

(No. 91.)



1869.

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T A S M A N I A.

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**UPPER DERWENT AND HAMILTON ROAD  
DISTRICTS.**

**B O U N D A R I E S.**

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 22, 1869.



(Copy.)

*Colonial Treasury, 23rd October, 1868.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, calling attention to the Memorial signed by yourself and other landholders residing in Buckingham (or Fenton Forest) side of the Derwent, in reference to the expenditure of the funds derived from the lands on that side of the river; and, in reply, I have the honor to inform you that the subject will receive the early consideration of the Government.

I avail myself of this opportunity of forwarding the return you asked for, showing the Land Fund placed at the disposal of the Hamilton Board of Works during the years 1864, 1865, 1866, and 1867, with the amount derived from each side of the Derwent.

I also forward herewith the return you left with me, showing the amount appropriated for expenditure by the Hamilton Board of Works on each side of the Derwent, of which I have taken a copy for the information of the Government.

I have the honor to be;

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. D. CHAPMAN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

MICHAEL FENTON, *Esq., Fenton Forest.*

*AMOUNT reserved from the Land Fund on account of the HAMILTON BOARD OF WORKS since its Appointment in 1865.*

YEAR.	<i>Buckingham or Fenton Forest side of the Derwent.</i>			<i>Cumberland or Hamilton side of the Derwent.</i>			<i>Total.</i>		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1864 .....	344	17	2	1420	3	0	1765	0	2
1865 .....	94	12	0	817	15	5	912	7	5
1866 .....	106	8	4	711	17	3	818	5	7
1867 .....	73	6	3	525	3	7	598	9	10
	£619	3	9	£3474	19	3	£4094	3	0

*Colonial Treasury, 9th July, 1868.*

*Fenton Forest, Monday, 19th.*

SIR,

As several posts have elapsed without bringing me the return you promised relative to the amount and expenditure of the Land Fund due to the right bank of the Derwent, I beg again to remind you of the fact, which I conclude must have arisen from the multiplicity of your engagements or the neglect of your subordinates.

I am compelled again to press on your consideration that the Hamilton Road Trust (who chiefly compose the Board of Works) are misapplying *our funds*, by spending them on other lands than those on which they have been realised, contrary to the Regulations: but what can be expected from a nominee and irresponsible Body, not one of whom has an acre of land on this bank? and consequently the main artery on this bank is neglected, and the money spent on a bye road, which they lead the Government to believe is the main artery to Glenora and New Norfolk, whereas it is not so; for to obtain such a road they would have to purchase a road through Mr. Dickson's land or mine,—thus showing the absurdity of such an idea.

If this is not at once remedied by restoring to the Upper Derwent the boundary fixed by the House of Assembly, and taken away by the Whyte Ministry, we will have a just and equitable claim on the Government for the loss of our funds, the particulars of which are contained in the letter of the ratepayers presented by Mr. Dickson and myself.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

MICHL. FENTON, *Chairman Derwent Road Trust.*

*Colonial Treasurer, Hobart Town.*

The favour of an answer is requested.

*Glenora, 4th September, 1868.*

WE, the undersigned Landholders of the Upper Derwent Road District, submit the following facts for your consideration in the hope of *at last* obtaining redress.

1st. When the Hamilton Road Act was first adopted £500 was given from the Land Fund in aid, but it was *all* expended on the Hamilton side of the Derwent (left bank).

2nd. All the funds raised on the right bank were also laid out on the Hamilton side.

3rd. At that time all the unoccupied crown land was assessed at half the amount of the private assessments,—both of which were also spent on the Hamilton side until the boundary of that District was reduced from Russell's Falls to Jones River. Yet all the crown land to Russell's Falls was retained to the Hamilton District, closing in thereby all the occupied land so as to deprive the Upper Derwent of a single acre.

4th. This injustice continued, notwithstanding repeated remonstrances, until 1860, when a Petition was presented to the House of Assembly for enquiry and redress on the 9th of August, when a Select Committee was appointed on the 17th to enquire into and report on the subject: none of the Members having any interest in either District.

5th. On the 24th of September the Report of the Committee was brought up as follows:—

“Your Committee,\* having taken evidence and examined a number of papers connected with the subject which your Committee had been directed to consider, have the honor to report that it is their opinion the allegations contained in the Petition referred to them have been fully established, and that the boundary of the Upper Derwent Road District ought, in accordance with the object of the promoters of the enquiry, to be extended to the Florentine River. Your Committee consider it but right and just that the Settlers on the respective banks of the River Derwent may have the funds raised on them laid out in opening up and improving the roads on the side of the river on which their respective properties are situated.”

6th. The House unanimously adopted the Report, and passed an Address to His Excellency requesting he would be pleased to give effect to the Report, which he accordingly did.

\* Chapman, Balfé, Butler, Crookes, and Sherwin.

We therefore pray the District may be extended to the Florentine, *that* being the boundary recommended by the House of Assembly and adopted by the Governor; and that a separate Board of Works may be appointed for the Upper Derwent Road District,—being still unrepresented in the Hamilton Board of Works :—all of the present Board belong to the Hamilton side.

While we assess ourselves at One Shilling in the Pound, producing under £230 a year at present, the Hamilton Trustees, who only assess at half that amount, have a revenue of £500 a year. They have also about £1000 a year from the Land Fund. The Road Trustees being also the Board of Works, while we are unrepresented, so that our Trustees have no voice in the matter, but a nominee and irresponsible body substituted for our elected body. In 1864 there was due to this side £487. In 1865 Captain Fenton and Mr. B. Dickson paid in cash about £1100 for rent and purchase of crown land, besides the credit sales payable by instalments yearly. As we have no control over the nominee element, we are ignorant of its appropriation, with the exception of about £200.

Is this our boasted local self-government?

[Here follow 51 Signatures.]

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

*Fenton Forest, 6th July, 1868.*

SIR,

As you have not informed me, according to your promise, the result of your inquiry regarding the amount of the Land Fund available for the right bank of the Derwent, and its appropriation, I am induced again to press on the consideration of Government the injustice this locality has experienced from the Hamilton Board of Works,—who also constitute the Road Trust of the Hamilton District,—who have for so many years applied our Funds to their own uses.

In 1864 the amount due to us was £427; and in 1865 Mr. Bassett Dickson and myself paid in cash for the purchase of Land and renting of Crown Land about £1200—the fourth of which gave £300 more,—making a total of £727, to which is to be added the purchase of Land sold at 8 years' credit, to be paid for by yearly instalments, to which is to be added the Funds arising from 1866 and 1867,—making, I think, £1200 in addition, out of which only £209 have been expended that I am aware of.

It is generally argued that those people who help themselves have a first claim on Government; and as we have for years assessed ourselves at the full rate of a Shilling,—creating only a revenue of £238 yearly,—yet the Hamilton District, who only assess at Sixpence in the Pound, give £500; but if they assessed themselves at a Shilling, as we do, it would give £1000 a year: the Government Aid in addition would give them £1500 per annum.

The reason they assess themselves at Sixpence only is, because they have such an extent of Crown Land that the one-fourth of its revenue would give them from one to two thousand a year from the Land Fund in addition to the above; and yet the late Ministry took from us upwards of one hundred a year and added it to the Hamilton District, in direct opposition to a decision of a Select Committee of the House of Assembly, confirmed by the House itself.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

MICHL. FENTON.

*To T. D. CHAPMAN, Esq., Colonial Treasurer.*