



1959.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

REGENERATION OF EUCALYPT FORESTS

REPORT OF SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL, WITH
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

Brought up by the Hon. T. G. D'Alton, M.L.C. and ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed.

SELECT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Council appointed on December 11, 1958 and reappointed on June 2 1959, to enquire into and report upon the policy and progress of the Forestry Commission in the regeneration of Tasmania's indigenous eucalypt forests and matters incidental thereto.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. D'ALTON (*Chairman*).
MR. BROWN.
MR. DIXON.

MR. FENTON.
MR. MILLER.

DAYS OF MEETING.

Saturday, December 20, 1958; Wednesday, January 21; Tuesday, January 27; Wednesday, January 28; Monday, February 16; Tuesday, February 17; Friday, February 20; Thursday, June 18; Tuesday, June 30; Wednesday, July 1; Thursday, July 2; Thursday, October 1, and Thursday, October, 15, 1959.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

Frederick Philip Frampton, Divisional Forester; Edward Kenneth Cox, Divisional Forester; Maurice Sampson, Smithton; Leslie Rowland Hill, Lyle Beckett, Usher Waters, Cliff Grey, Frank Britton, Sawmillers; Wesley Raymond Beckett, Assistant Divisional Forester; Emil Peter Johnston, Divisional Forester; Louis Reginald Benjamin, Hobart; Thomas Richard Brabin, Tasmanian Timber Association; Reginald Henry Needham, Australian Pulp and Paper Mills; Harold Payne and Frederick Albert Noar, Associate Forestry Commissioners; John Maxwell Gilbert, Silviculturist; Paul Thorp Unwin, Management Branch, Forestry Commission; Alexander Herbert Crane, Chief Commissioner, Forestry Commission; and Ian Eugene Corby, Secretary and Accountant, Mines Department.

STATEMENTS FILED WITH EVIDENCE.

Forests Commission of Victoria; Donald W. Chisholm, Ulverstone.

REPORT

Your Select Committee appointed on Thursday, December 11, 1958, and re-appointed on Tuesday, June 2, 1959, to enquire into and report upon the policy and progress of the Forestry Commission in the regeneration of Tasmania's indigenous eucalypt forests and any matters incidental thereto, has the honour to report as follows—

Thirteen meetings of your Committee were held and nineteen witnesses examined. Evidence was given by Forestry Officers, sawmilling interests and individuals with specialised forestry knowledge.

The opportunity was taken by your members to examine the principle forest areas of the State, to study regrowth stands and to observe the results of natural forest hazards and the experimental work of the forestry officers.

Your Committee was impressed with the importance of the forestry wealth of the State and the vital part the existing forest industries play in the economy of Tasmania. The preservation of a natural heritage which, apart from its essential value in soil and water conservation, is worth at present about £27,000,000 per annum to the State, is a great obligation.

The main duty of your Committee was to ascertain whether, in the commercial exploitation of the indigenous eucalypt forests, proper measures are being taken to replace the original and mature stands as they are harvested, and so provide an adequate and increasing yield for the future.

After making a careful study of evidence placed before it, your Committee is of the opinion that its appointment closely followed a changed outlook and intention on the part of all concerned with the operation of forest industries.

Until quite recently, lack of knowledge of our forest resources and the nature of sawmilling operations militated against any real attempt to plan regeneration of worked over areas. It is only in recent years that the need for, and the problem of, regeneration are being understood and your Committee has found within the Forestry Commission a keen appreciation of the importance of this task.

This interest by the Commission is indicated by field research during recent years into the problem of obtaining regeneration in the rain forest types carrying a dense scrub understory.

Evidence of the changed outlook by the public, forest industries and the Forestry Commission is summed up in the words of one witness who said:—

“What is becoming apparent is that the general outlook has changed so that the time is ripe for the application of successful regeneration techniques, the achievement of which is in sight. Although past losses are irrecoverable, given some degree of certainty of reforestation of cut-over land, including its protection from fire, there is no need for undue pessimism about the future of the industries dependent on the forests for their needs.”

