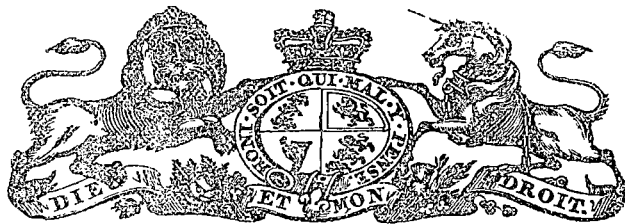


(No. 122.)



1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY DEPARTMENTS:

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE, WITH MINUTES
OF THE PROCEEDINGS AND EVIDENCE.

Brought up by Mr. Braddon, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed,
September 24, 1885.



SELECT COMMITTEE appointed, on the 13th August, 1885, to enquire into and report upon the Government Printing and Stationery Departments.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. LUCAS.
MR. NORTON-SMITH.
MR. TREASURER.

MR. BIRD.
MR. ROOKE.
MR. GUESDON.
MR. BRADDON. (*Mover.*)

DAYS OF MEETING.

Thursday, 20th August; Friday, 21st August; Friday, 28th August; Wednesday, 2nd September; Thursday, 3rd September; Friday, 11th September; Friday, 18th September; Thursday, 24th September.

WITNESS EXAMINED.

Mr. W. T. Strutt, Government Printer.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 1885.

Present—Mr. Lucas, Mr. Norton-Smith, Mr. Bird, Mr. Braddon, Mr. Rooke.

1. Mr. Braddon was voted to the Chair.

2. Ordered, That the Government Printer be summoned to attend before the Committee at 11 A.M.

The Committee adjourned till Friday, the 21st instant, at 11 A.M.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1885.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

Present—Mr. Bird, Mr. Rooke, Mr. Braddon (Chairman.)

Mr. W. T. Strutt, Government Printer, was called in and examined.

Mr. Strutt withdrew.

The Committee adjourned till Tuesday, the 25th instant, at 11 A.M.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 1885.

The Committee met at 11:15 A.M.

Present—Mr. Bird, Mr. Burgess, Mr. Braddon (Chairman.)

The Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed.

Resolved, That the following suggestions be embodied in the Report of the Committee:—

- (1.) That the Annual Reports of Government Establishments be collected, classified, and printed as one paper.
- (2.) That papers tabled in return to an Order of the House be not printed unless of public interest.
- (3.) That the Printing Committee be requested not to look upon the requests of private Members to print papers as obligatory.

The Committee then proceeded to examine all the papers laid upon the Table of the House and ordered to be printed during the present Session, classifying them—(a) necessary papers; (b) papers portions of which were necessary; and (c) papers altogether unnecessary.—See Appendix A.

The Clerk was instructed to request the Government Printer to endorse the cost of printing on each of the papers examined by the Committee.

The Committee adjourned till Wednesday, the 2nd September, at 2:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1885.

The Committee met at 2:50 P.M.

Present—Mr. Norton-Smith, Mr. Bird, Mr. Rooke, Mr. Braddon (Chairman.)

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Committee proceeded with the classification of the printed Parliamentary papers.

Resolved, That the following suggestion be embodied in the Report of the Committee:—That the evidence taken before Select Committees, unless of special public interest, be not printed.

The Committee adjourned until Thursday, the 3rd September, at 2:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1885.

Present—Mr. Norton-Smith, Mr. Bird, Mr. Braddon (Chairman.)

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Committee proceeded with the classification of the printed Parliamentary papers.

The Committee adjourned till Wednesday, the 9th September, at 11 A.M.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1885.

The Committee met at 11:30 A.M.

Present—Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Norton-Smith, and Mr. Braddon (Chairman.)

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Resolved, That Mr. Johnston, Government Statistician, be requested to look over the suggestions of the Committee as to the reduction of tabulated statements in Government printed papers, and to make his own remarks thereon.

The Committee proceeded with the classification of the Parliamentary printed papers.

The Committee adjourned until Wednesday, the 16th September, at 11 A.M.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1885.

Present—Mr. Norton-Smith, Mr. Bird, and Mr. Braddon (Chairman.)

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Statistician's remarks and suggestions as to tabulated statements in printed Reports were received.

Resolved, That the Chairman be requested to draw up a draft Report embodying the views of the Committee.

The Committee adjourned until Thursday, the 24th September, at 11 A.M.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1885.

Present—Mr. Bird, Mr. Rooke, Mr. Braddon (Chairman.)

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The draft Report was submitted, seconded, and agreed to.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.

R E P O R T.

Your Committee have the honor to report that they have held eight meetings, and have examined all the Parliamentary Papers of this Session, Nos. 1 to 114.

Your Committee append hereto a statement showing these papers *seriatim*, together with suggestions thereupon, and amount of saving effected by proposed reductions—£207 12s. 6d.

