

(No. 104.)



1887.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CROWN LANDS OFFICE:

ANNUAL REPORT, 1887.

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



CROWN LANDS' OFFICE.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1887.

Crown Lands' Office, Hobart, 20th July, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit to you a Report upon the work of the Crown Lands Department for the year ending 30th June, 1887.

During the past twelve months work has steadily been carried on, and though the applications for land have not been so large as in preceding years, the daily work has kept the staff fully occupied.

Revenue.

The Land Revenue for the year 1886 was estimated by Mr. Sprent at £56,600, but the amount received was only £52,503, the decrease being chiefly in the amounts received from sale of land by auction and from pastoral rents, the latter showing a decrease each year, owing in a great measure to the portions fit for agriculture being selected out of leased lots, causing the lessee to throw up the remainder. Several lessees have declined to pay rent any longer on account of the depredations made on their flocks by native tigers.

The Revenue for the six months of this year amounted to £25,848.

Progress of Settlement.

The number of applications for Land during 1886 was 1734, being a decrease of 208 as compared with the preceding year, but nearly equal in number to those received in 1884; 792 applications have been received in the present year.

The area of country lands upon which deposits were paid in 1886 was 50,609 acres, as against 52,862 acres in 1885. The area for the six months of this year amounts to 32,311 acres. The tables show the Counties in which these lands have been selected. In the County of Devon the area was 11,198 acres. Several applications for land near the source of the Great Mussel Roe River having been received, a Surveyor was specially sent to survey the same, but in consequence of protests from the Mines Department against the selection of this land, these applications will have to be cancelled.

Mr. J. W. Brown was specially instructed to make a careful examination of Flinders' Island and King's Island. A Report upon the first-mentioned Island has already been printed; and Mr. Brown having recently returned from King's Island, is now engaged in preparing his Report on that Island.

The late Deputy Surveyor-General visited the West Coast during February last. Various matters of public interest are dealt with in his Report.

Drafting Room.

I am glad to be able to report favourably of the work done in this branch during the twelve months past. Plans have been compiled and issued of the Towns of New Norfolk, Hamilton, Bothwell, Deloraine, Westbury, Perth, George Town, Sheffield, Pontville, Patersonia, Cleveland,

and Oatlands; the greater part of the County of Monmouth has been re-compiled from the original Surveys; and new editions have been published of the County sheets of Dorset, Devon, Wellington, Cornwall, Somerset, Pembroke, Westmorland, Kent, and Tasman's Peninsula. The Office is now supplied with respectable copies of all the County maps, in place of the dilapidated ones which did duty for so many years in the past. The great amount of selection going on in Wellington, Devon, and Dorset necessitates new editions of these Counties being prepared about every three months. Two Parish plans only, Argyle and Sutherland, have been prepared during the past year, the amount of current work being so great that it is impossible with a small staff to keep this work going.

During the year 1886, 1038 Surveyors' plans were examined and checked, and during the six months of this year, 536 plans.

Two of the Draftsmen have been engaged during the past month in preparing Registers showing the lands selected under "The Waste Lands Act, 1870." This is a laborious work, as the lots selected during the last sixteen years have all to be looked up and plans prepared showing them. The Registers for the Counties of Wellington and Devon have been completed, and Dorset is being proceeded with.

Lithography.

The Photo-Lithographer and Lithographer have both been busily engaged during the past year. Mr. Pickering having resigned in January, Mr. Edwin Scott, from South Australia, was appointed Photo-Lithographer, and has given great satisfaction in the manner in which he performs his work. In addition to the ordinary work connected with the Lands, Works, Railways, and Mines Departments, a large number of maps have been printed in colour, showing alienated lands, for the new Crown Lands' Guide, the Handbook to Tasmania, Walch's Almanac, and Greville's Year Book of Australia. Plans have also been prepared showing School Districts and illustrating Reports for the Board of Health.

Examination for Land Surveyors.

The Board appointed for the examination of gentlemen requiring authority to practise as Land Surveyors has held two examinations. In December, 1886, two candidates presented themselves, neither of whom passed. In June of this year, three candidates passed a most satisfactory examination. Altogether, since the Board was established, eight candidates have passed, three of whom are practising in adjacent Colonies, and two are engaged in active work here. During the year the Honorable John Forrest, Surveyor-General of Western Australia, forwarded a copy of the Regulations with regard to the admission of Surveyors in that Colony, stating that a Licence without examination would be issued to "any Surveyor holding a Licence from one of the Governments of Australia, Tasmania, or New Zealand, who produces evidence satisfactory to the Board from a Surveyor-General of any one of the above-named Colonies certifying as to his qualifications and character;" and asking the Survey Department of Tasmania to assist him in making it easy for Surveyors of recognized standing to obtain Licences, and to prevent those who are not licensed, or who have forfeited their position, from becoming licensed. The late Deputy Surveyor-General replied that the Board in Tasmania had resolved that any Surveyor holding a Certificate from the Survey Department of Western Australia would be recognized and be entitled to a Certificate on similar terms.

Miscellaneous.

A new edition of the Crown Lands' Guide, corrected up to January, 1887, and containing the Reports of the District Surveyors up to that date, and Mr. Brown's Report on Flinders' Island, with map of the Colony showing alienated lands, and geological map, was issued in February of this year, and a large number of copies were forwarded to the Agent-General in London.

