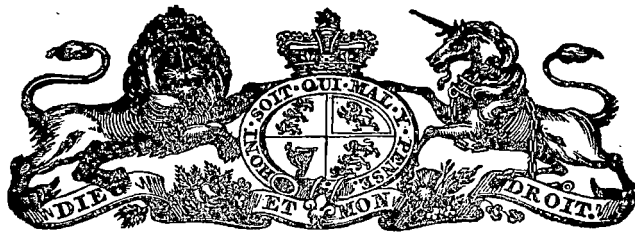


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SESSION III.

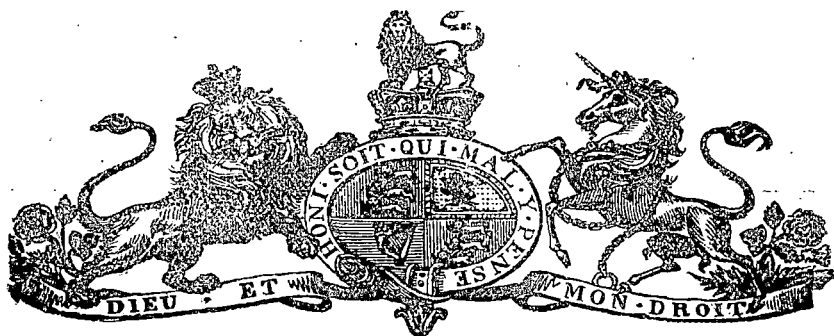
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

STATISTICS, 1876:

LETTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN TO THE
COLONIAL SECRETARY.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Crowther, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 17, 1877.



Legislative Council Office, 12th July, 1877.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that in consequence of the difficulty of getting in certain returns, and, as I am informed, of the press of work at the Government Printing Office, more especially during the last Session of Parliament, I am not yet in a position to place in your hands the Volume of Statistics for 1876.

I have had as usual much trouble in obtaining the necessary information from some sources, notably the general returns from Glenorchy, and the Magisterial return from Hamilton.

On applying to the Inspector of Police for his returns, I find that he is labouring under the same difficulty of obtaining information from some of the municipalities, and is therefore not yet in a position to render them in a complete state.

The present seems a fitting opportunity of making some suggestions with a view of expediting the collection of materials for the Statistics.

By Act 39 Victoria, No. 11, the accounts of the Road Trusts are required to be furnished to the Colonial Auditor during the month of March, and those of the Rural Municipalities before the 31st March. If these requirements were complied with, there would be no difficulty in obtaining in sufficient time the information necessary for Statistical purposes; but, on reference to the Audit Office, I find that many of the Rural Municipalities and Road Trusts do not furnish their accounts until a considerable time after the prescribed limit. No penalty is attached to this neglect, and all experience shows that where there is no penalty the law is broken with impunity.

Again, it is no easy matter to obtain returns of the number of persons on the Electoral Rolls; and on the present occasion several of the Returning Officers have failed to furnish them. The supplying of the required particulars seems more properly to be a function of the Chairmen of the Courts of Revision; and I would therefore suggest that the Electoral Act should be so amended as to make it obligatory on them, when forwarding the revised Rolls to the Clerk of the Peace, to send at the same time returns in the form enclosed, (marked A).

It is also very desirable that the Returning Officers should be required at every General Election of the House of Assembly, and every Election of a Member for the Legislative Council, to transmit to the Clerk of the Peace a Return in the accompanying form (marked B.) in every case where a contest took place.

But in all these cases, if obedience to the law is to be ensured, it will be necessary that a penalty should be attached to the non-fulfilment of the duty imposed, and be strictly enforced.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. C. NOWELL. *Government Statistician.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

A.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

RETURN showing the Number of Electors whose Names were on the Electoral Rolls before the last Revision, the Number whose Names were struck off or added, and the Number whose Names were remaining on the Rolls after such Revision.

Electoral District.	Date of holding Court of Revision.	Number on Roll before Revision.	Number struck off the Roll.	Number added to the Roll.	Number on Roll after Revision.

Chairman of Court of Revision.

B.

POLITICAL FRANCHISE.

RETURN showing the Number of Votes recorded, and of Informal Ballot Papers, at the contested Election for the Electoral District of _____ held on _____.

Number of Votes recorded.	Number of Informal Ballot Papers.

Returning Officer.