

(No. 35.)



1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

HUON PINE FORESTS, WEST COAST:

REPORT OF CONSERVATOR OF FORESTS.

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



Crown Lands Office, 6th July, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith my Report of a visit to the West Coast to inspect some of the Huon pine forests in that neighbourhood, more particularly Macquarie Harbour. NO. 1280

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I left Hobart by the s.s. *Koonja* on Wednesday, the 19th June, and arrived at Strahan the following morning, inspecting the pine logs at the mouth of the Gordon (about 1500) the same afternoon; the rest of the time was employed on two beds of pine in Kelly's Basin, one at the mouth of the Gordon, on Barnes' Creek, the banks of the Gordon for about six miles up, the south shore of the Bay, and a visit to Trial Harbour, arriving in Hobart by the s.s. *Koonja* on Saturday, the 29th June.

Since the present Regulations came into force—viz., October, 1887, till December, 1888, 5727 logs of Huon pine have been registered by the piners, during which time 1242 logs have been shipped, leaving the large total of 4485 logs on hand. To obtain these logs a large amount of valuable timber is left to waste, for it is only the very best log that is taken, and if the tree shows any defect when down there it is left; consequently, the whole forest is covered with an immense quantity of useful and valuable timber. I was informed that all the pine forests have been left in the same state. Those now open on the King and Queen Rivers will be no exception.

The royalty on pine used in Tasmania having been taken off, and that on export reduced to $\frac{1}{2}d.$ per foot, there is no necessity to enforce the measuring for contents at port of shipment for local consumption, a record of the number and brand of each log only being required for future reference should it be sent out of the Colony.

All the old forests are reproducing themselves to a wonderful degree. Young pines, from six inches high to the stately sapling 50 feet high and 18 inches thick, simply cover the forest, promising a better class and larger supply of timber in the future than its predecessor did in the past.

A short visit of six hours was made to Trial Harbour. A more dangerous place to trust a vessel into (only a steamer can venture to do even that) is hardly conceivable. All the money that may ever be spent on it cannot make it any better. The mooring is all that is required; but it is a pity the hole in the reef was ever discovered.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM T. H. BROWN, *Conservator of Forests.*

*The Hon. A. T. PILLINGER, Esq.,
Minister of Lands and Works.*