be marked out in their proper order, and does away with the cutting out and overlapping of surveys which formerly took place, when private surveyors were employed by applicants to make surveys almost at random, and quite regardless of prior claims to the land. No instructions can now be passed between the surveyors without my knowledge and consent.

Respecting the standard and quality of the surveys now being executed, a very decided improvement has been made upon the former class of work. Compass work is strictly discountenanced, and all lines must now be run, and the angles taken, with a theodolite. The marking is being done in a more substantial and permanent manner, and in accordance with the Regulations now in force.

The plans and diagrams now being received will compare favourably with those sent in formerly; and, although there is still room for improvement, they are fairly satisfactory.

I have frequently had to find fault with the surveyors' field notes, and have great difficulty in obtaining anything like full and complete notes of the operations actually gone through to attain the results shown on the plans; and even now they are far from satisfactory, as they really afford no check on the plan at all. They are especially reticent as regards any differences in angles and bearings.

No progress has been made towards a general adjustment of survey bearings, either by means of meridian lines or by triangulation; but the angular work now being done will help to attain this object by either of the above methods.

The practice which formerly prevailed of giving bonuses and interests in sections to the surveyors has now been entirely done away with,—no instance of the kind having come under my notice for the past year.

Referring to my tour of inspection over the Waratah District, of which you have already received my detailed report, no alteration appears to have been made in the system of issuing the instructions to the surveyors, nor has any supervision been exercised over the field work beyond what I did on the tour above referred to, and which was merely a superficial inspection of the marking of a few of the sections.

From experience gained during the past year, and also in conformity with the practice in the adjoining Colonies, I beg to point out the necessity of regular and constant supervision of the field work of all surveyors employed by the Department, especially as some of them appear inclined to get lax and careless in the performance of their duties.

In conclusion of this Report I may state that, owing to the greater part of my time being occupied by office work and attending to the various requirements of applicants, I have not been able to give that attention to field work as I would deem necessary and desirable.

I have, &c.

*The Deputy Surveyor-General.*FREDK. SMITH, *Inspector of Surveys.*

DISTRICT SURVEYORS' REPORTS.

DEVON AND WESTMORLAND SURVEY DISTRICT.

In advising you of the small area of land suitable for selection for agricultural purposes, I would point to the fact that all land adjacent to settlement has already been applied for. There are, however, small areas from 25 to 30 acres along most of the small streams and rivers that are virtually locked up by the Act compelling the applicant to take two back to one frontage, necessitating applying for land unfit for cultivation and in every way worthless to the selector. Referring to Crown lands at a considerable distance back, I would point to the large areas on the banks of the Mersey and Forth Rivers, especially the latter, unnecessarily locked up by reason of the mining operations in the vicinity.

Throughout my District there is a very large area of second and third-class land that has, and will remain in its natural state so long as a price far in excess of its value is demanded; much of this quality land would be eminently serviceable to those who have selected the land of better quality in the vicinity if it could be placed within reach of their means, either by long improving leases at nominal rents with the right of purchase, or by reducing the price to its actual value; in either case it would wonderfully assist settlement.

Roads and Tracks.

Track communication from Liena Township Reserve, River Mersey, south-west, to connect with the newly marked track to the West Coast Silver Fields is urgently required; distance about three to four miles. The recently surveyed line for railway purposes and the track cut by the Mole Creek-Zeehan Exploration Company, from Liena southwards through the heart of my District has led to this route being frequently used as a much shorter travelling distance to the West Coast, and by others as a means of prospecting the interior for minerals.

I have recently returned from a trip along both the track and the railway survey, and I was agreeably surprised to find the country so easily accessible. After reaching the plateau marked on the chart as the Emu Plain, the track bears south-easterly through comparatively open and level country for about 25 miles to the head waters of the Forth River; from thence around Mount Pelion westerly the track is somewhat rough for about two miles, but of a fair average grade that could be wonderfully improved; from the immediate vicinity of the mount, it again crosses a large tract of open country bearing southward to the Canning River, running into the Murchison, distant about 10 or 15 miles from Dundas; from the Canning River the track enters the West Coast country, heavily timbered and broken.

To make this track a permanent one the trees require ringing and marking and the plains staking out with good stout pegs piled with stones, and two or three huts built for accommodation purposes at convenient travelling distances; it would then become an easy and much shorter route than any other, besides opening up the interior. It would be a pity for this track to become obliterated. The country is well adapted for pastoral purposes during the summer months, the high elevation condemning it for agricultural. The country rock along the plains to Lake Ayre is apparently basalt; it then changes into slate, sandstone, quartzite and fine conglomerate, with unmistakable signs of mineral; indications of coal are very prominent.

Names of Persons possessing local knowledge.

This is somewhat difficult, as strangers are frequently victimised for even casual information. I know of no one in particular, but would advise intending selectors to apply either to myself or any respectable resident in the locality they wish to reside in.

In reviewing the general progress throughout the year, I find I have surveyed 595 acres for agricultural purposes, in six or seven lots, and 1523 acres for mineral, in twenty-six lots. I regret to state that the year has been one of general depression, little or no activity going on. However, the outlook is much more promising, and leads me to hope the present year will be in every way an improvement on the past.

HENRY J. CHALMERS, *District Surveyor.*
Latrobe, 14th March, 1892.

The Surveyor-General.

BUCKINGHAM SURVEY DISTRICT.

Lands suitable for Selection.

