

(No. 70.)



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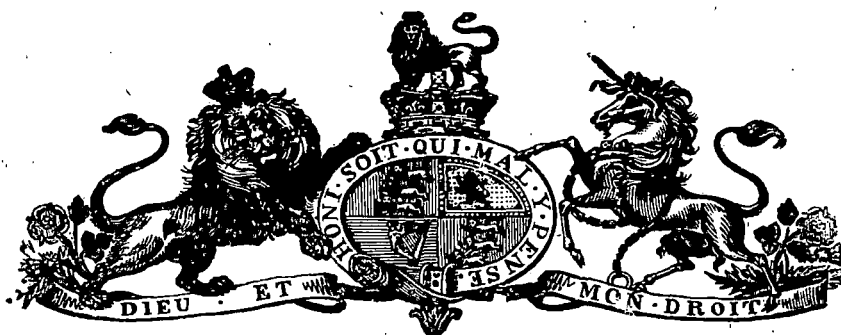
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA

THE GEEVESTON TRAMWAYS AND TIMBER
LEASES BILL, 1901, (PRIVATE):

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE, WITH MINUTES OF
PROCEEDINGS, ADDRESS OF COUNSEL, AND
APPENDICES.

Brought up by Mr. Evans, November 29, 1901, and ordered by the House of
Assembly to be printed.

Cost of printing—£15 7s. 6d.



SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the 20th day of November, 1901, to consider and report upon "The Geeveston Tramways and Timber Leases Bill, 1901, (Private)."

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. TREASURER.
MR. DUMARESQ.
MR. McCrackan.
MR. GUESDON.

MR. BURBURY.
MR. HOPE.
MR. EVANS. (*Mover.*)

DAYS OF MEETING.

Thursday, November 21; Friday, November 22; Wednesday, November 27; Thursday, November 28; Friday, November 29.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

Mr. J. W. Geeves, of Geeveston, Mr. J. W. Beattie, of Hobart, Mr. E. A. Counsel, Surveyor-General of Tasmania, Mr. Russell Allport, Electrical Engineer, of Hobart.

R E P O R T.

YOUR Committee, having taken evidence in support of the allegations contained in the Preamble of the Bill, have the honour to report that the said Preamble, subject to certain Amendments which the Committee recommend, has been proved to their satisfaction.

Your Committee having agreed that the Preamble, as amended, should stand part of the Bill, then entered upon the consideration of the several Clauses, and having made certain amendments therein, have now the honour of submitting the Bill to the favourable consideration of your Honourable House.

J. W. EVANS, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, House of Assembly, 29th November, 1901.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1901.

The Committee met at half-past 2 o'clock.

Members present.—Mr. Evans, Mr. Burbury, Mr. Hope, Mr. McCrackan, and Mr. Dumaresq.

The Clerk read the Order of the House appointing the Committee.

Mr. Evans was appointed Chairman.

The Chairman laid upon the Table the Petition praying for leave to bring in the Bill. (Appendix A.)

Mr. Treasurer took his seat.

Resolved, That the Petitioner for the Bill be heard by counsel (Mr. Treasurer).

Accordingly, Mr. Frederick Lodge appeared before the Committee on behalf of the Petitioner.

Ordered, That the following be summoned to give evidence:—Mr. E. A. Counsel, Surveyor-General, and Mr. J. W. Geeves, for 11-15 to-morrow, and Mr. Russell Allport for 11 o'clock on Wednesday next (Mr. Treasurer).

Mr. Lodge put in a chart of the County of Kent.

The Chairman laid upon the Table an explanatory memorandum of the Bill for the use of Members.

At 3 o'clock the Committee adjourned till 11 o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1901.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

Members present.—Mr. Evans (Chairman), Mr. McCrackan, Mr. Hope, and Mr. Burbury.

The Minutes of last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. Frederick Lodge, counsel for the Petitioner, appeared, and addressed the Committee.

Mr. Dumaresq took his seat.

Mr. John William Geeves, resident at Geeveston, was called and examined.

Mr. Geeves withdrew.

At 12-30 o'clock the Committee adjourned till 11 o'clock on Wednesday next.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1901.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

Members present.—Mr. Evans (Chairman), Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Dumaresq, Mr. McCrackan, Mr. Hope, and Mr. Burbury.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. John Watt Beattie, Photographer, was called and examined.

During his examination, Mr. Beattie submitted to the Committee photographs of the Hartz Mountain Lakes.

Mr. Beattie withdrew.

Mr. Edward Albert Counsel, Surveyor-General of Tasmania, was called and examined.

During the examination of Mr. Counsel, Mr. Lodge put in the following Papers:—

1. Letter from Mr. E. A. Counsel, dated 14th October, 1901, to Messrs. Roberts & Allport, Solicitors, Hobart, *re* sawmill areas.
2. Extracts from report of Messrs. John Hay and T. M. Fisher, dated 22nd April, 1901, on Crown lands of which timber leases are held or applied for. (Appendix B.)

Mr. Counsel withdrew.

Mr. Russel Allport, Electrical Engineer, Hobart, was called and examined.

Mr. Allport withdrew.

At 12-45 o'clock the Committee adjourned till 11 o'clock to-morrow.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1901.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

Members present.—Mr. Evans (Chairman), Mr. Treasurer, Mr. Burbury, Mr. McCrackan, and Mr. Dumaresq.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman laid upon the Table a Memorandum on the Geeveston Tramways and Timber Leases Bill, dated 27th November, 1901, from Mr. E. A. Counsel, Surveyor-General.

Mr. Lodge explained to the Committee the various Clauses of the Bill.

At 1 o'clock the Committee adjourned till 11 o'clock to-morrow.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1901.

The Committee met at 11 o'clock.

Members present.—Mr. Evans (Chairman), Mr. Treasurer, Mr. McCrackan, Mr. Dumaresq, and Mr. Burbury.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Committee then considered the Preamble of the Bill.

Amendments made (Mr. Treasurer):—

Page 2, line 2, after "said," by striking out "for connecting other places along the Huon River, and particularly the Town of Huonville, with deep water at Hospital Bay aforesaid."

Page 2, line 6, after "goods," by striking out "of the Districts of Geeveston, Franklin, and Huonville."

Page 2, line 8, after "district," by striking out "s aforesaid."

Page 2, line 19, after "district," by striking out "s."

Resolved, That the Preamble, as amended, be found proved. (Mr. Treasurer.)

The Committee then considered the various Clauses of the Bill.

Clause 1 agreed to.

V

Clause 2.

Amendments made (Mr. Treasurer) :—

Page 2, line 41, after "inclusive," by striking out "But Section Fifteen and Section Sixteen, Sub-section Two shall not be incorporated with this Act, and Section Sixteen, Sub-section One shall be read as if the words from 'and in all cases,' in the first line thereof, down to the words 'enlarge such time,' in the fourth line thereof, were omitted therefrom; and Section Twenty-five of the General Act shall be read as if the following words were part thereof, and were inserted therein next after the power to draw water for the purposes therein mentioned, (that is to say) 'To construct and work such telegraph or telephone lines to be used only for the purposes of the Undertaking, and by the persons engaged therein, as the Promoter may think proper,'" and inserting "But Section Five shall be read and construed as giving the Minister power to require that the tramways to be constructed by the Promoter between the Speedwell Jetty mentioned in Section 4 of this Act and the proposed Jetty at Hospital Bay, shall not be constructed upon any part of the land some time since marked out and surveyed by authority of Parliament for an intended line of Railway between Hobart and Geeveston, and as giving the Minister power to fix and determine the conditions subject to which such Tramways may be constructed upon the said land or any part thereof."

Page 3, line 38, after "at," by striking out "Thirty," and inserting "Twenty."

Same line, after "hereof," by inserting "but the power of purchase conferred by the said Section Seventy-one shall not extend or apply to the Tramways (extensions or branches) fourthly mentioned in Section Three of this Act; and the Promoter may at any time during the term of any Lease or renewed Lease in this Act mentioned, or immediately after the expiration or determination of any such Lease, take up and remove the rails and sleepers of any Tramways upon the land comprised in such Lease."

Page 3, line 48, after "inclusive," by striking out "But the consent of the Minister mentioned in Section Seventy-six shall not be necessary to the transfer by the said Robert Affleck Robertson of the Undertaking, and all his rights under this Act, to any company which may have been or may be formed (with a subscribed capital of not less than Fifty thousand Pounds) to acquire the same."

Page 4, line 9, after "inclusive," by striking out to end of Clause.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 4.

Amendments made (Mr. Treasurer) :—

Page 4, line 32, after "may," by inserting "be."

Page 4, line 34, after "lands," by striking out to end of Clause.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

New Clause A, brought up (Mr. Treasurer), and read the First time :—

"A Within six months after the construction of any of the Tramways mentioned in the next preceding Section of this Act, and therein numbered I., II., and III. respectively, shall have been completed, the Promoter shall deposit with the Minister of Lands for the time being proper survey plans (certified by an authorised surveyor of the State) of the Tramway so completed, showing on such plans the lengths and bearings of the centre line of the Tramway, the radii of all curves, the lengths of all tangents, the width of the Tramway, and all roads which the Tramway crosses or upon which it is laid, and also all prominent natural features of the lands along which the Tramway is constructed."

Read the Second time, and made part of the Bill (to follow Clause 3.)

Clause 4.

Amendments made (Mr. Treasurer) :

Page 5, line 6, after "Fitzpatrick," by striking out "or upon Crown land adjoining the said grant," and inserting "or of 47 acres of land granted to J. W. Studley."

Page 5, line 11, after "convenient," by striking out "iv. Such improvements or extension of the jetty in the Kermadie River known as the Speedwell Jetty as the Promoter may find convenient."

Page 5, line 15, after "The," by striking out "Two First," and inserting "before."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 5 and 6 agreed to.

Clause 7.

Amendments made (Mr. Treasurer) :—

Page 5, line 29, after "Promoter," by striking out "(with the consent of the Governor in Council)."

Page 5, line 30, after "appropriate," by inserting "for the purpose of generating or developing electricity."

Page 5, line 31, after "any," by striking out "One" and inserting "Three."

Page 5, line 32, after "upon the," by inserting "Eastern."

Same line, after "mountains," by striking out to end of Clause, and adding "which may be approved by the Governor in Council."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

New Clause B, brought up (Mr. Treasurer), and read the First time :—

"B The Promoter shall from time to time pay the Minister of Lands for the time being for all water taken and diverted under the provisions of Sections Six and Seven of this Act, and used by him for the purpose of generating electricity for sale under the provisions of Section Eleven. The annual sum payable for such water shall be levied on such principle, and at such rate and subject to such provisions, as shall from time to time be fixed for diverting and taking water from any river or stream for generating electricity under any Regulations from time to time made by the Governor in Council under the provisions of this Act, or under the provisions of any present or future law regulating the diverting and use of such water for such purposes; and all moneys so received by the Minister shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund."

Read the Second time, and made part of the Bill (to follow Clause 7).

Clause 8.

Amendments made (Mr. Treasurer) :—

Page 6, line 3, after "or," by inserting "any."

Same line, after "lake," by adding "s."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 9 and 10 agreed to.

Clause 11.

Amendments made (Mr. Treasurer) :—

Page 6, line 27, after "District," by striking out "s."