So far as present regeneration of worked over forests is concerned, your Committee found that, generally speaking, adequate regrowth has been established without assistance in the open forest types such as the *Eucalyptus Gigantea* forests of the north-east. Evidence given to the Committee shows, however, that in the rain forest areas such as are found on the north-west coast, only patchy and isolated restocking has occurred. This cannot be regarded as satisfactory.

Officers of the Commission, whilst generally agreeing with this viewpoint, pointed out that the more practical and urgent problem was the preservation of existing stands from fire rather than the diversion of essential resources to the regeneration of worked over areas. The Committee received evidence of the marked improvement in fire protection and the growing public consciousness to protect the forests from fire. The Committee congratulates the Chief Commissioner for Forests, his officers and the rural fires organisation for a successful campaign in this regard. It agrees that an adequate fire protection system is of paramount importance in a policy of perpetual forest production and pays tribute to the voluntary brigades which set a fine example to others.

1959.

3

(No. 41.)

The Committee is of the opinion that recent experimental research into methods of regeneration should be implemented without delay, especially in the present unsatisfactory wet forest areas.

Your Committee considers that there should now be a change of emphasis in Forestry policy. The prime function of forestry should now be the growing and protection of new forests, and the greatest possible utilisation of remaining mature stands.

Evidence submitted to the Committee reveals that a declining production can be expected from existing forests from now on, and that after a period of 10 to 20 years, a critical stage will be reached when present production will have to be seriously curtailed until new stocking has reached marketable size.

This in no way reflects on the administration of the present Commission, as the average period taken by eucalypts to reach milling standard is about eighty years. If the lag occurs twenty years hence, then its origin must go back to the turn of the century at which time there was no fire control and milling operations were often indiscriminate.

Even in cases where millers at that time were not unmindful of the need to regenerate, the resultant regrowth after their operations was often destroyed by fire.

The Forestry Commission is well aware of this coming problem and is making every endeavour to overcome it. The Commissioners feel confident that the development of their pine plantations, more extensive use of inferior timbers and the results of surveys now being made in hitherto untouched areas, will do much to keep the industry at a sound production level.

Your Committee found some conflict of opinion as to the extent to which established *Pinus Radiata* plantations would bridge the impending gap in the supply of indigenous hardwoods. Generally speaking, the sawmilling industry was of the opinion that softwoods will have some importance in meeting certain local demands for timber, for case-making and pulp and, in the more mature classes, for plywood.

Your Committee was informed, however, that it was considered unlikely that Tasmania could ever maintain an export trade in softwoods against the enormous supplies becoming available from extensive plantations in South Australia, Victoria and New Zealand.

Your Committee found fairly general agreement amongst both sawmillers and Forestry Commission Officers that the future of Tasmania's timber industries must rest with our high quality hardwood timbers rather than exotic pines.

In general your committee found the Commissioners satisfied that, after an initial reduction in yield, the forests of this State could maintain hardwood production at its present level, or greater, in perpetuity. It is evident that the Commission has a keen desire to reach this objective and much preliminary work has been done in this direction.

Having reached these general conclusions your Committee examined the evidence as it applied to each of the Terms of Reference:

(1) *The progress made by the Forestry Commission in the regeneration of Tasmania's indigenous eucalypt forests:*

The Commission has not established any sizeable regrowth stands by its direct effort, but it has been very conscious of its responsibility to protect natural regrowth by strict fire control. This is effected under the provisions of the Rural Fires Act 1950 and your Committee regrets that all municipalities within the State have not yet joined the organisation established thereunder.

In the areas of open type forests, such as are found in the eucalypt *Gigantea* forests of the north-east, your Committee consider that satisfactory regeneration has occurred and that these regions should, given adequate fire protection, provide a sustained rotational yield in the future.