IN my last annual Report I had the honor to draw attention to a considerable extent of good land available for selection in the Parishes of Throckmorton and Ranelagh, and situated at the Upper Huon and Mountain Rivers. Selections can be made to advantage of lots varying from 20 to 100 acres of first-class soil, heavily timbered and well watered. On the Huon, Russell, and Denison Rivers also, a considerable extent of good land is available. Since my last report was furnished no selections have been made in the localities above mentioned. In the southern portion of my District, Parishes of Kingborough, Bagot, and Pedder, there is still plenty of good land which can be turned into productive farms yet awaiting selection.

Roads and Tracks.

I had the honor to recommend last year that a track suitable for horse traffic be cut from Mr. W. Wallis', Hermitage estate, out to the Denison River, but nothing in that direction has yet been done; and it can hardly be expected that this land will be selected unless facilities are offered to the selector to visit these outlying districts. I have no further recommendations to make under this heading, except that the work mentioned should be undertaken at an early date.

Names of persons possessing local knowledge.

Messrs. Edward and Daniel Rimon and Charles Fletcher, of Huonville, and Mr. W. Wallis, of Upper Huon, are thoroughly acquainted with the surrounding district. Mr. Alfred Miller, of the Snug, can give valuable information *re* lands in Bagot and Pedder, &c.; and Mr. James Sculthorpe, of Port Cygnet, has also a good knowledge of the same portion of my District.

Progress of Settlement.

Progress of settlement has during the past year been very slow. Very few new selections have been made; and, owing to the general depression at present existing throughout the Colony, an improvement in the direction under notice will be, I anticipate, extremely slow until affairs have once more resumed their former condition.

I have, &c.

HERBERT COMBES, *District Surveyor.*
Longley, January 23rd, 1892.

The Surveyor-General.

EAST TAMAR SURVEY DISTRICT.

I HAVE the honour to forward my Report on the above District. It is not as complete as it might be, as I have not yet had an opportunity to visit every part of the District.

Lands suitable for selection.

The Crown land now available for selection and suitable for agriculture in parts with reasonable means of access is only to be found in small lots, generally of 25 acres and 50 acres, isolated mostly, and hard to meet with.

There is, however, I believe, a fair extent of good agricultural and pastoral land around Mount Barrow, to the north-east of it principally. It is, however, at a considerable elevation, and no doubt the climate is inhospitable during the winter months. A road has been opened which would give access to this land as far as Diddleum, from Patersonia up the St. Patrick's River. It is as yet not a good road, but as settlement proceeds will be improved.

Names of persons possessing local knowledge.

Messrs. Graves Brothers, Mr. Robert Wilson, and Mr. Frank Warren, of Patersonia, might be communicated with as to the land in the vicinity of Mount Barrow.

Progress of settlement, &c.

The gold mining industry has gone ahead greatly during the last twelve months throughout the district. About Lefroy especially a great number of leases have been applied for and surveyed, and a great amount of legitimate prospecting is being carried on. At the Denison and Golconda and at Back Creek also good work is being done. There is plenty of room for legitimate prospecting throughout the district. In the vicinity of the Camden Plains good gold in alluvial at one time was obtained, and were it not for the want of water a deal of ground would pay for working now. Some blocks were taken up for silver near the Bangor Slate Quarry, on the Piper's River, but I believe the general depression in silver has prevented sufficient work being done on them to prove their value.

During the last twelve months ending 30th June, 1892, the following lots have been surveyed :—

Under the Crown Lands Act.....	2780 acres, in 45 lots.
Under the Gold Fields Regulation Act.....	914 acres, in 96 lots.
Under the Mineral Lands Act.....	400 acres, in 5 lots.
Under the Residence Areas Act.....	1 acre, in 4 lots.
Town Lands—	
Town of Lietinna.....	14 lots.
Town of Pagunta.....	16 lots.
Town of Wiangata.....	54 lots.
Town of George Town.....	4 lots.
City of Launceston	1 lot.

I have, &c.

G. THEO. EDDIE, *District Surveyor.*
Invermay, 18th July, 1892.

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.

CUMBERLAND AND MONMOUTH SURVEY DISTRICT.

Lands suitable for Selection.

Florentine Valley.—A detailed report upon this country you will find in my Report of 1890, also in Report of 1891.

Uxbridge.—Some first-class land suitable for selection to the south and south west of Riley's 25 acres can be obtained, principally heavily timbered with gum, and covered with a thick pear-tree, musk, and fern scrub.

Nive.—Between the Nive and Derwent I believe a large area of good land will be found, but at present it is too far away to be taken up for agricultural purposes.

On the west bank of the Derwent, south of Lake St. Clair, a large area of fair pastoral country exists. I believe some 25 years ago about 7000 sheep used to run on this country during the summer months.

In the County of Cumberland, Parish of Ennerdale, and west of Lake Echo, some small areas of good agricultural and pastoral land can be obtained.

In the Russell's Falls Valley some small patches of land of good quality, varying in size from 20 to 100 acres, are yet to be obtained.

Roads and Tracks required.

In my last report I indicated the tracks I considered necessary in my district to open up the Crown land, but nothing has yet been done in this direction.

Names of persons possessing local knowledge.

Mr. Robert Marriott, of Russell's Falls; Mr. James Clark, of Ellendale, and Mr. John M'Gurk, of Uxbridge, have a local knowledge of the country where they reside, and, I believe, would be prepared to assist intending selectors.

