

(No. 35.)



1891.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

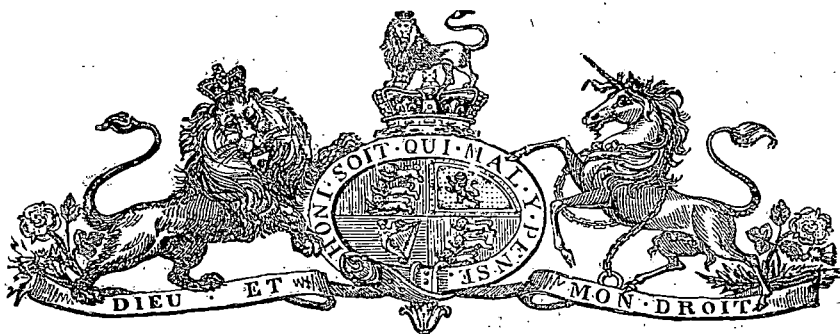
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CHIEF INSPECTOR OF MACHINERY :

REPORT FOR 1890.

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



Office of Chief Inspector of Machinery, May, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to submit the following Report for the year ending 31st December, 1890.

*Working of the Act 53 Vict. No. 12.*

During 1890 this Act had been in force for upwards of one year, and, where applied, the results proved satisfactory.

*Land and Mine Engine Drivers' Certificates.*

Applications for certificates of service and competency are daily applied for from all parts of the colony, and in several instances certificates have been granted, the most being for service. Up to the present time (there being no defined regulations and curriculum of examination, approved and passed by the Governor in Council) many of the applications remain in abeyance, and this causes much dissatisfaction.

*Examination of Engineers under "The Merchant Ships Officers Examination Act, 1878."*

Four candidates have passed creditably,—two first-class competency and two second-class competency. Unfortunately, the recent regulations of the Marine Board have overlapped this Act, causing much vexatious trouble and irritation, which may in the near future create alarm, and probably disaster, to the travelling public.

*Accidents to Persons.*

Six,—namely, three lads under 14 years of age, two of these trivial, one serious (necessitating amputation of the arm); three others, one trivial (a lad 18 years), and two men serious—arms severely crushed, ages 25 and 42 respectively. Several other machinery accidents have taken place, but they were not officially reported, and the pressure of other duties prevented me investigating the circumstances.

*Boiler Accidents.*

Three during the year 1890. Two of these were small marine boilers, and caused through deposit accumulating on the furnace crowns; one an explosion of a locomotive boiler on the T.M.L. Railway. Fortunately, these cases were unattended by injury to any person.

*Synopsis of other Duties devolving upon the Chief Inspector.*

Engineer and Shipwright Surveyor to the Hobart and Mersey Marine Boards; Examiner in Steam under the Merchant Ships Officers Examination Act of 1878, Marine and Mine Engine Drivers, &c.; supervision of the erection of machinery at the Government Printing Office and Parliament Buildings; Reports upon steam dredges and stone-breaking machinery, &c.

*Fees received.*

Inland fees received by the Department, £148, which have been paid into the Treasury.

*Fees unpaid.*

A large amount remains uncollected. With the present staff this cannot be otherwise.

*Inland Inspection.*

Mining machinery boilers, 46; portable steam, both boilers and engines, 65; stationary steam engines and boilers, 70.

*Steam Boilers found defective.*

Twenty. Instructions given for repairs, 17; condemned, 3.

*Steam Gauges.*

Tested and found serviceable, 102 ; unserviceable, 10.

*Steam Vessels under Inspection.*

Hobart office, 36 ; Launceston, 16 ; total, 52. Total marine inspections made by the Hobart and Launceston offices, 242

*Inspection of Iron Hulls.*

Hobart, 12 ; Launceston, 6. Boats and equipments inspected, 24. Iron steam vessels for passenger measurements, 6.

In conclusion, I beg to call your attention to the rapid increase in the number of steamers, boilers and engines, and mining plant, and their attendants, engine drivers, &c., all subject to inspection and examination according to law.

From the foregoing statements it is evident that without further assistance it is impossible for the duties of the Department to be carried out in a satisfactory manner, and according to the requirements of the law. The risk of accidents to persons and property is daily increasing, and I am quite unable to overtake the duties devolving on me.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN CLARK,

*Chief Inspector of Machinery.*

*The Hon. Chief Secretary, Tasmania.*