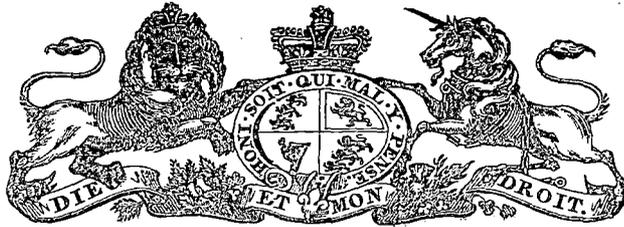


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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

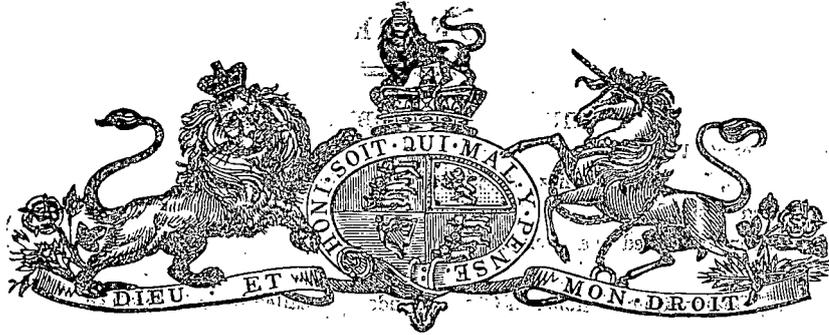
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WILLIAM TAYLOR'S CASE:

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE, WITH MINUTES OF  
PROCEEDINGS, AND EVIDENCE.

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Brought up by Mr. Gill, October 23, 1893, and ordered by the House of Assembly  
to be printed.



*SELECT COMMITTEE appointed, on the 20th October, 1893, to enquire into the case of William Taylor, a Miner, who arrived in the Colony in 1879 with his family, and who has had the misfortune to lose both his hands on one of the Public Works of the Colony.*

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MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. BENNETT.  
MR. CRISP.  
MR. BIRD.

MR. VON STIEGLITZ.  
MR. GILL. (*Mover.*)

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DAY OF MEETING.

Thursday, October, 26.

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WITNESSES EXAMINED.

Mr. Albert Reid, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands; Mr. William Taylor.

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EXPENSES OF WITNESSES.

Nil.

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REPORT.

Your Committee have the honor to report, that they have given careful enquiry into the case referred to them, and find—

1. That the Petitioner, William Taylor, would have been entitled to the 30 acres of land, had he not unfortunately failed to comply with the official Regulations of the Immigration Act on his arrival in the Colony.

2. That the said William Taylor has rendered good service to the Colony by exploring and prospecting Mount Heemskirk, and that, when incapacitated by accident from following his occupation as a miner, he has honestly endeavoured to bring up his family, without becoming a burden on the State, by cultivating an allotment of land taken up under the Waste Lands Act.

Your Committee have the honor to recommend that a grant of the 67 acres of land at the Sandfly, now held by the Petitioner, be issued to him.

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## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1893.

The Committee met at 11 A.M.

*Present.*—Mr. Crisp, Mr. Von Stieglitz, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Gill (Mover).

Mr. Gill was voted to the Chair.

Mr. William Taylor was called in and examined.

Mr. Taylor withdrew.

Mr. Albert Reid, Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, was called in and examined.

Mr. Reid withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

The draft Report was tabled, read, and agreed to.

At 1 P.M. the Committee adjourned *sine die*.

## EVIDENCE.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1893.

WILLIAM TAYLOR, *called and examined.*

1. *By the Chairman.*—What is your name? William Taylor.

2. Will you state to the Committee the particulars of your case? I left England on 21st April, 1879, and arrived about the following June in Tasmania by the *Southern Cross* from Melbourne. Shortly afterwards I was engaged by a Company known as the Montagu Tin Mining Association, and went to Mount Heemskirk in their service. While there the hut I lived in was burnt down, and all my ship papers destroyed, therefore I cannot produce them here. While I was there I saved a few pounds, and went prospecting and made a little more, and then sent for my wife and family. When my wife and family arrived here I was engaged by Mr. John Clark, contractor for the Campbell Town Water Works, to go as overseer under him on the Waterworks, as it was work I was accustomed to before leaving England. While engaged there in blasting I had the misfortune to meet with a terrible accident, which destroyed one arm entirely and the other hand all but one finger. I was blamed by many for what I did, and they said it was my own fault. It was my own fault in one way, but anyone that understands blasting will exonerate me from all blame in the matter. The hole was charged with powder, not dynamite, on a Saturday evening about 6 o'clock, and 36 hours afterwards, on the following Monday morning, I went to tamp the hole out. Anyone who understands the work of blasting will know that in that time the powder might have been expected to get damp and be harmless. I could not imagine that there was any danger, although at the same time I took every precaution, keeping the hole filled with water as I worked the powder out with the drill. I had got all the powder out except about two inches at the bottom, when it suddenly and unaccountably exploded.

