

1873.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

R E P O R T

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Appointed during the First Session of 1873

TO CONSIDER AND ADVISE UPON THE EXPEDIENCY OF MAKING

CONCESSIONS OF LAND

IN CERTAIN CASES.

Presented to the Legislative Council by His Excellency's Command.

P E R T H :

BY AUTHORITY: RICHARD PETHER, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1874.

EXTRACTED FROM THE MINUTES.

 WEDNESDAY, 2ND JULY, 1873.

CONCESSIONS OF LAND.—The Honorable F. P. Barlee, in accordance with notice, moved, That a Select Committee be appointed to consider and advise upon the expediency of making concessions of land to persons who may establish industries in or otherwise benefit the Colony. Such Committee to consist of the Honorable M. Fraser, Mr. Steere, Mr. Monger, Mr. Logue, Sir T. Cockburn-Campbell, Mr. Marmion, and Mr. Padbury.

Question—put and passed.

 MONDAY, 21ST JULY.

REPORT OF CONCESSIONS OF LAND SELECT COMMITTEE.—The Honorable M. Fraser brought up the Report of the Select Committee appointed to consider and advise on the expediency of making concessions of land to persons who may establish industries in or otherwise benefit the Colony.

Report read, and adoption of the Report made an Order of the Day for Tuesday, 22nd July.

 TUESDAY, 22ND JULY.

ADOPTION OF REPORT OF CONCESSIONS OF LAND SELECT COMMITTEE.—The Order of the Day for the adoption of this Report being read, The Honorable M. Fraser moved, That the Report be now adopted.

Mr. Logue moved an amendment, That one thousand acres of land in fee-simple be granted to Messrs. Muir, as pioneer settlers at Eucla; and five hundred acres of land in fee-simple be granted to Mr. A. Dempster.

Debate ensued.

Mr. Carey moved, That all the words after the word "Eucla," in Mr. Logue's amendment, be struck out.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the words proposed to be struck out, be struck out—put and passed.

Question—That one thousand acres of land in fee-simple be granted to Messrs. Muir, as pioneer settlers at Eucla—put.

Council divided.

AYES—5.

The Honorable M. Fraser
 Mr. Carey
 Mr. Dempster
 Mr. Monger
 Mr. Logue (*Teller*).

NOES—10.

The Honorable F. P. Barlee
 The Honorable H. H. Hocking
 Mr. Steere
 Mr. Hassell
 Mr. Bussell
 Sir Thomas Cockburn-Campbell
 Mr. Pearse
 Mr. Padbury
 Mr. Bickley
 Mr. Marmion (*Teller*).

The Question was therefore negatived.
 Original Resolution—put and passed.

R E P O R T

OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Council appointed to consider and advise on the expediency of making Concessions of Land to persons who may establish industries in or otherwise benefit the Colony.

YOUR Committee having fully and carefully considered the general principles on which such concessions should be made, and having examined *seriatim* the applications set before them, have to report as follows:—

In laying down an expression of opinion as to the general principles on which such concessions should be made, Your Committee have divided the matter into two: and taken, Firstly, concessions to be made for carrying out public works; Secondly, those to be made for encouragement of new industries.

1st.—For carrying out public works, concessions, as a rule, are inadvisable, if a loan can be obtained. Concessions of this nature should therefore be specifically brought before the Legislature for its consideration,—a course which would entail no serious inconvenience.

2nd.—No industry should receive such encouragement which does not appear likely to be specially suited to the country, and able, when once established, to be carried on without special protection.

(a).—The concession should bear a certain proportion to the outlay, trouble, and risk to be incurred by the projector.

(b).—It should not be granted until the outlay be completed.

(c).—It should, if in the form of a reserve, be resumable if the undertaking in respect to which it has been granted should be abandoned by the projector.

(d).—If the concession be one of land in fee-simple it should not be given in the form of scrip, or transferable purchase orders, but in the form of a defined grant.

(e).—In making such grants care should be taken not to create monopoly by shutting out the public from water carriage, or other advantages.

(f).—If the construction of trams, railways, &c., be part of the scheme, and so far as is possible in any case, such as smelting works, quartz-crushing, &c., the public should be allowed the use of such works so far as is possible, without unduly interfering with the projector, at rates to be agreed upon.

YOUR Committee have to report on the eight (8) special applications submitted to them, as follows:—

1.—*Mr. T. W. Oldman's application for 150,000 acres at Gascoigne River.*

Your Committee think it desirable to accept the offer so far as regards length of lease and tenure, rental to be paid and right to purchase at ten shillings an acre; and also to any pre-emptive rights granted by existing Regulations, subject to all conditions hitherto imposed on purchasers and occupants of Crown Land in Western Australia; but they must decline acceding to any guarantee for compensation for improvements made during currency of lease, considering the rights of the lessee are well protected by what is approved of above, and by number 92 of the present Land Regulations.

2.—*Mr. Braun's application.*

Your Committee, after hearing all the correspondence read, and after discussing the question, considered that the existing regulations should not be departed from, and that Mr. Braun should be so informed.

3.—*The application of Messrs. Muir and others at Eucla for certain concession.*

The majority of Your Committee were of opinion that the present Land Regulations are sufficiently liberal to meet the case.

[Messrs. Fraser, Monger, and Logue dissented from this].

4.—*In regard to Messrs. Brown & Co's. (of Melbourne) application, dated 2nd April, 1873,*

Your Committee were agreed that the applicants should be secured under the Regulations in any land they dug wells or built or constructed tanks or dams on, provided the whole area so held should not exceed 500,000 acres; selection to be made on or before the 1st day of July, 1874.

5.—*Mr. A. Dempster's application for a grant on Fraser Range.*

The majority of Your Committee were of opinion that there is nothing shown by applicant to warrant any recommendation for a departure from the Land Regulations in force.

[Messrs. Monger and Logue dissented from this].

6.—*Mr. A. Hordern's, Junior, application*

Was taken into consideration, but it was considered impracticable to arrive at a definite conclusion without knowing more of that gentleman's intentions. Recommended that every information be furnished, and also that a copy of the principles just adopted be sent him.

7.—*Mr. H. Bundy's applications.*

NOTE.—The same opinion was arrived at as in the last case.

8.—*Mr. John Skerron-Wright's application on behalf of the National Agricultural Laborers' Union*

Was brought before Your Committee, but they thought it more a question for discussion in the Council when Immigration is being considered, and would like to see it laid on the table of the House for that purpose.

MALCOLM FRASER,
Chairman.