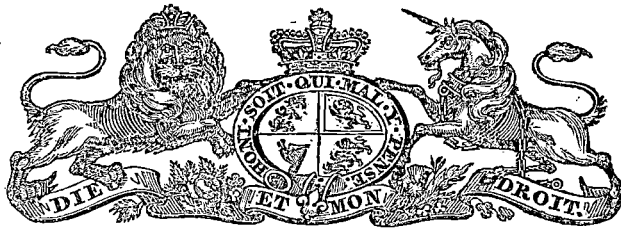


(No. 67.)



1856.

T A S M A N I A.

WASTE LANDS BILL.

REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Brought up, and ordered to be printed, 28 April, 1857.



REPORT

Of the SELECT COMMITTEE to which, on the 7th January, 1857, the "Waste Lands Bill" was referred by the Honourable the House of Assembly.

YOUR Committee have considered, with the greatest care and deliberation, the various Clauses of the Bill referred to them; and, having agreed to certain alterations therein, they had proposed to submit their Report in the shape of an amended Bill: but they are not now in a position to do so, as, owing to the change which has taken place in the Executive Government, neither of the Law Officers is at present a Member of the Committee; and your Committee can therefore only submit a statement of the alterations in the Bill which they conceive to be desirable.

Section 2, your Committee considers, should contain a proviso that the instrument referred to in line 11 shall not issue until after sixty days' public notice shall have been given of the application upon which it is contemplated to alienate any Land from the Crown under the authority of the Section.

Section 3, your Committee think, may be improved by the omission of all the words occurring after "Waste Lands" in line 22 down to "offence" in line 39.

Section 6. It is thought by the Committee that the Second Class should comprise all Lands situate more than five miles from the Suburbs of Hobarton and Launceston, or more than one mile from the Suburbs of any other township or village, omitting the words "existing or contemplated" in line 9. It was suggested also by one of your Committee that a Fourth Class of Lands, to be called "the Unsettled," might properly be created; such class to comprise a portion of the unoccupied south-western districts of the Island, and to be alienated on terms more favourable to intending occupants than the remaining districts. In this suggestion the Committee concurred; but no distinct Regulations applicable to such a class were submitted to your Committee, and no decision therefore was arrived at in respect to the proposal.

Section 7. Your Committee recommend that, where Land is sold by public competition, the upset price should be ten shillings per acre; but where it is disposed of by private contract, they adhere to the price fixed by the Bill,—viz., one pound per acre.

Sections 8, 9, 10. Your Committee are of opinion that sale by public auction is preferable to that by tender,—and these Sections require amendment accordingly.

Section 11. Your Committee think that, in addition to £1 per acre, the purchaser should pay the cost of survey and of his title deed.

Section 12. The words "whether by tender or by private contract" appear to be superfluous.

Section 13. Your Committee are of opinion that lots sold on credit should not exceed 640 acres, and that no person should be allowed to purchase on credit more than one lot.

Section 14. It is thought by your Committee that all Lands of the First Class should be sold by auction only, as well as those situate in Hobarton and Launceston; and that the deposit referred to in line 30 should be in all cases 10 per cent. of the whole price.

Section 15. Your Committee agree to omit in line 42 the words "not exceeding" and the blank which follows them.

Section 17. Your Committee recommend that Timber Licences should not be granted, as is at present occasionally done, for any Lands let for pastoral or other purposes.

Section 18. Your Committee propose to substitute "auction" for "tender" in line 46, and "six" for "three" in line 34. They think also that the proviso for compensation should extend only to fencing erected on the Land; and that the value of such fencing should be repaid to the Government by the purchaser, in addition to the price of the Land.

Section 19. Your Committee, as in the other cases before referred to, recommend the substitution of "auction" for "tender" in lines 10 and 22; and they consider that the provisos for resumption and compensation annexed to Clause 18 should be applied to this Section also. The two Sections may therefore be amalgamated.

Section 20. Here also the Committee propose to substitute "auction" for "tender," and to fill up the two blanks by the insertion in each of the words "twenty-one."

Section 27. Your Committee have agreed that, as the Waste Lands of the Colony form its only capital stock, and are the only source from which funds may be expected to be realised for promoting its progress by works of permanent and general utility, and for the development of its various resources, the proceeds of such lands should not be dealt with as ordinary current revenue, but should be appropriated only towards purposes of permanent improvement; and your Committee consider, therefore, that after defraying the expenses of survey and management, the balance of such proceeds should be applied in aid of Immigration, and of the construction and repair of streets, roads, wharfs, and bridges, in such manner and in such proportions as the Parliament shall from time to time direct.

W. CHAMP.

1st April, 1857.

NOTE.—Mr. Rogers having undertaken, at the request of the Committee, to draft the alterations proposed by the Committee, and also to introduce in the shape of clauses his suggestions for the disposal of the "Unsettled Lands," the Bill thus altered is appended to this Report.