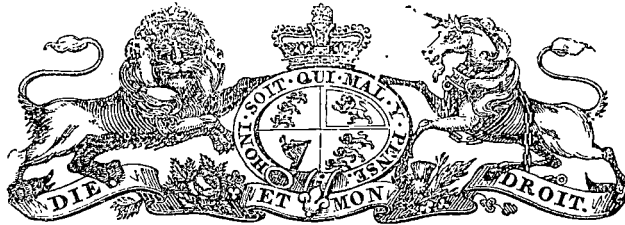


(No. 61.)



1889.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

DISTRICT SURVEYORS:

REPORTS FOR 1888.

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



DISTRICT SURVEYORS' REPORTS.

PROGRESS REPORT.

Wynyard, 24th April, 1889.

SIR,

In compliance with your request by Circular of the 9th instant, I have the honor to forward the following Progress Report ending 31st December, 1888.

During the last year 108 agricultural sections have been surveyed, comprising an area of 9217 acres, with $17\frac{1}{2}$ miles of road through the sections, and 10 mineral leases.

Settlement has progressed very fairly along the Cam Road, and a good number of selectors reside upon their selections; but, in other portions of my district, I am sorry to say, very few new residences are to be met with, although very great improvements have been made generally—viz., clearing and grassing their holdings, and, in many cases, fencing. This, in a large measure, is attributable to the fact that the selectors prefer to have the land under grass and partly cleared before building, in order to avoid the possibility of being burnt out in the summer by the neighbouring bush fires.

The estimated yield for this season's crops for export is as follows:—

	£
Potatoes, 5000 tons.....	10,000
Oats, 60,000 bushels	12,000
Wheat and Barley, 20,000 bushels	6000
Dairy produce.....	2000
Meat and Bacon.....	5000
Timber.....	3000
Hay.....	2000
Turnips, mostly fed off on the land.	

£40,000

The £40,000 is the estimated value of the produce for export from Wynyard alone, which township has made very great strides in the way of buildings this last two years. There are now two local banks, three hotels, one coffee palace, two bakers, three butchers, seven general stores, one chemist, four blacksmiths, three bootmakers, one saddle and harness maker, one saw-mill, four places of public worship, two doctors, Telegraph and Post Office (daily post), three schools (one under the Board of Education).

The produce, I feel sure, would be very much increased if the farmers could ship the produce direct from here by large steamers; but having no port for large vessels (a want very much felt), they are compelled to ship by small ones, to be transhipped again at an extra cost of about 5s. per ton.

Montagu, Stanley, Hellyer, Somerset, and Burnie have an equal, and some a much larger amount of produce for export.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

FREDK. E. WINDSOR,
District Surveyor.

E. A. COUNSEL, *Esq.*, Deputy Surveyor-General,
Hobart.

REPORT on Agricultural Settlement in G. C. Smith's Survey District.

During 1888 the progress of settlement on the agricultural lands in this district has continued at about the usual rate.

About forty-five lots have been applied for, containing an area of about 3100 acres, which, with two or three exceptions, have been surveyed.

The greater number of these are near the Upper George, and two recently taken up are some miles distant from the present settlement, on the south branch of the river. Here a tract of land of fairly good quality has been opened up. Several other selections have been made there this year, and more will doubtless follow. The land is hilly and heavily timbered, and at present difficult of access.

About St. Mary's some of the few spots still left for selection have been taken up. Here, however, there is now little Crown land that would be of use to any except those who hold adjoining lots, and who find it worth while to buy land of which in many cases not one-fifth of the area is of any value.

A few lots have been taken up in the vicinity of the Ringarooma River, where the area open for selection is limited, the land being reserved for minerals. The rest are scattered over the district, which consists principally of granite, slate, and greenstone ranges. In such country the land fit for cultivation generally exists only in small patches of alluvial along the banks of streams. Where these patches of good soil are found, it is often inadvisable to allow selection, for even if the land itself is not likely to be taken up for minerals, its alienation may throw difficulties in the way of the construction of water-races, and thus prevent or delay the working of large areas of mineral land. It is true that in most instances owners of land have not made use of the power which, to judge by the exceptions, they possess, of exacting a fancy price for permission to construct races through their property.