In the important but difficult rain forest areas of the north-west and south, and especially in the Circular Head district where a heavy myrtle understory usually precludes any possibility of natural regeneration of eucalypts, regeneration generally has not been satisfactory.

Regrowth which has occurred following fires in old workings appears to be of a high standard, but is usually in scattered units, difficult to manage and protect from further fires.

The problem of saving these rain forests from degeneration into worthless scrub areas, after the removal of the original stand, has, in recent years, been receiving the attention of the Commission.

Having regard to the serious nature of the problem in those important timber producing areas of the State, the progress made by the Commission by research and field trials to determine the best method of securing restocking with eucalypts is of vital importance.

Some small areas have been burnt as an experiment, and areas subjected to natural fires are also under study, but no effort has been made at this stage to clear scrub and understory by mechanical means. It was considered by some witnesses from the Forestry Commission that this method was too expensive, but your Committee notes that mechanical means have been used in some of the forest concessions of Australian Pulp and Paper Mills with a marked degree of success.

Neither has any experimental work been undertaken by hand planting, except on King Island, but this also has been done by the same company and the Victorian Forests Commission in that State with good results.

It is appropriate to record here the satisfaction of your Committee to find that the re-forestation programme of companies holding concessions shows a keen appreciation of the need to plan a sustained rotational yield.

If the results of the investigations conducted by the Commission are implemented in a firm policy of forest management in the unsatisfactory areas referred to above, it will constitute a development of the utmost importance to the future of the forest industry in this State. The progress made by the Commission in the regeneration of the eucalypt forests may be stated as improved protection of regrowth in satisfactory regions and research into the methods to be employed in unsatisfactory areas.

(2) *Whether the present policy of the Commission is adequate to provide for perpetual hardwood production in this State:*

The policy of the Commission is stated as follows.—

- (i) Fire Protection Development—a priority requirement for silviculture and forest management.
- (ii) Access road construction to maintain industry.
- (iii) Re-forestation by Planting and Natural regeneration to provide increased volumes of timber for the future.
- (iv) Improved utilisation and basic research needed.

It is claimed that in all fields reasonably satisfactory progress has been made.

In general, your Committee agrees that the present policy of the Commission is adequate in much of the forest area of the State. In other important forests referred to in (1) action by the Commission to ensure that regeneration has followed harvesting does not appear to be adequate to maintain timber crops.

Your Committee has found, that the present policy of the Commission for fire prevention and control must be the basis of any programme of perpetual forest production. In this essential requirement the Commission has pursued its policy with vigour and marked success, and its continuation and extension will contribute to a large degree to the success of forestry in Tasmania.

The Chief Commissioner, in particular, is to be congratulated upon the great improvement in this vital field, and there seems to be no doubt that the marked change in public attitude towards fires and the need to guard our forests jealously is largely the result of the establishment of the Rural Fires Organisation.

Your Committee is of the opinion that, although the present policy of regeneration has not been adequate in areas where some assistance is needed, it is impressed with the fact that the Commission has initiated research which appears to have produced results upon which a policy of regeneration can be based.

(3) *What changes, if any, are necessary in re-afforestation policy to ensure permanent and increased supplies for future requirements:*

Your Committee recommends the strengthening of the Silviculture Section by the appointment of a special regeneration officer in each Forestry Division.

Practically all witnesses agreed that to obtain regeneration in the areas where eucalypt *Obliqua* predominate with a heavy myrtle scrub understory, it is essential that, after the harvesting of the mature stand, the remaining understory, trash and forest floor debris must be removed by burning to permit the establishment of a new crop.

The research conducted by the Commission into this problem appears, in general, to confirm this practice and it is, therefore, recommended that the investigations carried out by the Commission be implemented without delay by a firm policy of forest regeneration based on the decisions reached.

Your Committee suggests that the Forestry Commission should endeavour to obtain even more co-operation from sawmillers and those working private leases. To this end the Commission has already made a start by introducing "dud" falling concessions by which the forest can be opened to give some chance of regeneration in bad cells. Your Committee realises that the Commission faces a problem in getting patches of forest, useless for timber, cleared sufficiently to permit natural regeneration.