Progress of Settlement.

A very small area of land has been taken up in my district during the past year, in all about 30 lots, varying in size from 15 to 100 acres.

In the Russell's Falls district progress was retarded for some time by the want of roads, but, since the Public Works Department have opened up the country by clearing the roads, a large proportion of the land surveyed is being cleared and cultivated.

On the dividing range between Russell's Falls and Florentine, and on the Florentine River, traces of silver have been discovered, and some 50 lots applied for and surveyed. Good surface indications are to be found in the locality, but nothing in the shape of actual work has yet been done to prove the field.

In the other portions of my district the usual amount of clearing and scrubbing has been undertaken by the occupiers of selected land.

I have, &c.

THOMAS FRODSHAM, *District Surveyor.*
Stone Buildings 14th March, 1892.

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.

DEVON SURVEY DISTRICT.

I HAVE the honor to report, in reference to the progress of my Survey District for the past year, that there has been a considerable falling-off in the amount of agricultural land surveyed, and a large increase in the quantity surveyed under the Mineral Lands Act. Some 51 lots of country land have been marked off, amounting to 2777 acres, averaging about 54 acres per lot, and town lots amounting to 80 acres; 24 mineral lots, equal to 1713 acres; total, 4490 acres surveyed during the year. The same progress in clearing and improving the land has not been made in 1891 as there was in 1890. It is probable the West Coast and other mines have attracted people away, and have also absorbed their means of making improvements. Very little enquiry is being made for land at present, either for Crown land or private property. Some improvements have been made to the south-west of Kentisbury, both in selection and clearing. Also in the Wilmot country a few improvements have been made up to about the 24th mile. This is a district from which a good deal may be expected in the future, as it contains in adjoining blocks some 14,000 or 15,000 acres of fine agricultural land, which is well watered. There is also a large amount of useful timber, both for splitting and sawing. A good area of land has now been selected in the Parish of Nietta, and considerable improvements have been made on some of the holdings. One family are permanently located there, but they labour under great difficulties in reference to roads. Many of the lots have been slightly improved, but selectors do not like doing much when their only means of traffic is by packing. The Dial Range has had the principal attraction for mines, but several lots have been surveyed at the Vale of Belvoir, and at the Blythe and other places in the district. Altogether the survey work has extended over nearly the whole district—the lots, as a rule, being very much scattered.

I have, &c.

RICHARD HALL, *District Surveyor.*
Leith, 11th January, 1892.

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.

PEMBROKE SURVEY DISTRICT.

Lands suitable for Selection.

To the outside selector very little inducement exists now in this District, inasmuch as most, if not quite all, the arable land has long since been acquired by early settlers or selectors; that which remains consists generally of a narrow gully or small flat with stony hills, adjacent portions of which are necessarily incorporated in any selection now made: these hills consist frequently of stony but good pasture. The many blocks that are now surveyed are generally on behalf of local men, such as a farmer or squatter already possessed of good land adjacent, or for men employed in the District earning wages and who require a small holding as a home. Small patches of fair land are no doubt obtainable, but they are isolated and not sufficient in area to be dependant upon for a living.

Roads and Tracks required.

I had the honor to draw your attention to the necessity that exists for a road from Buckland to Nugent; also a road from Buckland to Twamley, as the selectors about the latter place have no legal outlet.

Mr. Robinson, District Inspector Public Works Department, has projected several roads through and to Crown lands, which will no doubt assist further selections.

Whilst on this subject I would suggest a slab road over the flat crabhole, but open country, that extends from Badger Corner, Flinders' Island, nearly up to Ferguson's selections; also a small bridge over Salt Rivulet half-way between Ferguson's selections and those at Double Corner; and would suggest further, that the two crossings over the lagoons (as shown on my plan) be reserved; also a road of 100 links be reserved through the (at present) unsurveyed selection of Ferguson leading to the south crossing, where no doubt a jetty will be erected—if so, this will do away with the necessity of a slab-road at present; but Badger Corner is the only safe anchorage on the south part of the island, although good average shelter is obtainable on east side of Green Island. Permanent water reserves are also suggested—one on Ferguson's new lot or adjacent to it, also another on south-west end or corner of Jules Virieux's lot of 108 acres.

Names of persons possessing local knowledge.

The following residents would no doubt be glad to give anyone information about land in their neighbourhood:—At Spring Bay, Mr. Robinson; Orford, Mr. Bresnahan; Back River, Mr. Cahill; at Buckland, Messrs. Montgomery and J. Cornish; at Rumney's Huts, Mr. Nettlefold; and Mr. J. Zantuck, Rhyndaston.

Progress of Settlement.

Several large lots have been surveyed for pastoral purposes; a good many smaller lots for men engaged on road work or employed on farms and stations in the neighbourhood; very few have

been surveyed for anyone unconnected with the District. Several mineral selections have been surveyed, principally on Maria Island. It is much to be hoped that something valuable may be discovered in order to give the District fresh impetus, for at present it is becoming a sheep-walk or cattle-run, and the area of arable land still used for the production of grain is relatively small, and is generally confined to where the holdings are small and in several hands.

The diamond-drill is being used in different directions with the view of obtaining coal, but nothing has been discovered as yet that can compete with discoveries outside this District. As, however, other minerals are said to exist, something payable may be expected in the future when proper prospecting takes places.

I have, &c.

WENTWORTH M. HARDY, *District Surveyor.*
Hobart, 22nd January, 1892.

