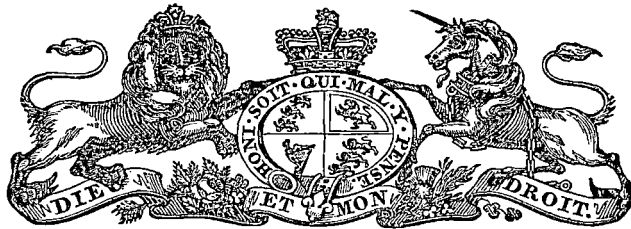


(No. 90.)

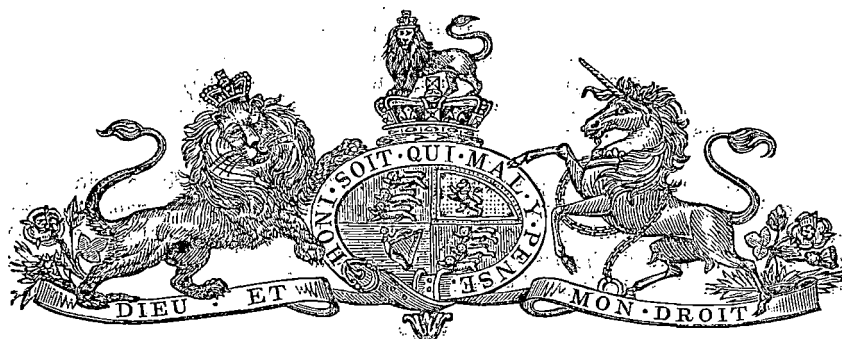


1890.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

DISTRICT SURVEYORS' REPORTS.

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



DISTRICT SURVEYORS' REPORTS.

Latrobe, 9th February, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward to you my Annual Report for the year 1889 on the Survey District under my charge.

During the year I have surveyed twenty-three sections, aggregating 1141 acres, applied for under the 24th section of "The Waste Lands Act;" and 44 sections, comprising 1358 acres, under the Gold Fields and Mineral Lands Act. The comparison between this and previous years shows a large falling off in both the agricultural and mineral industries; this has somewhat surprised me, inasmuch as the yields and prices for farm produce have been exceptionally good; in the more settled localities immediately adjacent to the crown property. Much of the settlers' surplus capital has been invested in partially improved properties, for which there has been a steady demand, at prices ranging from two to six pounds per acre.

The good and medium quality of agricultural land available for selection in close proximity to the settled parts of my District has all been selected; the only portions now left fit for cultivating purposes is situated along the slopes of "Gad's Hill," near the Mersey and Forth Rivers; most of this land, although somewhat remote, is exceptionally good, and must be of value to the selector. The new road lately formed from Circular Ponds, in continuation of the road from Mole Creek Railway Station to the Mersey River, together with the railway facilities and re-construction of bridge over that river, will bring the intending settler within easy distance of a good market. Most of the country in this direction has been withdrawn from selection. This, I think, is unfortunate, as with care mineral land is so easily identified, and could be reserved on recommendation of surveyor, or a special clause inserted in purchasing agreement to meet any possible contingency, thus allowing the settler and miner every chance to develop the country. The recent discovery of gold at Middlesex Rises has caused a demand for land in this direction, and much might be made of the opportunity. I would recommend the survey of a township reserve at the crossing-place of the Van Diemen's Land Company's track at the Forth River, and subdivided if required, and the rest of the land on the east side of the river to be thrown open for selection. The east side of the river is well adapted for a township, and would in no way interfere with the mineral field on the west.

Pastoral.

The large area of pastoral land in this District is exceptionally good, and suitably adapted for summer runs; as a rule it is well watered and healthy, easy of access, and could be profitably worked in conjunction with low-lying land in the vicinity of Chudleigh.

Mineral.

During the past year mining has been steadily progressing, and although not so extensive as in former years, is of a far more healthy description. At Mount Claude Silver Mines some little prospecting has been done with encouraging results, but the surrounding country has been so shepherded from month to month, for years, in the hope of inducing investors of capital to prospect as well as develop the mine, that no one outside the syndicate has been able to get on to the field. I am aware of many who formed a very high opinion of this locality leaving it in disgust upon learning the state of affairs. The insertion of a clause in the Mining and Gold Fields Regulations compelling the holder of a "Prospector's Protection Order" or a "Reward Claim" to state what amount has been expended each quarter in developing his claim—work to be estimated—would remedy this evil, especially if his holding was liable to forfeiture for false or "cooked" reports.

At Campbell's Reward (gold), on the Forth River, some heavy work has been done for some time past, with, as yet, no very encouraging results; however, there appears to be every indication of ultimate success. This Company has spent a large sum on its property, and until recently was surrounded by other claims upon which little or nothing was done.

"Forth Rises to Middlesex."—This is comparatively a new field, extending westerly from the Forth River for five miles. A large amount of prospecting has been done, and results are highly satisfactory. The formation is soft and porous, and generally associated with sandstone, slate, and porphyry, and carries gold in a rich and easily discernible form. The various bodies of stone, of which there are many, run from a few inches in width to four or five feet, and occur at intervals for a distance of five miles. One company has large and expensive machinery on the ground ready for erection in the summer months. The difficulties in working on this field have been great and trying: until quite recently there was nothing but a small bush track to the place, and that of the roughest description; now a broader one has been constructed, but is in a frightful state after the heavy cartage in places.