Special Reports upon the work performed during the year in their own departments are being prepared by the Inspector of Surveys and the Conservator of Forests.

At the request of the Registrar-General, the boundaries of the Registration Districts throughout the Colony are being re-defined, and maps prepared showing the new boundaries; but the lamented death of Mr. Sprent having necessitated my temporarily carrying on the work of the Office, has prevented the completion of the same as early as I wished.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ALBERT REID, *Chief Draftsman.*

The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works.

SELECTION UNDER 24TH SECTION.

RETURN showing the Number of Lots sold in each County for the Years 1882 to 1886 inclusive, and the first Six Months of 1887.

County.	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885	1886.	1887. 6 Months.	TOTAL.
Buckingham	41	84	116	97	79	41	458
Cornwall	20	27	42	39	34	11	173
Cumberland	5	17	30	20	24	23	119
Devon.....	74	90	218	145	147	111	785
Dorset.....	84	75	122	80	64	58	483
Glamorgan.....	5	4	19	8	7	6	49
Kent	22	29	29	46	36	7	169
Lincoln	1	...	2	7	10
Monmouth.....	26	40	25	28	23	16	158
Pembroke	28	37	88	70	76	10	309
Somerset.....	3	8	1	5	6	2	25
Wellington.....	9	16	33	53	90	43	244
Westmoreland	18	27	51	40	38	12	186
TOTALS	335	454	775	631	626	347	3168

STATISTICS—CROWN LANDS' BRANCH—

From 1882 to 1886, inclusive, and the first Six Months of 1887.

	1882.	1883.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887. 6 months.
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts from all sources.....	52,338	52,423	59,679	57,231	52,503	25,848
Receipts from Deposits and Instalments, 24th Section.....	21,422	24,975	33,743	31,614	30,620	14,569
Receipts from other sales.....	21,828	17,675	16,805	17,373	14,582	7976
Rent of Crown land for pastoral purposes.....	7996	8781	8002	7115	5812	2829
Fees for Timber Licences, Grant Deeds, Diagrams, &c.....	1092	992	1129	1129	1489	474
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Area of Country Lands sold.....	26,274	36,796	68,284	52,862	50,609	32,311
Area selected under Immigration Act.....	357	1297	5849	6052	3664	2970
Number of applications for selection and purchase.....	1075	1610	1748	1942	1734	792
Number of Grant Deeds issued.....	377	402	602	610	554	257

RETURN showing Area of Country Lots of Crown Lands sold during the Years 1882 to 1886 inclusive, and the first Six Months of 1887.

County.	1882.			1883.			1884.			1885.			1886.			1887. 6 Months.			Total Area.	No. of Lots.		
	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	A.	R.	P.	
Buckingham	1693	2	0	3497	2	0	5056	1	16	4684	3	9	3494	3	37	1872	3	16	20,299	3	38	458
Cornwall	1741	2	0	2336	3	0	2359	3	16	1717	0	23	2132	3	8	428	3	10	10,716	3	17	173
Cumberland	2236	0	0	2231	3	0	5210	0	1	3318	1	3	2719	1	38	2250	3	1	17,966	1	3	119
Devon	5763	2	32	7246	3	0	18,307	3	18	12,281	1	3	10,134	0	9	11,198	1	25	64,932	0	7	785
Dorset	6430	3	32	5689	3	16	11,827	0	0	8332	1	9	4676	1	33	4359	2	16	41,316	0	26	483
Glamorgan	240	3	10	1224	0	0	3415	2	9	1195	3	32	1806	2	22	297	0	14	8180	0	7	49
Kent	2271	2	0	1732	3	0	2634	3	4	3117	3	33	2818	2	20	538	3	33	13,114	2	10	169
Lincoln							392	2	27				622	0	0	2235	0	36	3249	3	23	10
Monmouth	873	0	5	3022	2	27	1545	3	3	1727	2	17	1279	1	0	990	1	17	9438	2	29	158
Pembroke	1770	3	0	2984	1	0	8194	0	29	6003	2	3	6664	0	13	1192	1	36	26,809	1	1	309
Somerset	958	3	0	2098	1	0	150	2	13	1408	1	7	654	3	21	405	2	12	5676	1	13	25
Wellington	941	2	0	1171	3	0	2769	0	18	4586	0	27	10,315	0	0	5624	1	33	25,407	3	38	244
Westmoreland	1354	0	0	3470	1	0	6720	3	39	4488	3	0	3291	2	33	916	2	31	20,242	1	23	186
TOTALS	26,275	3	39	36,706	2	3	68,584	2	33	52,862	0	6	50,609	3	34	32,311	1	0	267,350	1	35	3168

RETURN of Town and Suburban Lots sold during the Years 1882 to 1886 inclusive, and the first Six Months of 1887.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>No. of Lots.</i>	<i>Area.</i>			<i>Amount sold for.</i>
		A.	R.	P.	£ s. d.
1882	308	893	0	6½	8677 16 8
1883	173	839	1	13	4400 15 2
1884	291	1031	3	16	5908 19 3
1885	224	1058	0	17	4907 2 3
1886	79	394	0	27¾	5221 12 7
1887 (6 months)	12	78	1	25	370 13 4