Of the 114 papers above referred to, your Committee consider it to have been unnecessary to print 26. *E.g.*, it is unnecessary, your Committee think, to print as Parliamentary Papers such Reports as those of the Government Inspector of Mines upon Mount Claude Silver-Lead Deposits, Mount Victoria Gold Fields, &c. These Reports, in so far as they have a public interest, will be better published through the Press of the Colony than through the Government Printing Office; and for political purposes it is not required that such Reports should be placed on the Records of the House.

So also do your Committee consider it unnecessary to print such papers as Nos. 85 and 86 (*Duggan v. Ikin* Depositions, and Dismissal of Gunner Scurrah.) These papers refer to matters which have only a local and temporary interest, and the purpose sought to be gained by them could be just as well attained by laying the original manuscript documents upon the table of the House for information of Members.

Your Committee have, with the aid and advice of the Government Statistician, suggested reductions in tabular forms and statistics of certain departmental reports which will, they think, secure greater efficiency at a reduced cost for printing. The suggestions are noted in Appendix A. It should be added that these reductions of tabular statements need not preclude Departments from furnishing the fullest details in manuscript for the information of the Executive.

A further saving can be effected by abolishing the fly-leaf of those papers which, being printed separately, can be disposed of in a half-sheet, and by printing together as one paper all those Reports of a homogeneous character (such as those upon Charitable Schools, Nos. 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18) which are now given as separate papers. These changes will have the effect of reducing the bulk of the Parliamentary Journals.

Your Committee recommend that the practice heretofore existing of reprinting from day to day in the Notice Paper items of Public Works proposals to be moved in Committee of Supply, be abandoned. These items are shown in the Public Works Statement, and there is no more reason why they should be printed day after day than the items in the General Estimates of Expenditure.

E. N. C. BRADDON, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, 24th September, 1885.

EVIDENCE.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 1885

MR. W. T. STRUTT, *Government Printer, called in and examined.*

1. *By the Chairman.*—Can you suggest to the Committee any means of effecting a saving or improvement in the system of Government printing? I think a saving might be effected if, in cases like the insertion of the Public Works proposals in the Notices of Motion, reference was subsequently made thereto, instead of repeating them time after time. I also think a great saving in binding might be made if the Records of the House of Parliament only were bound, and not the Parliamentary papers: a few complete copies would, of course, be bound for record.

2. What is the number of Government *Gazettes* issued? Nearly 1000, and they are mostly given away.

3. Do you think that that number could be reduced? No. A reduction of the number was attempted in the time of my predecessor, Mr. Barnard, but it proved a failure; and after a short time, instead of a decrease, the issue was increased. When the reduction took place, Justices of the Peace who wished to have the *Gazette* were to be charged for it, but the order was speedily rescinded, and they again received them gratis. The Acts issued are always included in the *Gazettes* forwarded.

4. Do you think that it is possible to make the Government *Gazette* a popular serial? I do not.

5. Will you please supply the Committee with a return of the distribution of the Government *Gazette*, gratuitously or otherwise?

Members of Parliament and Justices of the Peace	470
Post Offices	206
Police Offices.....	52
Foreign	35
Public Departments and Press.....	100
Subscribers	52

915

6. Do you sell any copies of the *Gazette*? Yes, to casual purchasers; I have also subscribers, chiefly solicitors, the subscription being £1 per annum: thus last year they obtained the Acts plus the *Gazettes* for 10s. cheaper than they would have paid for the Acts alone.

7. What is the average cost per page of ordinary papers as printed by you; also that of papers containing tabulated statistical information, and of diagrams? Ordinary papers, 7s. 6d. to 15s.; tabulated statistical, 15s. to 30s., according to size of type and intricacy of work. Diagrams are printed by Lithographer, in Lands and Works Department. Plain diagrams cost about 30s. a thousand printing, independent of paper. The cost of preparing diagrams for lithography depends upon the amount of time taken by the draftsman who draws transfer. If drawn for photo-lithography the cost of preparing transfer is reduced. Coloured diagrams are more expensive, each colour requiring a separate printing.

8. An Order of this House was made that all papers should show their cost of printing imprinted on them: why was that Order disregarded? The Order was that the "cost of preparation and printing" should be so shown. As the preparation of the papers is in other hands, who could not supply me with the information, and the calculation of the cost of printing each paper would have delayed its being placed in members' hands (as I have no clerical assistance whatever), I was compelled to disregard the Order. The cost of printing some of those papers would also be very difficult to get at, as, in some cases, proof after proof are sent, and the alterations and erasures made are so extensive that the original cost is doubled.

9. Can you give the Committee any sort of estimate showing the relative costs of first printing a document, and of that caused by the alterations you have described? The cost of the alterations would, of course, depend on what kind they were, and the description of document. In some cases the cost is increased by 100 per cent. Bills, as amended in Committee, are sometimes very expensive, caused by many alterations.