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.

TASMAN'S PENINSULA SURVEY DISTRICT.

IN answer to circular received some time back, and having made a complete detour of Tasman's and Forestier's Peninsulas, as well as the south-eastern portion of Mr. Wentworth Hardy's District, I hereby submit to you general report upon same.

A considerable amount of difficulty has been experienced on many of the surveys I have made, owing to those adjoining having been constructed with the *needle*, which is affected by local attraction throughout the District, and therefore unreliable, and also owing to the inferior marking of the same. I have therefore taken the precaution to stone up and put reference-trees to the corners where possible, and if the work consists of a batch of adjoining surveys, I generally fix the data by an observation for true meridian and its reference.

Maria Island.

The work done upon Maria Island has been wholly mineral sections, the majority of which have been taken up by Signor Bernacchi & Co. for cement, silver, freestone, and oxide of iron, &c. The geology of the Island is very varied,—the most of the mineral indications existing on the east coast of the north island. The granite found here is very fine, the white porphyry granite, having in places $\frac{3}{4}$ inch cubes. There is room on the western side of the island for a lot of small scattered holdings, and, if thrown open, would be soon taken up. This land is often enquired about upon the mainland, and I feel certain it would bring a good return to the Crown to throw it open for selection or lease, whereas now it is covered with a useless scrub, and, in many places, that which has been opened up is now smothered up scrub and saplings. The establishment of a community of selectors here would also give an impetus to the East Coast generally, by increasing the traffic.

I have not had much opportunity to visit the south end of the island, that is to examine it, but there is also a good quantity of land thereon that would make nice little holdings.

Forestier and Tasman Peninsulas.

Since coming on to the Peninsulas in December last I have completed all the surveys in compliance with the instructions issued by the Department for the same. I find here, as in other districts, selection has not been so brisk as formerly: the cause, I think, is the general depression existing everywhere. I have completed the surveys as per list herewith, but have not yet handed in all the plans. These I will submit in the course of a fortnight. On Forestier Peninsula I had but one instruction, that for Wm. Ray, who resides upon the ground he applied for. On the other selections there has not been much done, except Sullivan's, where there is about 30 acres scrubbed and under grass. There is a good deal of land of a fair quality on this Peninsula lying between the Sounds and Lagoon Bay, though most of it is inferior. There have been some important road works carried on here: that from Dunally to the Sounds is a credit to the contractor. On Tasman Peninsula there has been more done in the shape of selection. The work here has been all closed satisfactorily, and marked with much care.

Re Roads, Tracks, &c.—There have been two or three new roads laid down since my last report, and I consider them all necessary by-roads. I should mention that I went through to Fortescue Bay on this occasion, and passed through a large area of land fit for cultivation,—some of the best I have seen upon the Peninsula; but, owing to its inaccessibility, it cannot be seen. I should suggest a track fit for bridle traffic be cut into Fortescue. This would open up some good land; and I am of opinion that a good egress is to be had through Deegan's gully from about a mile south of Taranna, on road to Carnarvon. The land in here is mostly flat, until crossing the plain to the west of it; but the good land runs right down to the Sandhills on the Bay.

Of course it is patchy; but there are here and there open alluvial bottoms of rich black soil, timbered with blue gum, musk, and cat-head ferns, and occasional belts of very dense bauera and cutting-grass. There are also patches of timber fit for milling purposes and splitting. The whole of the land is well watered by numerous creeks, the water of which is of a good quality.

The road from Impression to Parson's Bay I consider a benefit to the general public thereabouts. It is of an excellent grade, and touches most of the holdings. These are about the best selections upon the Peninsula; and the owners are almost unanimous as regards direction and general utility of the present route.

There are a couple of roads which I consider should become public property. One is that from the Road Cascades to Impression Bay to jetty at Cascades through property of H. Chesterman (now M'Clymont). The other is through Tatnell's, Road Cascades to Wedge Bay. This is a case where the road given in lieu of present one comes on the outside of boundary, but is contested by neighbour owing to pegs not being present.

With regard to donors of useful information, they are scarce. Mr. Vicary, at the Cascades, for the vicinity may prove useful; and Mr. George Woolley for the western end of the Peninsula, and Mr. Donald Blackwood for the vicinity of Carnarvon.

Reserves.—I have measured two reserves, both in the vicinity of Saltwater River; the one a spring, from which the inhabitants of the settlement were carting when I left the Peninsula about ten days back, and the other a lagoon already shown on chart, but out of position.

This I consider a full Report on the work executed by me since I submitted my last.

I have, &c.

JOS. H. HINSBY, *Surveyor.*
Belle Vue, 15th March, 1892.

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.

KENT SURVEY DISTRICT.

I HAVE the honor to inform you that since the date of my last Annual Report (May, '91) I have surveyed some 27 sections, with an aggregate acreage of about 1900 acres. Of this some 420 acres has been for mining, the remainder for agricultural purposes.

A considerable portion of my time has been taken up in making surveys for the Public Works Department upon the various roads under construction throughout the District. This will help to account for the small number of sections surveyed under the Crown Lands Act.

Lands suitable for Selection.

Under this heading I cannot do better than refer you to my Report as published in the Crown Lands Guide for 1891, (at present before me), viz.:—The Parish of Leithbridge, Honeywood, Price, Thanet, Garrett, and Purves still contain large areas of unalienated Crown lands of good quality which are well adapted for the purpose of settlement, but unfortunately the greater portion of these lands are locked up to selectors for want of roads, and until something is done to open up these lands there is little or no chance of my being able to report much increase in selection and consequent progress to the District.

