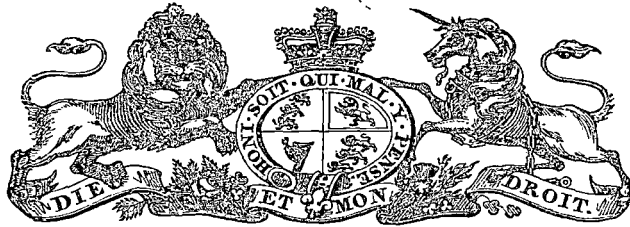


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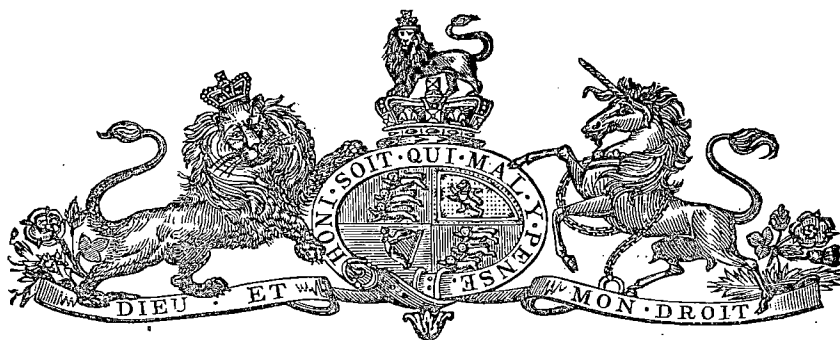
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

MR. CLEMENT WRAGGE'S REPORT ON THE
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICE OF TASMANIA:

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE,
WITH AN APPENDIX.

Brought up by Mr. Nicholas J. Brown, September 26, 1895, and ordered by the
House of Assembly to be printed.

Cost of printing—18s.



R E P O R T.

YOUR Committee having carefully considered the Report of Mr. Clement L. Wragge, and the recommendations made by him, and having examined three witnesses thereon, have the honor to report to your Honorable House as follows :—

1. It is unquestionable that the efficient maintenance of the Meteorological service of this Colony, as recommended by Mr. Wragge, is essential to secure for Tasmania and the Colonies generally the advantages of accurate forecasts. From this point of view the establishment of the Observatory on Mount Wellington is undoubtedly a matter of federal interest, and the cost of its maintenance may be fairly expected to be shared by each of the Colonies.
2. It is established beyond dispute that the complete organisation of the system, of which the Tasmanian service forms an important part, will confer great benefits upon the local industries which are affected by the weather. Amongst the most important of these are the Mercantile Marine, the Agricultural, the Pastoral, and the Fishing industries.
3. As to the cost of the service, Mr. Wragge has estimated it at £600 per annum, but your Committee believe that £400 per annum would be sufficient for present purposes. Of this sum it would appear that £200 per annum may be reasonably expected to be contributed by the other Australian Colonies, either through their respective Marine Boards or otherwise as may be agreed. Attached hereto is an estimate of the various items, making up the total annual charge of £400. (*Vide Appendix.*)
4. Your Committee recommend for the favourable consideration of your Honorable House a suggestion that has been offered as to placing the Meteorological service under the care of the Royal Society, the Society to be sufficiently subsidised for that special purpose. It was under the auspices of the Society that the meteorological observations of earlier years were carried out, and the scientific interest attaching to the more complete observations now considered necessary, in addition to their practical advantages already alluded to, would appear to warrant the conclusion that the service may be very appropriately handed over to the care of the Society.
5. Your Committee find that Mr. H. C. Kingsmill has rendered himself personally liable for the sum of £157 for expenses incurred in establishing the Observatory on Mount Wellington, and for other disbursements in connection with the visit of Mr. Wragge to the various observing stations throughout the Colony. It is beyond the province of your Committee to make any recommendation with regard to this matter. They can only record the fact, and leave it for the consideration of your Honorable House.
6. Your Committee think it only right to embody in their Report the following extract from the Report of Mr. Wragge :—

“Further, I desire to place on record the obligation which all meteorologists and weather officers of Australia are under to Mr. H. C. Kingsmill and his volunteer helps, for having, at great disadvantages and in the face of difficulties which would have appalled ordinary people, kept afloat the observations in Tasmania during the interim between Captain Shortt's death and the present time. Had it not been for Mr. Kingsmill's generous aid in supplying what data he could, the forecasts issued at Brisbane could not have reached their present standard of accuracy, and the isobaric charts, which are sent throughout the world, would have been lamentably incomplete.”
7. In connection with the subject of your Committee's enquiry, it is important to keep in mind the fact that the bequest under the will of the late Arthur Leake, of £10,000, for the purpose of founding a School of Astronomy, may possibly be diverted to another Colony if Tasmania does not take steps to secure the efficient maintenance of its Meteorological Service.

NICHOLAS J. BROWN, *Chairman.*

Committee Room,
Thursday, 26th September, 1895.

APPENDIX.

METEOROLOGICAL Service Estimate for 1896.

Meteorologist	£
Ten Observers, at £5 each. Stations indicated on map by a ×	150
Two Assistants, at £50 each, to be employed alternately in Hobart and on the Mountain	50
Allowance for Rations to Observer on the Mountain, at 10s. per week	100
Instruments	26
Stationery and Stores.....	20
Miscellaneous.....	10
Fuel and Light	24
	20
TOTAL.....	<u>£400</u>