10. Can you suggest any saving in the cost of printing by the re-arrangement of the Government Printing Establishment? No. I have just got the stereotype process into working order, which will effect a great saving in the jobbing department.

11. Please give us an idea of the cost of the *Gazette*, and to what extent the public contribute to that cost by advertisement, and by purchase of it and State papers? Estimated cost of *Gazette* for year 1884 about £1500; receipts for the year for advertisements, subscriptions, and sale of State papers, £695 8s. 3d.

12. Do you print the papers of the Royal Society, and if so, are you paid for doing so? I do, gratuitously, on the approval of a Minister. I publish their report in a pamphlet form, which they distribute to their members.

13. *By Mr. Bird.*—The Benevolent Society, a body also subsidised by Government do not have their reports so printed? No.

14. Will you consider the subject, and inform us of any suggestions you may have to make which would effect a saving in the cost of your department, without impairing its efficiency? Besides such as I have already named, excepting large and important documents, the title pages to the papers and blanks at the back of them might be dispensed with, and the title printed at the top of each. Last year there were 186 papers, which means 372 pages of titles and blanks. The work of the Printing Department will necessarily increase with the growth of the Colony. Every new department of the Government, as well as every change and growth of any department, inevitably occasions increased printing and binding.

APPENDIX A.

LIST of Parliamentary Papers printed from the 21st of July to the 22nd September, 1885, with Remarks thereon by the Select Committee appointed to enquire into the Government Printing and Stationery Departments.

No. of Paper.	Title.	Remarks.	Cost.		Saving to be effected by proposed alteration.	
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
2	General Hospital, Hobart	} To be printed in one paper.	—	—	—	—
3	Ditto, Launceston					
4	Campbell Town Hospital					
5	Mount Bischoff Hospital					
6	Contagious Diseases Hospital					
8	Hospital for the Insane, Cascades	} To be printed in one paper. In No. 19, one account superfluous. In No. 21, Correspondence pp. 7 to 10 unnecessary. Any important matter treated by correspondence might be dealt with in Report. In No. 22, Monthly Details Return, p. 6, unnecessary. Total for year sufficient.	—	—	—	—
9	New Town Charitable Institution					
10	Invalid Depôt, Launceston					
14	Training School, Cascades.....					
15	Girls' Training School and Reformatory					
19	Hobart Benevolent Society	} To be printed in one paper.	—	—	—	0 2 6
20	Launceston Benevolent Society.....					
21	Boarding-out Destitute Children					
22	Out-door Relief					
23	Charitable Aid in Hobart and Suburbs..					
11	Industrial School for Girls, Hobart	} To be printed in one paper. See alterations in returns.	—	—	—	7 10 0
12	Ditto, Launceston					
13	Boys' Home Industrial School					
16	St. Joseph's Orphanage					
17	Ragged Schools, Hobart					
18	St. Luke's Ragged School.....	} To be printed in one paper and returns simplified. See Form 29.	—	—	—	5 0 0
24	Penal Establishment, Hobart					
25	Ditto, Launceston					
26	Vaccination Department.					
27	Officer of Health.					
28	Territorial Police.....	} To be printed in one paper and returns simplified. See Form 29.	—	—	—	5 0 0
29	Municipal Police.....					
30	Royal Society of Tasmania.					
31	Tasmanian Public Library					
32	Government Analyst.					
33	Salmon Commissioners.	} Returns 3 and 4 unnecessary, 5 and 8 to be amalgamated, and abstract given instead of numerical return. Reports for Hobart and Launceston to be printed in one paper; detailed statement, page 5, unnecessary.	—	—	—	4 4 0
34	Board of Immigration					
35	Fire Brigade, Hobart					
36	Ditto, Launceston					
37	New Town Government Farm.					
38	Council of Education	} To be printed in one paper. Appendices A. B. and C. unnecessary, list of scholars, &c. being given in Walch's Handbook. Examination papers unnecessary. Doubtful if these papers should be printed in the Colony at all.	—	—	—	4 0 0
39	Ditto, Exhibitions					
40	Tasmanian Scholarships					
41	Associate of Arts Degree					
42	Board of Education.....					
43	Public School Exhibitions	} To be printed in one paper. In Appendices I. K. and L. (42) it is unnecessary to give more than totals for districts. In Appendix J., details for quarter might be reduced to means or averages for the yearly period. In 43, examination papers unnecessary	—	—	—	11 0 0
44	Expedition from Van Diemen's Land to Victoria.					
45	Meteorological Observer					
46	Real Estates Duties Department.....					
47	Main Line Railway, Treasury Correspondence.					
48	Customs Duties, 1883-84.	} By modifying Table 14 the following two pages, including Table 15, could be dispensed with, and the information given more clearly	—	—	—	1 0 0
49	Finance.					
50	Telegraph Report					
51	Post Office Money Order and Savings Bank Returns					
51	Post Office Money Order and Savings Bank Returns					
51	Post Office Money Order and Savings Bank Returns					
						5 0 0