In this district, so far as I am aware, no land has been selected with the view of holding it in an unimproved state for the advance in value which may be expected. In most instances improvements are begun soon after possession is obtained. In many cases, no doubt, the holder of the land adjoining the selection is the actual selector, although the land is applied for in name of a relative or friend. Thus the provision against selection by the occupier of land not yet paid for is evaded. If, however, the residence condition were enforced, it would doubtless mostly be nominally complied with, to the inconvenience of the selector, without benefit to the State. About St. Mary's, among the numerous selections during the last two or three years there are few on which a homestead could be formed and a living made.

There is a considerable area of land fit for agricultural settlement in the County of Dorset, but it is nearly all reserved for minerals. It would be well if legislation could be devised which would allow agricultural lands to be selected without hampering the interests of mining. The great objection to the alienation of land in mineral districts is that obstacles are thus placed in the way of construction of water-races. Surely the interests of landowners could be sufficiently protected even if they were deprived of the power practically to stop any promising mining enterprise or irrigation scheme which depends on bringing water through their freeholds. In most instances a water-race will benefit rather than injure the land through which it passes.

The provisions for the sale by auction of lots not exceeding 30 acres in area are useful, but the area is too small for some situations, and selections of larger areas with proper safeguards might, I think, be legalised in mining districts with much advantage.

GEORGE C. SMITH.

27th April, 1889.

Latrobe, 15th April, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit to you my Annual Report for the year 1888.

During the year I have surveyed twenty-three sections, aggregating 1141 acres, applied for under the 24th section of "The Waste Lands Act," and 44 sections, comprising 1358 acres, under the Mineral and Gold Fields Acts.

The good and medium quality land suitable for agricultural purposes, in close proximity to the settled parts of the district, has all been selected. The only portion now left fit for cultivating purposes is situated along the slopes of Gad's Hill, near the Van Diemen's Land crossing-places on the Mersey and Forth Rivers; some of this land, although somewhat remote, is exceptionally good, and must be of workable value at no distant date. The new road lately formed from

Circular Ponds, in continuation of the Main Road from Chudleigh to the Mersey River, and thence up Gad's Hill, together with the reconstruction of the bridge over the river, will bring the intending settler within easy distance of the terminus of the Chudleigh and Mole Creek Railway.

The mineral discoveries at Middlesex Rise will also enhance the value of land in this locality.

Township land at Ugbrook and Liena is much enquired for, especially at Ugbrook, close to the Railway Station. Should private properties be placed in the market for township purposes, it will have a very deleterious effect on Crown land reserved for such purposes in the locality. I also recommend the reservation of a township area at the Forth River, on the road to Middlesex Plains; the want of small areas in this locality for business places and general accommodation is keenly felt by those who are following the mining industry. I believe were a township surveyed and subdivided allotments would command a ready sale at a high price.

Pastoral.

The large area of pastoral land in the District under my charge is exceptionally good, more especially for summer runs; as a rule it is well watered, healthy, grows good natural grasses, and easy of access, and could be worked with advantage in conjunction with agricultural areas around Chudleigh. I would recommend this matter for the careful consideration of those connected with pastoral farming.

Mineral.

During the past year mining has formed a feature, and some very satisfactory prospects obtained, but in some cases the prospectors have been too precipitate in placing their finds before the public; better had they been well prospected and opened out, in order to give the investor a fair idea of their value. At the Forth River and Five Mile Rise very good prospects in gold have been found, both in alluvial and quartz, reaching as high as 1oz. to the dish of dirt, and as low as a pennyweight in payable ground; many experienced miners are of opinion that the Ridge, which is comparatively narrow with good backs, contains a rich body of gold-bearing stone, shedding the gold northerly, for a distance of five miles in a westerly direction. To really good and experienced miners I can confidently recommend this country as well worth a trial. I shall always be glad to supply any information in my power to anyone wishing to test it.

Much inconvenience and positive annoyance is occasioned to those who are at present engaged in prospecting, and who have already secured and paid rent on their claims, by the *speculative miner*, who pegs out all around, and by continual renewing and *pre-dating* his "Notices," watches and awaits the result of those who are working; and again, by applying for "Protection Orders" and "Prospecting Areas" which he does not work, and never intends to work except compelled to do so. The effect of this system of *dummyism* is disastrous to mining in its infancy, and manifestly unfair to those who are expending large sums of money in the hope of success. There are at least 700 acres so locked up. This is a matter requiring immediate attention.

Roads and Bridges.

A road along the west bank of the Mersey River, southwards from Liena Township Reserve, would open up some rich agricultural land.

