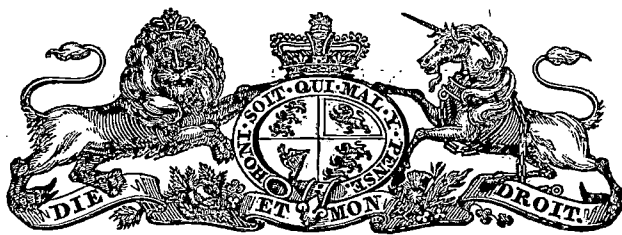


(No. 33.)



1857.

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T A S M A N I A.

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**VENTILATION AND INTERNAL ARRANGEMENT OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.**

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Brought up, and ordered by the House to be printed, 7 January, 1857.

(No. 33.)

## EXTRACT

FROM

### THE VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

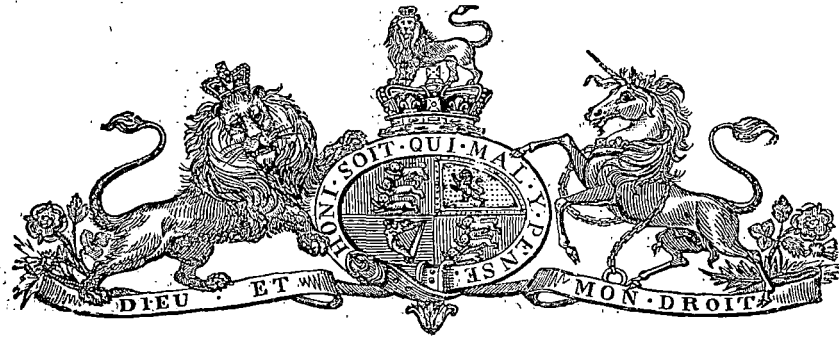
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No. 6. TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1856.

6. *Ventilation*—Select Committee *appointed*, consisting of—  
The Secretary of Public Works,  
Dr. Butler,  
Dr. Crooke,  
Mr. Gunn,  
Mr. Rogers, and  
Dr. Officer,

to report upon the best means of improving the Ventilation and internal arrangements of this Chamber. Report to be brought up on or before the 16th instant. (*Dr. Officer.*)



*THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the House of Assembly appointed, on the 9th instant, to "report upon the best means of improving the Ventilation and internal arrangements of this Chamber," have agreed to the following*

## R E P O R T.

Your Committee have given their attention to the following points as comprised in the object of their appointment.

1st. The improvement of the Ventilation and lighting of the Chamber.

2nd. Provision for the better accommodation of the Members of the Legislative Council, the Reporters and Strangers, and for the more commodious arrangement of the Speaker's dais, the tables and seats of the Members and Clerk of the Assembly.

The first of these objects your Committee propose to effect, in addition to the means recommended in their former Report, by the reconstruction of the roof of the Chamber, so as to admit of the substitution of a lantern light in the place of the existing flat sashes, and at a higher level. This alteration, which your Committee consider to be the best means of effecting the proposed end under existing circumstances, they deem still more necessary to be adopted before the introduction of Gas-lights, which, without such a precaution, cannot fail to aggravate the present insalubrious condition of the Chamber.

To effect the second class of objects, your Committee recommend that the present Strangers' Gallery should be so reduced in height and width as to afford comfortable accommodation for the Reporters alone; and that a Gallery for Strangers of increased capacity should be erected over the present staircase.

These alterations when effected will admit of the removal of the Speaker's Chair further back by several feet, and of the more convenient arrangement of the Tables and Benches of the Members of the Assembly; and will afford additional space at the lower end of the Chamber for the special accommodation of the Members of the Legislative Council.

Your Committee further recommend that means of access by a staircase from the Upper Lobby to the Refreshment Rooms recently constructed below should be provided, and that in connexion with this arrangement new Water-closets should be erected.

