

(No. 89.)



1860.

T A S M A N I A.

THE GAOL AT LAUNCESTON.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Brought up by Dr. Officer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 4 September,
1860.



REPORT of the SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the 9th August, 1860, to enquire into the present state of the Gaol at Launceston.

MEMBERS.

MR. COLONIAL TREASURER.
DR. OFFICER.
MR. HENTY.

MR. SHERWIN.
MR. COHEN.
MR. CROOKES.

DAYS OF MEETING.

No. 1. 16 August, 1860.

PRESENT.

Mr. Colonial Treasurer.
Dr. Officer.
Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Henty.
Mr. Sherwin.

No. 2. 22 August, 1860.

PRESENT.

Dr. Officer.
Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Cohen.
Mr. Sherwin.
Mr. Henty.
Mr. Colonial Treasurer.

No. 3. 28 August, 1860.

PRESENT.

Dr. Officer.
Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Cohen.
Mr. Sherwin.
Mr. Henty.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

W. R. Falconer, Esq., Director of Public Works.
Henry Dowling, Esq., Mayor of Launceston.

C. J. Irvine, Esq., of Launceston.
Honourable W. E. Nairn, Esq., Sheriff.

YOUR COMMITTEE have met on three occasions, and examined as Witnesses the Mayor of Launceston, the former Gaoler of Launceston, the Sheriff, and the Director of Public Works, and have agreed to the following

R E P O R T.

Your Committee are of opinion that the existing building is very defective, and entirely unsuited to the purposes of a Gaol.

It does not afford sufficient space, either in the day rooms or dormitories, for more than half the number of Prisoners frequently confined within its walls.

It admits of no classification whatever, so that the most hardened criminals, men even under sentence of death, when not locked up in their cells, and persons only committed for examination or trial, are frequently found commingling with each other.

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The building is very insecure as a place of confinement ; and from this cause, combined with its defective plan and arrangements, a much greater staff of Javelin Men is employed than would otherwise be necessary.

A Plan and Estimate of the cost of additions to the present Gaol were laid before your Committee ; but they are of opinion that the proposed alterations, which could only be effected at a considerable cost, would remedy its defects in a very imperfect manner.

Your Committee have come to the conclusion, that the erection of an entirely new Gaol is to be preferred to any imperfect attempt to remove the defects of the existing buildings, more especially as it would have the effect of considerably reducing the annual expense of its maintenance.

R. OFFICER, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, 4th September, 1860.