The *Parish of Blakeney* is rugged and broken, and has but little good land.

County of Buckingham—Parishes of Bedford, Pedder, and Bagot.—Nearly the whole of the good land in all these parishes has been selected, and what available lands remain are generally of a rugged and inferior description, and unsuitable for selection excepting by the owner's of the adjoining properties.

Parish of South Bruni.—This contains a considerable area of first-class land, not so heavily timbered as the mainland, and splendidly watered and a beautiful climate, being much milder than that of the western shore of D'Entrecasteaux Channel, and is within easy distance of Hobart. Considerable improvements in the way of roads have been recently made, and for *bonâ-fide* settlers with small capital this is one of the best portions of the District.

Names of persons possessing local knowledge.

At Franklin—Mr. G. Innes (late District Surveyor); Mr. J. T. Stansfield (Authorised Surveyor); Mr. Wm. Cuthbert, J.P.

At Geeveston—Mr. O. Geeves, J.P.; Mr. J. Evans; Mr. Richard Hill, J.P.

At Esperance—Mr. J. Pulfer, Mr. Charles Dearden.
 Hastings—Mr. J. Hay, Tertius.
 Southport—Mr. J. Graves, Tarrabah.
 Lady Bay—Mr. R. Hay, Seaton.
 Ida Bay—Mr. H. W. Tyler.
 Recherche Bay—Mr. R. D. Cuthbert, Lepreena; Mr. J. M'Dougall, Catamaran.
 Adventure Bay—Mr. H. Gray,
 Little Taylor's Bay—Mr. Thos. Davis, } South Bruni Island.

Roads and Tracks required.

In the Parish of Leithbridge.—The road known as Road to She-oak Hills should be extended up the Huon Valley towards the junction of the Rivers Arve and Huon. The New road Franklin could be extended with advantage into a bed of timber known to exist in that vicinity.

Parish of Honeywood.—Scott's River Road wants extending, to open up the Crown lands in that vicinity.

The road known as the Arve Road should be surveyed in advance of settlement, and extended into the Arve Valley. I have been making inquiries upon all sides, and I find that this road will open a splendid block of Crown land, and is urgently required; for, unless something is done towards opening this land, selection in the vicinity of Geeveston (which is a large and populous Settlement) is practically at an end.

Parish of Price.—Tongataboo Road requires a considerable extension to reach Crown lands. Up to the present date the whole of the land along this route has been selected ahead of the road construction.

Parish of Thanet.—Pulfer's Road requires forming, and culverts, bridges, &c. putting in. When this is done, some good agricultural land will be available for intending selectors. The Rutherford Road requires an extension to reach good Crown lands in that vicinity. This is the outlet to the valley through which the River Esperance takes its course, and which contains a large area of unalienated good land.

Parish of Garrett.—A branch road is required, to leave the main road, Dover to Southport, at or near Rooney's and Price's selections, and follow the course of what is known as the "old slab road." This would open up some first-class land.

Parishes of Purves and Blakeney.—A few tracks in different portions of these parishes will be all that is necessary for the present.

Tracks.

A track should be cut from Lepreena, at the mouth of the D'Entrecasteaux River, up the valley of that stream, to the foot of the La Perouse Range. I have had a look at this country from the top of an adjacent mountain and noticed a fine basin, which apparently contains both good land and timber. The formation of the range forming the watershed of this stream appears to be limestone of good quality. I would rather see this track cut than any other work of the description in the southern portion of the district, as it would open up a totally unexplored portion of the island. At a rough guess, I should say six or seven miles of track would be sufficient for all purposes.

Another track should also be cut from Recherche Bay towards the mouth of New River. Prospecting is going on in the vicinity of this river, and there should be some means of access to this portion of the Colony other than by sea, which, owing to the rugged nature of the coast, is often attended with considerable danger.

A track might also be cut from the the South Creek—a branch of the Kermandie—in a southerly direction, across the dividing range between the head waters of the Kermandie and Esperance Rivers. This would give access to a large extent of, at present, inaccessible country, and act as a forerunner of a road in that direction.

Of these tracks the two first-mentioned may be taken as urgent, especially the first-mentioned, *i.e.*, the one to open the D'Entrecasteaux valley; of the other, the one from Recherche Bay to New River. I have instructions to proceed to Rocky Boat Harbour to measure a lot of 100 acres for mineral lease, and on my return from that expedition will be able to afford more information than I can at present.

General Rate of Progress.

During the time that has elapsed since my last report I am sorry to have to say that our rate of progress has not been very satisfactory; but this has been owing to a chain of circumstances that could not be foreseen.

The depression existing in commercial circles throughout the island and the adjacent colonies has affected this district to a considerable extent, and has been felt both by employers and employees. Some three of our sawmilling establishments have had to suspend operations for the present. Mining operations have been suspended owing to the capital required to carry on being unavailable.

The low prices ruling for small fruits have threatened to banish that industry, at least for a time; but, on the other hand, looking a little ahead, the apple crops look well throughout the district, and if a good market is obtainable these should bring in a large revenue to the orchardists.

Our public works also are making steady progress, and have given employment to numbers of our population who would otherwise have been out of work.