Same line, after "Geeveston," by striking out "Franklin and Huonville aforesaid, or any of them."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 14 agreed to.

Clause 15.

Amendment made (Mr. Treasurer), page 7, line 20, after "Act," by striking out to end of Clause.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 16.

Amendment made (Mr. Treasurer), page 7, line 26, after "Act," by striking out to end of Clause.

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 17 agreed to.

Clause 18.

Amendments made (Mr. Treasurer) :—

Page 7, line 43, after "royalties," by striking out the words "not exceeding three times the royalty previously paid under the lease."

Page 8, line 3, after "thereunder," by inserting—

"(A.) The royalties so imposed by the Minister shall not exceed the royalties then payable under Timber Leases according to the Regulations for the time being in force under the said Act.

"(B.) The royalties so fixed on the renewal of any lease may again be varied by the Minister in manner aforesaid, and, subject to the limitation aforesaid, at the expiration of the first ten years of the term of any renewed lease."

Page 8, line 11, after "Promoter," by striking out the words "upon any renewal of a lease under this Section shall be fixed," and inserting "under any lease renewed according to the provisions of this Section shall be fixed or varied as aforesaid."

Clause, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 19 and 20 agreed to.

Draft Report brought up, and agreed to.

At 1:10 o'clock the Committee adjourned *sine die*.

APPENDIX A.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the House of Assembly of Tasmania, in Parliament assembled.

The humble Petition of ROBERT AFFLECK ROBERTSON

SHOWETH:

That prior to the presentation hereof, notice of the intention of your Petitioner to apply for a Private Bill was published, as is by the Standing Rules and Orders of your Honourable House prescribed, as follows; that is to say:—

In the *Hobart Gazette*, on 18th day of June, the 25th day of June, the 2nd day of July, and the 9th day of July last past;

In the *Mercury* (being a public newspaper published in Hobart, and being a newspaper published nearest the District affected by the Bill), on the 18th day of June, the 25th day of June, the 2nd day of July, and the 9th day of July last past;

which said notice, with the supplemental notice hereinafter referred to, contained a true statement of the general objects of the said Bill, as hereinafter set forth.

That, within Three months previously to the presentation hereof, a supplemental notice of the intention of your Petitioner to apply for a Private Bill was published, as is, by the Standing Rules and Orders of your Honourable House prescribed, as follows; that is to say:—

In the *Hobart Gazette*, on the 8th day of October, the 15th day of October, the 22nd day of October, and the 29th day of October last past;

In the *Mercury* (being a public newspaper published in Hobart, and being a newspaper published nearest the District affected by the Bill), on the 8th day of October, the 15th day of October, the 22nd day of October, and the 29th day of October last past;

which said notice expressly refers to and is to be read with the previous notice.

That the general objects of the said Bill are:—

To enable the said Robert Affleck Robertson to construct Tramways from Geeveston, on the Kermandie River, in Tasmania, to, upon, and across the timber lands lying towards the west of Geeveston aforesaid, and belonging to John Geeves and Sons and to Osborne Geeves respectively, and to, upon, and across the timber lands of the Crown, also lying towards the west of Geeveston aforesaid, leases whereof have been, under the provisions of "The Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1898," granted to or applied for by or on behalf of the said Robert Affleck Robertson and John Geeves and Sons respectively, and also from Geeveston aforesaid to deep water on the Huon River, at or near to Shipwrights' Point and Whale Point respectively, with power also to extend the said Tramways from Shipwrights' Point to a point at or near to the bridge across the Huon River at Huonville:

To enable the said Robert Affleck Robertson to construct such Wharves and Jetties upon the bed of the Kermandie River and upon the bed of the Huon River at or near to Shipwrights' Point and Whale Point aforesaid, or elsewhere, as may be found convenient in connection with the working of such Tramways as aforesaid and the shipping or landing of timber or other goods conveyed or intended to be conveyed thereon:

To enable the said Robert Affleck Robertson, for such period as may be fixed, to work, maintain, repair, and alter such Tramways, Wharves, and Jetties as aforesaid, together with all proper and convenient Roads, Ways, Crossings, Bridges, Culverts, Cuttings, Tunnels, Embankments, Junctions, Telegraphs, Sidings, Stations, and Buildings, and other works and conveniences that may be used, or worked in connection therewith :

To provide, by the incorporation of the Land Clauses Act with the said Bill, and otherwise, for the purchase, rental, and acquisition of any lands, stone, timber, or other material for the purposes of any of the above-mentioned works :

To authorise the use of such motive power upon and over the said Tramways as may be deemed convenient by the said Robert Affleck Robertson :

To enable the said Robert Affleck Robertson to demand and take tolls and charges for the carriage of passengers and goods upon the said Tramways, and for the use of the said Wharves and Jetties :

To provide for the sale of the said Tramways, Wharves, Jetties, and Works to the Government of the State after the expiration of such period and upon such terms as may be agreed upon, and subject thereto to provide for the assignment to any person or company of the rights of the said Robert Affleck Robertson in, to, and over the said Tramways, Wharves, Jetties, and Works, or any of them :

To provide for the due working, control, and management of the said Tramways, Wharves, Jetties, or Works, and for the making of By-laws and Rules in relation thereto, and to the traffic thereof or thereon, and for the infliction of penalties upon persons infringing the provisions of the said Bill, By-laws, or Rules :

To enable the said Robert Affleck Robertson to generate, accumulate, distribute, and supply (at, in, upon, or near to Geeveston or such Tramways as aforesaid) electricity, for the purpose of light, heat, motive power, or otherwise, in and for places both public and private :

To provide for an extension of the term of the Leases granted to or applied for by John Geeves and Sons and the said Robert Affleck Robertson respectively, under "The Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1898" :

To provide for the assignment of all such Leases to any person or company :

To provide for the working of all such Leases as a whole, and from such mill-site or sites (whether upon the leased lands or not) as may be found convenient, and for a modification of the Regulations under the said Act in respect of such working.

The said Bill will also contain all clauses usual in Bills of a like nature, or deemed proper for enabling the said Robert Affleck Robertson to carry out the objects of the undertaking.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly prays for leave to introduce the said Bill.

And your Petitioner will ever pray, &c.

ROBERT AFFLECK ROBERTSON,
By his Attorney, FREDERICK LODGE.

APPENDIX B.

GEEVESTON TRAMWAYS AND TIMBER LEASES BILL.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF MESSRS. JOHN HAY AND T. M. FISHER,
DATED 22ND APRIL, 1901.

6. *Crown Lands of which Timber Leases are held or applied for.*—After a careful examination of these lands, occupying several days, which we penetrated in following as many different lines as possible, we have no hesitation in saying that upon them are to be found the finest hardwood trees, not merely in Tasmania, but in the whole of Australia. The quantity may safely be put at 60,000,000 feet superficial per 1000 acres. Our attention was most particularly directed to the 5000 acres block taken up by John Geeves & Sons, but, from our inspection, we are satisfied that the quantity and quality of the timber on the 2000 acres, towards the south-west (which we recommend to be taken up), and on the 5000 acres taken up by R. A. Robertson, are equal to the above. We therefore put the quantity of timber on the whole 12,000 acres at 720,000,000 feet superficial. The greatest part of it is Stringy-bark and Peppermint Gum; there are also small quantities of the ornamental timbers, such as Myrtle and Blackwood, but we have not taken them into account.

7. *Tramway.*—The two mills were formally connected with the Speedwell Jetty by a wooden tramway, the trucks being drawn by horses; but this tramway has not been in use for many years, and will require reconstruction. The route is a convenient one in the main, but a slight improvement might be made in the grade at several points. If iron rails are to be substituted for wooden, and steam locomotives employed, the bridges, culverts, &c., must be rebuilt of greater strength. There are no gradients or curves which would cause any difficulty in reconstructing it as a steam tramway for the haulage of timber, either in the log, or sawn.

There has never been any tramway laid between the Speedwell Jetty and Shipwrights' Point, a distance of about two miles. For the whole of this distance there is in existence a railway survey, made for the Government several years since. There is now no probability of the railway being constructed, and if authority can be obtained to follow this route it will be found very convenient. Only two public roads of any consequence, namely, the Kermandie road and the Arve road, would be crossed or touched upon between Geeveston and Shipwrights' Point, and there would be no difficulty in arranging for level crossings wherever these roads are affected.

So far as we can judge from the appearance of the country, and have been able to gather, there would be still less difficulty in continuing the tramway from near the Speedwell jetty along the southern bank of Hospital Bay to a point near the north-western boundary of J. Fitzpatrick's grant, or even to the eastern extremity of Whale Point.

The tramway at present in use extends back into the forest for about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It passes through the $12\frac{1}{2}$ acres put under offer by Osborne Geeves, within 10 chains of his mill; with which it could be readily connected.

There is also a route, formally used for a tram, leading from the present tram up through the Kermandie Gorge to South Creek; this would be a suitable route for a steam tramway, and from South Creek the tram could be extended in any direction required, so as to facilitate the cutting of timber on every part of the lands mentioned in the preceding particulars of this Report.

8. *New Jetty.*—We have examined the proposed site on the northern bank of Hospital Bay, inside Shipwrights' Point, and have taken the necessary soundings in Hospital Bay, and find that a jetty could be readily constructed there, at or about the point marked "A" of the Government chart accompanying. Such a jetty need only be 20 feet wide at the inner end, but, at the outer end, and for a distance extending 150 feet towards the shore, should be 60 feet wide. In order that such a jetty might accommodate vessels drawing 18 feet of water, the narrow portion need only be 300 feet long; 400 feet long to provide for those drawing 24 feet; and 500 feet long for those drawing up to 30 feet. A sketch plan of such a jetty accompanies. If of the greatest length above-mentioned (650 feet in all), the cost should be something less than £3000. From experience of similar jetties we can say the cost would not exceed that sum if it were required to be erected in Hobart, and where timber is available so close at hand the cost should be considerably less.

At such a jetty, vessels drawing up to 30 feet would be able to lie at any tide and in any weather, Hospital Bay and the approaches to it, for many miles, being completely land-locked; and there are no obstacles to navigation which would prevent vessels of any size from entering or leaving the Bay in any state of the weather.

12. *Site for Jetty.*—Besides the advantage mentioned above, of a shorter and easier line of tramway from the Speedwell Jetty, we would suggest that the new jetty might be constructed on the southern bank of Hospital Bay, in the vicinity of Whale Point, at much less expense than on the northern bank at Shipwrights' Point. Without having taken soundings on the southern side, we can say that deep water is reached in a much shorter distance from the shore, and as to shelter, and in all other respects, the position would be equally advantageous.

20. *Permanence of Timber Supply.*—From the figures given by us in paragraphs 5 and 6, it appears plain that a mill of the capacity supposed, 100,000 feet superficial per week, will, in the space of 21 years, have cut only about one-seventh of the timber of the lands already taken up. Beyond these lands, and stretching for many miles in the direction of the rivers Arve and Picton, there is timber-covered country of similar character.

21. *Control of the above Timber Supply.*—The only practicable means of access to the above supply is up the Kermandie Valley, and through the Gorge before-mentioned. The only available routes are in the hands of Messrs. John Geeves & Son and Mr. O. Geeves, jointly.

