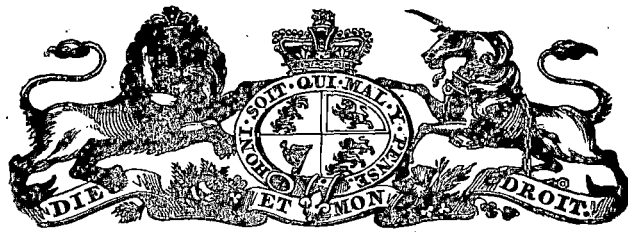


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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

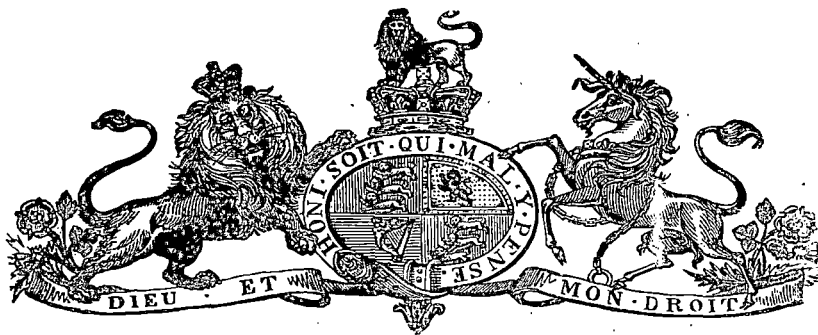
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INSPECTOR OF SURVEYS:

REPORT FOR 1887-8.

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



## REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF SURVEYS FOR THE YEAR 1887.

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Hobart, 28th May, 1888.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit my Annual Report for the past year.

Shortly after sending in my last Report it was thought necessary to dispense with the services of my Assistant-Surveyor, Mr. R. W. Stokell, and his party: as mentioned in that Report, my subsidiary party, engaged in the construction of trigonometrical stations, had been previously disbanded.

### *Standard Work.*

In consequence of the want of funds, no work of this nature has been practicable during the past year.

### *Magnetic Surveys.*

There were certain statements made last year in favour of reverting to and perpetuating this system, instead of one based on trigonometrical surveys and effected with the theodolite. Without recalling Mr. Black's able report on the Department, I consider it my duty to point out that magnetic surveys cannot be very accurately effected in any country: that in this Island it is generally an impossibility, owing to the presence of great local attraction. The fact is well known to any competent surveyor, and I had occasion to submit a letter to you from one of the district surveyors illustrating the variations that occur in his district alone. I may mention that several surveys made by this magnetic method have during the past year been re-surveyed with theodolite, with the result that these previous surveys have been proved considerably distorted, and so much so that a correct plan could not have been compiled from some of them. Of course the marks on the ground are held to be the true boundaries; but it may frequently happen, with some seasons like that experienced last year, that bush fires will destroy entirely the marks at present in vogue.

### *Inspection.*

In one of my Annual Reports I drew attention to the discrepancies existing between the field plans and field notes sent in by the surveyor. Acting under instructions from yourself, I have made considerable inspection and submitted many reports on these and kindred subjects. The results of inspection in nearly all these numerous cases showed the necessity for an alteration, which is now taking place, with the result of considerable gain to the State in the shape of reliable information previously withheld. There has not been much field inspection, partly owing to the want of funds, also in consequence of a misunderstanding, through which I was instructed to make complete re-surveys of several blocks, which exhausted what little funds were provided.

### *Real Property Surveys.*

I have had the honor of inspecting and reporting on several of these surveys, and, moreover suggested that the surveyors who effect these surveys should be classed as distinct in future from the ordinary licensed surveyor; and that both classes should be licensed under an Act of Parliament, as is the case in other colonies, the present surveyors to be gazetted under such for Real Property Act.