The Committee feels that exclusive permit holders should be responsible for leaving worked over areas in suitable condition for regeneration as required by the technical regeneration officer attached to the district concerned.

Because of the essential need to protect young forests, whether already naturally regenerated or to be established by an intensified programme of restocking, your Committee recommends that more public funds be diverted to the construction of light summer roads in regrowth areas and for fire protection generally.

Your Committee recommends that all Crown Land timber areas, considered primarily suitable for the perpetual production of eucalypts, should be dedicated as State Forests so that these areas may be brought under proper sustained yield control and fire protection.

Having regard to the shortage which could occur in the supply of eucalypt timbers from a comparatively early date until after the turn of the century—assuming adequate establishment and survival of regeneration is achieved—your Committee is impressed with the need to obtain the maximum possible utilisation from the remaining mature stands.

It is of the opinion that the next 50 years will need to be a period of the greatest conservation of reserves whilst new forests are encouraged and protected. The Committee feels that there will have to be maximum utilisation of raw material from the forests, both for timber and paper production.

The Committee appreciates that there are economic barriers to the complete utilisation of the forest products, and it is also aware that some supply co-operation already exists between the paper making and the timber industries.

However, your Committee recommends that every reasonable economic possibility be examined to ensure that timber unsuitable for timber production, and left to waste in timber areas, is diverted to paper and other allied production.

Conversely it is strongly recommended that the supply of superior sawmilling logs from paper concession areas at economic prices should be encouraged where possible by the Commission.

(4) *Whether any changes are desirable in the conditions of exclusive forest permits to provide for re-afforestation by leaseholders:*

Your Committee has accepted, as a general statement, the view that in some important timber areas of the State, satisfactory eucalypt regeneration cannot be obtained unless the dampening canopy of the scrub understory of the old forest is removed. The Committee, therefore, considers that it may be desirable for the Commission to investigate the possibility of lease-holders accepting some responsibility for the encouragement of regeneration on the areas from which they have removed the first crop.

The Committee suggests that arrangements might be entered into with lease-holders whilst they have machinery and labour available in an area to do such preparatory work as may be required by the Commission to facilitate regeneration.

In those locations where burning is necessary, consideration could be given to the adoption of a policy of clear felling where necessary so that the whole area logged could be burnt in suitable and safe burning units. In cases where natural barriers cannot be utilised to render burning units safe, the Commission should consider the use of loggers' bulldozers to provide perimeter breaks.

Evidence tendered to the Committee indicated that the industry could not bear any additional forest costs in addition to the present rate of royalty, so acceptance of this recommendation would require a complementary system of compensation or royalty rebates.

(5) *Matters incidental thereto:*

(a) New pine plantations.

Having in mind the possibility of a lag in hardwood resources and the need to provide further softwood production, your Committee recommends that urgent consideration be given to the establishment of a radiata pine plantation on the west coast with a minimum planting of 1,000 acres per year. This area, estimated at a total of 50,000 acres, should produce timber at a time when the existing mines are worked out and there is a need to establish new industry. It is the considered view of the Committee that any lesser planting programme in this location would not be economical.

(b) Academic and Technical Staff.

Incidental evidence disclosed that the Forestry Commission, although scholarships are offering, found difficulty in attracting applicants for technical positions. Your Committee recommends that investigations be made into the causes of this situation and that a forestry career be actively canvassed in the secondary schools of the State.

This would be necessary to produce the qualified persons for appointment to each Forestry Division as Regeneration Officers, and so do away with the present situation where silviculture is a headquarters section only. In making this recommendation your Committee has regard to the fact that different methods are necessary in different areas of the State to obtain regeneration and a silviculturist working together with a Divisional Forester would enable both to reconcile their recommendations for that particular area.

(c) Pest control.

