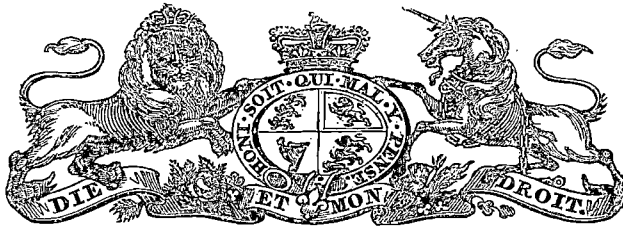


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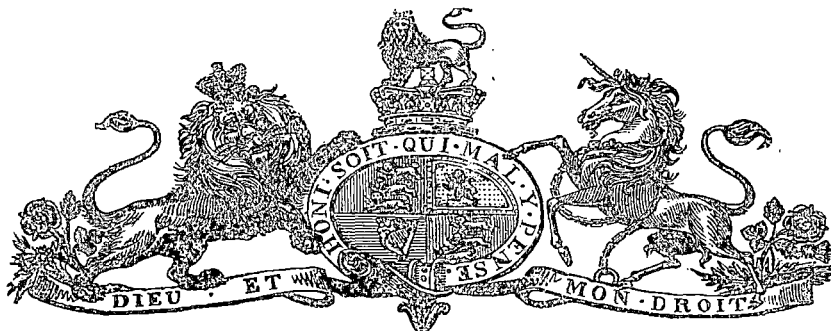
1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

QUEEN'S DOMAIN:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1890.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



QUEEN'S DOMAIN.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE FOR 1890.

To the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works.

SIR,

THE Committee of the Queen's Domain, in accordance with Section 3 of the Act 53 Victoria, No. 13, have the honor to submit this, their first Annual Report.

1. During the year several improvements have been made in the Domain, more particularly the planting of an extensive Pinetum near the Botanical Gardens, also the lopping of a number of gum-trees.

2. The Committee would strongly urge upon the Government the very urgent necessity of some steps being taken in forming a new road facing the Glebe, the Domain in that vicinity being very much cut up owing to carts passing to and fro to the houses facing the Glebe.

3. At the first meeting of the new Committee Mr. James Barnard was appointed Chairman, and Mr. Alexander Morton, Secretary, to the Committee.

4. One member of the Committee, Colonel W. V. Legge, having resigned, Mr. P. S. Seager, a member of the old Queen's Domain Committee, was elected in Colonel Legge's place.

5. Annexed to this Report is a Memorandum by the Superintendent of the Queen's Domain, showing in detail the work which has been accomplished during the past year.

J. BARNARD, *Chairman.*

REPORT ON DOMAIN.

THE gum-trees lopped last year are doing as well as could be expected, considering many of them were in a decrepid state before being operated upon. Only two of the number failed to break; the others have done fairly well, and when some of the branches get a decided lead the stiff appearance now so noticeable will gradually disappear. About a hundred trees have been headed back this year, at a cost of a trifle under 2s. 6d. per tree. It was not deemed desirable to head back the trees abutting on the new road on the Glebe, as the strip between the two roads could be planted and improved to greater advantage when the new road is completed.

It is to be regretted that the work at the freestone quarry has been in abeyance for quite 12 months. An effort will be made to resume operations at an early date, with a view of pushing the work on to completion as expeditiously as possible.

Considerable progress has been made with the preparation, planting, and fencing of the new Pinetum. Eight of the groups have been sufficiently prepared to receive the plants, leaving the ground between the plants to be broken up at a later date, so that all rain falling may penetrate, and not run off the surface, and the roots may have free scope to ramify.

Two groups in proximity to the freestone quarry remain to be prepared and planted. These it is proposed to deal with early in the year, or as soon as the short road suggested at this part has been sufficiently defined to allow of the work being carried out.

At the top of the gully above the reservoir a group of deciduous trees has been planted. In the course of preparation it was found that the soil at this part was deep and moist, such as would be likely to suit this class of plants. As there are but few spots of this description in the Domain, it was deemed desirable to use plants best suited to the soil and situation. The number of plants planted at this part is—Coniferæ, 170 standards, 230 temporary fill-ups, to be removed as required to other places; Deciduous, 34 standard or permanent trees,—or a total of 434 plants.

Large numbers of seedling black wattles are springing up in the Domain, where the ground has been disturbed from any cause, or branches have been burnt. The seeds are germinating freely; on some of the latter places from 40 to 50 seedlings may be seen within a few yards. The golden and silver wattle seeds sown last year have germinated freely on some of the warm stony rises; they have not been so successful on the stiffer or colder ground. So far, they do not appear to have suffered much from the browsing of the sheep, but the black wattles, in places where they have obtained a foot or more in height, have been for the most part eaten over, probably by stray cattle.

The pasturage has been very abundant during the past year, the sheep put on not being numerous enough to keep it down. When the seeds are more mature the grass will be most unpleasant to walk in, and the danger from fire during the summer months will be very great. It was deemed desirable to allow the contractor to cut near the plantation and fences as a safeguard from fire. As a general rule it is very undesirable to have the grass cut and removed, as it can only be done at a loss of so much plant material which ought to be returned to the soil in the shape of droppings. An effort must be made in future to have sufficient sheep pastured during the spring months to keep down the young grass, as they will not eat the more mature culms later in the season. The introduction of cattle would no doubt keep down the rank growth of grass, but they could only be introduced at the sacrifice of all young indigenous vegetation, and lead to the necessity of fencing in all young plants, which would add much to the cost of maintenance. As a matter of fact, neither young wattles nor gums had a chance of growth during the many years cattle were pastured in the Domain.

It has been found necessary to hoe a broad strip of grass within the plantations of pines recently put out to prevent the plants from being destroyed by fire running through them. When this has been completed, the gums at this part will be thinned out and thrown into irregular groups so as to present a more park-like appearance, and also to give the pines a greater chance for progress. The completion of the ground for the two remaining groups of coniferæ will also be proceeded with as soon as practicable, and it is hoped by the time this has been completed that work will have been commenced again at the freestone quarry, when this will be pushed on as expeditiously as possible.

The plants put out at Cornelian Bay are all now established; and may be expected to make more rapid growth from this out. The want of a shelter-house of some kind is much felt, as there is at present no protection from rain in any way. Water for drinking is also much needed, and a drinking fountain ought to be erected with as little delay as possible. A third very great want is the construction of a jetty near the railway crossing, so as to allow boats or small steamers to land passengers. It is earnestly to be hoped that a way may be found of carrying out the above works at this place, which would tend to popularise the esplanade, and be of great public convenience.

F. ABBOTT, *Superintendent Botanical Gardens.*
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