The wire rope erected for survey purposes has been made to do duty for a bridge, and is in a very dangerous state and quite unfit for the heavy and continual traffic, and requires repairs urgently. A bridge across this fording-place will be required at no distant date. With a little help or encouragement (more especially to those who have helped themselves, notably the Campbell's) this field will eventually develop into a large mining centre, and, I think, in the near future.

Roads, Bridges, &c.

A road is much required along the west bank of the Mersey River from the bridge south through Liena Township Reserve, Roberts' sections, and on to crown land beyond; it would open up some rich agricultural land. This, with a bridge over the Forth River, as before suggested, are works that will soon be required. In the meantime I would suggest that immediate repairs to the wire rope, with new hauling-line and fastenings, be made to ensure safety in crossing the river. The amount (about five pounds) is small, which, I presume, makes it harder to obtain.

I have, &c.

HENRY J. CHALMERS, *Government District Surveyor*

The Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.

ANNUAL Report on South Buckingham for the Year 1889.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that during the past year I have marked out thirty lots, varying in size from ten to three hundred and sixty acres, and amounting in the aggregate to one thousand five hundred and nineteen acres. The greater portion of this land has been selected for agricultural purposes, and mostly by persons enlarging their former holdings, scarcely any new settlers having come into the district. There is still plenty of good land in the Parishes of Throckmorton, Ranelagh, and Coningham, which will soon be selected now that good roads are being made in the different localities.

I have, &c.

HERBERT COMBES, *District Surveyor.*

To the Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.

REPORT upon Settlement of Crown Lands, Districts of Buckingham and Cumberland.

Stone Buildings, 28th June, 1890.

SIR,

DURING the past year there has been a marked improvement in the amount of land selected in my district. This is partly owing to the opening up of the Russell's Falls Valley.

In this locality about fifty lots have been applied for, amounting to about 6000 acres. Out of this amount 3625 acres have been surveyed, and many of the applicants have commenced work clearing, scrubbing, and burning off.

At present the road is being made up to the first selections of Marriott's, but beyond this only a rough pack-track is available; and until a fair road is made through the selections it will be impossible for selectors to do much work on their lots. A good line of road has been laid out by me through the selections, and approved of by the Public Works Department. This road can be extended into the Florentine Valley, where there is an area of 18,000 acres, about 12,000 of which is first-class land. This land is not likely to be selected until a better means of communication exists than is to be found at present.

The natural outlet for the country is either by way of Russell's Falls or else east to Ellendale: the latter route I have not been over, but of the former I can speak from experience. There would be no difficulty in getting a first-class line of road through the Russell's Falls Valley across the range to the Florentine Valley.

For a full account of the Florentine I would refer you to my report of last March.

I believe a large area of good land is to be found between the Nive and Derwent. I have not had an opportunity of examining it; but, until a better means of communication is established by road or railway, the land is not likely to be selected, as it is too far from a market at present.

The land taken up in the remaining portions of my district has been generally selected by the present occupiers of lots increasing their holdings.

I have, &c.

THOMAS FRODSHAM.

The Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.

River Forth, 30th January, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit my Report for the past year of the progress and settlement in my Survey District in County of Devon. During the past year one assistant and I have surveyed some 80 lots for agricultural purposes, and a few lots for mining operations, as well as a small number of town lots.

The area of the agricultural lots equals about 4750 acres, averaging nearly 60 acres per lot, but in reality varying from 20 acres up to 320 acres. A large percentage of these lots is merely additions to previous holdings, and this accounts for the poor description of land frequently selected—for in many instances the lots are very inferior soil—but being adjoining land already occupied, it seems to suit the applicant to purchase it to increase the size of his holding. The surveys have been scattered pretty well all over the district, and some of them nearly 30 miles back from the coast. Settlement does not follow selection at the same rate, but this may be owing, in most instances, to the want of roads to give access. People cannot go back into the heavily timbered forests and get a living off a block of land without a good road.

The rule with new settlers in the past was to depend upon splitting timber; but this trade is very dull at present, and they depend now very much upon getting employment of some kind, and leave their wives and families to take care of their selections. In the Wilmot country, for instance, some good improvements have taken place as far as 24 miles back; but the only thing the purchasers are able to do is to sow the cleared land down in grass and run a few cattle upon it. If they were to grow produce they could not get it to market. There are five families at present residing in the Wilmot Country, but the whole of them are depending upon a living by working elsewhere. The same thing applies to Nietta, where several have commenced to improve their selections, but at the present time could not get an empty cart to their lots. There is still some good Crown land to the south of the surveyed lots in Narrawa (Wilmot Country), and there will be no great difficulty in extending the main road through it. There is also a considerable area of land to the south-west of Nietta, which will ultimately find purchasers; but at the present time it does not possess sufficient inducement. When the main road becomes passable and a branch road opened, I have no doubt but that a considerable area will be taken up. The general progress of the district seems very good throughout, and a large quantity of land is being cleared. Wherever a road has been made fit for traffic, all the frontage finds purchasers, and many settle on and improve the holdings. It seems to me that the whole secret of selling the land and settling the people on it, is to make a good road through it; and without a road it does not pay anyone to take possession of his land.

I have, &c.

RICHARD HALL.

The Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.

31, Murray-street, Hobart, June, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit my Annual Report on matters connected with the Lands and Survey Department, for the information of the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Surveyor-General, the Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, and yourself.

Flinders' Island.—I was entrusted with the duty of effecting numerous surveys for Selectors on this Island; and whilst there I also compiled a fresh plan of the southern portion, by means of triangulation, which, on my return, was accepted and photo-lithographed by the Department.

