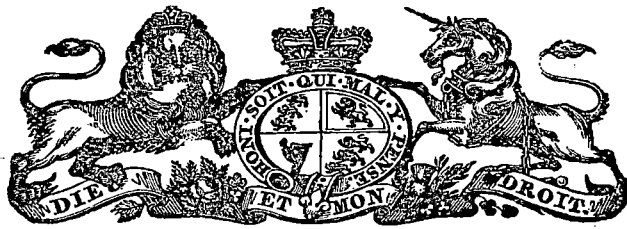


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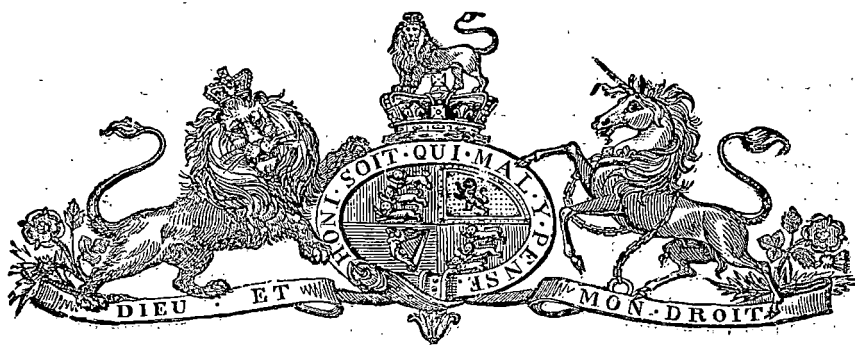
1868.

TASMANIA.

COLONIAL MANUFACTURES.

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

Brought up by Mr. John Meredith, and ordered by the House to be printed
September 10, 1868.



SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the 14th August, 1868, to enquire into the desirability or otherwise of encouraging COLONIAL MANUFACTURES.

MEMBERS.

MR. COLONIAL TREASURER.
MR. ROOKE.
MR. J. R. SCOTT.
MR. WALKER.
MR. BALFE.
MR. JOHN MEREDITH.

REPORT.

THE Committee to whom the question of the desirability or otherwise of encouraging Colonial Manufactures in Tasmania has been remitted by your Honorable House have the honor to report—

That they are imbued with the conviction that many latent resources may be developed which would tend to encourage a spirit of enterprise, enlarge the operations of the Agriculturist, and employ a large number of the young people of the Colony, for whom at present no remunerative employment can be secured.

But to effect these desirable objects it will be necessary for the Government to come forward and aid, either by means of a Bonus in each case, or by special provision for the protection of such capital as private individuals may feel prepared to invest in various ways.

Your Committee, whilst they are of opinion that there are many smaller matters in which by the investment of capital, aided as above, much good may arise to the Colony, have agreed to confine themselves to five subjects; viz.—

1. Distillation.
2. Sugar Beet.
3. Woollen Fabrics.
4. Iron.
5. Coal.

On the subject of DISTILLATION action has been taken already in the other branch of the Legislature. Your Committee will not, therefore, refer to it further than by the expression of their opinion that it is desirable that the Executive Government should appoint a Commission for enquiring into and reporting upon the desirability of permitting Distillation of Spirits in the Colony.

On the subject of Manufactures from SUGAR BEET, your Committee annex to their Report a Pamphlet on the subject by Arnold Baruchson, which your Committee beg to recommend should be reprinted for the information and guidance of the Colonists.

Your Committee would suggest that upon every 500 tons of Sugar being manufactured from Beet-root by one manufactory in any one year a Bonus of £500 be granted; and a similar amount guaranteed on the same conditions for three years from the commencement of the Manufacture, unless Distillation be permitted within that period.

On the subject of WOOLLEN MANUFACTURES, which in former years were conducted on a small scale when Convict labour was available, your Committee would suggest that upon an expenditure in machinery and the production of 5000 yards of Cloth in one year, of a value not less than 4s. a yard, a Bonus of £2000 be paid.

On the subject of IRON MANUFACTURES, your Committee would beg to refer your Honorable House to the full and valuable Reports of Mr. Charles Gould, late Government Geologist, upon the Iron Ores of the Colony and their enormous extent, as shown in the Parliamentary Papers of 1866; and they would suggest that for the first 100 tons of Iron smelted with Charcoal in one year, by which process it is understood that the value is increased fourfold, a Bonus of £5000 be paid.

In the District where the Iron Ore most largely abounds there are extensive forests of timber, which, by the means recently adopted in this Colony on a small scale by the Pyrolignite Company, can be converted into Charcoal and produce Acids, Tar, Creosote, and other commercial products. By the combination of these industries, stimulated by a Bonus, the private capital which has been invested might be made highly remunerative, and increase the Exports of the Colony.

Your Committee are not prepared at present to go into the question of other Manufactures,—which indeed suggest themselves on every side,—but they are anxious that the four subjects now prominently brought forward should receive the attention of your Honorable House.

With regard to the COAL of the Colony and the various uses to which it can be put, and products derived from it, your Committee annex a letter from Mr. Gould, F.G.S., to which they desire especial attention should be paid.

They would state that they are not at present prepared to make any suggestions in regard to Coal during the Session: but, as it is in contemplation by Mr. Gould to publish a work immediately on the Geology of Tasmania, your Committee would earnestly commend the subject to the consideration of your Honorable House during a future Session of the Parliament, by which time further and much fuller information will be available.

Committee Room, 10 September, 1868.

JOHN MEREDITH, *Chairman.*

(Copy.)

Hobart Town, 8th September, 1868.

MY DEAR SIR,

WITH regard to your enquiry as to the products of the Distillation of Coal, and the possibility of turning the Coals of the Colony to account by some such process, I beg to state that the products are of various natures according to the temperature applied. I do not apprehend it to be necessary to consider at the present moment the numerous varieties deducible as bye products in the manufacture of Gas, but refer you at once to those obtained in the process specially conducted for the Distillation of Lighting Oil largely carried on in Europe and elsewhere. The proportion of Oils produced from Coals varies largely, but the following statement of the produce of one ton of Newcastle Cannel Coal may assist you in forming an idea as to the amount; viz.—

Crude Oil, 68 gallons.

While the Crude Oil further treated yielded

22½ Gallons of Lamp Oil (Kerosene).

24 Gallons Heavy Oil, and Paraffine.

I find that the minimum price to which Kerosene Oil has ever fallen in the Melbourne market was 1s. 7d. per gallon (duty paid), or about 1s. 5d. per gallon (duty unpaid).

The consumption in Hobart Town has gradually increased from 6000 gallons in 1863 to 20,000 gallons in 1867, and is still continuing to do so.

It is estimated that at a price of 2s. per gallon this Oil would compete successfully with Sperm Candles and other lighting materials; and that an amount of not less than 50,000 or 60,000 gallons could be disposed of annually in this Colony, while in Melbourne the demand would be of a very much more extensive nature.

I have not yet been able to ascertain the commercial value of the Paraffine and other products.

It is impossible to predicate the yield of Oil in the various Coals of the Colony; but I am of opinion that, in view of this extreme cheapness, substantial expectation may be entertained of their being commercially serviceable for the purpose.

Should you desire more detailed information on the various points I will endeavour to supply you with it.

I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours very faithfully,

JOHN MEREDITH, *Esq., M.H.A.*

CHARLES GOULD.