Considerable evidence was forthcoming on the destruction of natural regrowth by wallabies, rodents, insects and disease. Your Committee recommends that the Commission strengthen its liaison with the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and urges further research in this field, even if such activity requires the direct employment of an entomologist.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Your Committee recommends—

1. That a vigorous policy of regeneration, based on the results of the Commission's research be implemented without delay, with particular regard to forests with heavy scrub understory.

2. That additional trained personnel be appointed to the Silvicultural Branch, and that additional finance be sought for extension of regeneration work.
3. That consideration should be given to requesting leaseholders, under a system of compensation, to do any necessary preparation while logging an area, so that if necessary it may be burnt in suitable and safe burning units as instructed by Commission Officers.
4. That more light summer access roads be provided in regrowth units to facilitate fire protection.
5. That greater and more economical use of existing reserves of timber be made by encouraging complementary utilisation by the two main forest industries, paper making and timber production.
6. That more Crown Land timber areas, suitable for the perpetual production of timber crops, be dedicated as State Forests so that they may be brought under proper sustained yield control.
7. That the area south of the Arthur River in the Circular Head Municipality be assessed for timber reserves and access roads planned without delay in view of the evidence submitted to the Committee that supplies north of the river will be exhausted within seven years.
8. That urgent consideration be given to the establishment of a pine plantation of 50,000 acres on the west coast in the area north of Strahan which has suitable soil and no great mineral potential.
9. That the Forestry Commission take steps through secondary schools to attract students to careers in forestry.
10. That further research be undertaken for the control of disease and pests occurring in regrowth stands, and that if necessary, an entomologist be directly employed by the Commission.

CONCLUSION

Your Committee was impressed by the loyalty, co-operation and enthusiasm found within the administration of the Forestry Commission.

It commends the Commission for its management of pine plantations and places on record its appreciation for the assistance and co-operation of the Commissioners and their Officers during its enquiries.

It records also, the willing co-operation of companies holding forest concessions.

T. G. D'Alton, *Chairman.*

Committee Room,
Legislative Council,
October 15, 1959.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, 20 DECEMBER, 1958.

The Committee met in the Committee Room, Legislative Council at 12.20 o'clock a.m.

Members Present: Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

The Clerk read the order of the Council appointing the Committee.

Mr. Fenton was appointed Chairman *pro tempore*.

Resolved, That evidence be taken by Statutory Declaration and that a synopsis only be recorded. (Mr. Dixon.)

Resolved, That advertising be deferred until the Committee gave further consideration to the forest areas to be inspected (Mr. Dixon.)

Resolved, That the Chairman make arrangements for a preliminary meeting with the Forestry Officers and fix the date for the next meeting accordingly. (Mr. Dixon.)

At 12.32 o'clock a.m. the Committee adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, 21 JANUARY, 1959.

The Committee met in the Committee Room, Legislative Council at 11 o'clock a.m.

Members Present: Mr. Brown, Mr. D'Alton, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Fenton.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. D'Alton was elected Chairman.

Alexander Herbert Crane, Chief Commissioner, Forestry Commission, appeared before the Committee in an advisory capacity.

The Committee deliberated.

At 12.20 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until 2.15 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, January 27, 1959.

TUESDAY, 27 JANUARY, 1959.

The Committee met at the offices of the Forestry Commission, Geeveston, at 2.15 o'clock p.m.

Members Present: Mr. D'Alton (Chairman), Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Fenton.

Frederick Philip Frampton, Divisional Forester of Geeveston, was called, made the Statutory Declaration, and was examined.

Mr. Frampton withdrew.

At 2.45 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until 1.30 o'clock p.m. on Wednesday January 28, 1959.

WEDNESDAY, 28 JANUARY, 1959.

The Committee met at Maydena at 1.30 o'clock p.m.

Members Present: Mr. D'Alton (Chairman), Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Fenton.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That further evidence be invited by advertisement in the "Mercury", "Examiner", and "Advocate". (Mr. Dixon.)