EVIDENCE.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1901.

MR. F. LODGE *appeared on behalf of the Promoter of the Bill, and opened the proceedings.*

Mr. Chairman and Honorable Members of Committee:—Referring to the statement of the provisions of this Bill, and to the Government chart, which I laid before this Committee at its meeting yesterday. In the first place, as appears by the chart, the timber taken up on lease from the Crown amounts to 26,100 acres in all, which are proposed to be cut into seven separate blocks. There is also freehold land which the Promoters have either purchased or secured the option of, amounting to 1350 acres, the greater part of which is also timber land. The freehold timber land commences a little distance above Geeveston, and behind are the Crown timber lands. Those Crown timber lands extend up the Kermandie; the timber leases on the south run out to Mr. Kemsley's leases, and on the west and north-west as far as the Arve River. The plan before the Committee shows the leases which have already been surveyed, four of which surveys have been received; of the other three, surveys are completed in every case but one, and all are expected to be received within ten days. On those Crown timber lands there is an immense quantity of timber available, enough for very many years of working. It has been reported on by two very competent gentlemen—Mr John Hay, sen., and Mr. T. M. Fisher—and they report that there should be sixty millions superficial feet of timber per thousand acres. This shows that there is a very large quantity of timber available, sufficient for many years' cutting; and that is, of course, the inducement to the Promoter to erect a modern sawmill when he is sure of so much timber for many years to come. In order to make this timber land easily available, a tramway is necessary from some point on the Huon River running through Geeveston, in a westerly direction, up the valley of the Kermandie, to a point where the mill is to be built. That will be a spot some two or three miles above Geeveston. From the sawmill, of course, the tramway will extend as required in different directions where the timber-cutting is being carried on. With regard to the tramway, there has been at different times a tramway worked from Geeveston down to a point on the Kermandie River known as the Speedwell Jetty, where barges are able to take in their cargoes of timber. But there has never been a tramway run out to deep water. The present tramway is only a horse one, with wooden rails. It is not now used, because it is not suitable for the work required. The Promoter proposes to construct a proper tramway, by which timber can be brought down to deep water in the Huon River at a minimum of expense. I should here mention that the Promoter desires to obtain authority to run a tramway from the point on the Kermandie River, known as the Speedwell Jetty, to Shipwrights' Point, about two miles on the northern side of Hospital Bay, and another on the southern side of Hospital Bay to Whale Point. With regard to the land through which the tramway will pass, the existing tramway rights from Geeveston to the Speedwell Jetty are all held by Messrs. John Geeves & Son and Mr. Osborne Geeves. The titles under which these tramways are held are of a very complicated character, and of various kinds. It is obvious, therefore, with regard to this matter, that no man would lay out a large sum of money on a tramway with titles that vary from a short period up to the fee simple. That is one of the many reasons why I am here on behalf of the Promoter, Mr. R. A. Robertson, applying to Parliament for this Bill to be passed. With regard to the construction of this part of the tramway, it would be entirely impossible to have it carried out without first obtaining a clear statutory authority. With regard to the other part of the line, it is only possible to obtain from the Crown (without Parliamentary authority) a lease of 14 years to the land for tramway purposes. That is insufficient; so that statutory authority is necessary. There will be no difficulty whatever with regard to the land through which the proposed tramway will pass. A large portion of the land is held by Mr. Osborne Geeves. The other holders have been seen, and, with but two exceptions, all have already agreed to sell their rights to let the tramway go through. Those two who have not yet agreed to sell their rights to the Promoter have done so because of a dispute as to the price to be paid. If the Bill is passed as applied for under the Land Clauses Act, the Promoter will be able to acquire a strip of land through those two properties to enable the tramway to be constructed, upon his paying the amount fixed by arbitration. By this Bill we ask for power to go where necessary along the Crown reservation fronting on Hospital Bay. With regard to the land on the southern side of Hospital Bay there is no difficulty at all. The tramway will run either on Mr. Ford's land, who is quite willing to sell, or on part of the Crown reservation. As to the Crown reservation along Hospital Bay—the water-front—it is of no practical use to anybody. When it was intended to construct a railway from Hobart to Geeveston, the railway survey ran along the Crown reservation for a considerable distance. Then it is necessary, if the timber output is to be carried out on a large scale, that the timber should be carried away by large vessels; and to get large vessels alongside the jetties it was necessary there should be deep water; and that deep water is only on the outer part of Hospital Bay. Power was, consequently, being asked to construct a jetty or jetties in deep water. The Promoter also asked for power to repair, improve, and extend

the Speedwell Jetty. Mr. John Geeves has agreed to sell it to the Promoter of the undertaking. The Promoter seeks power to extend that jetty. It is thought by the Promoter, also, that electric motor-power would, probably, be the most economical mode of running the tramway which he wishes to construct. That is a point I cannot speak very definitely about, because there is no one on the spot able to give a positive opinion as to the amount of water that would be available for electric-motive purposes and the expense of applying it; but it is believed that, at a reasonable expense, sufficient water-power could be obtained to generate electricity and run the tramway, and, perhaps, also, the sawmill itself, by electric power. The Promoter also asks power to extend the tramway from Shipwrights' Point to Huonville. This would be solely for the purpose of carrying fruit and other produce from the Upper Huon, and shipping it on to vessels in deep water. The tramway is proposed to be constructed as far as Huonville, a distance of about 12 miles. If this line is built it would enable the fruitgrowers of the Upper Huon to send their fruit and other produce direct to Shipwrights' Point for shipment. I can only say, if the electric power can be obtained, the expense of such tramway would be small; therefore, it would be possible to handle fruit at a low rate. It would be necessary to carry it cheaply, because they would be competing with water-carriage. This tram, if it were made, would be competing with barges, and the line would have to be constructed on economical lines to allow of rates being low, otherwise it would not get any trade at all. On the subject of electric power, I would also state that a large amount of power would be required for the sawmill, because the machinery is to be of 100 horse-power and upwards, all told that is; in the mill and in the engines on the ground. The Promoter's intention is to have a modern sawmill built, of the latest American type, with improved machinery, with a capacity of 200,000 feet (super.) per week. As a matter of fact, Mr. Osborne Geeves' mill has not been running for some time. Mr. John Geeves' mill is the only one running, and that has a capacity of 40,000 feet per week. For a considerable period the Promoter, Mr. Robertson, has been travelling through the United States of America, inquiring closely into the best methods of handling timber, and the result has been that Mr. Robertson has secured the best and latest machinery; so that when it is erected and in working order, those engaged in the timber industry will be able to see the most modern and up-to-date appliances in full swing without having to go to America to do so. The Promoter's mill, it is intended, will turn out 200,000 feet per week, so that the output from the Geeveston district will be five times as great, and, from that point of view, the enterprise of the Promoter, it is naturally expected, will be of great benefit to that district, and to the timber industry of the State as a whole. The concessions which the Promoter is asking for in the Bill are reasonable enough in themselves, and I hope the Committee will not see any difficulties in the way of their being granted, because this is not a mere speculative thing. Geeveston has been a well-known timber district for many years. Timber-cutting has been going on for a very long time—upwards of 40 years. The capacity of the timber and the manner of working it are well understood. The purposes to which it can be applied are also well understood. It is expected a much greater demand for this timber will exist in the future than has been the case for some years. The ports of the Commonwealth of Australia will now be open to the timber of this State. Large quantities will be sent to Victoria, and to Broken Hill for the mines there. But the main question is—"At what price can it be supplied?" In addition to the markets named, there is likely to be considerable demand for it in the United Kingdom; and when the war is over in South Africa, that country is likely to be a large applicant for Tasmanian timbers. Mr. Robertson, before the war broke out, sent more timber to South Africa than any other shipper in this State. He transacted his business with Messrs. Niven, a firm of timber merchants that were in a large way of business in Johannesburg, but which place they had to leave owing to the war. When hostilities ceased it was their intention to return to Johannesburg and reopen their business. Very large contracts have, in the past, been carried out in South Africa, Mr. Robertson supplying the timber; and this is likely to happen again in the future. To come to the Bill itself. The memorandum which was handed in yesterday was available for any Member of the Committee to read.

The Chairman: Would it not be better to go on with the evidence before touching the Bill, as they are present.

Mr. Lodge: I will leave the parts I was going to refer to, but I would like to mention several points before calling on the witnesses. Clause 18 provides for the extensions of lease which are asked by the Promoter. Under the Crown Lands Act the timber leases are only for 21 years; there is no right to renewal whatever. On the expiration of the lease the company would have to start afresh, and it was possible that others would reap the benefit of the work the Promoter had done; in fact, it would expose him to be blackmailed. That was not a right position for him to be placed in. It is, therefore, asked there might be extension of the lease. Under the Mining Act, of course, men are entitled to renewals of leases under certain conditions, if it is wished to take them at the end of 21 years; but, apart from that, in special cases Parliament has thought it proper to give special extensions. There was the Mount Lyell Company, the North Mount Lyell Company, and the Tasmanian Smelting Company: these extensions were granted because it was pointed out that the companies were spending larger sums of money in the development of the mining industry than was usually the case, and it was contended they were entitled to consideration. If I show that the company is to spend a larger sum of money than usual in the development of the timber industry, it is reasonable to ask that concessions may be granted to the company. The company seeks to obtain renewal of lease, subject to provisions such as those in the Mining Act? This matter has been much discussed

with members of the present Ministry, and they are willing to go a certain length in this direction, but they are not prepared to go farther than 10 years. I am going to ask the Committee to recommend a renewal of the lease for 21 years, making 42 years in all. The Mount Lyell Company had a special lease for 30 years, with a 10 years' renewal. The North Lyell Company, under the Bill now before Parliament, are to have a lease of 30 years, with a 30 years' renewal. The Tasmanian Smelting Company has a lease of 30 years, with a 30 years' renewal. The latter part of the term they have to pay double rent. All that is asked for by the Promoter is to have the right of renewal for 21 years, making only 42 years in all, and the royalty for the latter term may be increased three-fold, viz., from 6d. to 1s. 6d. Clause 20 is a very important one. Under the present regulations those blocks could not be worked as a whole. A large enterprise, such as the one proposed, could not be carried on, because each block is treated as an independent block. They would have to cut one-tenth of each block at the same time, which would be quite impracticable. What we ask the Crown Lands Department have no objection to. It is, that the Promoter should be allowed to work one-tenth at a time of the whole blocks; that is, the blocks should be cut into convenient blocks of 500 acres each, that giving him five blocks to work at a time. It is absolutely necessary to work more than one block at a time, because some of those blocks contain blue-gum, stringy-bark, peppermint, &c. There might be a demand for one class of timber or another, and the Promoter desires to have the liberty to be able go on any of these blocks, and cut the timber required. I want to impress upon the Committee that this is not a mere speculative thing that is being submitted, but that a substantial company will be formed. It is not actually formed. First of all, with regard to the Promoter himself, Mr. Robert Affleck Robertson. He has been several years in the timber trade here, has had a long experience, and has sent a great deal more timber to South Africa than any one else in the trade here. He was associated with the firm of Messrs. Niven, a large firm of timber merchants in South Africa. Very large contracts have been carried out in South Africa by Mr. Robertson. The capital required by the company will be at least £55,000, and that is a very much larger amount than has ever been put into any timber enterprise before, here. The capital is all going into the timber business. Of the capital of £55,000, the vendors are to receive £12,000 for the mill, lands, and other rights. This is not an extravagant sum, for the mill, &c., have been valued by competent valuers, and this is below their estimate of their value. The equipment of the new mill, tram, &c., with the most modern American plant, will be £23,000. That brings it up to £35,000. The remainder of the capital, £20,000, is to be kept for working expenses. A large stock of timber will have to be carried, and a good deal of money will have to be spent in opening up new markets. As to the *bona fides* of the company, they have already spent between £500 and £600 in surveys, rents paid to the Government, &c. There is to be no inviting of public subscription for shares, or any underwriting of the company at all. The company is being formed by Mr. Robertson, with several important people in Scotland. There are Mr. W. Forrest, Mr. Marcus Robinson, partners in the two principal sawmills of Glasgow; Sir David Richmond, ex-Lord Provost; Mr. Paul Rottenburgh, ex-Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Glasgow; and Mr. R. M. Paterson—all conservative men of business, and taking an interest in the company. The whole thing bears the impress of respectability and substantiality. I cannot assure the Committee that the whole capital is subscribed. The reason is that nothing can be done until an Act of Parliament has been passed. We have advised that an Act of Parliament is absolutely necessary, and the money cannot be properly subscribed before the Act is passed. Until the Act is passed the company cannot even be registered. Under the new English Companies Act, the company must proceed to allotment within 40 days from registration. The company will not proceed to allotment until 45,000 shares are taken up, that being the smallest amount they will go on with. I want to satisfy the Committee that this is not a mere speculative enterprise, but that the Promoter will form a substantial company immediately after the Act is passed. The whole timber industry of Geveeston will be altered altogether, and a general impetus will be given to the trade.