### *Trigonometrical Stations.*

Your attention in last year's Report was respectfully drawn to the necessity that existed for the re-establishing of the old trigonometrical stations, and, subsequently, was submitted the cost of the subsidiary party that had been employed in their reconstruction. As a set-off to the adverse comments begun by Mr. Calder, and continued to the present year, as to the utility of this "trig." work in particular and trigonometrical surveys in general, besides the report of Mr. Black, Surveyor-General of Victoria, I am glad to learn that representations were made by the Captains of H.M. ships *Egeria* and *Dart*, who wrote asking that these stations be re-established, and giving reasons for the same. I have been informed that a surveyor was entrusted to do some of this work, and that the result was not altogether satisfactory, and more expensive than it would have been had I been

permitted to continue the work with my trained men; besides, annoyance which may be caused in the future by irresponsible persons tampering with the remnants of these old trig. stations would have been guarded against.

H.M.S. *Dart* will be here next year, and Captain Field requires a lot of stations identified, recleared, and rebuilt.

The Department of Mines would have been greatly assisted during this late rush had the trig. stations I advocated year before last been rebuilt at that time.

#### *Standard Plans.*

When not otherwise employed, I have found work in the compilation of a set of Standard Plans, which will be of the greatest assistance in the future, although my services were not engaged for this purpose. These plans have already been found of utility to Captain Field, of the *Dart*, the Mines Department, District Surveyors, and myself.

#### *Suggested alteration of Regulations relating to Surveys.*

There appears to be a desire on the part of certain District Surveyors to obtain the repeal of these Regulations, which were drawn up by the late Mr. Sprent, or to get them altered to suit. Mr. Sprent, who wrote to me on the subject, said their alteration would greatly depend on my recommendations. I will only observe there can be no rule without an exception, and if the Surveyor will only state on his plan why he cannot comply in a particular case, there is nothing more to be said, unless indeed it is found out that the Surveyor has misrepresented the case. It appears that several of those Surveyors in charge of districts who complain that the Regulations are hard and the pay is insufficient, yet expect their temporary "Assistants," equally competent as themselves, to work below the full fees, and in some cases, it has been said, keep these unfortunate men a long time waiting for the balance due to them: this is a matter that calls for interference on the part of the Department. I am glad to state that there is one District Surveyor, at any rate, who, when he has surplus work that necessitates Assistants, invariably hands over the full fees to them.

#### *Simplification of Surveys.*

I had the honor to submit a Report on this matter, suggesting that certain items might be dispensed with. This recommendation of mine would mean a great saving of time to the Surveyor, and the permanence of the work not affected.

You were pleased to approve of certain suggested alterations of mine in the surveys for the Mines Department, which will be a welcome concession to the Surveyors, and relieve this Department from possible complication. I had the honor to draw attention to this matter in one of my Annual Reports.

#### *Board of Examiners for Licensed Surveyors.*

As the Professional Adviser of this Department, and as a member of this Board, I would strongly recommend that it be remodelled, inasmuch as the available talent in the Colony is not properly represented, in that the District Surveyors should have two of their number selected in turn to attend the Board, and also a representative from the numerous body of Licensed Surveyors.

The Board as at present constituted being considered a permanent one, it is calculated to give undue consideration to any Surveyor who may happen to be appointed above his superiors in ability.

I regret to say that I think the Board does perhaps more harm than good, seeing that the low fees induce young men to serve a long and hard apprenticeship, and who, after passing the examination, are unable to get employment unless they work for a pittance under a District Surveyor; and as for the licence they have obtained, it is of no practical use to them elsewhere.

#### *In conclusion.*

I have the honor to submit, that considering the fact that the strictest economy has been practised, and the loss the Department last year sustained in the person of the late Deputy Surveyor-General, it is gratifying to see that the Department has not retrograded to any appreciable extent in a technical sense. It is a matter of personal regret that the strictly defined position I occupy prevents my interference in any matter without express authority.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*The Honorable the Minister of Lands, Hobart.*

WENTWORTH M. HARDY,  
*Inspector of Surveys.*