Our roads generally are being pushed ahead as fast as circumstances will allow, and the works are of a good substantial nature, while our bridges and jetties have also had considerable additions.

I have, &c.

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.

E. G. INNES, *District Surveyor.*
Port Esperance, 22nd February, 1892.

THE WEST COAST SURVEY DISTRICT.

Lands suitable for Selection, &c.

UNDER this head I have again to state that land of good quality, basaltic soil, can be found adjoining the Town of Waratah, on its south side and on each side of the macadamised road leading to the Whyte River and Heazlewood Districts. It is heavily timbered with myrtles and sassafras,—the undergrowth being chiefly ferns of various kinds. This good land extends for two miles along the Heazlewood Road from Waratah, and its width would average about 3 miles. This land is not available, being withdrawn from sale and selection.

In the vicinity of the Pieman River Heads land exists fit for grazing purposes, roughly estimated at 500 acres. Some of this has been selected under the Crown Lands Act. 450 acres is open to selection.

On the route of the proposed railway line from Burnie to Zeehan, the location of which has been completed, some capital land has been disclosed in the valley of the Huskisson. It is rather difficult to form an idea of its extent, but I would say there were fully 2000 acres altogether.

At Granville Harbour some land of different degrees of richness exists. The total area of good and fairly good land would be about 2000 acres.

In the neighbourhood of the Big Henty and Strahan the cream of the land has been selected. However, on the Strahan-Zeehan Line occasional patches of tolerable agricultural land could be found, but not any of these patches would be of any extent.

Roads and Tracks required.

Since writing my last Report the road to the Whyte River has been completed, and is fit for carting upon. Silver ores have been brought in upon it; and the different mines in that neighbourhood are beginning to feel the advantage of a fairly good road. The remaining distance to the Heazlewood is also being pushed on, and by the time Parliament meets will be completed.

A track has been marked and partly cut out from near the 7-mile peg on the Waratah-Heazlewood Road towards the north end of the Meredith Range. This track will enable prospectors to get into this part of the country and find out its value.

Mr. G. Meredith has, on behalf of the Government, "blazed" a track from the road from Deloraine to Middlesex Plains to Zeehan, for the purpose of taking cattle through to the silver-fields. Where I have seen this track it has certainly been well chosen. The part I passed over has not been opened up, and is consequently not fit for traffic.

Tracks of considerable use have been partly made to Mount Reid and the Ring River from Mount Dundas. It is almost needless for me to remark that they are capable of very great improvement if the necessary funds were forthcoming for that purpose.

Some years ago a road was laid out from Corinna to Reminé, which passed through the good land in the vicinity of Granville Harbour. I should strongly recommend this road being opened out so as to form a junction with the Corinna-Reminé Road, which is in tolerably good order, at any rate for packhorses. This would give access to the good land in this part.

Names of Persons possessing local knowledge.

At Strahan I would recommend Messrs. T. B. Moore, J. J. Gaffney, H. Harvey, and F. O. Henry as being able and willing to give information and assistance to intending settlers and investors. At Zeehan Messrs. Pead and Adams would be in a position to give valuable information to those requiring the same. At Waratah and Whyte River Messrs. A. W. Johnston, E. Goldsmith, E. Lynch, and F. Holmes-Jones would gladly afford visitors all the information wanted *in re* this district.

Progress of Settlement.

At Strahan the progress of settlement on Crown lands has been more marked than on any other portion of the West Coast, 25 ten-acre lots having been surveyed, besides 2 lots of 100 acres each, making the total number surveyed and those under application about to be dealt with about 100, making a total area of 1500 acres. On a great number of these lots I have seen that residences have been erected and improvements made in compliance with the conditions of the Crown Lands Act, under which Act this land is taken up, notably on lots applied for by Messrs. Henry, Porteus, Grining, Harrison, Dixon, T. B. Moore, Housby, Peevor, and Martin. This is gratifying news.

At the Big Henty some 20 blocks were surveyed, representing an area of 1200 acres, making a total of 3000 acres with the 25 blocks previously surveyed. These are also under the Crown Lands Act. Improvements are being effected on these blocks by Messrs. T. P. H. Jones, Fitzpatrick, Harrison (by his agent), and Boys.

The surveys of the Towns of Zeehan, Strahan, and Waratah have been extended. A town reserve has been surveyed at the Big Henty River, named "Mallanna," one at the Whyte River named "Stafford," and one at the 13 miles from Waratah, on the Heazlewood Road, called "Heazlewood." Lots sold at auction have perhaps not realised such prices as they might have done owing to the reaction in mining.

I have, &c.

DAVID JONES, *District Surveyor.*
Waratah, June 3rd, 1892.

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.

PARTS OF GLAMORGAN, CORNWALL, AND DORSET.

THE area of land selected during 1891 in this district has been less than in either of the two preceding years, the whole area applied for amounting to only about 3000 acres. Very little has been taken up in the vicinity of the George Rivers, where the largest tract of good land exists. The selections, indeed, are scattered over the whole district.

Land has been selected in two new localities, namely, in the Parish of Fonthill near the Tower Range, and in the Parish of Ben Nevis. In the former 400 acres were taken up in 1891, and two selections have since been made, but the available area is small. In Ben Nevis 250 acres have been selected, but here, too, there does not seem to be any large area of good land. Both these localities are difficult of access, and the latter is far from any market.

