



1920

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS :

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

Brought up by Mr. Treasurer, November 23, 1920, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed.

REPORT.

THE Standing Committee on Public Accounts has the honour to present the following report upon the nine applications for loans by local bodies submitted to it for consideration :—

(1)—LEVEN MUNICIPALITY.

The Leven Municipal Council has applied for a loan of £8500 for the purpose of erecting and furnishing a town hall and offices at Ulverstone, and the Committee recommends the same to the favourable consideration of the House, with a provision for a 1 per cent. per annum sinking fund.

(2)—BRUNI MUNICIPALITY.

The Bruni Municipal Council has applied for a loan of £200 for the purpose of building (in part cost) a memorial hall at Lunawanna. The foundation of this hall is already completed and paid for by contributions from residents, and the Council has a balance of £25 in hand. The Committee recommends the application to the favourable consideration of the House, with a provision for a 2 per cent. per annum sinking fund, and the building to be covered by insurance with the State Insurance Department.

(3)—MERSEY MARINE BOARD.

The Mersey Marine Board has applied for a loan of £60,000 for the purpose of—(a) deepening and widening the outer and inner harbour; (b) reclaiming certain areas by dredgings from the harbour; (c) strengthening the eastern training wall; (d) providing further shed-accommodation for outward and inward cargo; and (e) erection of Harbourmaster's residence.

In this case it appears to the Committee that the proposed work is necessary to provide greater facilities for the increasing shipping at the port of Devonport. The financial position of the Board is sound, and there should be no difficulty experienced in meeting the interest upon the loan. The Committee therefore recommends this application to the favourable consideration of the House, with a provision for a sinking fund of 1 per cent. per annum.

(4)—EMU BAY MUNICIPALITY.

The Emu Bay Municipal Council has applied for a loan of £4000 for the purpose of putting in a duplicate 6-inch cast-iron pipe main from the present receiving tanks into the Town of Burnie. This work will nearly double the present supply of water, and the Committee recommends the application to the favourable consideration of the House, with a provision for a sinking fund of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum.

(5)—SCOTTSDALE MUNICIPALITY.

The Scottsdale Municipal Council has applied for a loan of £8000 for the purpose of lighting and supplying electric power to the Town of Scottsdale. A poll, which was in favour of the proposal, has been taken of the ratepayers of Scottsdale. The Committee recommends the application to the favourable consideration of the House, with a provision for a sinking fund of 2 per cent. per annum.

(6)—GLENORCHY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

An application was received from the Glenorchy Municipal Council for a loan of £20,000 (subsequently raised to £27,000), to enable it to enlarge the holding capacity of the present reservoir, to purchase certain land, to extend and enlarge the existing reticulation, and to refund certain moneys paid out of revenue upon works properly chargeable to loans.

With the rapid increase of the population, and the growth of large industries in this Municipality, it is apparent that the present water scheme, even when enlarged and extended, will very soon be insufficient to meet the requirements of the district. At the suggestion of the Committee, a small board of experts has been asked to go fully into the question of increased storage, and to report to the Government thereon, in order that the subject may be further considered next session.

In the meantime, the Committee is of opinion that the proposals for the enlargement of the present reservoir should be proceeded with, as this is a matter of urgent necessity. These works will be essential whether further storage is found desirable or not.

The Committee therefore recommends the application for £27,000 to the favourable consideration of the House, with a provision for a sinking fund of 1 per centum per annum.

(7)—PERTH WATER TRUST.

The Perth Water Trust has applied for a loan of £1200 to improve the water-supply of the Town of Perth, the scheme to include the laying-down of 3168 feet of 4-inch wooden pipes. Consideration was given to the question whether it would be preferable for the Trust to lay down wooden pipes or reinforced concrete pipes. This question had not been finally determined by the Trust at the date when this report was being prepared.

The Committee recommends the application to the favourable consideration of the House, with a provision for a sinking fund of $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum if concrete pipes are adopted, and of 2 per cent. if wooden pipes are decided upon.

(8)—STRAHAN MARINE BOARD.

The Strahan Marine Board has applied for a loan of £5000 for the purpose of constructing an inner training wall in Macquarie Harbour, from Wellington Head to Bonnet Island.

The Committee recommends the application to the favourable consideration of the House, but on the condition that the loan shall only be granted upon a further favourable report upon the project being obtained from another engineer with experience in such matters. In the event of the loan being granted, the Committee considers that the sinking fund should be 1 per centum per annum.

(9)—MARINE BOARD OF CIRCULAR HEAD.

The Marine Board of Circular Head has applied for a loan of £18,000 for the purpose of constructing additional wharfage accommodation at the Port of Stanley. There is no doubt that the present wharfage is inadequate, and with the growth of the agricultural and timber industries in the district of Circular Head, and the consequent increase in shipping, the work appears to be very necessary.

Your Committee therefore recommends the application to the favourable consideration of the House, with a provision for a sinking fund of 1½ per cent. per annum.

In each of the foregoing cases the recommendations of the Committee are subject to a report being received from the Parliamentary Draftsman that the Bills as brought in are in order.

N. E. LEWIS, Chairman.

No. 1 Committee Room,
House of Assembly,
19th November, 1920.