Bonâ fide Selectors.—I was instrumental in placing some desirable and *bonâ fide* selectors on this Island, who are already improving their holdings, and going to considerable expense. These, in their turn, are inducing others to select and settle. Amongst others, I may mention that the Melbourne Consul for Norway and Sweden and his countrymen have begun operations.

Quality of the Land.—I found the extent of really good land much exaggerated; but still there is sufficient of excellent quality to support a good number of thriving settlers.

Clarets and Grapes.—I trust it may not be out of place to state that, in my opinion, a good deal of this Island is suitable for the production of claret and table grapes. Australia is too hot to produce this

type of wine,—their best productions being more akin to those of Spain and Portugal; and, seeing that the French vineyards are almost entirely destroyed for a generation or two, and that proper cuttings will soon, no doubt, be procurable from Maria Island, it is possible that an important industry could be started, which would prove a source of wealth to the Colony.

Barren Island.—I am informed that on this Island there are a few thousand acres of good land, scattered about it, that could be thrown open for selection with advantage to the State. My informant is desirous of selecting 320 acres on this Island.

Mutton Birds.—On several Islands adjacent to these afore-mentioned larger Islands, as you know, an important and lucrative industry is carried on, namely, the preserving of these birds for export, by salting and smoking, and the collection of the oil they contain. It appeared to me that the close season should be rigidly enforced; and, seeing that the business is so lucrative, a small tax might be levied on those engaged in it.

Prohibition.—I would earnestly suggest that the depasturing of cattle, sheep, or any other stock be strictly prohibited by the Government on Islands where rookeries of these birds exist, as the stock not only break the eggs and kill the birds, but permanently destroy the nests. Unfortunately, there are small detached lots of alienated land on some of the best of these Islands, the owners of which should be compelled to fence their boundaries, and retain their stock on their own ground; for at present this industry is being destroyed, and is the principal means of support of the half-caste population.

Dog Tax.—In the interest of the new settlers, I would respectfully urge that the dog tax be enforced on the owners of the troops of mangy, and worthless mongrel dogs that are even at present an intolerable source of annoyance, and which constitute a pest that will prove a serious drawback to a newcomer there. The owners can well afford to pay, and have yet to learn, in this matter and the destruction of rookeries, that other interests besides theirs are worthy of consideration.

In the District I have surveyed a good many lots of various sizes; but only in one or two instances were they distinctly agricultural in character. The greater part consists of stony but good pasture, with small plots of alluvial adjacent to the water-courses.

The Sandspit Scrub.—There are conflicting statements as to the quality of the land in this direction. Some selectors applied for some 400 acres, but withdrew their application, as they informed me the ground, although densely wooded, was very rocky in parts. Others there are who are holding to their applications. As some roads are now being cleared through this timbered country, I anticipate considerable selection will take place early this coming summer, at which period I propose to go and effect those surveys already applied for.

Orchards.—In the vicinity of Runnymede considerable selection is taking place,—in many cases, I learn, with the view to the cultivation of apples on a large scale, for which the ground seems very suitable; and there is, I hear, still suitable land available.

Survey Marks.—I would esteem it a favour if you could effect a general knowledge that the mischievous practice of imitating the permanent marking of the Survey Department is actionable. I have found it somewhat prevalent in my own and other districts.

I have, &c.

WENTWORTH M. HARDY, *District Surveyor.*

The Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.

Port Esperance, 10th May, 1890.

SIR,

SINCE forwarding my Annual Report in May, 1889, I have surveyed some 94 Sections, having a total acreage of a little over 3000 acres. The majority of these sections have been small and for *bonâ fide* agricultural purposes, and nearly all in the southern portion of the district, *i.e.*, south of Geeveston.

Selection during the last 12 months has been progressing steadily throughout the whole of the Huon, and I have at present about 4 or 5 months' work on hand—not a great number of sections, but very scattered, which causes a lot of lost time moving about. Some few of the instructions I hold are in the interests of the various saw-mills (for timber purposes), but the greater portion are small lots from 60 acres down to 15, for farming purposes.

During the past year I have had several inquiries for land for orchard purposes from residents of the other colonies, and have given all the information possible in reply, but as yet nothing has come of any of them; although two gentlemen have promised to get me to select a lot each for them in the southern portion of the district, but whether they intend to carry it out or not I am unable to say.

Since making my last report I have had occasion, in pursuance of my duties, to pass through a considerable area of tolerably open country located between Southport Narrows and Recherche Bay, and I

find upon examination that it contains some very good marsh land, which only requires draining to become fit for agricultural purposes. There are also several hundred of acres of good bottom land (fairly level) in the vicinity of the various creeks intersecting this portion of the district, and, when compared with the remainder of the Huon, only lightly timbered. Any of this land is within three (3) miles of water carriage and easy of access, the intervening country being tolerably open, and, with burning off in the summer, forms a good rough run for cattle. I noticed several small lots of cattle hereabouts owned by the various residents of Recherche Bay and Southport Narrows, and when I saw them, some two months ago, they were in good condition. This portion of the district is the best that I know of at present for any small selectors interested in the fruit-growing industry, it being easily cleared, plenty of it well sheltered from the prevailing winds, and capable of irrigation at a small expense if required, and is a considerable distance from any place infected with the Codlin Moth pest, so that in all probability a great number of years would elapse before that bane of orchardists reached there, if, with the present legislation, it ever does.