Resolved, That the next meeting of the Committee be held at Smithton at 4 o'clock p.m. on Monday, 16 February, 1959.

At 2 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned.

MONDAY, 16 FEBRUARY, 1959.

The Committee met at the offices of the Forestry Commission, Smithton at 4 o'clock p.m.

Members Present: Mr. D'Alton (Chairman), Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

Edward Kenneth Cox, Divisional Forester, North-Western Division was called, made the Statutory Declaration and was examined.

Mr. Cox withdrew.

Maurice Sampson of Smithton was called, made the Statutory Declaration and was examined.

Mr. Sampson withdrew.

Leslie Rowland Hill, Chairman, Circular Head Sawmillers' Group; Lyle Beckett, Manager, J. S. Lee and Sons Ltd. and Circular Head Amalgamated Timbers Ltd.; Usher Waters, General Manager, Hardwoods of Australia

Pty. Ltd.; Cliff Grey, Manager, Grey Bros. Pty. Ltd.; Frank Britton, Manager, Britton Bros. Pty. Ltd., were jointly called, made the Statutory Declaration and were examined.

Messrs. Hill, Beckett, Waters, Grey, and Britton withdrew.

At 5.30 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until 2.15 o'clock p.m. tomorrow.

TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY, 1959.

The committee met at the offices of the Forestry Commission, Smithton at 2.15 o'clock p.m.

Members Present: Mr. D'Alton (Chairman), Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

Wesley Raymond Beckett, Assistant Divisional Forester, North-Western Division, was called, made the Statutory Declaration and was examined.

Mr. Beckett withdrew.

At 2.35 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until 2 o'clock p.m. Friday, February 20, at Derby.

FRIDAY, 20 FEBRUARY, 1959.

The Committee met at Derby at 2 o'clock p.m.

Members Present: Mr. D'Alton (Chairman), Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

Emil Peter Johnston, Divisional Forester, North-Eastern Division was called, made the Statutory Declaration and was examined.

Mr. Johnston withdrew.

At 2.45 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned *sine die*.

THURSDAY, 18 JUNE, 1959.

The Committee met in the Committee Room, Legislative Council at 4 o'clock p.m.

Members Present: Mr. Brown, Mr. D'Alton, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

The Clerk read the Order of the Council reappointing the Committee.

Mr. D'Alton was appointed Chairman.

Resolved, That evidence be taken by Statutory Declaration and that a synopsis only be recorded. (Mr. Fenton.)

The Committee took into consideration the Minutes of Proceedings of, and the transcript of the evidence taken by, the Committee appointed for the same purpose in the last Parliament.

The Clerk read a report received from the Forests Commission of Victoria relating to eucalypt plantations.

Resolved, That the report be received and filed with the evidence. (Mr. Miller.)

The Clerk read an application to tender evidence from the Tasmanian Timber Association.

Resolved, That the Association be requested to present its evidence at Hobart. (Mr. Dixon.)

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the following be summoned to tender evidence—

Mr. L. R. Benjamin.

Mr. R. Needham, Associated Pulp and Paper Mills, Burnie.

Messrs. Noar and Payne, Associate Commissioners, Forestry Commission.

Dr. Gilbert, Forestry Commission.

Mr. A. H. Crane, Chief Commissioner, Forestry Commission. (Mr. Fenton.)

Resolved, That Mr. K. Cox, Forestry Officer, Smithton, be recalled. (Mr. Fenton.)

Resolved, That further evidence be taken on Tuesday, 30 June, 1959 and the following Wednesday and Thursday. (Mr. Dixon.)

At 4.30 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m. on Tuesday, June 30, 1959 at the Committee Room, Legislative Council, Hobart.

TUESDAY, 30 JUNE, 1959.

The Committee met in the Committee Room, Legislative Council at 10 o'clock a.m.

Members Present: Mr. D'Alton (Chairman), Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Louis Reginald Benjamin of Hobart was called, made the Statutory Declaration and was examined.