A bridge is urgently required across the Forth River on the Van Diemen's Land Road to Middlesex Plains. The "Cage," the present means of crossing, is decidedly dangerous in its present state, and requires immediate repairs to prevent loss of life. The traffic in this direction has increased so much during the year that I doubt very much if this means of crossing the river will meet the requirements through the winter months, as a large amount of important work will take place in this locality almost immediately. I earnestly ask that instructions may be issued at once for the necessary repairs. I estimate the cost at from £5 to £10.

I have, &c.

HENRY J. CHALMERS, *Government District Surveyor.*

The Deputy-Surveyor-General.

King-street, Sandy Bay, 31st December, 1888.

SIR,

WITH the close of the year I have the honor to furnish you with the following Annual Report of the district under my charge.

During the past twelve months nothing of a very special character has occurred, although selection has progressed in various parts of the district; the most noticeable improvement being in

the Parish of Triabunna, where over 1000 acres have been applied for and surveyed in six sections. As this block of land had been previously held under pastoral lease, and had been withdrawn from selection for some years, the eager way in which it was taken up is very suggestive of the desire of selectors to purchase such land where practicable and favourably situated, even though it be of a very indifferent quality, as in the present instance. This observation applies to land in the Parish of Buckland, where five lots of pastoral country have been selected, ranging from 25 to 100 acres. This land is of fair quality but heavily timbered, consisting of grassy rises, and generally stony. Said lots almost adjoin about 1000 acres taken up by Turvey, Bellette, and another a few years since. I believe a few more sections will be applied for in this locality.

In Kilmanahan 240 acres have been applied for, and in the Parishes of Killingford, Woodsdale, and Whiteford respectively there have been three lots applied for, ranging from 9 to 100 acres, whilst 500 acres have been selected in the Parish of Exmouth (near the Old Man's Head), in five sections. A few more isolated lots have been applied for in various places, making the total area for the whole district 3162 acres.

It will be seen from the foregoing information that this year has not been a prosperous one as far as settlement in this district is concerned; and where it was thought that selection would have been most active, viz., in the vicinity of Bream Creek, no advance has taken place. This disappointment is no doubt attributable to the want of road communication to open up the country.

I have urged this matter on the attention of the Government year after year in my Annual Reports after having made a special report on the subject, but so far my efforts have been unsuccessful. I have a letter in my possession from the then Minister of Lands informing me that the amount required for this work would come out of the vote for Tracks generally, and that my suggestions would receive due attention. I now find, however, that there is only the very small sum of £50 available for this purpose, which sum is altogether insufficient for the necessary requirements of the undertaking. I cannot, therefore, impress upon your consideration too strongly the desirability of making provision for the carrying out of the above work, which would prove reproductive to the country by promoting the best interests of *bonâ fide* settlement in what is at present a wilderness.

Coming to the question of land surveyed for auction in the vicinity of Rhyndaston, it is certainly singular that so little of this land went off at the recent land sale, seeing the large number of signatures that were attached to the letter requesting the opportunity to purchase, and by which letter I was to a great extent guided in my recommendations on the subject. Moreover, whilst the surveys were being effected there were numerous enquiries for information respecting the lots, and there appeared to be a general desire to purchase this land (by persons in the locality) as early as possible. No doubt the fact of Mr. Stokell's having had the Lake Tiberias property divided for disposal has materially interfered with the sale of the Crown land, and that a number of the latter lots will be purchased at no distant date.

Improvements on Maria Island are very noticeable since my last Report, chiefly in the erection of substantial buildings for the accommodation of residents and visitors, with lime-kilns and necessary preparations for the production and export of lime and Portland cement, from which industries a remunerative return for the outlay is anticipated, as the quantity and quality of the material are highly satisfactory. The general management of the Company has been transferred from Signor Bernacchi to Mr. Pirie, who is said to be a Civil Engineer, and possessed of the necessary qualifications for the position. At the time of my last visit to the Island vegetation was suffering from the general drought of the season up to November last. The vines looked healthy, and showed signs of careful attention.

The coal mines of Jerusalem and York Plains respectively are still affording the necessary inducement to the proprietors to continue operations. I believe that the former could supply a much larger quantity of marketable coal if greater facilities for transit to market were available.

The stone quarries at Oakhampton and Orford have not been in active operation for some time—a matter to be regretted, as the stone is of high quality. The wattle-bark industry has, however, been well supported, and the barkers' occupation vigorously pursued throughout the district during the stripping season.