In the valley of the Lune River at Southport there are some fine river bottoms, fit for fruit-growing purposes, but more heavily timbered than mentioned as between Southport and Recherche. I mention fruit-growing particularly, as it is the staple industry of the Huon, and if the exporting of fruit to England becomes a success (which it has all the appearance of doing), land in small blocks for orchard purposes will be in demand. As it benefits me as well as the general public to see this land opened up, to any *bonâ fide* selector who will communicate with me through you, I will give all the information in my power as to location of the best lots, and, if needful, point out land in question. We have plenty of Crown land of good quality still unalienated in the Huon and its surroundings, but our chief want is means of communication with the back blocks by means of branch roads. A glance at the chart will show that heretofore selection as a rule has been confined to the coast and the immediate vicinity of the Main Road leading through the district; but as there is very little land of any commercial value left that is accessible to either road or coast line, branch roads at short intervals leading to Crown lands are badly wanted. The Public Works Department are pushing several of these roads ahead as fast as the means at their disposal will allow, but I regret to say their funds are too limited at present to be of much use towards opening up the Crown estate for public selection. The present stagnation in the timber trade has a depressing effect upon selection in this district, for with the present low prices neither the mill-owners nor their employees have much spare cash to use for land selection, &c.

As a rule a general advance in the way of settlement has been made during the last 12 months, and with increased facilities in the way of roads, &c., I think during the next year we may hope for considerable progress in that line.

Roads.

I would recommend that the following branch roads be pushed on as fast as possible, as they would be the means of opening up good land, which would soon be selected were it available :—

Parish of Honeymoon.—Extension of Arve Road from end of present made road right into the valley of the Arve River. There are no engineering difficulties on this line, and the Arve Valley contains some of the best land in the Huon and some valuable timber.

Parish of Price.—Kermadie Valley Road into Crown lands.

Parish of Leithbridge.—Extension of Huon Valley Road. Extension of new road at Franklin.

Parish of Thanet.—Pulfer's Road (Hopetoun to Crown lands). This is being laid out at present by Mr. Trappes. Some few days since I was along the route, and if continued it will open a large area of good land, and I am credibly informed that a mile or two ahead there is a valuable bed of splitting timber. I will make it my business to examine this at an early date, and, if it is as valuable as represented, forward a report upon same, for splitting timber is fast becoming a thing of the past in the Huon, and if the fruit-growing industry prospers, palings for boxes at no great distant date will be valuable, and should enhance the value of any land whereon there is a bed of splitting timber.

The road known as Rutherford Road, at Ramea, up the Valley of the Esperance River, should also be pushed on, for it will eventually lead to some very good land, which will be all taken up as it is reached by the road, and is also the outlet to a large area of country drained by the Esperance River and its tributaries which as yet is almost unexplored, but which, from what little I know of it, must contain a considerable area of good land and valuable timber.

Parish of Garrett.—A road up the valley of the Lune is required to open the Crown land in that vicinity, but I do not consider it urgent.

Parish of South Bruni.—Extension of road leading from Daniels' Bay on the west to Adventure Bay on the eastern shore. At present this road as formed passes through the selections of the Messrs. Dixon and others, and is doing good service as far as made, and if it was extended to connect with the other shore it would be the means of opening up some really good land, which is well watered, and has the advantage of not being so heavily timbered as the mainland. The timber along this line is valuable, consisting of blue and swamp gums and lightwood of the very best description.

Parishes of Bedford and Bagot.—I do not know of any roads required in either of these parishes to open Crown lands, as in Bedford there are practically none to open, the scattered blocks that remain to the Crown being small in area, and are easily got at, as they are usually surrounded by other selections, and of inferior quality, being of very little use excepting to the owners of the adjoining property.

In the Parish of Bagot the country is rough and broken, and, beyond a few scattered lots, little or no selection is going on, and there are no areas of Crown land worth naming to be opened up by means of roads beyond those at present in use.

Bridges.—A new bridge, some 300 feet in length, has been recently constructed across the Catamaran River, near the sawmills of Messrs. M'Dougall Bros., in the Parish of Blakeney. This has been a long-felt want, and will be a boon not only to those who reside in that vicinity, but to all travellers to the extreme south of the District.

Substantial approaches have been made to the recently constructed bridges across the D'Entrecasteaux and Lune Rivers, both of which are large and rapid streams, consequently dangerous to ford.

As these bridges are now complete, they will be a boon to the travelling public, being all situate upon the main road which traverses the District from north to south, so that, at the present date a visitor, or any one whose business leads in that direction, can ride to the extreme south of the District, whereas a short time since such a feat was next to an impossibility.

I have, &c.

E. G. INNES, *District Surveyor.*

The Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.

Strahan, 16th June, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit my Annual Report for my Survey District, in accordance with the request made in your Memo. of the 5th instant.

At Waratah some little attention has been directed to the antimony lodes known to exist there, owing to the value of this mineral having increased very much of late; several selections having been applied for to secure the run of the lodes known to contain ores of antimony.

Several attempts have been made by the residents of Waratah to obtain areas for agricultural purposes in the vicinity of the road leading to the Heazlewood from Waratah, upon similar lines as the land on the West Coast has been thrown open for selection—namely, under 53 Vict. No. 38. There is a large area of basaltic land stretching easterly from the Heazlewood Road to Knole Plain, which is well suited for agriculture. One man along this road sowed and reaped a crop of oats on Crown land; it was an excellent crop, though the extent was not large, but it shows unmistakably what the land is capable of. If an area of 100 acres be deemed too large, make the maximum area near the Town of Waratah 10 acres, in the same way that has already been adopted near the Town of Strahan. It might be the means of forming the nucleus of an agricultural district, which, I think, a very much to be desired object. This good land extends about two miles south of Waratah, along the Heazlewood Road.

