

(No. 20.)



1859.

T A S M A N I A.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER
THE QUESTION OF GRANTS IN AID OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.

Brought up by Mr. Anstey, and ordered to be printed, 18 August, 1859.



THE COMMITTEE appointed on the 16th August, 1859, to consider the question of Grants in aid of Public Institutions, have agreed to the following

R E P O R T.

YOUR Committee have enquired into the Rules under which the various Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes receiving Public Aid have been conducted up to the present time; and they find that, in every instance, the General Public are debarred from participating in the advantages thus afforded, and that these Institutions have been, and still are, essentially private, and available only to the Subscribers.

Your Committee cannot recognise the propriety of perpetuating a system of this kind, as they conceive that every Institution that depends in any degree upon the Public Funds for its support ought to be thrown open for the benefit of the Community at large, under reasonable rules and regulations.

They have, therefore, embodied their views in the following Resolutions, which they submit for the approval of your Honourable House:—

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That in all cases where aid is afforded by the Government towards the support of Public Libraries and Mechanics' Institutes, such Libraries, and the Libraries attached to such Institutions, shall be Reading Rooms open to the General Public.

2. That the Conditions under which contributions to such Libraries shall be made shall be fixed by the respective Boards of Education in Hobart Town and Launceston, under Regulations to be approved by the Government; but that the following shall be the Conditions with regard to Hobart Town and Launceston:—

Hobart Town: £200 in aid of Rooms, Librarian, &c.

£200 in aid of Books, on condition that the sum of £200 is raised annually by Private Subscription.

Launceston: £200 in aid of Books, on condition that £100 is raised annually by Private Subscription.

3. That the List of Books to be purchased by any such Libraries in any year shall be submitted to the respective Boards of Education.

4. That an Address be presented to His Excellency the Governor, praying him to cause to be placed on the Estimates a sum of £1000 in aid of the Public Libraries throughout the Colony for the year 1860.

5. That the payment of the Grants in aid of Horticultural Societies shall be made as heretofore.

6. That in all Public Libraries and Institutions aided by the Government the Books shall be vested in Trustees, and it shall be a stipulation that the Books shall be insured in the name of the Trustees; and the policies, with the receipt for each year's premium, shall be deposited with the Auditor before the Annual Contribution in each year is paid.

H. F. ANSTEY, *Chairman.*