With the foregoing observations,

I have, &c.,

E. A. COUNSEL, *District Surveyor.*

The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works, Hobart.

Invermay, 1st January, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report as follows concerning the district under my charge for the past year.

Selection has been about the same as last year, the figures being 7600 acres in 1887, and 7627 acres in 1888; in fact, the total areas surveyed have been much the same—7840 acres in 1887, and 7805 acres in 1888—not counting some few surveys that are completed but have not yet been sent to the office, which will show in this year's accounts. These surveys are, as usual, scattered over the whole district, except about the Nile and North Esk Rivers. The withdrawal of land from selection in Parish of Scottsdale is, no doubt, keeping back selection there, for though there are pieces that present landholders would select, they seem afraid to apply for them for fear of being run up at auction, and the land is barely worth the upset price. I have no doubt if this land were again opened more would be selected, and, as proved already, the Government will get no more for it by keeping selection back. The Messrs. Ditcham and others have amongst them selected all land available south of the railway line in vicinity of Denison Gorge, so that there is now but little land along the railway route available for selection. I might here suggest that it would be advisable to start cutting up some of the reserves along its route, that is, to sell portions of each, say five or ten lots of 50 acres each in each reserve, leaving railway station as centre of township reserve. In this way they will make extra feeders for the line, and more direct roads. These lots would, of course, go to auction. Lisle gold-field reserve is much too large, and should be considerably curtailed on its west and south sides, and so help selection; and I would again suggest cutting up some more 30-acre lots adjoining those already done in the vicinity of Lisle. There is no gold up where they are, and miners could work them during the summer months when their claims do not pay. The lots sold there previously brought £2 per acre.

Surveys.—Orders have been received for 148 surveys, all of which, with the exception of 29, have been effected or otherwise dealt with (some were returned to the office, as they were required for auction earlier than I could have attended to them), while some of the 29 are effected, but plans have not yet been sent in. Some of these orders are for roads, and others include roads of considerable length. I have no incomplete orders more than six months old, and shall have all orders in hand completed early this year. The following list shows lots and areas surveyed under separate heads:—

Agricultural.....	86 lots,	7627 acres.
Schools.....	2 lots,	5 acres.
Town	5 lots,	45 acres.
Gold.....	11 lots,	88 acres.
Mineral (Tin).....	2 lots,	40 acres.
Water-races, 4.		

Mines.—Under this heading there is a falling off of lots surveyed, and at present I know of nothing indicating better prospects. I am sometimes inclined to think that too much is thought of the presence of the "colour" by the Department, as shown by some applications in the vicinity of Panama, though, of course, it is right to be cautious, and in advising the Government on the matter I have always been careful to sin on the right side, though I know of no one who has made anything out of either Panama, Golconda, or the Denison, and I knew them two years before being appointed their surveyor eight years ago.

Accounts.—Surveyors are asked to render these monthly to facilitate payment, yet twice this year mine have been allowed to accumulate till amounting to considerable amounts. This is a great source of annoyance, and I feel sure it could be avoided. If the Department kept back £50 as security it should be sufficient, and in my own case if security is wanted to insure correctness or correction of surveys I can supply it. There is no reason for a whole account to be kept back for one item or for doubtful items; they are invariably struck out in the end, so may as well be at the start.

I have, &c.

C. W. LORD, *District Surveyor.*

The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works, Hobart.

River Forth, 15th April, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit for your information the following Report upon the surveys effected and progress made during the last year in my district.

Surveys have been made pretty well all over the district, varying in size from 15 acres up to 320 acres. There have been over 8000 acres surveyed for agricultural purposes, comprising some 80 lots; 535 acres have been marked off for coal, in five lots; 68 acres for silver-lead, in three lots, and several lots have been re-taken under the Mineral Lands Act; two lots of small area for building-

stone. Some surveys have been effected for the Public Works Department, and a few for Council of Education for school purposes. Other surveyors have been at work in this district whose operations I am not acquainted with, but I dare say the total for agricultural purposes will amount to some 900 acres in all. A large portion of land has been surveyed in the Wilmot country, extending back for some 24 miles, and applicants are making improvements on lots nearly this distance back. This locality, between the Forth and Wilmot, seems likely to become a very flourishing district, the soil being mostly of excellent quality and well watered. From what I have been able to observe, there is no large extent of country remaining suitable for selection in this locality, although scattered lots will be found and taken up probably for some years to come: the same applies to Kentishbury and the country between the Leven and Blythe. The south and south-west portions of Nietta should furnish a considerable portion of land which will in the future be selected as soon as a road opens up the district. The settled portions of this part of Devon are progressing very rapidly. The railway to Formby, and the direct steam communication with Victoria and New South Wales, Launceston, and the West Coast, is adding a great deal to its material prosperity. Good crops and a fair price for produce are making their effects felt here, which will no doubt tend towards opening the new lands which have been selected.

