



1917.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS:

FINAL REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE.

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FINAL REPORT.

THE Standing Committee on Public Accounts has the honour to present the following Final Report:—

Your Committee, which met on September 4 last, for the first time during a period extending over 30 years, has held several meetings, at which applications for loans from various local bodies for sundry works were considered. The manner and nature of a number of these applications, together with the circumstances surrounding the same, convinced your Committee that there was need for a careful scrutiny of them; and your Committee recommends that all future similar applications should not be dealt with by your Honourable House until a report upon them has been received by your Committee. As indicated in their first Progress Report, your Committee has laid down, in a series of resolutions, certain principles, which your Committee respectfully suggests should guide your Honourable House in arriving at a decision upon future applications.

Your Committee also took into consideration the question of the contributions made to sinking funds by various bodies which have loans current. In some instances it was shown that certain local bodies had not fully met their obligations. It is obvious that Parliament intended at the time the loan was granted that the loan would be repaid in regular annual instalments until it is fully liquidated; and your Committee recommends that those bodies which are in arrear with their contributions to the Sinking Fund should be required, for the future, to make their contributions promptly and regularly. The whole matter is, and should be, regarded as a simple business contract.

N. E. LEWIS, Chairman.

No. 1 Committee Room,
House of Assembly,
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