During the last year some attention has also been directed to Mount Ramsay, three sections surveyed there some 13 years ago having been re-pegged for bismuth, and also one 80-acre section applied for under "The Goldfields Act," in seven sections. This bismuth was discovered prior to the first surveys effected there. Gold, silver, and copper were known at that time to be associated with the bismuth, but the difficulty of separating the different minerals was a bar to its success—a difficulty that science has now removed. At the present time no track exists to the bismuth find, the old one being completely blocked, and the new track made to the west of this find at the time of the last tin ore discoveries there (Mount Ramsay) would require a branch track about four miles, to start from the 12-mile peg from Waratah, on the new track. If this track were cut it would materially assist in the successful development of this part of the country.

The road from Waratah to the Heazlewood for the first two miles is being made a capital road by Mr. Kempling, the contractor, but beyond this there are patches of bog which are really bad, and will probably, if not made good, cause the mail and pack-horses to again revert to the old Pieman Track. The number of sections surveyed at the Heazlewood keeps increasing, showing that prospecting still continues in the neighbourhood. Some, of course, have been forfeited, having been taken up in the first instance for speculative purposes. Work is being prosecuted on the Godkin S.M. Co's. property, the Proprietary S.M. Co., the Arnold P. Association, the Whyte River S.M. Co., the Smith & Bell's Reward Sections, the Heazlewood Extended, Heazlewood, and other S.M. Companies. I have every reason to think that some of these properties will yet be valuable.

The road from the Heazlewood to the Pieman is fairly good, with the exception of about a mile of stripping that is urgently required to be done on the Long Plain, and about the same distance on Brown's Plains. There are also a few other minor repairs needed. At the Pieman, now Corinna, the ferryman is much in want of a ferry-boat, having only a large unwieldy horse-punt upon which to convey passengers across the river. About 10 miles from Corinna, proceeding up the river for four miles in a boat, and for the remaining six along a rough bush track bearing about N.E., we come to Sandy's and White's gold find, in the vicinity of Paradise River, and on Cummings' Creek. Thirteen sections have been surveyed here, 10 acres each. Some good specimens have been obtained at this find, giving some splendid assays—so good, that a small Strahan Co. bought one of the discoverers' sections for £200, and are now engaged in vigorously prospecting the same, and, it is to be hoped, with success. The great want to this place is also a track, the one now in use being the merest apology for one.

Near this discovery, say three miles nearer Corinna, is a large alluvial deposit in a terrace some 40 chains long, and from 10 to 15 chains wide. This deposit will yield 2 dwts. to the dish at the bottom and 2 grs. near the surface. The wash is, so far as can be determined, 25 ft. deep. The drawback is want of water to treat it by hydraulic sluicing; this would want a race about eight miles long from the Paradise River, and the men holding the ground have not the means to undertake such a big job. It is certainly well worth attention on the part of those interested in mining.

Mining at Heemskirk is now almost at a standstill, but at Zeehan the chief mines are pushing on with the work incidental to developing the different properties. The buildings erected on and near the Mount Zeehan S.M. Co's. property are erected on low marshy ground that I have actually seen almost covered with water. Drainage is nearly impossible, owing to the shallowness of the creek and so much level ground; and, on this account, will be a source of danger to the health of the residents.

At Mount Dundas a town site has been selected, and a suggestion has been made to the Lands Department to reserve the same. The mines in this locality are looking very promising. Maestris and Davis and Lambie especially so. The country being broken, is much easier prospected than the Zeehan Field, as no pumping is required. All the prospecting is conducted by means of trenches and adits. The road to Mount Dundas from Zeehan is in a very boggy state, so much so, that riding out on horseback is almost out of the question.

The road also from Zeehan to Trial Harbour is rather difficult to cart upon; some of the bridges near Trial Harbour being really dangerous, as the timber is almost rotten—the bridges being the first put up on this road in the old Heemskirk mining days.

Strahan is progressing, and a great deal of agricultural land has been applied for in this vicinity, some twenty 10-acre lots. At the Henty some 1000 acres has been taken up for agricultural purposes under 53 Vict. No. 38, passed during the Session of 1889—an Act that a great many West Coast people will thank Parliament for. Under the same Act 500 acres have been selected at Granville Harbour, which has also been brought under the operation of this Act by the Government. The Government have wisely put in the new Land Act the Residence Clause, by which the purchaser or his agent must reside on the land. This will ensure the improvement of the land, and prevent its being held for merely speculative purposes. Most of the land applied for here and at the Henty fronts on the railway line, which will be utilised in other ways than in connection with the mines, and will help considerably in placing agricultural and pastoral pursuits in a very prominent position here.

I have, &c.

DAVID JONES, *District Surveyor.*

The Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.

Invermay, 1st January, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report as follows concerning the East Tamar Survey District for the past year:—

Selection.—Surveys under this heading have decreased considerably during the past year, as shown by following table, in which I also show other headings:—

	1887.	1888.	1889.
Agricultural .....acres	7600	7627	5219
Gold .....acres	190	88	107 *
Mineral .....acres	40	40	320
Police and Schools ...acres	7	5	2
Town Lots .....acres	3	45	50½
	<u>7840</u>	<u>7705</u>	<u>5698½</u>

* This item includes 67 acres that should be in 1888.