3. You then were taken to the hospital? Yes, I was in the hospital in Campbell Town for some little time, I cannot say how long. I then kept a little boarding-house and greengrocer's shop in Launceston. I afterwards came down to Hobart. I had a few pounds that were collected for me at Campbell Town and different places, and I spent them in horses and cabs. I then took a public-house called the *Black Swan Hotel*. It is a house that has never done well for anyone, and I was obliged to leave it, especially as my wife, who is aged, got ill, and has been ill off and on for the last six years.

4. What did you do then? I had a horse and cart, and I took to hawking; but I had an accident at Deloraine that broke my cart up, and the horse was so injured that he was never any good afterwards. After that I came to Hobart, and applied to the Lands and Works Office for work as overseer, at which I obtained a few odd jobs, being two years and six months doing nothing, until last Christmas, when I got an engagement to go on the road again under another supervisor, at 5s. a day for three months; and from that I paid £4 for the ground I am on now. It was owned by a man named Roberts, living on the Huon Road, and he offered to sell it to me for £12 10s.

5. How much had been paid on the land? I cannot say. I don't think there had been anything paid on it?

6. You did not take the land from the Crown? No, it was transferred to me by Mr. Roberts, and he let me have it for the money he said it cost him. He now wants £8 10s., the balance, and I have not got it to give him.

7. How much is owing to the Government on it? I don't know. There are 67 acres in the piece that was transferred to me, and that at £1 an acre and other expenses will come to close on £100.

8. Who is living with you? My wife and two sons.

9. How old are they? One is nine and the other is 25. The eldest one is working on the road at 4s. a day, earning about 16s. a week.

10. Is he single? Yes, and is living with me.
11. How much have you paid for those you introduced into the Colony, including yourself? £51 15s.
12. Did the Lands Office apply to you for the instalments on the land, or to Roberts? To me.
13. They recognise you as the holder of the ground at present? Yes. There was an instalment of £3 12s. due some four months ago, and I was compelled to ask to get it put off for six or twelve months.
14. And you cannot tell us how much has been paid on the land? I am not aware that there has been anything paid.
15. Do you remember what instalment it was you were asked to pay? I think it was the first.
16. Was it the first that has been paid? Yes, after the survey fees and deposit were paid.
17. Are Mr. and Mrs. Brooks still in Tasmania? Yes.
18. And all those you paid passages for are still in Tasmania? Yes, they have not left the country.
19. Were you one of the early inhabitants of Mount Heemskirk? Yes.
20. Were you not one of the finders? Yes, I found three or four different claims there, and from what I found a big rush set in from Melbourne. I let Mr. Climie have a claim called the Empress Victoria, and another I found was called the Montagu Extended.
21. By what you found you were the means of introducing a lot of foreign money into the Colony? Yes. Mr. Climie floated a company at £60,000, and Mr. Allwright, whom I let have a section, floated it in Melbourne for £36,000. Mr. Kayser, of Mount Bischoff, held another claim I found.
22. How was it you did not put in your application for a block of land directly you arrived in the Colony? The reason I did not apply was that I did not think I ever should require one. In the first place I was not sure whether I would stay in the Colony, and then I thought if I ever did want a piece of land I could buy it, and get it where I pleased.
23. You are an experienced miner? Yes, I left 8s. a day in England to come here.
24. You would not have applied to the Government to assist you if it had not been for your accident? No, I would not have done so if I could work.
25. *By Mr. Bennett.*—You are still indebted to the original purchaser of the land? Yes.
26. How much? £8 10s.
27. If the Government give you this land, or a grant of money, he will come down on you to discharge that debt? Most decidedly. He is a poor man, and I wish to pay him as soon as it lies in my power.
28. What prospect have you of being able to work a selection of land? I cannot use an axe or a hammer, but I can help to roll logs, and I have a son to work for me, and when I am employed by the Lands and Works Department I would be able to pay a trifle to someone to work for me.
29. *By Mr. Von Stieglitz.*—What improvements are there on the land? There is a paling cottage and a fowl-house, and we have nearly half an acre of raspberries in. There are perhaps three acres cleared.
30. *By the Chairman.*—Is it good land? Not all, though bits of it are.
31. *By Mr. Von Stieglitz.*—Who cleared the land? My son.
32. Can you work at all? Yes, I can help in rolling timber, or work of that sort. I can weigh on a lever, and can do a great deal more than anyone would give me credit for. I do my own writing: that is my writing on the petition.
33. *By the Chairman.*—Do you understand road-work? Yes, I have been overseer.
34. And you would be competent to take charge of a gang of men? Yes, though they seem to prefer those able to do hard work.
35. *By Mr. Crisp.*—Was it Roberts you purchased from? Yes.
36. And he assigned all his right, title, and interest in the land to you? Yes; he has nothing to do with it now.
37. And the Government recognise you as the owner? Yes.
38. *By Mr. Bennett.*—Have you paid the Government anything? No, I have not.
39. *By Mr. Von Stieglitz.*—You owe Roberts £8 10s. now? Yes.
40. What security has he for that? I gave him my writing, witnessed by Mr. Parsons, J.P., of Huonville.
41. *By the Chairman.*—You mean a note of hand? Yes.
42. Is there any time mentioned in which you are to pay the amount? I was to pay £1 a month, but being out of employment I have not been able to do so. It cost me all I had to spare to put the hut up and keep myself and family.
43. Has Roberts threatened to take any proceedings against you? Not as yet.
44. *By Mr. Von Stieglitz.*—Were there any improvements on the land when you went there? No, none.
45. *By Mr. Crisp.*—This accident has taken off one hand and part of the arm, and has destroyed all the other hand except one finger? Yes.
46. And with that one finger you can write? Yes.
47. *By Mr. Bennett.*—What prospects have you of paying off Roberts? My wife has been engaged to go nursing, and that, with what my son earns, will enable us to pay. We will also have something growing soon.