These alterations and improvements cannot be effected without considerable cost, the principal part of which would be involved in the reconstruction of the Roof. It will be seen, however, from the Report of the Director of Public Works, that this is a work that the mere security of the building, apart from the special purpose for which it is recommended by your Committee, renders necessary.

With this Report your Committee lay upon the Table of your Honourable House the Report and Plans, together with an estimate of the cost, furnished to them by the Director of Public Works, by which the proposed alterations will be more fully explained.

R. OFFICER, *Chairman,*

*Committee Room, 23rd December, 1856.*

*MEMORANDUM with reference to the state of the House of Assembly as to Ventilation.*

THE proper ventilation of this House at a time when filled with people is, in my opinion, an impossibility while the present roof remains on it; because in its construction originally it was not contemplated to make openings in it for the admission of light, or for the discharge of heated air,—and all that could be done has been done to effect both, but very insufficiently. Any further openings or alterations in it would render it unsafe, and would then not properly answer the purpose.

A further difficulty to the ventilating exists also from the want of means in the lower part of the building for admitting fresh air to the room without causing a direct current of the same, always found so very objectionable.

For the *temporary* improvement of the Ventilation, I would beg to suggest that the windows which are now closed at the front of the building be re-opened above the panning of the room; and to prevent a direct current of air from entering immediately upon the sitting Members of the Assembly, and also to exclude the objectionable glare of light upon those opposite, that a hopper be placed in each opening of the window, which can be opened or shut in any degree at pleasure.

That in the wall at the opposite side of the House, and as near the ceiling as possible, convenient openings be also made, and light louvre blinds be placed in them, which will also be contrived to open and close at pleasure. The advantage of this will be to expel the heated air into the large space over the stairs, where it will be got rid of either by an opening in the ceiling or dispersed in the various passages, and carried off by the ordinary openings.

That, in addition, the present ceiling sashes be hung in a different way, so that they may be readily opened or shut, as may be found expedient.

The above are alterations readily effected at a small expense, and to do which as a temporary means is, I am of opinion, worthy of consideration; and it can be carried out without interruption to the sitting of the House.

With reference to the carrying out permanently an improved Ventilation, I have to make the following observations:—

In the first place, I would state that it would be unwise to commence the use of lighting with gas while the present ceiling and roof remain, because the heat would be insupportable; and therefore, as a permanent improvement to the House, not only in this respect, but with a view to the better accommodation of the Members and the Public, I would propose to remove the present roof entirely.

To take down the present Strangers' Gallery.

To substitute in its place a smaller Gallery, for Reporters only, at a lower level.

To remove the Speaker's Chair back about four feet, giving more space for arranging the required accommodation at the lower end of the House.

To throw a portion of the space over the staircase into the House for a Strangers' Gallery.

To construct a roof and ceiling over the whole, with a lantern light, by which an increased height and increased area would be obtained, and the means contrived for carrying off the heated air with sufficient rapidity, and for placing the lighting at a high level, materially assisting the ventilation of the House.

By this course also the walls of the building can be properly tied and secured, which is a matter of some importance, the front wall showing at this time a considerable bulge outwards, and which, although an affair of long date, may be increased, if not prevented by securing the wall at an early period.

WM. P. KAY, *Director of Public Works.*

12th December, 1856.

ROUGH Estimate of the cost in making the necessary alterations and additions to the House of Assembly, as per annexed rough sketch plans:—

|  | £           | s.       | d.       |
|--|-------------|----------|----------|
| New Roof and Lantern, raising Ceiling, &c., &c. .... | 460         | 0        | 0        |
| New Gallery for Strangers .....                      | 160         | 0        | 0        |
| Reporters' Gallery, Speaker's Screen, &c., &c. ....  | 110         | 0        | 0        |
| Alteration of Sittings .....                         | 80          | 0        | 0        |
| Removal of Water-closets .....                       | 65          | 0        | 0        |
| New Passage and Stairs to Refreshment Rooms .....    | 180         | 0        | 0        |
| Enclosing Entrance Lobby, &c. ....                   | 200         | 0        | 0        |
|  | <u>1255</u> | <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> |