J. W. GEEVES, *called and examined.*

1. *By Mr. Lodge.*—What is your name? John William Geeves.
2. And you are a member of the firm of Messrs. John Geeves and Son? Yes.
3. How long have you been in the timber industry? About 28 years.
4. I have told the committee, Mr. Geeves, that the total area of land is 1350 acres freehold, and 26,000 acres leasehold, as mentioned in the chart before the Committee—is that correct? Yes.
5. How much of the 1350 acres is timber-bearing? About 1000 acres.
6. What is the character of the timber on the leasehold Crown lands? Stringy-bark, peppermint-gum, a little blue-gum, myrtle, blackwood.
7. Any pine? Celery pine, but nothing of any value.
8. Any Huon pine at all? No.
9. Is the celery pine of any value? I think it would be if it were known in the market. I think it is a valuable pine but, it is not known in the market. There is a little blackwood, but nothing to speak of.
10. As to royalty is there a higher royalty paid on pine? Yes.

11. The low royalty of sixpence is only for hardwoods? Yes; not for myrtle.
12. Now, as to the quantity of timber available on Crown lands taken up? It is practically unlimited.
13. I have a report before me which states that there should be 60 million superficial feet per 1000 acres. What do you say to that? I think it is rather over-estimated. There is so much country it would not pay to work. And there are bits of plain with no timber at all.
14. What do you put it down at? It is a difficult thing to say. If I said there were fifty million superficial feet of timber per 1000 acres, I would be expected to get that amount off it.
- The Chairman*: The fact of him saying it was unlimited is sufficient.
15. I would ask whether Geeveston is a convenient point from which to work the timber land taken up from the Crown? It is the only possible point from which it could be worked.
16. Is there any possibility of getting into the forest from any other point? You may, by running through Huonville.
17. But it would be three or four times more difficult to construct? The line would be of considerable length, through difficult country.
18. Would there be any high grades? Yes.
19. What would be about the distance of that line? You would have to go some 30 miles before getting any timber at all.
20. From the mill-site, how far would you have to go to get to the commencement of the forest? About half a mile.
21. From there back to the Arve the timber is practically continuous? Yes, it is.
22. Then you say the forest of timber must be worked from Geeveston, if at all? Yes.
23. What mills are there at Geeveston? The Speedwell and Osborne Geeves (mill), and a water-mill belonging to Hill, not in use.
24. Any other sawmill? No.
25. Both you and Osborne Geeves are very much interested in seeing this Bill carried through? Yes.
26. All Geeveston is very much interested? Yes. The future increase of the trade depends on some such measure being passed. Without a company, no private people could work it on anything like an extensive scale.
27. Then, with regard to tramways—what are in existence? From the Speedwell Mill back into the bush, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of a wooden tramway, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the jetty to Geeveston, not in use.
28. Is the wooden tram in good order? In good order for a wooden tram.
29. Would there be any difficulty in turning the wooden tramway into an electric tram? No.
30. Any difficulty about the grade? No; a good grade.
31. What is the character of the country between the Speedwell Jetty and Shipwrights' Point? Level country; a bit awkward in places; nothing at all to prevent a tram being made.
32. Then, on the south side of Hospital Bay to Whale Point? Nothing better; you run round the water's edge all the way.
33. The land through which the present tram runs: how far does it run on roads, and so forth? It only goes across the road on three or four different occasions, which are held under lease.
34. There is no difficulty with the Road Trusts about the tram crossing the road? No.
35. From Speedwell Jetty to Shipwrights' Point, through whose land would it run? Only two pieces of land, where there is any objection.
36. What sort of land? Stone banks.
37. I do not mean that. What allotments are they? Township allotments.
38. In the Town of Liverpool, where there is no township? Yes.
39. From Speedwell Jetty to Whale Point, on the south side, through whose land does it run? Mr. Ford's.
40. Is he agreeable to sell his land? Yes, quite.
41. A definite agreement? Yes.
42. Then, as to the extension of the tram, if it were carried out from Shipwrights' Point, would there be any difficulty in the character of the country? It is fairly level.
43. What is the distance from Shipwrights' Point to Huonville? Thirteen miles.
44. Is the country very difficult—what is its character along by the river? Ordinary bays.
45. I mean, as to gradients? They are very good.
46. Would there be any difficulty at all about running a light tramway there, along the road or between the road and the water? No.
47. I want you to fix the distance from Geeveston to where it is proposed to build the new mill? Only a little over three miles.
48. Now, from that site to the falls on the Kermandie, what is the distance? About two miles.
49. There is a considerable volume of water at those falls? Yes.
50. I have told the Committee that the vendors are to receive £12,000, all told; and £23,000 is expected to be the cost of the new mill, tram, &c.—would you say that was a reasonable estimate? Yes.
51. The working capital has been put down at £20,000: what do you say about that—would it be sufficient for a large business? Yes.

52. Would you tell the Committee about the jetties that are proposed to be constructed : what sort of a jetty is the Speedwell jetty, on the bank of the Kermandie? A very poor jetty.

53. A jetty for barges? Yes; there is about four or five feet of water alongside.

54. And that is the only jetty which you have to ship from? No; there is the Government jetty, alongside the Speedwell jetty.

55. Is there any jetty at Shipwrights' Point to ship timber from? No; because it is right away from deep water.

56. It is the wrong side of the Point? Yes.

57. Is there deep water in Hospital Bay at the north point? Yes; round inside Hospital Bay.

58. Would there be any difficulty building a jetty so as to get 30 feet of water? No difficulty; about 600 feet out.

59. On the south side of Hospital Bay is there also deep-water? Yes, and much closer to shore.

60. From Geeveston to where the timber land begins, do you run through there? Yes; it is our own land all the way.

61. It is under lease from the Government? Yes.

62. Will you have to run through other people's land at all? Yes.

63. Do you know of any objection on their part to the tram running through their land? No; they were all overcome years ago.

64. *By the Chairman.*—You have stated, Mr. Geeves, that it is necessary for the company to have the Speedwell jetty. If you had it, and it was lengthened, would there not be the same difficulty in getting out from that jetty? Yes. There is only six feet of water there at high tide.

65. Do you intend to deal with that? Yes; but we intend to let it go as it is for the present.

66. You will deal with the barges that you have? Yes.

67. Is it a necessity, in your opinion, to have two or three deep-water jetties? Two would be enough; that is, one at Whale Point, and one at Shipwrights' Point. Really, one would be enough. Whale Point is my side, and Shipwrights' Point is on the other side.

68. Where would the bulk of the timber be conveyed—to Whale Point or the jetty at Shipwrights' Point? The bulk from Whale Point.

69. Do the Geeveston people want the company? Yes; they make no objection at all.

70. *By Mr. Hope.*—Would you ship direct from Whale Point? Yes.

71. What sort of land is the 26,000 acres—is it scrubby? Yes, all scrubby.

72. Would it do for agriculture? After the timber is taken off, part of it would do.

73. If the Government give you the right to this 26,000 acres, it would debar people from taking up sections? The land is thrown open after the timber is taken off.

Mr. Lodge: As each block is cut out the land reverts back to the Crown under Regulations. We are not asking the Committee to alter that in any way. Section 7 of the Regulations reads :—"Land to be comprised in lease of 1000 acres or more will be surveyed in ten equal blocks. One block must be completely worked before a new block is commenced. As each block is worked out it shall cease to be comprised in lease, and rent will be reduced in proportion to area."

Mr. Hope: The Regulations deal with the point I was referring to.

74. *By Mr. Hope.*—Would any other mill be interfered with by this larger company? No; they have all got their blocks of timber land.

75. *By the Chairman.*—Have you heard, in connection with the running of the tram from Shipwrights' Point to Huonville, any objections raised by the residents along the fore-shore? Only one, by Mr. Thomas, because he thought it would interfere with their rights to their jetties; but when I told him that they would still have access to their jetties as before, the objection was dropped.

76. Any comment on the northern side of Shipwrights' Point? No.

The witness then withdrew.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1901.

(*Mr. F. Lodge appeared on behalf of the Promoter of the Bill.*)

J. W. BEATTIE, called and examined.

77. Your name? J. W. Beattie.

78. You are a photographer, carrying on business in Elizabeth-street, Hobart? Yes.

79. You know something of the country from Geeveston to the back of the Hartz Mountains to the River Arve? Yes; I have been over it.

80. You also know the lakes on the western slope of the Hartz Mountains? Yes.

81. Will you tell the Committee how many lakes are there—what are their names? There are six lakes on the western slope. Commencing at the northern end, you have the first one, called Lake Perry, the next is Lake Osborne, then Lake Esperance, and three others.

82. *By the Treasurer.*—Are those lakes not on the eastern slope? Yes, I meant the eastern slope.

Mr. Lodge: And I meant the eastern slope, and not the western.

83. *By Mr. Lodge.*—What are the names of the three lakes on the eastern slope of the Hartz Mountains? Those I have named—the Perry, Esperance, and Osborne. They are the largest lakes of the group.

84. Where does Lake Esperance drain? Into the Esperance River. It really is the source of that river.

85. Then into Port Esperance? Yes.

86. Those two lakes—Perry and Osborne—where do they drain into? They go towards the Arve River, and drain into the Huon River.

87. And what is the altitude of those lakes? Roughly, I should say about 3000 feet. I did take a few notes of the height. Lake Perry, at its northern end, is 3800 feet, and at the southern end, 3750 feet. It is a peculiar feature of these lakes, they all fall towards the south. Roughly, the whole of these lakes have an altitude of 3400 feet or upwards. I cannot rely on my reading exactly, my aneroid not being a good one, but that estimate is near enough.