These tables show a yearly falling off; for, had it not been for Messrs. Ditcham deciding to erect a saw-mill, &c. at Denison Gorge, the agricultural lots in 1888 would have been at least 1000 acres less. The chief cause of this deficiency appears to be the scarcity of land of even medium quality with any sort of access; and people will not pay £1 per acre for poorer and open land, such as is to be found in Parishes of Lefroy, Tankerville, and Fordington; though, in my own opinion, where there is a clay bottom to the sandy soils of those Parishes it yields a quicker return in grass for a far less amount of labour than is expended on the heavy forest, which, when cleared, often proves very rocky. Of the heavier forests without access I may mention—1st. The vast strip from F. Hart's lots on the St. Patrick's River to the north slopes of Mount Barrow, extending high up this mount. Some parts of this is very good land. 2nd. The south slope of Mount Barrow, Parish of Northallerton. The attention of the Department has frequently been drawn to this, and means suggested for opening it up, but nothing definite has as yet been done. 3rd. North of Anderson and Church's selections on Piper River, Parish of Patersonia. In each of these cases there are no roads at all; and selection will not increase much in them until there are. Attention has also been called to Reserves along Scottsdale Railway line, as suggested by me last year; and it would be advisable to throw these open or cut them up. It is a pity this was not done before the line started: they would have been feeding it now. The fact of land in Parish of Scottsdale being withdrawn (except under auction) tends to lessen the amount of ground selected there; and there is no occasion for auction, as there is no Government land left worth more than upset, which past sales show.

Mines.—Gold surveys, like those under selection, have been decreasing steadily; and there is at present but little prospect of their becoming greater. Reefs are at work at Lefroy and Denison,—the prospects at Lefroy being a trifle better of late. Mineral lands show an increase in area; but it is only one lot, taken for coal. The Bangor Slate Quarry has ceased operations altogether, and is now totally dismantled, and unlikely ever to start again.

Surveys have been effected in all parts of the district: in fact, last year's surveys have extended over the utmost limits of it; and have, on the whole, been a very scattered lot. I have at present 22 orders incomplete, and hope soon to have these completed. One order only is an old one,—that is in Mr. Smith's district; and I have had no other work lately near it.

I have, &c.

C. W. LORD, *District Surveyor.*

The Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.

REPORT on the Progress of Settlement in the Survey District of G. C. SMITH during 1889.

Settlement has progressed at an increased rate in this district during the last year, and a larger area and greater number of lots have been applied for than in 1888.

In the district of which George's Bay is the outlet progress has been marked, and the increased area improved by being cultivated or laid down in grass, promising fairly to compensate, in time, for the necessary decrease in the output of tin from alluvial deposits and consequent falling off in prosperity. This falling-off would, it was hoped, have been prevented by the opening up of the lodes, but so far the result of lode-mining has not been what was expected. As most of the land now being occupied is very heavily timbered, and difficult of access until roads are made, the area in actual use increases slowly. There seems also to be a tendency on the part of selectors to take up areas too large for their means, and this leads to land being held idle which many would be glad to make use of. In nearly all cases, however, so far as I can judge, the land has been taken up by those who at least intend to improve it, and not with the view of holding it in an unimproved state to await an expected rise in value. Roads are being made as fast as can be reasonably looked for, and there is every prospect of the Settlement on the North and South George, where the principal area of good land lies, becoming before long a large as well as thriving agricultural district. Selection still goes on, and there is a considerable area of fertile land yet available. The land last selected is hilly, but contains soil of quality superior to that of most of the hill land first selected.

Instructions were issued last year for the survey of over 2500 acres, in 20 lots, in the vicinity of the Upper George, while in other parts of the district of which George's Bay is the outlet over 900 acres, in 16 lots, were taken up—nearly 3500 acres in all.

Near St. Mary's the area of Crown land fit for settlement is becoming small, and in 1889 surveys were here ordered of only 13 lots, containing about 650 acres. A trial is now being made of land situate in the greenstone country, between the South Esk watershed and the coast, the portions selected being the more open marshy land lying among stony rises. Most of this land lies high, and is consequently wet and cold; but with drainage it may be possible to convert it into fairly good pasture land, or to grow hardy crops. Six lots, containing 370 acres, of those above-mentioned, with an outlet at St. Mary's, are of this character.

About six lots only, 200 acres or thereabouts, were selected in 1889 in the localities of which Fingal is the outlet. There is not much Crown land in this vicinity, and the greater part of that the necessity for considering the mining interest has hitherto prevented from being thrown open for selection.

In the Ringarooma district, six lots (about 400 acres) were ordered to be surveyed in 1889. Here also the importance of the mining interest has interfered with settlement; but it is to be expected that when the Act passed with the object of providing for settlement in mineral districts, is brought into operation, there will be a large number of lots applied for.

It is most desirable that settlement should be encouraged in the mineral districts, if this can be done without hampering the mining interest; and there is less risk of injury, through the alienation of Crown land, to that interest now, than in its earlier stages.

In Glamorgan 17 lots have been selected, scattered over a wide area, about 900 acres in all. There is not in this district much land suited for settlement, and the lots selected have been taken up principally by the owners of land adjoining or near that applied for.

On the Scamander one lot was applied for. There seems to be a considerable area of fairly good land, the outlet from which would be George's Bay, on the heads of this stream. This land is situate near the place where gold and silver have been found, and where many sections were taken up under the "Gold Fields Act," so far without profitable result. Hence no applications for land in this locality have been accepted.