Mr. Benjamin withdrew.

Edward Kenneth Cox, Divisional Forester, North-West Division was recalled and further examined.

Mr. Cox withdrew.

At 12.45 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until 2.15 o'clock p.m.

The Committee met at the Committee Room, Legislative Council at 2.15 o'clock p.m.

Members Present: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

Mr. Fenton took the chair.

Thomas Richard Brabin, Manager, Tasmanian Timber Association was called, made the Statutory Declaration and was examined.

Mr. D'Alton took the chair.

Mr. Brabin withdrew.

Reginald Henry Needham, Australian Pulp and Paper Mills, Burnie, was called, made the Statutory Declaration and was examined.

Mr. Needham withdrew.

At 4.30 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m. tomorrow.

WEDNESDAY, 1 JULY, 1959.

The Committee met in the Committee Room, Legislative Council at 10 o'clock a.m.

Members Present: Mr. D'Alton (Chairman), Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Harold Payne and Frederick Albert Noar were jointly called, made the Statutory Declaration and were examined.

Mr. D'Alton withdrew.

Mr. Fenton took the Chair.

Messrs. Payne and Noar withdrew.

At 12.25 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until 2.15 o'clock p.m.

The Committee met in the Committee Room, Legislative Council at 2.15 o'clock p.m.

Members Present: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, and Mr. Fenton.

Mr. Fenton took the Chair.

John Maxwell Gilbert, Silviculturist, Forestry Commission, was called, made the Statutory Declaration, and was examined.

Mr. Miller took his place.

Dr. Gilbert withdrew.

Paul Thorp Unwin, Management Branch, Forestry Commission, was called, made the Statutory Declaration and was examined.

Mr. Unwin withdrew.

Alexander Herbert Crane, Chief Commissioner, Forestry Commission was called, made the Statutory Declaration, and was examined.

Mr. Crane withdrew.

At 5.35 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until 10 o'clock a.m. tomorrow.

THURSDAY, 2 JULY, 1959.

The Committee met in the Committee Room, Legislative Council at 10 o'clock a.m.

Members Present: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

Mr. Fenton took the Chair.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter and supporting statement from Mr. D. W. Chisholm of Ulverstone was read.

Resolved, That the statement be filed with the evidence. (Mr. Dixon.)

Resolved, That an officer of the Department of Mines be called to tender evidence. (Mr. Dixon.)

The Committee deliberated.

Ian Eugene Corby, Secretary and Accountant, Mines Department, was called, made the Statutory Declaration and was examined.

Mr. Corby withdrew.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Chief Commissioner, Forestry Commission be re-called. (Mr. Miller.)

Alexander Herbert Crane, Chief Commissioner, Forestry Commission, was recalled, and further examined.

Mr. Crane withdrew.

At 12.55 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until 2.15 o'clock p.m.

The Committee met in the Committee Room, Legislative Council, at 2.15 o'clock p.m.

Members Present: Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

Mr. Fenton took the Chair.

The Committee deliberated.

Resolved, That the Chairman bring up a draft Report for consideration. (Mr. Dixon.)

At 3.30 o'clock p.m. the Committee adjourned until a date to be fixed by the Chairman.

THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER, 1959.

The Committee met in the Committee Room, Legislative Council at 11 o'clock a.m.

Members Present: Mr. D'Alton, Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The Chairman brought up a draft report which was read.

The Draft Report was taken into consideration.

At 12 o'clock noon, the Committee adjourned until 10.30 o'clock a.m. on Thursday, 15th October, 1959, at the Committee Room, Legislative Council.

THURSDAY, 15 OCTOBER, 1959.

The Committee met in the Committee Room, Legislative Council at 10.30 o'clock a.m.

Members Present: Mr. D'Alton (Chairman), Mr. Brown, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Fenton, and Mr. Miller.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

Resolved, That the Draft Report as amended be adopted. (Mr. Brown.)

At 10.40 o'clock a.m. the Committee adjourned *sine die*.