88. Can you give, roughly, the size of Lake Osborne? I should say it was 450 yards long, by 200 yards broad.

89. Would that be its extreme length and breadth? As far as I could be able to judge, I should say it was.

90. What is the size of Lake Perry? I should say it would be about the same size as Lake Osborne. Then there is Lake Eliza. The only two lakes to feed the Arve River are Perry and Osborne.

91. What are the largest lakes on the eastern slope of the plateau? The Osborne and Esperance.

92. Would there be any difficulty raising the height of the water in those lakes, so as to give additional reserve of water for generating electricity, if desirable? I do not think there would be any trouble at all. There would be only the southern end to do any work on, as all the rest of the banks are very high. For instance, take Lake Perry, with its altitude at the northern end of 3800 feet, and at its southern end 3750 feet. It has a bank nearly all round of about 50 feet high, and on its western side there is a mountain 1000 feet high, so that, with the exception of its southern end, there would not be much to do to it.

93. Do those lakes occupy a site that catch any substantial part of the water of their respective watersheds? I do not think so. They are only pools. The wide plain must contribute very largely to the source of the Arve River, independent of those lakes. Those lakes are not essential to keep up the water supply of the Arve River.

94. Would you say, if the water of Lake Esperance were diverted and turned into the Kermandie River for the purpose of generating electricity, that it would make any substantial difference to the flow of the Esperance River? I do not think it would be at all noticeable.

95. And with regard to lakes Perry and Osborne: supposing the water of those lakes were diverted in the same way as with the Kermandie River, for the purpose of generating electricity, would that make any substantial difference with the flow of water into the Arve River? Nothing very substantial. It does not draw much water from those little lakes.

96. Are there any people living on the banks of the Arve River? Not that I know of.

97. Would a slight diminution in water of the River Arve make any perceptible difference in the flow of the Huon River? No.

98. Are there any falls on the Kermandie River? Yes.

99. Where are they situate? They are about two miles above the junction of the Kermandie River with the South Creek.

100. Now, as to the distance from Geeveston to the Kermandie Falls? I think it is about five miles.

101. *By the Treasurer.*—Is it not more than five miles, Mr. Beattie? No, I do not think so. It is about three miles to the South Creek, and two miles from there to the falls.

102. *By Mr. Lodge.*—Above the Kermandie Falls the ground opens out a little, does it not? Yes.

103. So that it would be possible to construct a reservoir above the falls for the storage of water? There would be no difficulty to do that in that country.

104. Then you think that the diverting of the water of these lakes would not have any effect on the flow of the rivers Esperance and Arve? No noticeable effect.

[Mr. Lodge, through Mr. Beattie, exhibited several photos. showing the country round about where the water is proposed to be conserved. The first one showed the extent of the country and timber proposed to be dealt with by the company. The next was a view of South Creek, three miles from Geeveston. A picture of the Kermandie Falls, which it is proposed to use for the purpose of generating electricity, was next shown.]

105. *By the Treasurer.*—Looking at the last photo., these falls often have a bigger flow than shown on this picture, do they not? Oh, yes, during the winter months. That photo. was taken about the end of October. I should think the quantity of water, as shown on the photo. was the medium between the minimum and the maximum water at the Falls all the year round.

[The next photo. showed open plains looking in the direction of Esperance. They were said by Mr. Beattie to be about six miles long and one mile across.]

The Treasurer: The character of the ground is a slope from the mountain into a kind of apron where the water collects. It is rather extensive.

106. *By the Chairman.*—What is the depth of the lakes? It is not known. They have never been tested.

Mr. Lodge: Some of them must be of great depth, because, in parts, the banks appear to go straight down.

107. *By Mr. Lodge.*—This photo., looking towards Esperance, does it show the character of the water-shed? Yes; it looks just like that.

[Mr. Beattie then showed a photo. of Lake Esperance, taken at the north end, looking towards the south; also Lake Perry.]

108. *By Mr. Dumaresq.*—Is Lake Esperance the largest lake on the eastern side of the Hartz Mountains? Yes.

109. *By the Treasurer.*—Are you able to say from which of these lakes the water could be diverted to the Kermahdie Falls? I should not like to say.

110. You are not familiar enough with the levels to say? No.

The Treasurer: Because if the water of these lakes is not available, it is not worth while talking about them.

Mr. Lodge: I am instructed that the water is available.

[Mr. Beattie next showed Lake Osborne.]

111. *Mr. Lodge.*—Then, I understand, that you cannot tell the Committee whether it is practicable to divert the water from those lakes into the Kermahdie Falls? I do not like to say. I should think it could be done, from what I remember of the character of the country.

112. *By the Treasurer.*—Do you think the water of Lake Esperance could be diverted? If the northern lake could be diverted, Lake Esperance could be, because the country goes down very deeply towards the south. It goes down to a tremendous depth towards the Arve River. As you go more to the south it is easier.

113. From the Esperance Lake it runs away south? Yes.

114. *By Mr. Lodge.*—What saddles or ridges are there between those lakes and the Kermahdie Valley? I could not say. I did not look at them so closely to be able to answer that.

115. If the lakes were embanked and the height of the water raised, would it in any way prove damaging to that part of the country as a tourist resort? Not at all. The lakes are all stocked with fish, and to increase the water would make fishing there far better than exists at present.

116. *By Mr. Burbury.*—Where is the natural outflow of those Lakes—where is its lowest level? There are two slopes from the mountain; one running towards Esperance, and one running towards the Huon. There are four feeders to the Esperance River and two to the Arve River, which flows into the Huon. The waters of the lake flow into those rivers until the water gets below its natural level, and then it is kept back until they fill up again. They do not contribute much to the flow of those rivers.

117. Is there a constant stream running from those lakes? So long as there is sufficient water in them to allow of it flowing out.

118. There are natural places where water can be stored up, I suppose—where it can be dammed back? Yes. Stop the holes up where the water breaks away.

119. That means that there is a supply of water behind those lakes? Yes.

120. Where does the supply come from? As I said before, from the slopes of the Hartz mountains. Those lakes are right under the mountain, and the drainage from that mountain flows into the lakes.

121. *By the Treasurer.*—There is no stream going into them? No.

122. *By the Chairman.*—You have visited those lakes and that part of the country pretty often? Yes.

123. Have you seen any difference in the quantity of water in the lakes at the various times you have visited them? The only difference has been noticeable by me at Lake Perry, which it seems to me is draining back. Mr. Osborne Geeves told me he had seen a break lower down in that lake, and the water was filtering out. The first time I was there the lake was quite full, but that was after we had had heavy weather.

124. The outflow from those lakes is lower down? Yes, that is the peculiar feature of those lakes.

125. *By Mr. Lodge.*—As Lake Eliza has been mentioned, would you tell the Committee, Mr. Beattie, what is the size of that lake? It is much about the same size as Lake Perry.

126. Are there any long dry seasons on the Hartz mountains? No.

127. *By Mr. Burbury.*—Are there heavy falls of snow? Oh yes. I was there in November one year when there was a very heavy fall of snow, and the tent we had pitched came down during the night.

The witness withdrew.

E. COUNSEL, *called and examined.*

128. *By Mr. Lodge.*—Your name? Edward Counsel.

129. And you are Surveyor-General and Secretary for Lands, of Tasmania? Yes.

130. You are acquainted with the proposals of Mr. R. A. Robertson, the Promoter of this Bill as regards the working of the Crown timber land, back from Geeveston? Yes; that has been before me.

131. Are you acquainted with the land that has been taken up? Yes; there are 22,000 acres by Mr. Robertson, and about 4100 acres by Mr. Geeves.

132. There has been some discussion between the Promoter, Mr. Robertson, and the Crown Lands Department, with regard to the period for which the leases might properly be granted by the Crown for the working of that timber and the marking of that land into blocks? Yes; more particularly with regard to the renewals of the leases.

133. And with regard to the cutting up of the timber land into blocks? Yes.

134. After that discussion a letter was sent by you, on behalf of the Minister of Lands and Works, to my firm. Is that the letter? [Mr. Counsel here read the letter, and replied to the question in the affirmative.]

135. *By Mr. Lodge.*—That letter represents the views of the Lands Departments about those two points which I have mentioned, and one other point? Yes.

136. And the taking up and working of that land will mean a considerable direct revenue in rent and royalty to this State, will it not? Yes, I hope so.

137. And Mr. Robertson has already spent a substantial sum in taking up this land in surveys and preliminary payment for rents? Yes.

138. Of course, the survey fees do not come to the Government; they are paid out again; but some £400 or upwards have passed through your Department already? Yes; £250, roughly, in survey fees, and the balance of the amount, about £150, in rents.

139. With regard to the extension of the leases, the Ministers are only prepared to recommend a 10 years' renewal? Yes.

140. The Bill proposed to be introduced seeks to acquire a 21 years' renewal. What are the views of the Crown Lands Department in that respect? I think a 10 years' renewal should be long enough with a 21 years' lease.

141. Explain the grounds for your opinion? Well, 21 years is a fairly long lease in itself; and, I think, a 10-years' renewal is a fair thing.

142. If the capital expenditure by the Promoter, who is going to work the timber land, increases, would not the period of his lease increase also to give him the proper opportunity of getting a return for his capital? That is a complicated question; but, broadly, from the area of the lease and the tram, 31 years is long enough to let in the interest of the Government and the individual. What I mean is: I think there should be a squaring-up after 31 years. It is nearly the third of a century.

143. You said, "in the interest of the Government." What do you consider the interest of the Government—that it would be affected by extent of the lease? I think the land should be revalued after such a period of 31 years. There might be reasons which would make the land worth more at the end of that time, and the State should get some benefit from the increase in value.

144. Supposing Parliament saw its way to confer the right on the Promoter to grant him a 21 years' renewal of his lease, with the provision that there should be a revaluation of the royalty to be paid, at the commencement of the second term, and at the end of the first 10 years of the 21 years' renewal—would there be any objection to that by the Crown Lands Department? No; that would meet the case.

145. Do you mean that the rent is to be increased three times—I see the royalty is fixed in the Bill to be increased three times at the expiration of the lease? No; the rent is not to be raised.

Mr. Lodge: We thought what the Promoter had paid in preliminary fees and rent entitled him to consideration. There is no provision in the Bill for increasing the rent.

146. *By the Treasurer.*—Would you like the rent revised at the end of the 21 years' lease? I do not think that matters much so long as the royalty is to be increased.

Mr. Lodge: The royalty and not the rent is to be revised at the expiration of the lease.

147. That is what the Minister of Lands really thinks? Yes. At the meeting held by the Minister, Mr. Lodge, and myself, that was the subject-matter of the discussion. The Minister suggested with the revision of the royalty it should not exceed five times the original royalty. That was for the first ten years of the renewal.

148. By this Bill we are asking for a revision of the royalty to be paid up to three times the original royalty? I do not think that the amount of royalty should be limited to any number of times. At the present time the royalty is only half what it was anticipated it should be, so that practically the proposed increase would be a very small one. We were getting 1s. per 1000 acres royalty. I think it would be better to provide for the revision of royalty without fixing the number of times, so long as it should not exceed five times.