The surveys in all of 82 lots, nearly 6000 acres, applied for under 24th Section "Waste Lands Act," were ordered last year in this survey district, and these surveys, with two or three exceptions, have been made.

GEORGE C. SMITH.
11th June, 1890.

The Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.

ANNUAL Report ended 31st December, 1889.

SIR,

IN compliance with your request contained in letter of the 5th instant, I have the honor to forward the following progress Report for the year ending 31st December, 1889.

During the year 87 selections have been surveyed, comprising an area of 9610½ acres, together with 31 miles of roads and connection lines.

Selection has been very general throughout the District, and more attention is being given to improving the land by scrubbing and grassing; and several well situated selections have changed hands at a big advance on the original cost.

Numerous selections have been made south of the Woolnorth Block, and are now under survey; and until these are surveyed it would be difficult to form an idea of the amount of good land available for selection, as towards the east, about a mile and a half distant from the road, the land seems to pinch and trend away towards the south east, forming into a narrow strip, as far as I could ascertain.

Parish of Mowbray.—About 2000 acres of really good land is to be had, and the only drawback to this being selected is the water, that extends over it for six months of the year; some of the drier portions have been selected and lately surveyed. If a proper system of drainage could be introduced the whole of it would be selected. Mr. J. S. Lee has a railway line passing through this land towards the Parish of Togari, for the purpose of carrying blackwood logs and produce from the sections purchased by Carnac and others.

Parish of Gibson.—A few selections have been made and lately surveyed, but the roads being so very much out of order, and the country low-lying, tends to depress selection: about 1000 acres of known good land.

Parish of Ford.—About 500 acres of good land available after the recent applications are dealt with; the remainder consists of medium land and sandy soil.

Parish of Medwin.—A large number of selections have been made in this locality, owing to a large extent to the improved condition of the roads; and in the vicinity of the Township Reserve promises to be a large settlement at no very distant date. Most of the selections have been surveyed, and after these there will still be at least 1000 acres of good available land, towards the Arthur River and Irish Town.

Parish of Anderson.—Selection has been going on slowly, although some good land is to be met with south of the Black River, the distance from the shipping-port and the state of the roads materially retarding settlement. I should say there are at least 1000 acres of known very fair and good land.

Parish of Emmett.—Some small areas of medium land along the Crayfish Rivulet, remainder principally sandy and tea-tree swamps; if drained would be valuable.

Parish of Dallas.—South of this parish and the Detention River some good land exists, although most of the good land was supposed to have been selected. There are still some very fair selections to be got.

Parish of Flowerdale.—To the south and west of this parish there are some 1500 acres good land, lying between Sisters Creek and the Flowerdale River.

Parish of Calder.—Selections, both large and numerous, have been applied for, and most of them surveyed. There is still a large extent of good land available away westerly towards the Calder River.

Parish of Nolla.—Nearly the whole of the land fronting on the Main Road has been applied for and mostly surveyed. There is still a large extent of back land available for selection, and as soon as the roads are opened this will be taken up readily.

Parish of Lewis.—In the vicinity of the Henrietta Plains about 1500 acres.

Parishes of Oonah and Takoné.—Large area of available land unselected; the distance back from the shipping-port being the great drawback, which can only be overcome by light railways or good metalled roads.

Several practical farmers from Adelaide and Victoria have selected land in the district, and in many cases brought capital to work it; and many more are likely to come, so that we may confidently look forward to a large increase of produce, as well as a larger area brought under cultivation and under grass. Some few selectors are deterred by the distance the land is situated from a shipping-port; and in some cases expect to find available land within a few miles of one.

I enclose a return of the agricultural statistics for the District of Russell, showing the increase from 1886 to 1890; also an approximate value of the goods shipped from Circular Head in 1880 compared with the amount shipped in 1890.

I have, &c.

FREDK. E. WINDSOR, *District Surveyor.*

The Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.

District of Russell—Agricultural Statistics.

Description of Crops.	1886.		1887.		1888.		1889.		1890.	
	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.	Acres.	Produce.
		£		£		£		£		£
Wheat bush.	6	130	26	685	50	1415	154	4410	94	2552
Barley "	39	1220	13	284	16	370	31	880	18	568
Oats "	408	16,280	337	14,353	346	9850	592	18,690	615	25,609
Pease "	67	1570	69	1586	72	1505	87	2153	97	2771
Beans "	2	30	1	30	3	50	3	60	1	50
Tares "	1	20	...	...	1	20	2	40	3	40
Potatoes..... tons	845	4512	1277	6484	1399	6233	1378	7322	1692	8405
Turnips "	11	270	29	545	14	330	50	1310	37	1000
Carrots ..... "	...	...	...	...	2	40	...	...	1	30
Mangels..... "	29	860	34	1170	21	550	18	570	30	985
Onions ..... "	...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...
Artificial Grass Seed bush.	...	...	14	140	14	112	9	135	25	247
Hay tons	450	997	509	1091	552	1126	564	1069	582	1390
Garden and Orchard "	52	...	60	...	57	...	68	...	60	...
Land in Green Forage "	1	...	6	...	11	...	29	...	20	...
Permanent Grasses..... "	7746	...	8153	...	7807	...	8778	...	9702	...
Bare Fallow "	54	...	82	...	12	...	60	...	65	...
Total Land cultivated..... "	9701	...	10,645	...	10,377	...	11,823	...	13,078	...
New Land broken up..... "	76	...	195	...	142	...	255	...	515	...
Apples bush.	...	1558	...	1651	...	1791	...	1900	...	1904
Pears "	...	185	...	160	...	165	...	147	...	141
<i>Live Stock—</i>										
Horses "	...	621	...	731	...	780	...	813	...	817
Cattle..... "	...	3237	...	3280	...	3390	...	4153	...	4381
Sheep..... "	...	11,273	...	11,267	...	10,871	...	11,248	...	10,179
Milch Cows..... "	...	485	...	643	...	600	...	678	...	648
Goats..... "	...	12	...	10	...	9	...	12	...	10
Pigs "	...	1050	...	1042	...	1040	...	951	...	1365

Regarding the Quantity and Value of Exports from Circular Head.