No. of Paper.	Title.	Remarks.	Cost.	Saving to be effected by proposed alteration.
			£ s. d.	£ s. d.
52	Marine Board-Accounts.			
53	Marine Survey, St. Helen's Point.			
54	Public Debts Sinking Fund.			
56	Public Works: Report of Engineer-in-Chief.			
57	Crown Lands Office: Report Deputy Surveyor-General.			
58	Secretary of Mines' Report	} To be printed in one paper.		
59	Inspector of Mines' Report.....			
60	Ringarooma Water Race: Burke's Report			
61	Mount Victoria Gold Field: Thureau's Report	} Unnecessary. These papers, if of sufficient public interest, would be gladly availed of by the Press. As far as Members are concerned, they could always be referred to on requisition.	17 10 0	
62	Mount Claude Silver-Lead Deposits, ditto		2 2 0	
63	Mount Zeehan Silver-Lead Deposits, ditto		4 10 0	
64	Mersey Coal Deposits, ditto.....		2 10 0	
66	Launceston & Western Railway Report.			2 2 0
67	Treasurer's Balances.			
69	Estimated Revenue, 1885-1886.			
71	Instalments on Crown Lands.			
72	Consolidated Revenue, Account Current.	} Unnecessary in this form, as they are placed before Members in the Finance Paper.		
73	Debentures and Treasury Bills sold.			
74	Loans of the Government.			
75	Debentures redeemable 1885-6-7-8.			
76	Particulars proposed New Loan.			
77	Remissions of Customs Duties.			
78	Dividend Tax Return.			
79	Intercolonial Free Trade Victoria and Tasmania: Delegates' Proceedings.			
80	Mr. Samuel Henry: Petition	Useless.	1 2 6	
81	Orders under Superannuation Act.			
82	Government and Tasmanian Main Line Railways Report.			
83	Public Works: Memo. of proposed Expenditure.	Necessary; but should not be repeated in Notice Paper.		
84	Municipal Action, Port Sorell: Petitions.		10 0 0	
85	Depositions Duggan v. Ikin	} Useless.	6 6 0	
86	Dismissal Gunnér Scurrah, S.T.V.A.		7 10 0	
87	Recorder of Titles' Report.	Appendices 1 to 8 might be included in one. See amended form.		
88	Rabbit Destruction Act: Inspector's Report.			
89	Inspector of Sheep Report.....	Appendices unnecessary, list of owners useless, and other information already given in Statistics	—	20 0 0
90	Fisheries Department Report.			
93	Tasmanian Defence Force			
95	Road Trusts Assessments and Contributions.			
96	Launceston and Western Railway, Memorial	Memorial might be printed, as concerning a question of large public interest; names unnecessary.....	—	0 15 0
97	Californian Thistle Act: Inspector's Report.			
98	Notice of intention to vest certain Lands.			
100	Eagles and Native Tigers: Petitions ...	Useless.	0 15 0	
101	G. Thureau: Correspondence	Useless.	3 10 0	
102	Ragged Schools Association Report.			
103	Lighthouse, Tasman's Island: Correspondence	Unnecessary, because the information herein could be very well given when the vote is proposed by Ministers, and has no interest for the general public so long as the matter remains in its present position		
104	Mersey and Deloraine Railway Expenditure.		2 4 6	
105	Mount Cameron Water-race: Reports, Messrs. Burke and Thureau.			
106	Votes expended in Development of Mining	Unnecessary. The information in this paper solely relates to mining in Victoria, and although of some value as a guide to the Minister of Lands in Tasmania, need not be put upon the permanent records of this Colony	2 2 0	

No. of Paper.	Title.	Remarks.	Cost.		Saving to be effected by proposed alteration.	
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.
107	Amounts voted for Public Works: Returns.					
108	Reciprocity Treaty, Tasmania and Victoria: Petition.....	Unnecessary to print single petitions till the end of Session, upon even the most important subject, when all such petitions might be dealt with at once.....				
110	Tasmanian M. L. Railway: Correspondence with Col. Grey.		0	17	6	
111	Elections, Bribery and Hours of Polling: Petition.	This should only be printed, if printed at all, at close of Session.				
112	Volunteer Force: Numerical Return....	Unnecessary; sufficient to have annual or periodical return	1	7	6	
113	Railway Rolling Stock	Unnecessary. Newspapers would print this for public information, and this would meet all present requirements	1	7	6	
114	Torpedo Boat: Correspondence and Report.	Unnecessary. Sufficient to have paper laid on Table for information.	6	6	0	
			70	0	6	137 12 0
		Total Reduction		207	12	6