The Crown lands in this district consist almost entirely of slate and granite ranges and greenstone table land. The few patches where the underlying rock is basalt have been nearly all selected where easy of access and not reserved for minerals. Any large increase in settlement cannot, therefore, be looked for even in prosperous years.

Those who have occupied their selections on the George and elsewhere continue to improve their land, but many of the more recently surveyed sections are not yet occupied.

Land suitable for Selection.

On this subject I cannot add much to my last year's Report. The land in the neighbourhood of the South and North George is the only considerable tract which offers any inducement to settlers who have not already interests in a locality or other employment than that of farming. The land is of the usual character, heavily timbered, with dense scrub, soil in the best portions basaltic, and in most places steep.

There is a tract of land north of the Mount Nicholas Range, Parish of Woolverton, on which there are some spots fit for cultivation, and a considerable extent of fair natural pasturage. I see no reason for keeping this reserved for mineral purposes. In my opinion there is no chance of coal being found there, the coal strata being above the land which would be selected. In this locality some hundreds of acres at least would be taken up if the land were open for purchase.

Roads and Tracks.

What in my opinion ought to be done in the way of making roads and cutting tracks I also indicated in my Report last year, and I have no further suggestions to make on this subject.

The road from the Falls on the South George ought to be continued to Robertson's selections, and from there a track should be opened to Clayton's, on the Evercreech Rivulet.

A road from Brown's farm, on the North George, to Weldborough would pass through some very good land, which there is no sufficient reason for reserving from selection.

A track should also be cut from Meaburn's selection to join, on the large plain, Cotton's Track from the George River to Alberton. The estimated distance in a north-westerly direction is $6\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

I believe that the money devoted to cutting tracks so as to enable the Crown lands to be inspected without risk or hardship has in all cases proved a most profitable expenditure.

Progress of Settlement.

The progress of settlement during last year cannot be said to have been great. The occupied lands are being gradually improved, and those who have been some years on their lands seem to be fairly prosperous. There is, however, I think, a tendency to take up areas in excess of what the selector has means to improve, and of course agricultural land of the usual character unimproved is worthless to the owner.

I have, &c.

GEORGE C. SMITH, *District Surveyor.*
1. 5. 92.

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.

WESTMORLAND SURVEY DISTRICT.

Lands suitable for Selection, &c.

There is very little good cultivateable land in my District available for selection. It has been reported to me by a resident in that neighbourhood that there is a large tract of good Crown land in the vicinity of Quamby Bluff. My informant, Mr. Joseph Turner, is a good bushman, and from long experience should be a good judge of bush land. At the same time I have no doubt that he over-estimates the quantity of good land available. Probably there is enough for a few selectors. Wm. Turner's name appears on the chart, and intending selectors might do well to apply to him for information.

Roads and Tracks required, &c.

The only land required to be opened by a road or track is that which I have just reported on, and it is doubtful whether such a road or track would prove remunerative to the Government.

In the past year I have surveyed in my District thirty-eight (38) sections under the Gold Fields Regulation Act, ten (10) sections under the Mineral Lands Act, and twenty-nine (29) sections, covering an area of seven hundred (700) acres, under the Crown Lands Act. This work was performed in seven (7) months, the remaining five (5) months having been spent in the service of the Mines and Survey Departments on the Zeehan and Dundas Silver Fields.

I have, &c.

JNO. A. SORELL, *District Surveyor.*
49, *Patterson-street, Launceston, 25th January, 1892.*

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.

WELLINGTON SURVEY DISTRICT.

DURING the year 94 agricultural selections have been surveyed, comprising an area of 8328 acres, with $29\frac{1}{2}$ miles of roads and connection lines through the same, together with 17 lots for auction sale containing an area of 51 acres. This is exclusive of the Duck River and Irish Town portions of the district, which have been in charge of Messrs. Frodsham and Dove during the past year. Throughout the district the improvements made during the past year both by clearing land already scrubbed and by scrubbing new land is very satisfactory, and the arrival of new settlers from other parts of the Colony and from the neighbouring Colonies still continues.

The improvements in the townships have been steady, and there is a general increase in the settlement and in both their public and private buildings and works.

Parishes Williams and Marrawah.—Little progress can be anticipated in this part, owing to the limited area of land suitable for agricultural purposes, but a few new selections have been made, and improvements are progressing.

Parishes of Mowbray, Gibson, and Togari.—Very considerable selection has taken place in these parishes, and Mr. Surveyor Frodsham and Mr. Surveyor Dove have been engaged surveying the sections and laying out roads. Apparently the quality and extent of the land has been somewhat over-estimated, and the expectations of the selectors have in several instances been disappointed. The opening up of the recently selected land will, however, give a great impetus to Smithton and its neighbourhood. Messrs. Innes, Carnac, and Poke can give information to intending selectors.

Parishes of Ford and Medwin.—Some selection has taken place and surveys completed, and improvements have been steadily made throughout the district both on the land and roads. Probably about 1500 acres of food land is still available for selection, and will be more readily taken up when the roads leading to the south of Irish Town and the Arthur River are opened. Messrs. Waters, House and Boys are well acquainted with the district.

Emmett and Anderson.—Very little selection has taken place here: the fact that the available good land, of which there is a considerable extent at Brickmakers' Bay, is a considerable distance from the coast, and until recently has been almost unapproachable on account of the condition of the road, has probably retarded selection. Messrs. Ainslie, Wells, and Pegg can supply information to intending selectors.