As a considerable quantity of the produce is sent out of the District *coastwise*, of which no official record is kept, only an approximate estimate can be made for such articles as fat stock, dairy produce, hay, grain, &c. I append the value of foreign exports in 1889, together with the coast exports for 1880,—the last year of which no record of the coast trade was kept. The latter, I believe, as well as the foreign trade, has considerably increased since then.

Description of Goods.	Foreign for 1889—Quantity and Value.		Coastwise for 1880—Quantity and Value.	
		£		£
Potatoes	8307 tons	36,364	100 tons	324
Blackwood (sawn)	536,235 feet	4559	—	—
Blackwood Logs	116,000 "	275	53,000 feet	132
Hardwood (sawn)	582,700 "	1589	—	—
Wool	71,071 lbs.	1791	2450 lbs.	72
Oats	4429 bushels	756	3335 bushels	627
Wheat	800 "	180	744 "	167
Peas	995 "	198	966 "	116
Tares	50 "	25	—	—
Beans	50 "	25	30 bushels	5
Hides and Skins	1170	170	1200	268
Staves	21,290	94	1000	4
Piles	10,035 feet	84	—	—
Apples.....	60 bushels	15	154 bushels	33
Turnips	70 tons	102	—	—
Live Stock and Fat Cattle ...	...	...	...	4508
Ditto Sheep .....	...	...	...	1803
Ditto Pigs .....	...	...	...	31
Bacon.....	...	...	18 cwts.	28
Barley.....	...	...	5573 bushels.	650
Chaff.....	...	...	3 tons.	8
Butter.....	...	...	17,019 lbs.	920
Eggs .....	...	...	...	59
Mutton Birds.....	...	...	...	115
Mutton Bird Oil .....	...	...	...	55
Tallow.....	...	...	...	70
Tin Ore.....	...	...	12 tons	650
TOTAL.....	...	£46,227	...	£10,645

Moorina, 15th April, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit to you my Annual Report relative to the work within the boundaries of my Survey District for the year 1889.

45 *Vict. No. 5*.—I was only instructed for and surveyed seven lots under this section, comprising a total area of 200 acres—140 acres, or five lots, being in the Parish of Truganini, and 60 acres, or two lots, in the Parish of Branhholm. All these are being more or less improved by the several purchasers.

24th *Section W. L. Act, 1870*.—No areas selected.

Mineral Lands Act.—Forty sections have been taken up under this Act, embracing an area of about 1200 acres, the greater number being in lots of 20 acres each. This is an advance on the year 1888, when I only dealt with 18 lots, but shows a decided decrease for many previous years, which fact I have no doubt may be attributed to the attention given to silver at the West Coast.

Referring to the lands recently proclaimed as areas for selection under 53 *Vict. No. 38*, this has been a great boon to the District in general, and I anticipate every acre that may be termed fairly good will be selected.

Although I pointed out and left lithos. with you whilst on your visit here during the early part of March of this year illustrating what lands I considered as non-stanniferous, I would again respectfully lay before you the advisability of throwing open portions to the north of Gladstone Township, and in the Parishes of Doddbrook, Downham, and Truganini. There are many patches which I am sure would be applied for if available.

I would also suggest that that and the only portion now excluded from selection in the Parish of Branhholm, and situated to the north of Fencker's Creek, and fronting on the Ringarooma River, be thrown open. This embraces two forfeited mineral leases. The ground has been tested and abandoned. It is, moreover, of excellent quality, and I am certain would be at once selected.

Since handing you my last report, in which I alluded to land in vicinity of Mount Horror, I have had the country examined, with the result that the whole of the land between the Boobyalla River and west to Mount Horror, and also north from Gellibrand's Plains, is of very inferior quality. The country, however, improves to the south-west of aforesaid Plains, and towards the Billycock Tier some first-class land is met with. Proceeding along the track leading to Scottsdale for about three miles, and then to the "Billycock," the land is fairly good; also from the same point along a large creek running in a north-westerly direction towards Forrester's River there are patches of good land. To the north of Mount Horror and near the source of the Tomahawk River the land is worthless for agricultural purposes, consisting of heathy country and intersected with small button-grass plains.

It has several times been reported to me that there is a large scope of table land of basaltic formation lying between the Great Mussel Roe River and the Bay of Fires. I would suggest "assisted exploration" so as to confirm this statement. Judging from the "rush" in 1887, and the fact that farmers in this locality are greatly desired and sought after, I am of the opinion that if good land were to be discovered it would be readily selected.

To the south-west of areas surveyed by Mr. Surveyor Sorell during year 1887 there is a patch of first-class land, and extending from near said surveys towards the Full Moon Tin Mine.

I have, &c.

E. GLOUCESTER WALPOLE, *District Surveyor*.

The Surveyor-General, Survey Department, Hobart.