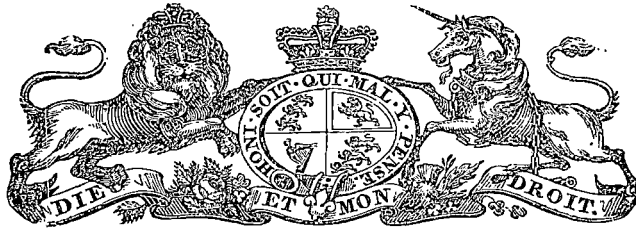


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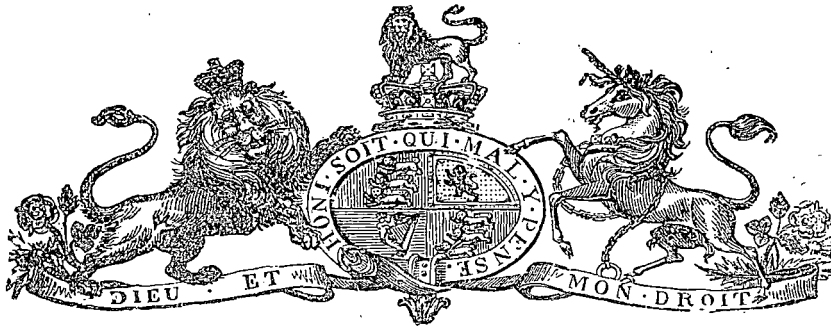
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL, 1898, (No. 85):

PROGRESS REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BILL, 1898.

PROGRESS REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

THE Joint Committee of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, appointed to consider the provisions of "The Local Government Bill," have the honour to present a Progress Report of the result of their inquiries—

(1.) The Committee, having held several meetings, find that they have only, as yet, been able to determine upon some of the principles which, in their opinion, should be embodied in such an important measure as that under consideration.

(2.) So far as they have been able to arrive at conclusions upon the matter, they have now the honour to recommend—

1. That Parliament constitutes certain Municipalities in addition to those already constituted.

2. That some of the existing Municipalities may be amalgamated.

3. That Municipalities be divided (by Parliament) into Ridings in the first instance. Subsequent alterations to be made, on petition to the Municipal Council, by a majority of persons interested, and, if approved by the Municipal Council, to be submitted for approval of the Governor in Council.

4. That the Municipal boundaries to be defined by the Bill march wherever possible with Electoral boundaries.

5. That, generally, no new Municipality be constituted with a less annual rateable value than £10,000.

6. That, in constituting a new Municipality or amalgamating existing Municipalities, the main consideration in determining an area be the common interests of the people, in so far as they could be conveniently dealt with by a central authority, having special regard to outlets for produce, with main roads leading thereto.

7. In regard to Towns and Rural Districts in Municipalities, the Committee recommend that the Bill provides as follows:—

(a) The provisions of "The Town Boards Act, 1896," which are not already included in the Bill, be made part of it:

(b) Towns already under that Act to continue to be managed in regard to their special local concerns by their own Boards, unless the Electors vote for vesting control in Council of Municipality:

(c) Other proclaimed Towns to which the provisions of "The Police Act, 1865," are applicable, and which provisions it is desirable should also be included in the Bill, or Towns constituted in any way the Legislature may prescribe (provided there be a certain number of people within a defined area, the limit of which to be fixed by the Bill) to have liberty to take on a similar measure of local government:

(d) In default of this action by the inhabitants of any such Town, the Council to exercise therein certain of the powers now given by the above-mentioned Acts, and which shall be specified in the Bill:

(e) The rest of the Municipality to be constituted into Rural Districts (determined mainly by community of interests as regards local roads) which Rural Districts

may be controlled, if the Electors so determine and the Governor approves, by Rural District Boards, of whom the Councillors representing the Rural District shall be *ex officio* Members.

- (f) The Council in all such cases to be authorised, upon the Electors of the Town or District so determining, to levy separate local Rates to be spent entirely for their benefit upon Recreation Grounds, Libraries, Public Halls, and other local objects under the immediate supervision of the Rural District Board :
 - (g) To Town Boards and Rural District Boards may also be entrusted the administration of such of the general functions of the Municipality within their respective areas as the Electors may desire and the Council from time to time determine :
 - (h) Whenever the Town or Rural District is sufficiently important, it shall constitute a Riding or Electoral District of the Municipality :
 - (i) These Electoral Districts need not necessarily be on an equality as to size, population, amount of rateable value, or number of Representatives on the Council, nor is it necessary that every Municipality should contain exactly the same number of Ridings, or be controlled by the same number of Councillors ; but the final recommendations of the Committee in regard to these details are deferred pending the obtaining of fuller information :
 - (j) All Towns and Rural Districts to be liable to be rated by the Council for the general expenses of the Municipality, and especially for expenditure upon Main Roads (serving more than one Municipality), Roads common to the whole Municipality, including Bridges and Jetties forming part of such Roads, and any other works for the common good of the Municipality :
 - (k) The services of the Council's Surveyors and Road Engineers or Inspectors and the use of any road-making machinery belonging to the Council should be available for local undertakings of Town Boards and Rural District Boards, provided the Council has first approved of the work :
 - (l) Health Officers of Municipalities to be Health Officers of the Towns therein, unless any Town has appointed its own Officer of Health.
8. That the Committee be authorised to sit during the recess.
9. That Two Members of each House shall form a quorum.

THOS. REIBEY, *Chairman.*

*Committee Room, House of Assembly,
7th October, 1898.*