Parishes of Dallas and Flowerdale.—A considerable amount of selection has taken place in the latter parish and is now under survey, but the roads will have to be further opened up before the land can be utilized. In the former parish little available land of any value remains. Messrs. J. Harman and R. Dallas are well acquainted with the former parish, and Messrs. R. Mayne and Wm. Watts with the latter.

Parish of Calder.—Steady improvement has been made in this district, and several new selections taken up. There is still some good land available for selection near the Calder River, but generally speaking the land is very broken. Messrs. Harris, Howes, and Dove know the country well.

Parish of Yolla.—Some good land remains unselected in this parish, and the improvements made to the Moore's Plains Road have somewhat improved the probability of further settlement. Many of the recently selected blocks have been partly scrubbed, and the main road might with advantage be further opened, and the opening of the junction road to meet the Bischoff road through Bothwell and Shevenan would be an advantage. Messrs. Biggins reside in this parish and know the country well.

Parishes of Lewis and Elliott.—Nearly all the land in these parishes has been selected, and most of the selectors have been making steady progress in clearing and grassing.

Parishes of Oonah and Takoné.—Selection in this district is very slow, owing to its distance from the coast, but each year the improvements made on the Bischoff road obviate the difficulty hitherto experienced of reaching these parts, in which a considerable area of land remains unselected. Messrs. A. Tippet and Herbert Cross are intimately acquainted with the district.

Parishes of Stowport and Natoné.—Steady progress is being made both in selection and improvements, but some quantity of good land is yet available for selection, which, no doubt, would be selected if the main roads leading southerly were more extended through the Crown lands. Messrs. John Laxton and John Floyd would be of great assistance to intending selectors.

I have, &c.

FREDK. E. WINDSOR, *District Surveyor.*
15th February, 1892.

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.

DORSET SURVEY DISTRICT.

Lands suitable for Selection.

In the Parishes of Downham, Traganini, and Frankland isolated patches of good land occur, for which I receive constant enquiries as to whether they are open for selection by parties anxious to settle upon them, as land that has been purchased within the last few years in that vicinity has been

proved to be very productive and suitable for agriculture, some two or three hundred acres having been broken up and placed under crop. The great inducement to settle on this land is that the surroundings of these patches are suitable for grazing, thus enabling settlers to enter in a small way into pastoral as well as agricultural farming.

This land I have repeatedly urged should be thrown open for selection, the probability of any portion of it—with, perhaps, that portion surrounding the “Blue Bell” and the “Portland Reef”—containing minerals being very remote. I am confident that were it available a good deal of it would be settled upon.

There are also in the Parish of Oana some small patches here and there of fairly good land, but as a rule they are heavily timbered, and at present, while good land is available, they are overlooked, as the cost of clearing would be equally as great as on the best of the land in the district.

The best land in this district is in the Parish of Branhholm. This is being slowly taken up, the reason in a great measure being that production is now overtaking consumption in agricultural produce the market for which is solely local. No doubt when railway communication is an established fact this state of things will be altered, the land being highly productive, and eminently suitable for fattening and dairy pursuits as well as fruit-growing.

Roads and Tracks required.

During the year nothing has occurred that would lead to the necessity of new roads or tracks beyond those I suggested in my last report, since when a track leading from Branhholm to the Mount Horror Gold Fields has been cut, and a portion of it widened into a cart road, and from the south end of this widened portion a road has been re-opened to Branhholm Lane, thus affording access on wheels right to Gellibrand's Plains. A track has also been cut from Gellibrand's Plains to Rocky Gully on the Scottsdale Road; but the idea of making it into a road has, I believe, been wisely abandoned. I am of opinion that it would be far more advantageous—if any future developments in the goldfields warranted the expenditure—to open a road from the south end of the one already cut, which runs right through the centre of the claims, to a point on the Scottsdale Road near Parr's Plains. This, I believe, would also have the effect of opening up some patches of good land at present inaccessible.

Names of persons possessing local knowledge.

The only names of persons I could suggest as having local knowledge and willing to impart it are Mr. G. Groves and Mr. C. Campbell, of Cape Portland; Mr. G. Green, of the Bay of Fires; and Mr. W. Vesty of Branhholm, who has local knowledge generally of the Parish of Kay.

Progress of Settlement.

The actual progress in this District as far as settlement is concerned is almost nil, some two or three lots only having been selected, and some small clearings made. The industry of tin-mining being the predominant one in this District, I naturally dilate more upon that than actual settlement, and I am happy to say that it continues to hold its own notwithstanding the superior attractions afforded for a time by the silver mines on the West Coast, land for mining purposes, especially in the Mount Cameron locality, being steadily taken up. This is owing in a great measure to the facilities afforded by the Government race for obtaining a regular and copious supply of water. I am also pleased to report that the large area of tin-bearing land at Aberfoyle bids fair at last to become highly remunerative, as late “cleanings-up” have been very satisfactory. Preparations on a somewhat extensive scale are being made by some of the claimholders in that locality to open up ground that has hitherto lain idle for want of a regular water supply. This will have the effect of utilising in a great measure the spare night-water from the Government race, which will be collected in storage reservoirs.

The most notable occurrence of the year has been the discovery of gold at Mount Horror, where about 100 claims were taken up, a fair proportion of which show really good prospects, and there is every probability of this field becoming a permanent one.

I have, &c.

E. GLOUCESTER WALPOLE, *District Surveyor.*
Moorina, 18th June, 1892.

The Surveyor-General, Hobart.