I have, &c.

RICHD. HALL.

The Deputy Surveyor-General, Crown Lands Office, Hobart.

Waratah, 20th May, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward a report upon the work done in my district during the year 1888 under my supervision and direction.

In January and the beginning of February, 1888, I was engaged in surveying lots not exceeding 30 acres each, under 45 Vict. No. 5, adjoining the Town of Waratah. Seven lots were laid out. The land was of fair quality, chiefly basaltic, heavily timbered with myrtles, sassafras, and gums; an undergrowth existed of small ferns and tree ferns. In April of the year 1888, a demand was made for a large number of sections under the M. L. Act in the Heazlewood District, owing to the discovery of silver-lead ores there. A number of these I surveyed, disposing of whole of instructions I held at that time. In the latter part of April proceeded to Strahan, under instructions to extend the township there. While engaged here quite a rush for sections was made at Zeehan, owing to known discoveries of silver-lead looking so promising. Mr. Surveyor Brown, Mr. Surveyor Power, and Mr. Surveyor Thompson were instructed to carry out the work. Mr. Thompson returned without doing any work, and Mr. Surveyor Coombes was appointed in his stead. My work was to survey and reserve the existing road from Reminé to Zeehan. On completing this, about the 20th May, 1888, instructions were received to select and survey a town site at Mount Zeehan. In this, as directed, I obtained the assistance of Mr. Kennon, also the late Mr. R. Ritchie, Mr. Con. H. Curtain, and others. It seemed a central position, and the ground was not leased. There were also some mineral sections which fell to my lot to dispose of. Left Zeehan at the end of July, 1888, and again proceeded to Strahan to finish extension of Town of Strahan, survey of 30-acre lots under 45 Vict. No. 5, and the necessary reserves. These were done with in the early part of September, 1888. From Strahan I proceeded with six men to do what surveys were needed at the Queen River, Mount Lyell, and near the King River near Mount Owen. At the latter place, 10 sections of 30 acres each were laid off under 45 Vict. No. 5; very fair land, some of it heavily timbered with gums and myrtles, the rest forming nice open glades, lightly timbered. This land is sometimes flooded by the King River, and a good deal more of it is yet available, both above and below the lots surveyed. Sections at Mount Lyell were surveyed for both silver-lead and gold. Howard's Plains were next visited, in October, and about 12 applications for gold leases surveyed. Orr and Watson seemed to have some nice stone here, containing some nice looking reef-gold. They were engaged in testing their ground by means of shafts, &c., and deserve to be thoroughly successful. The King River Co. were also prospecting for a reef by means of a tunnel. Gold-bearing stone could also be found on their sections. In November, 1888, the sections known as the Macquarie, and others near Woody Hill, were marked off. These were also gold leases, and the Macquarie G. M. Co. had some rare samples of gold-bearing stone to show at a depth of nearly 100 feet. Ultimately it was tested by the erection of a 10-head battery with all necessary appliances, and the result did not quite come up to expectations. Work is, however, still being proceeded with. In December last, visited Mount Jukes, where we surveyed two sections for silver-lead, discovered by John Newall, known as Sailor Jack. It is a promising find, and is worthy of some attention. Some gold sections were also disposed of a few miles from the silver find, and also on one of the spurs of Mount Sorell. Very little prospecting was being done, although a party were engaged in working a portion of Flannigan's Creek. There is no pack-horse track to this locality, consequently all provisions have to be packed out on men's backs, as high as 6*l.* per lb. having to be paid for this work, and the distance not more than 6 miles—that is, at the rate of one penny per lb. per mile. Under these circumstances it is not to be wondered at that this part of the country is not more explored. There are good indications of this country being auriferous, and a great deal of alluvial gold has been obtained at different times, but the almost

inaccessible nature of the country prevents it obtaining that attention it deserves. A line of road has been "blazed" or marked through the country, starting at Kelly's Basin, and terminating at the road made from Strahan to the King River mine, thence on to Mount Lyell and Marlborough, near the Queen River bridge. On this line of road there will be several bridges to make, but it is a tract of country that should be remunerative to the Government if opened up by the route marked.