149. *By Mr. Lodge.*—The rent paid is £1 per 100 acres; therefore, the annual rent to be paid by the Promoter on the 26,100 acres would be £261? Yes.

150. And the royalty is 6d. per 1000 superficial feet? Yes.

151. With the mill cutting 200,000 superficial feet per week there would be a royalty of £5 per week, or £260 per year. So that, with the rent of £261 the Government would be receiving in rent and royalty over £500? Yes. But I still think the royalty would not be sufficient. Sixpence is too low; it was twice that amount.

152. Was there any land taken up with the royalty at 1s. per 1000 superficial feet? Yes.

153. Any small holdings? Yes. The royalty was only reduced temporarily to 6d., by the pressing request of the timber people, so as to give the timber industry a start. It was never contemplated to keep it permanently at 6d. per 1000 feet.

154. Has any substantial quantity of land been worked at 1s. royalty? Not a great deal, because the regulations providing the 1s. royalty were only in force for a short time.

155. Are there any timber lands being worked now at 1s. royalty? Only a small area; because it has been reduced to 6d.

156. But did the reduction interfere with the leases then in operation? Hardly any leases had been issued.

157. Now, practically, 1s. royalty has never been paid? Yes, it has.

158. For any substantial quantity of timber? No. There are sawmillers now who say the royalty should be 1s. The regulations at present in force are very moderate.

159. *By the Treasurer.*—Should there be any power placed in the Bill so that a higher royalty could be levied at the expiration of the lease for 21 years—could not provision be inserted, fixing the royalty to be paid under the regulations existing at that time? If it were provided that there should be a revision of the royalty at the end of 21 years, so that it may be made the same as that then prevailing, that would meet the case.

Mr. Lodge: With regard to Sub-section 2, of Section 18, provision is made for the fixing of the royalty to be paid. It reads “Before the amount of royalty to be paid by the Promoter upon any renewal of a lease under this Section shall be fixed, the Minister of Lands for the time being shall appoint a Commissioner to assess the amount of royalty which ought, in his opinion be so paid, and such Commissioner shall report to the Minister accordingly.” There is a similar provision in the Mining Act, that brings in an independent person to assess what should be a fair royalty to pay.

Mr. Counsel: Yes, I think that Sub-section meets the case.

[The committee here deliberated as to what increase in royalty should be paid at the expiration of the 21 years' lease.]

Mr. Counsel: A provision should be inserted to fix the royalty at what other sawmillers were paying at the end of the lease.

[The Treasurer suggested a clause fixing the royalty to be paid at such an amount not exceeding what is paid under regulations at the time then in force.]

160. *By Mr. Lodge.*—I understand, Mr. Counsel, that if the amount of royalty could be revised at the end of the first ten years of the renewal that you would not feel the same strong objection to the 21 years' extension of the lease? That is so.

161. *By the Treasurer.*—You would have a revision at the end of the 21 years lease, and a further revision at the end of the first ten years of the renewal? Yes, revision of royalty.

162. The rent remaining the same? Yes.

Mr. Lodge: The effect would be that if the company were working at the rate of 200,000 superficial feet per week, and the royalty were increased three times, they would have to pay to the Government £720 per annum, and there would also be payable the rent of £261 per annum; so that the Government might be deriving as large a revenue as £1050 per annum after the revision of the royalty. That would be the direct benefit; and there would also be the indirect benefit by the progress of the timber industry.

Mr. Hope.—There would be a reduction in the land held by the company and the rent to be paid by them to the State?

Mr. Lodge: Yes.

The Treasurer: As each block is worked out the land reverts to the Crown, and will be open for selection.

163. *By Mr. Lodge.*—Now as to the watershed? ———

Mr. Counsel: I should like to say, in connection with renewals, that I think they should be extended to other companies in similar circumstances. I don't think that renewals should only be granted to this company.

The Chairman: That is not in this Bill, and we are only dealing with renewals for this particular company.

164. *By Mr. Lodge.*—As to the watershed: you are acquainted with the Hartz Mountains, and the lakes on them. Those small lakes on the eastern side of the mountains—Lake Esperance, draining into the Esperance River; and Lakes Perry and Osborne, draining into the Arve River—do those three lakes hold any substantial proportion of the water in their respective watersheds? They do; they hold the most of the water. I am not prepared to say what quantity they hold.

165. Have you any idea of the area of those lakes? I suppose one is about one acre in extent.

166. *By Mr. Lodge.*—I think they must be larger than that? I should think they furnish one-fourth of the water, at any rate.

167. Mr. Beattie has described them to the Committee as mere pockets on the slope of the mountain? They are under the highest peak of the mountain.

168. Below these there are extensive plains? Yes.

169. For instance, the plains are six miles long and one mile broad? Yes, about that.

170. Supposing the largest of these lakes is about 12 or 13 acres in extent—that is Lake Esperance—is it possible that that lake could hold any substantial portion of the water that is collecting on the whole of the watershed? Yes, it is.

171. Mr. Beattie says they would not hold any substantial portion of the water? I think it would be; but if Mr. Beattie says so, I would not contradict him, because I have not visited that part personally; but the bulk of the drainage from the plain drains into the Arve. The two lakes, Perry and Osborne, drain into the River Arve.

172. Would the diverting of that water make any substantial difference to the flow of the River Arve? Yes; I think it would.

173. Is the water that is flowing down the River Arve of any consequence to any one? I do not know of it being used by anyone.

174. It goes through the forest—does it not? Yes; but it might be wanted for sawmill purposes by others.

175. The River Arve only furnishes a very small portion of the water that runs into the River Huon? It is a good stream, and there is pretty deep water down at its mouth.

176. From your knowledge of those lakes down in the direction of Esperance, would you say there would be any difficulty in diverting the water of those lakes into the River Kermandie? I do not think there would.

Mr. Lodge: There was another point in your letter with respect to the land being cut up into blocks and worked. [The letter was then read, and placed before the Committee.]

177. *By Mr. McCrackan*.—Was the reduction in the royalty on timber from 1s. to 6d. made during the depression in the timber trade a short time ago? I think it was made about eighteen months ago.

178. *By the Treasurer*.—It was made, practically, since the revival of the timber trade? Yes; really, since the sawmills started running again.

179. *By Mr. Hope*.—Is any of that land suitable for settlement? I hope to see it settled on.

180. *By the Chairman*.—Not in its present condition? No. It is not land much needed for settlement. Of course, as the timber is cut off the land, it will be available for selection.

181. By granting this large lease to this company, will it affect other small millowners from cutting timber: it will put them out from these areas we are leasing to the company, of course? I do not know that there will be any injury to those people. I do not know there will be any serious complaints made.

182. *By Mr. Lodge*.—Is this forest in any way handy to the small millowners? No; there would have to be some facility provided for the transit of timber to make it payable for small owners to work.

183. *By the Chairman*.—What would you term the land that is being granted to the company under the lease: what is its class at the present time? The class varies so much in different places. Some of it would be termed first-class by valuers of that district; but Mr. Hope would not term it so. It is not such good land as that on the North-West Coast, but, in comparison with other land in the district, some of the land is first-class.

The witness promised to address the Committee, in writing, on the Bill, and withdrew.

R. ALLPORT, *called and examined*.

184. *By Mr. Lodge*.—Your name is Russell Allport? Yes.

185. And you are an electrical engineer, carrying on your profession in Hobart? Yes.

186. What is the length of your experience as an electrician? About ten years.

187. And you are a member of the Institute of Electrical Engineers, England? Yes.

188. You have been inspecting the waters of the Kermandie River from Geeveston up to the Falls? Yes, just above the Falls. I have but recently returned.

189. The falls on the Kermandie are about two miles from the junction of South Creek with the Kermandie River? Yes.

190. How far are they from Geeveston? About four miles.

191. Is it possible to get from the Kermandie, at about those falls, a motive power for generating electricity? Yes.

192. At a moderate cost? Yes.

193. In what way would you propose to use the falls for generating electricity? I would suggest a power-house being built below the falls some little distance as a central station. Of course, more water would have to be got. They would not have to be confined to the Kermandie River.

194. You could get sufficient power? Yes. A dam would have to be constructed above the Kermandie Falls.

195. And from the character of the valley above the falls, is there any difficulty in the way of the construction of a reservoir? No; I think it is in every way suited for the construction of a reservoir.

196. You will use the whole of the water in the Kermandie River? Yes.

197. After you have taken the water from the Kermandie River, is there any difficulty in the way of restoring it back again to the river? It must go back to the river by reason of its natural outflow.

198. Would there be any considerable loss of water? There would be no water lost to speak of.

199. And the water could be used lower down the river, if necessary? Yes.

200. There is sufficient fall lower down? Yes, between the falls and Geeveston.

201. Would the force of water in the Kermandie River be sufficient for the purpose of running a large sawmill, with machinery of 100 horse-power, and a tramway all the way from South Creek to Shipwrights' Point, and one from there to Huonville—is the water in the Kermandie enough to do that? No, it is not.

202. Where would you go for the balance of the water required? I would take some of the water from the lakes on the Hartz Mountains.

203. From the enquiries you have made, would you say that those lake are suitable for taking the water for the purpose of generating electricity? From what I could gather, the three lakes, Esperance, Osborne, and Perry, are most suitable.

204. *By the Treasurer.*—You know what distance it would be? I got it from Mr. John Geeves that it was four miles.

205. Would there have to be a water-race? Yes, there would.

206. *By Mr. Lodge.*—You say the water in the Kermandie River is not sufficient, and that you would go to the lakes. Do you consider the water in those lakes would be sufficient? Yes, I think so.

207. What horse-power do you think would be required to be developed to run the sawmill, tramways, and engines on the ground? I should think 500 horse-power—not less.

208. Do you consider that the water in the Kermandie River and the lakes, together, would supply that? Yes.

209. Are there any practical difficulties in the way, so far as you have examined the country, and been able to gather? None at all.

210. *By the Chairman.*—Do you think that if the tram only went to Shipwrights' Point, and not on to Huonville, would that reduce the requirement, as to water, considerably? It would not take a great deal of power to run a tramway from Shipwrights' Point to Huonville, because it is all level country.

211. It would not increase your requirement of water to any great extent? Not to run that tram; it depends a great deal as to what the tram has got to do. I take it that 75 horse-power would run that tram.

212. *By the Treasurer.*—Carrying what loads? Drawing trucks of produce, fruit, &c. There would be a motor in each truck. I don't suppose there would be more than three trucks running at one time, and at 25 horse-power per truck this would be 75 horse-power.

213. What do you think each truck would carry? About five tons, I estimate.

214. *By the Chairman.*—In your experience, as an electrical engineer, have you had in hand any similar work of carrying water as you propose to do in this matter? Yes.

215. Under similar circumstances? Yes.

216. You are positive as to there being no difficulty in the way of the necessary water being obtained? None whatever.

217. To get 500 horse-power? Yes.

218. You have had a good opportunity of seeing those lakes, and examining them? No, not the lakes.

219. *By the Treasurer.*—How many sluice-heads of water are there on the top of the falls to generate the electricity you want—to give 500 horse-power? That would depend on the height of the falls.

220. Do you not know the height of the falls? I have not measured it accurately. I only worked it out roughly.

221. *By Mr. Lodge.*—But you know the height of the falls, approximately? About one hundred feet at the point where I suggest putting the power-house.

