

(No. 106.)



1884.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

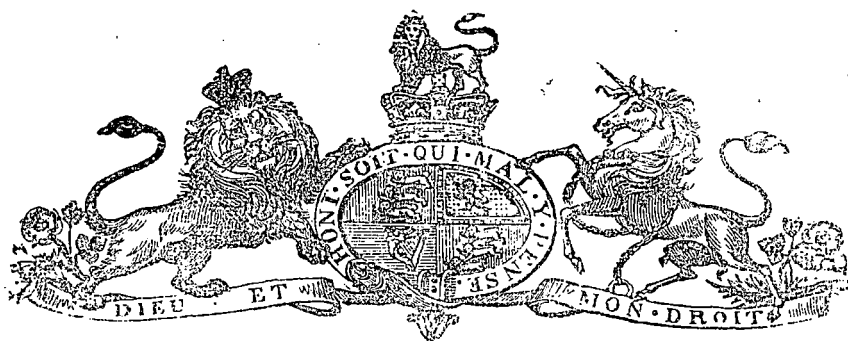
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**ARREARS OF RENTS FOR PASTORAL LEASES :**

**REPORT OF DEPUTY SURVEYOR-GENERAL.**

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



*Lands and Works Office, Hobart, 30th July, 1884.*

SIR,

IN reply to your Memo. of the 26th ult. on the subject of Arrears of Pastoral Rents, as noticed in the Auditor's Report lately laid before Parliament, I beg to submit the following explanation.

For some time past the Auditor has drawn attention to the amount of Pastoral Rents in arrear, and during the Session of 1882 a Return was laid on the Table of the House of Assembly purporting to be a correct list of all amounts owing.

Soon after my appointment to this office I looked into this matter, and discovered that this list was unreliable, including as it did lots abandoned by the holders and again advertised for rental by this Department; lots, the greater part of which had been selected and purchased; and other lots already leased a second time.

Moreover, it was evident that any attempt to recover the arrears by process of Law would fail, as no licences had ever been issued, and the notices sent from the Treasury contained an intimation that if the rents were not paid within one month of the date of notice the licence would be forfeited.

Under these circumstances the matter was submitted for your decision, and in accordance with your instructions all the licences for which rents had not been received were forfeited and again put up to auction. They will be found advertised in the *Gazette* of the 14th August and 25th September, 1883.

The result has been as follows :—

Total area advertised for lease by auction .....	154,089 acres.
Total area re-leased .....	42,509 acres.
Annual rental .....	£737 10s.

I was under the impression the matter had been finally disposed of, as no intimation to the contrary has ever been given me.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

CHAS. P. SPRENT,  
*Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands.*

*The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works.*