On December 21st last, I returned home to Waratah, my head quarters, after an absence of over 10 months.

I have, &c.

DAVID JONES, *District Surveyor.*

The Deputy Surveyor-General, Hobart.

Port Esperance, 7th May, 1889.

SIR,

HEREWITH I have the honor to forward for your information my Annual Report for 1888-89 upon survey work in the District of Huon, of which I have charge.

I have made it as short as possible, a great deal of it being necessarily a repetition of last year's Report, there being very little change.

I would respectfully urge upon you the necessity of making some of the roads I have indicated as being required, especially those in the Parish of Leithbridge, from Franklin, and Geeveston in the Parish of Honeywood, towards the Arve; also, that from Hopetown (Port Esperance) towards Crown lands; each of these places being a centre of population around which all the available land has been selected.

There are plenty of instances in this District where a good branch road would be a boon, but I have only mentioned those which I consider are urgently required.

I have, &c.

E. G. INNES, *District Surveyor.*

*The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works,
Surveyor-General, &c.*

Port Esperance, 7th May, 1889.

SIR,

SINCE March, 1888, I have surveyed in the Huon District some fifty-seven (57) selections, comprising lots of from 5 to 320 acres each, and having a collective area of over three thousand (3000) acres, and I think I shall be safe in saying that four-fifths of these lots have been taken up for *bonâ fide* settlement, the remainder being for timber and other purposes.

Selection in this district is rather slack, and in some portions of it almost at a standstill, especially in the Parish of Leithbridge.

We have no lack of good land in the various portions of the district, especially in the Parishes of Leithbridge, Honeywood, and Thanet, where there are large areas of country suitable for settlement, but without roads of any description; they are inaccessible to the would-be settler.

In the County of Buckingham, Parishes of Pedder, Bedford, and Bagot, the greater portion of the good land has been alienated, consequently there is very little selection going on there.

In the Parishes of Garrett, Purves, and Blakeney, which are the most densely timbered portions of the district, selection is chiefly confined to the owners of the various sawmills and their employees, consequently agriculture is not carried on to any great extent.

In the County of Buckingham, upon South Bruni Island, there is still a large area of good and very fair land suitable for settlement, which enjoys one advantage over the remaining portion of the district, viz., that it is not so heavily timbered.

A considerable advance in the way of settlement has been made here during the last three or four years, and the selections generally have had a fair amount of improvement.

The great drawback to settlement in the Huon is the want of roads and tracks leading into the back country, and until more is done in that direction selection will continue to flag.

Roads and Tracks.

Branch roads to open up Crown lands are required in the following positions or thereabouts:—

Parish of Leithbridge.—An extension of the road to Upper Huon towards the mouth of the Arve River.

An extension of the Arve Road at the back of the Town of Franklin (this is urgently required) would open a considerable area of first-class land, and a splendid bed of gum timber for splitting purposes.

Parish of Honeywood.—An extension of the Arve Road from Geeves to the Upper Arve Valley (this is also urgent), would open up some splendid land which would at once be taken up and would be settled upon. This line would not be expensive, there being no engineering difficulties in the way.

Parish of Price.—An extension of the Tongataboo Road to Crown lands is advisable, but no immediate necessity.

Parish of Thanet.—This parish contains a very large area of good Crown land, which is at present almost inaccessible to the selector owing to there being no branch roads into it. The land along the line of road from Geeveston to Dover has all been taken up, in some instances improved upon, and I believe in all cases it has been a *bonâ fide* purchase.

A branch road is urgently required to commence at or near the Hopetown sawmills, going in a west and north-westerly direction along a reserved road through private property into Crown lands. I have repeatedly had inquiries for land in this direction, and in some cases the application has been made but abandoned again for want of a road. A small sum of money is, I believe, at present available for this line, some £100, which is almost useless, as it would scarcely reach through the land at present purchased.

The way in which I would recommend these lands to be opened to the public, and the one that would require the least outlay in the first instance, would be to have them properly laid out, in the best positions as regard grades, &c., then cleared of all scrub for a width of 33 feet, all timber removed for a distance of eight feet on each side of centre line, and culverts and bridges put in where required, and in the case of a sidelong grade a narrow forming to be done. This would give settlers a chance of getting cattle and provisions to and fro, without which advantage there is very little hope of these heavily timbered lands being settled upon to any extent for many years to come.