222. Assuming the height of those falls to be 100 feet—would that give you sufficient power to generate electricity up to 500 horse-power? [Have you your calculations here, Mr. Allport? No.]

223. Did you make your calculations, assuming the height to be one hundred feet, with the quantity of water which was then flowing? Yes.

224. You were unable to get 500 horse-power—you are unable to get anything like 500 horse-power from the waters of the Kermandie at the present time? At the time I was there making my examination there was 70 horse-power.

225. *By the Treasurer.*—How many sluice-heads would there be in the Kermandie Falls to produce 70 horse-power? I do not reckon by sluice-heads. Sluice-heads are used in connection with mining work, I believe. I make it up by estimating that 33,000 lbs. of water falling one foot in one minute will give one horse-power.

226. Is that in the summer-time or winter—I mean, as regards the 70 horse-power in the Kermandie? I was told, when I was there, that the water in that river was as low as ever it is during the summer months.

227. You have made no exploration of the lakes yourself to guide you in your statement that the water in those lakes will be sufficient to increase your horse-power in the Kermandie from 70 to 500? No, only from what they have told me. There is very little water in the Kermandie now, and it would give some 70 horse-power.

228. *By Mr. Lodge.*—By storing the water above the Kermandie Falls you could not get sufficient water for what you require? No, it would have to be done in the lakes.

229. By banking up the lakes you would increase the storage quantity of water? Yes.

230. That would give you from 25 to 30 acres all told? Yes. Mr. Geeves told me that a very large body of water flows down there six months in the year.

Mr. Hope: You will have no guarantee, if you close the mouth of the lakes, that the country will hold all the water.

The Treasurer: I don't think it would.

Mr. Lodge: I want the Committee to understand that I am not putting before them a completed scheme for generating electricity. Conferring the right to the water to the company cannot prejudice anybody. The water in the Kermandie River is not sufficient in itself, and it is therefore necessary for the company to draw on the lakes.

231. *By Mr. Lodge.*—If the same amount of power required for the mill will do for the tram from Shipwrights' Point to Huonville, it would be a very economical method of handling the produce? Yes.

232. Is it considered that in rural districts the working of light lines by electricity would be the most economical mode of handling goods? Yes, I think it would.

233. *By Mr. Burbury.*—How do you measure the quantity of water—by yards? No, by feet.

234. And how many cubic feet are there in a cubic yard? I think it is 27.

235. Now, how many cubic yards of water would it take to supply 70 horse-power that you speak of; that is, in the Kermandie river? Well, I think, there are sixty pounds of water in a cubic foot, and I reckon that 33,000 lbs. of water falling one foot in one minute will give one horse-power; falling two feet, two horse-power; ten feet, ten horse-power; and so on.

236. Then, the success of this scheme, so far as water-power is concerned, depends on your having storage capacity up the River Kermandie? Yes.

237. And you are not sure that there are natural places for the storage of the water? I can only say from what I have heard, and from the photos. that I have seen.

238. It is a rapid fall, I suppose? Yes, there is one.

239. *By the Treasurer.*—It is clear, then, that there is not sufficient water in the Kermandie River, and that the lakes will have to be tapped? Yes.

Mr. Burbury: We do not seem to have the data before us to let us know what quantity of water is to be taken from the lakes, if that water is dammed up. It is said, there is only 70 horse-power of water in the Kermandie, and an immense additional quantity of water would have to be obtained to increase the horse-power from 70 to 500.

The Treasurer: I doubt whether the lakes would give that increase.

Russell Allport: There is very little water running in the Kermandie, at present.

Mr. Lodge: The supply of water to give the necessary power to generate the electricity is what has yet got to be seen to; but to take the water and replace it back into the river will not injure anyone.

The Committee deliberated, and the witness withdrew.

(*Brought in by Mr. Evans.*)

As amended by the Select Committee.

A

B I L L

TO

Authorise the construction of certain Tram-ways from *Hospital Bay* through *Geeveston*, and to certain Timber Lands and elsewhere, and for other purposes. A.D. 1901.

WHEREAS *Robert Affleck Robertson* is the holder of, or has applied for, or is entitled on certain conditions to a transfer of, certain Leases from the Crown of timber lands lying beyond the Town of *Geeveston* in or near to the valleys of the *Kermandie* River and the *Arve* River respectively (such leases being either in the name of the said *Robert Affleck Robertson* or in the names of *John William Geeves*, *William Giffen Geeves*, and *George Albert Geeves*), and has also an option of purchase of certain freehold timber and other lands belonging to the said *John William Geeves*, *William Giffen Geeves*, and *George Albert Geeves*, and to *Osborne Geeves* respectively, and has also an option of purchase of certain rights to and for the use, construction, and maintenance of a tramway or tramways from *Hospital Bay* to or beyond the Town of *Geeveston*: PREAMBLE.

And whereas the said *Robert Affleck Robertson* is desirous of working the timber lands aforesaid (whether freehold or leasehold) as a whole, and according to more economical and convenient methods, and of connecting the same and the said Town of *Geeveston* with deep water at *Hospital Bay* by a new and improved tramway or tramways, and [*Private.*]

* * The words proposed to be struck out are enclosed in brackets []; those to be inserted, in parentheses ().

(No. 70.)

2

Geeveston Tramways and Timber Leases. [1 ED. VII.]

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also of constructing an extension or extensions of the tramways aforesaid, [for connecting other places along the *Huon* River, and particularly the Town of *Huonville*, with deep water at *Hospital* Bay aforesaid,] and of building such jetty or jetties at *Hospital* Bay aforesaid as may be required for the convenient and economical shipping of timber and 5 other produce and goods [of the districts of *Geeveston*, *Franklin*, and *Huonville*] from *Hospital* Bay aforesaid, and for the promotion and advantage of the commerce and shipping of the district[s aforesaid] :



And whereas the said *Robert Affleck Robertson* is also desirous of obtaining an extension of the terms of the leases obtained or applied for 10 in respect of such timber lands of the Crown as aforesaid, and of having certain modifications of the Regulations with regard to the working of such timber lands, with a view to working the same as a whole, and in accordance with more economical and convenient methods :



And whereas it is desired to confer upon the said *Robert Affleck* 15 *Robertson* extended powers with regard to the construction and maintenance of such tramways and jetties as aforesaid, and the motive-power to be used on such tramways, and the use supply and sale of electricity and electric motive power and electric light in the district[s] aforesaid, and also the right to an extension of the terms of such leases 20 as aforesaid, and to a modification of the regulations with regard to the working of such timber lands of the Crown as aforesaid :

Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of *Tasmania*, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows :—

25

Short title.

1 This Act may be cited for all purposes as “The *Geeveston* Tramways and Timber Leases Act.”

Incorporation of
“The Railways
Clauses Consoli-
dation Act 1901.”
and Interpreta-
tion.

2 The following Parts and Sections of “The Railways Clauses Consolidation Act, 1901,” (hereinafter referred to as “the General Act”) shall be incorporated with this Act, except in so far as such Sections 30 are hereby expressly varied (namely)—

I. Sections One to Four inclusive :

But “Road” shall also include any esplanade or Crown reservation along the banks of any river :

And “Railway” and “Undertaking” respectively shall 35 also include all wharves and jetties. the construction of which is authorised by this Act, and all buildings and works in connection with the generating and supplying of electricity under the provisions of this Act.

II. Part I. Sections Five to Twenty-seven inclusive :

40



[But Section Fifteen and Section Sixteen, Sub-section Two shall not be incorporated with this Act, and Section Sixteen, Sub-section One shall be read as if the words from “and in all cases,” in the first line thereof, down to the words “enlarge such time,” in the fourth line thereof, 45 were omitted therefrom ;

And Section Twenty-five of the General Act shall be read as if the following words were part thereof, and were

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inserted therein next after the power to draw water for the purposes therein mentioned, (that is to say) "To construct and work such telegraph or telephone lines to be used only for the purposes of the Undertaking, and by the persons engaged therein, as the Promoter may think proper : "]

(But Section Five shall be read and construed as giving the Minister power to require that the tramways to be constructed by the Promoter between the *Speedwell* Jetty mentioned in Section *Four* of this Act and the proposed jetty at *Hospital* Bay shall not be constructed upon any part of the land some time since marked out and surveyed by authority of Parliament for an intended line of railway between *Hobart* and *Geeveston*, and as giving the Minister power to fix and determine the conditions subject to which such tramways may be constructed upon the said land or any part thereof :)

III. Part II. Sections Twenty-eight to Thirty-five inclusive :

IV. Part III. Sections Thirty-six to Forty-three inclusive :

But Section Thirty-seven shall be read as if the word "reasonably" were inserted before the word "necessary" in the Third line of the Third paragraph thereof :

V. Part IV. Sections Forty-four to Fifty-one inclusive :

VI. Part V. Sections Fifty-two to Fifty-seven inclusive :

VII. Part VI. Sections Fifty-eight to Sixty-two inclusive :

But in line Five of Section Sixty-Two the words "the Promoter" shall be substituted for the word "it" :

VIII. Part VII. Sections Sixty-three to Seventy inclusive :

But the tolls, rates, fares, and charges, to be fixed in accordance with the provisions of Section Sixty-four of the General Act, shall not (unless with the consent of the Promoter) be less in respect of the tramways authorised by this Act than the tolls, rates, fares, and charges, for the time being in force and payable in respect of the Tasmanian Government Railways generally :

IX. Part VIII. Sections Seventy-one to Seventy-five inclusive :

And the period of time mentioned in Section Seventy-one of the General Act is hereby fixed for the purposes of this Act at [Thirty*] years from the passing hereof :

(Twenty*)

(But the power of purchase conferred by the said Section Seventy-one shall not extend or apply to the tramways (extensions or branches) fourthly mentioned in Section *Three* of this Act, and the Promoter may at any time during the term of any lease or renewed lease in this Act mentioned or immediately after the expiration or determination of any such lease, take up and remove the rails and sleepers of any tramways upon the land comprised in such lease.)

x. Part IX. Sections Seventy-six to Seventy-nine inclusive :

[But the consent of the Minister mentioned in Section Seventy-six shall not be necessary to the transfer by the said *Robert Affleck Robertson* of the Undertaking, and all

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his rights under this Act, to any company which may have been or may be formed (with a subscribed capital of not less than Fifty thousand Pounds) to acquire the same :]

XI. Part X. Sections Eighty to Eighty-five inclusive :

XII. Part XI. Sections Eighty-six to Ninety-one inclusive : 5

But the words "Three months" are hereby substituted for the words "One month," in the Second line of Section Eighty-six Sub-section I.

XIII. Part XII. Sections Ninety-two to One hundred inclusive :

[But Section Ninety-seven shall not be incorporated 10 with this Act.]

Authority to
Construct Tram-
ways.