48. Do you think if you got that land you could make a home on it? Yes.
49. *By Mr. Crisp.*—Have you any idea of selling it? No, not the slightest.
50. How much are the instalments? £3 12s. a year.
51. How often are they payable? Once a year.
52. *By Mr. Von Stieglitz.*—Would not half the land be as much as you could manage? There are only parts of it here and there that are any good. I suppose the quantity of passable land on it would not amount to more than 20 acres.
53. *By Mr. Bennett.*—Did you come out in connection with the Main Line Railway? No, it had been constructed 5 years, when I came out.
54. You came out entirely on your own account? Yes.
55. *By Mr. Crisp.*—You were working on a contract when the accident occurred? Yes.

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ALBERT REID, *called and examined.*

56. *By the Chairman.*—What is your name? Albert Reid.
57. What are you? Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands.
58. Have you the particulars of the land concerned in this case? The land was selected by F. L. Roberts, and he paid the deposit £2 5s. and the survey fee, which would be £8 15s. On the 11th May in this year he transferred the land to Wm. Taylor. Taylor has not paid anything on it at all.
59. How much remains now to be paid on the land? There are two instalments of £3 7s. 6d. and 12 of £6 15s., making £84 7s. 6d. I am not sure whether he has taken the land under the present Crown Lands Act, as in that case he could not pay it off until he had spent £67 in improvements on it. It is most probable, however, that he has taken it under the old Act.
60. *By Mr. Bird.*—Do you remember, under the old Immigration Act, how much land an immigrant was entitled to take up in proportion to his passage-money? He could take 30 acres for himself, 30 for his wife, and 10 for each child. According to what Taylor paid he might have got over 100 acres.
61. *By the Chairman.*—If we recommend the Government to give him this 67 acres, it would be under the quantity he would be entitled to? Yes, certainly it would.
62. *By Mr. Von Stieglitz.*—Would these people who received grants have to pay the survey fee? Yes; if Taylor obtained any certificate entitling him to land it would be recorded at the Survey Office.
63. *By Mr. Bird.*—But if his wife and family were brought out as assisted immigrants, then his only claim to land would be on his own account, 30 acres, and then he must be a cabin or intermediate passenger? If his wife and family obtained assisted passages they would have no claim to a grant of land. I fancy the passage money must amount in each case from £18 to £20, and several immigrants have changed their orders to the money value of £18 so that they could get town allotments with them.