I have, &c.

E. G. INNES, *District Surveyor.*

*The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works,
Surveyor-General, &c.*

Stone Buildings, Hobart, 12th June, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward my Annual Report upon the settlement of Crown lands in my District.

The selection of Crown land has increased during the past year. This I attribute, to a great extent, to the Derwent Valley Railway, which has enabled selectors to get easy access to a market for their produce.

The land recently reported upon at Russell's Falls, and which I also reported upon in 1883, is now all applied for; but I believe that a large area still exists to the west, along the river, for further settlement.

In the Florentine Valley there is also a considerable extent of splendid land, but this has not yet been selected, as at present it is too far away for selectors; but if the Derwent Valley Railway is extended *viâ* Ellendale, I believe all this land, and thousands of acres in the vicinity of Mount Field East, will soon be taken up. The only other portions of my District in which there is any extent of good land is at Mount Lloyd and on the River Nive, near Buffer's Look-out; but no land has been selected there during the past year. I have also recently surveyed some selections on the River Clarence, principally open marsh land; a large area of the same description of country is also to be found in the same locality.

Other selections surveyed in the vicinity of Native Tier and Parish of Hale and Ponsonby have been taken up by selectors adding to their present holdings.

I have, &c.

THOMAS FRODSHAM.

E. A. COUNSEL, *Esquire, Deputy Surveyor-General.*

Deloraine, 4th July, 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report of the district under my charge as follows:—

The capabilities of the District have been so often fully reported upon that there is little fresh to add. With the exception of a block of land comprising from two to three thousand acres of good scrub land between Coombe's Creek and the head waters of the Liffey, there are no large tracks fit for settlement.

This land was reported upon specially in May, 1888, and the then Minister of Lands promised me that a track should be opened into it. Nothing in this direction has been done, and I beg to bring under your notice the importance of opening fresh country as occasion may arise.

Fresh settlement there is none. The Crown lands taken up are generally to increase old holdings, in conjunction with which land of inferior quality can be advantageously worked.

With regard to the mines in the District, as full information is furnished every week by the mining managers and published in the newspapers, I deem it unnecessary to make any report.

I have, &c.

H. PERCY SORELL, *District Surveyor.*

The Deputy Surveyor-General.

REPORT re Progress and Settlement on Tasman's and Forestier's Peninsulas for the past Twelve Months.

IN reference to the former I regret to say that there have been few selections, owing in a great measure to lands being reserved south of the main road between Carnarvon and Wedge Bay. With regard to this reservation, recommended by Mr. Perrin (late Conservator of Forests), I may state, from actual inspection, that the timber is mainly swamp gum (splitting timber), blue gum being rarely met with. I would suggest that about 2200 acres be reserved for timber, as shown on enclosed lithograph, and the reserve be well defined on the ground, throwing the balance open for selection under the 24th Section of "The Waste Lands Act." Owing to the dense nature of the undergrowth, I would recommend, for the convenience of selectors, a track being cut ten feet wide, from J. T. Soundy's 100 acres southerly to coast-line. This land is of fairly good quality, and may be classed as fairly good agricultural. I estimate the cost of cutting the pack-track at from 4s. to 5s. per chain. The line of track should be laid out with due regard to gradients, &c., as it will form the basis of main road to selections in that vicinity.

Re Coal Reserve at Salt Water River.

50 acres would embrace all the coal measures, which should be defined *well* on the ground, and the balance (including 4000 acres under occupation licence) thrown open under the 24th Section of "The Waste Lands Act."

JNO. J. THOMPSON, *District Surveyor.*
15. 4. 89.

REPORT re Forestier's Peninsula.

SELECTIONS on the above have been few, as intending selectors were under the impression that the agricultural land, as shown on lithograph attached, had been reserved for timber.

Now that the Minister of Lands has decided to throw the country open for selection, I feel certain that settlement will ensue.

I would recommend a ten-foot track being cut from the Sound's Jetty north-easterly to Blackman's River.

When marking off W. J. Oates' selection of 320 acres during the week, I will fully examine the country, and report as to timber, &c.

JNO. J. THOMPSON, *District Surveyor.*
14. 4. 89.