3 It shall be lawful for the said *Robert Affleck Robertson* (hereinafter referred to as "the Promoter") to make, construct, repair, improve, and maintain the lines of tramway following (whether now existing or not), together with all necessary or proper tracks, roads, 15 ways, crossings, bridges, culverts, cuttings, tunnels, embankments, approaches, junctions, sidings, stations, buildings, and other works and conveniences that may be used or worked in connection with such tramways : that is to say—

i. A tramway from *Shipwright's Point* on the northern side of 20 *Hospital Bay*, to the Town of *Geeveston* :

ii. A tramway from *Whale Point*, on the southern side of *Hospital Bay*, to the Town of *Geeveston* :

iii. A tramway from the Town of *Geeveston* to such a site in the valley of the *Kermadie River*, or any tributary thereof, 25 as may be deemed convenient for the erection of a sawmill for sawing the timber to be cut upon any such timber lands as aforesaid :

iv. Such extensions or branches of the last-mentioned tramway as the Promoter may desire to construct to, upon, or over 30 any of the freehold or leasehold timber lands aforesaid, and as may (be) necessary or proper for the convenient getting, cutting, sawing, or working of the timber upon or from any such lands :

[v. A tramway from *Shipwright's Point* aforesaid to a point at 35 or near to the Town of *Huonville*.]

(A Within Six months after the construction of any of the Tramways mentioned in the next preceding Section of this Act, and therein numbered **1**, **2**, and **3**, respectively shall have been completed, the Promoter shall deposit with the Minister of Lands for the time being proper 40 survey plans (certified by an authorised Surveyor of the State) of the Tramway so completed, showing on such plans the lengths and bearings of the centre line of the Tramway, the radii of all curves, the lengths of all tangents, the width of the tramway, and all roads which the Tramway crosses, or upon which it is laid ; and also, all prominent 45 natural features of the lands along which the Tramway is constructed.)

Authority to
construct jetties.

4 The wharves which the Promoter is authorised by the General Act and this Act to construct shall include—

[1 Ed. vii.] *Geeveston Tramways and Timber Leases.*

5

- i. A jetty at or near to *Shipwright's Point*, the shore end of which shall be upon some part of 89 acres of land granted *William E. Garth*: A.D. 1901.
- 5 ii. A jetty at or near to *Whale Point*, the shore end of which shall be upon some part of $23\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land granted to *James Fitzpatrick*, [or upon Crown land adjoining the said grant] (or of 47 acres of land granted to *J. W. Studley*;) and
- 10 iii. Such wharves adjoining or subsidiary to the before-mentioned jetties, or either of them, as may be found necessary and convenient:
- 15 [iv. Such improvements or extension of the jetty in the *Kermandie* River known as the *Speedwell* Jetty as the Promoter may find convenient.]
- The [Two first*] mentioned jetties shall not, nor shall either of them, be of a greater length than Six hundred and Fifty feet, unless the Minister of Lands for the time being shall at any time approve of their being constructed of a greater length. (before*)
- 20 5 For the traction of carriages or vehicles over and upon the tramways aforesaid, or any of them, and for working any mill or machinery, the Promoter may use steam, electricity, or any motive power. Motive power.
- 25 6 It shall be lawful for the Promoter to take, divert, and appropriate any of the water of the *Kermandie* River, or any tributary of the said river, for the purpose of generating or developing electricity: Provided that all such water (after allowing for reasonable waste and loss) shall be returned by the Promoter to the said river, or some tributary thereof, as soon as conveniently may be. Taking water from River *Kermandie*.
- 30 7 It shall be lawful for the Promoter [(with the consent of the Governor in Council)] to take, divert, and appropriate (for the purpose of generating or developing electricity) the water from any [one] (three) of the lakes upon the (Eastern) slopes of the *Hartz* Mountains [for the purpose of generating or developing electricity.] (which may be approved by the Governor in Council.) Taking water from one of the *Hartz* Lakes.
- 35 (B The Promoter shall from time to time pay the Minister of Lands for the time being for all water taken and diverted under the provisions of Sections *Six* and *Seven* of this Act, and used by him for the purpose of generating electricity for sale under the provisions of Section *Eleven*. The annual sum payable for such water shall be
- 40 levied on such principle and at such rate and subject to such provisions as shall from time to time be fixed for diverting and taking water from any river or stream for generating electricity under any Regulations from time to time made by the Governor in Council under the provisions of this Act, or under the provisions of any present or future law
- 45 regulating the diverting and use of such water for such purposes, and all moneys so received by the Minister shall be paid into the Consolidated Revenue Fund.)

A.D. 1901.

Construction of
reservoirs and
races.

8 It shall be lawful for the Promoter to construct and erect on and in any portion of the banks or bed of the said *Kermandie* River, or any tributary thereof, or (any) such lake(s) as aforesaid, such works, dams, weirs, and reservoirs as may be required for the purpose of taking, diverting, impounding, and appropriating any such water as aforesaid, and also to 5 construct and lay down upon or in Crown land or any road such flumes, races, and pipes as may be required for the purpose of conducting any such water to any buildings or works of the Promoter, and of returning or otherwise disposing of such water.

Waterworks and
machinery.

9 It shall be lawful for the Promoter from time to time to make, 10 construct, erect, lay down, maintain, alter, repair, or discontinue upon any land now or hereafter to be acquired by the Promoter, such waterworks, steam engines, water-wheels, buildings, machinery, plant, and other works as the Promoter may deem necessary for the purposes of this Act. 15

Compensation for
damage.

10 The Promoter shall make compensation to any person now entitled to the use of water from the *Kermandie* River or any tributary thereof who may be prejudiced by the taking and diversion therefrom by the Promoter under the provisions of this Act, and to any person who may be prejudiced or affected by the construction of any works 20 under Section Eight of this Act; such compensation to be settled (in case of dispute) by arbitration in the mode prescribed by *The Lands Clauses Act*.

Sale of electricity
and price thereof.

11 If the Promoter shall use electricity for the traction of carriages or vehicles over and upon the tramways aforesaid, or any of them, it 25 shall be lawful for the Promoter to sell electricity to any person for use in the District[s] of *Geeveston*, [*Franklin*, and *Huonville* aforesaid, or any of them,] either as motive power or for lighting purposes; but the price at which such electricity shall be sold shall not (without the consent of the Promoter) be fixed at less than One Shilling per English 30 Board of Trade unit when supplied for lighting purposes, and when required for motive power at less than Ten Pounds per brake horsepower per annum, for every period of Eight hours, or portion thereof, during the day of Twenty-four hours, for which such power shall be required and shall be available for use. 35

Charges for
wharfage and
electricity to be
fixed by By-law.

12 The provisions of the General Act with regard to the fixing of rates, tolls, and fares upon the tramways and the payment, levy, and recovery of such rates, tolls, and fares shall extend also (subject to the provisions of the next preceding Section of this Act) to the fixing, payment, levy, and recovery of such wharfage or other rates and 40 charges as the Promoter may make for the use of the jetties and wharves aforesaid, or for the supply of electricity as aforesaid.

By-laws as to
supply of
electricity.

13 It shall be lawful for the Promoter from time to time to make, repeal, and alter By-laws (in accordance with the provisions of Part X. of the General Act) providing for— 45

1. The testing of the normal strength and electric power and motive force of any electricity supplied by the Promoter:

- ii. The determination of the time at which any charge for electricity shall be payable, and whether in advance or not : A.D. 1901.
- 5 iii. The regulation of the form, material, dimensions, construction, arrangement, and inspection of pipes, conductors, conduits, wires, and works supplying electricity to any premises :
- 10 iv. The regulation of the construction, disposition, custody, and inspection of meters, and the protection of meters from distress for rent and from execution or seizure under any legal process whatever, except as against the Promoter :
- v. The prevention of the waste or misuse of electricity supplied by the Promoter, and the interference by any person with the electrical works belonging to the Promoter.
- 15 **14** The tramways hereby authorised shall have a gauge of Three Gauge of tram-
feet Six inches, unless the Governor in Council shall approve of such ways.
tramways or any of them being of a different gauge.
- 15** The Promoter shall commence the construction of the lines of Commencement
tramway firstly and secondly mentioned in the *Third* Section of this of construction.
20 Act, or one of them, within One year from the passing of this Act,
[and shall commence the construction of the line of tramway fifthly
mentioned in the said Section within Three years from the passing
hereof.]
- 16** The said lines of tramway firstly and secondly mentioned in the Completion of
25 said Section *Three*, or one of them, shall be completed within Two tramways.
years from the passing of this Act, [and the said line of tramway fifthly
mentioned in the said Section shall be completed within One year after
the construction thereof shall have commenced in accordance with the
provisions hereof.]
- 30 **17** If the Promoter shall fail to commence or to complete any of Application for
the lines of tramway aforesaid within the respective times fixed by the forfeiture.
two preceding Sections in that behalf, his failure to commence or com-
plete such line shall be a ground for an application for the forfeiture of
that line in manner provided by Part XI. of the General Act.
- 35 **18**—(1.) The Promoter, provided the covenants and conditions of Renewal of
the Leases issued to or applied for by the said *Robert Affleck Robertson*, Leases.
and *John William Geeves*, *William Giffen Geeves*, and *George Albert*
Geeves respectively as hereinbefore mentioned, on the part of the
Lessees, shall have been fulfilled up to the expiration of such Leases
40 respectively, and upon his applying within Three months before or One
month after the expiration thereof, shall be entitled to renewals of such
Leases respectively, for a further period of Twenty-one years in each
case, subject to the payment of the rent and such royalties [not
exceeding three times the royalty previously paid under the lease,] as the
45 Minister of Lands for the time being (with the consent of the Governor

A.D. 1901. in Council) shall think fit to impose, subject to the provisions of "The Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1898," and the Regulations made thereunder.

(A.) The royalties so imposed by the Minister shall not exceed the royalties then payable under Timber Leases according to the Regulations for the time being in force under the said Act.

(B.) The royalties so fixed on the renewal of any lease may again be varied by the Minister in manner aforesaid, and subject to the limitation aforesaid, at the expiration of the first Ten years of the term of any renewed lease.)

2. Before the amount of royalty to be paid by the Promoter [upon any renewal of a lease under this Section shall be fixed,] (under any lease renewed according to the provisions of this Section shall be fixed or varied as aforesaid) the Minister of Lands for the time being shall appoint a Commissioner to assess the amount of royalty which ought, in his opinion, to be so paid, and such Commissioner shall report to the Minister accordingly.

3. Every such renewal shall be by the issue of a new lease, which shall entitle the holder thereof to all the same rights, preferences, and priorities, as were formerly held by him under the expired lease.

19 Notwithstanding anything in "The Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1898," or in any Regulations made thereunder, contained, it shall be lawful for the said *Robert Affleck Robertson*, and the said *John William Geeves*, *William Giffen Geeves*, and *George Albert Geeves*, to transfer such leases as aforesaid, or any of them, to such a company as is mentioned in Section Two, Sub-section x. of this Act, without obtaining the consent of the Minister of Lands for the time being to any such Transfer.

20 Notwithstanding anything in "The Crown Lands Amendment Act, 1898," or in any regulations made thereunder, contained, the Promoter shall be entitled to have all the lands comprised in the before-mentioned Leases, surveyed in blocks of Five hundred acres or thereabouts, and to work and cut timber from more than one block at the same time (provided that the total area of the blocks available for working at one and the same time shall not exceed one-tenth of the total area of the lands comprised in the before-mentioned Leases), and to work all or any of the said blocks from such mill-site or mill-sites (whether on any part of the leased lands or not) as the Promoter may deem convenient.