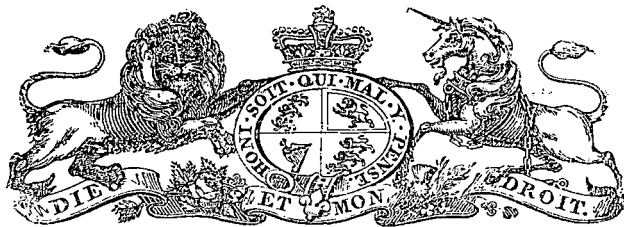


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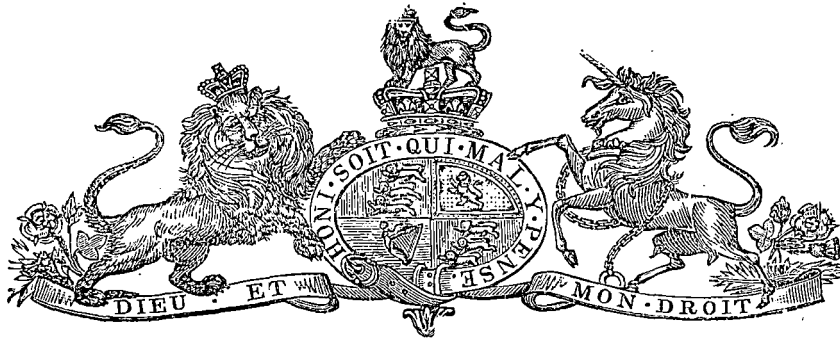
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

ENDOWMENT FOR PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS :

PROPOSAL OF THE HONOURABLE NICHOLAS J. BROWN.

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

Cost of printing—£1 1s.



Speaker's Room, Parliament House, Hobart, 5th July, 1898.

DEAR SIR,

FOR some time past I have had in view the project of providing for the reservation of a portion of the Crown Lands of the Colony in such a way as to establish a permanent endowment for our Public Educational Institutions. Hitherto I have been prevented from advocating any specific action in this direction by the difficulty of fixing upon an area possessing the general characteristics and the situation which would justify the hope that within a reasonably short space of time some considerable amount may be expected to accrue from the sale and rental of various portions of it. It appears to me that now, with the prospect of the early construction of the Great Western Railway, we will probably have at our command an area such as would be in every way suitable for reservation for the purpose I have named.

Under the provisions of "The Great Western Railway Act," you, as Minister of Lands and Works, have the right to retain the most eastern of the blocks out of the land reserved for the purposes of the Company, the Company's alternate sections on the north and south of their line of railway following after their first selection. In exercise of this power you will doubtless secure a large block of land to the north of the Company's Railway, which block will include the well known agricultural land in the Florentine Valley. This block may be roughly estimated at about 70,000 acres. There might be added to this four blocks of 20,000 acres each fronting on the line of Railway in the alternate blocks intervening between the Company's blocks up to the boundary of the Western Mining District, making in all 150,000 acres.

My proposal is as follows:—

- (1.) That these 150,000 acres of land be by Act of Parliament reserved as an endowment for educational purposes, and that all moneys received from the sale or rental or other occupation of such lands be paid to the Commissioners of the Public Debts Sinking Fund, the terms for purchase or occupation to be the same as those applicable to all other Crown Lands.
- (2.) That the Commissioners be required to invest such moneys from time to time in the Debentures or Inscribed Stock of the Colony, and that the fund so derived be allowed to accumulate until the annual income therefrom amounts to £1000, or such larger sum as may be agreed upon.
- (3.) That thereafter the annual income be distributed in such proportions as may be determined from time to time by the Governor in Council to assist in the support and maintenance of Primary, Technical, and University Education.

Paragraphs (2.) and (3.) must be regarded as dealing with matters of detail, and as being explanatory rather than as considered conditions. My primary object is to induce Parliament to take what appears to me a fitting opportunity to provide for an endowment which within the next twenty years may prove to be a valuable assistance to the cause of general education in Tasmania.

I submit this proposal in the hope that if it commends itself to you and to your colleagues, you may include it with other proposals which you may submit to Parliament in your Annual Public Works Statement of this year, and afterwards take steps to obtain the passing of the legislation necessary to give effect to it.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS J. BROWN.

The Honourable A. T. PILLINGER,
Minister of Lands and Works, Hobart.