

will be laid to your rest amidst general sorrowing, and that you will be remembered as one who has endeavoured simply and conscientiously to do his duty in every walk of life. (Applause.)

The Hon. Sir JAMES AGNEW feelingly responded, and said he would value the gift very highly.

The Hon. ADYE DOUGLAS said he would like to add a few words to what had already fallen from His Excellency the Administrator. He might say he was the first to

meet Sir James in the year 1840 in Victoria when they were both young men. He could say that all through Sir James Agnew's career he was always looked upon as a fine old English gentleman. (Applause.)

The health of "His Excellency" was proposed by Sir JAMES AGNEW, who said he felt very grateful to the Administrator in being present—one whom the colony might well be proud of, being one of their own, and rising to the highest position in the land. (Cheers).



## AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, 1902 MEETING.

A deputation consisting of the Trustees of the Museum and Members of the Council of the Royal Society waited upon the Ministry on Thursday, November 2, 1899, and asked the Government to place a sum of £500 on the estimates for the purpose of defraying expenses in connection with the annual meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science which it was proposed to hold at Hobart in 1902. It was also requested that all the necessary printing in connection with the meeting should be done at the Government Printing Office.

The Hon. N. J. BROWN, M.E.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly, explained that in 1892 the then Government had complied with a similar request. He said that the fact of the annual meeting of the society being held at Hobart exercised a very advantageous effect, not only from a scientific standpoint, but also from a commercial aspect. It was, of course, a long way to look ahead to the annual meeting of 1902, but immediate action was necessary, inasmuch as a meeting was to be held at Melbourne in January next year, and the delegates who would attend at Melbourne wished to know definitely what support the association was likely to receive at Hobart. A general wish had been expressed that the meeting should be held at Hobart.

Several other members of the Council of the Royal Society supported the reasons advanced by Mr. Brown.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. E. Lewis) expressed pleasure at hearing the views advanced by the deputation. He admitted that the Royal Society was very valuable from an educational point of view, not only in scientific matters, but also in commercial matters. He did not think that

the deputation would expect an immediate answer. The request would receive favourable consideration, and a reply would be given at an early date.

The joint deputation then submitted to the Ministry the following printed statement setting forth the claim of the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to have their right to land adjoining the present Museum placed beyond dispute. The Trustees of the Museum and Art Gallery claimed through their predecessor the Royal Society, that the whole of the site extending to Davey-street should be permanently vested in them for the benefit of the public.

### STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE CLAIM OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY TO HAVE THEIR EQUITABLE RIGHT TO LAND ADJOINING THE PRESENT MUSEUM PLACED BEYOND DISPUTE.

A memorial from the Council and Fellows of the Royal Society and Citizens of Hobart to His Excellency the Governor, dated the 22nd day of June, 1857, sets forth the facts connected with the founding of the Museum in the year 1848, explains the gradual growth of the institution, and the necessity for providing more space than that which was available in the building then held on lease by the Royal Society. The memorial goes on to state—"That upon an application made some time since to your Excellency's Government by the Council of the Royal Society for a site and a grant of money in aid of a Building Fund for a Tasmanian Museum, your Excellency's acquiescence was signified and a request conveyed by your Executive Ministers to the Council of the Society to prepare and submit plans, etc., of a suitable building. That plans, sections, and an elevation, etc., of a spacious building with commodious internal arrangements for a Museum, and accommodation for a Public Library, were

accordingly prepared and submitted, and that no exception has been taken to the same since they have been in the possession and under the consideration of your Excellency's responsible advisers.

"That the ground originally proposed as a site for the Museum at the angle formed by Macquarie and Murray streets has been otherwise applied, and in lieu thereof a piece of land near the site of the old Government House, in every way suitable, promised for that purpose.

"That a subscription has been commenced for raising part of the fund required for the erection of the Museum, and it is confidently hoped that £2,000 and upwards will be thus obtained, the expense of erecting the building, including space for a Free Library, being estimated at £7,000."

The ground herein described, as originally proposed as a site for the Museum, at the angle formed by Macquarie and Murray streets, is that on which the Derwent and Tamar Offices and the Savings Bank now stands.

It may be noticed that the original design was to have a Free Library attached to or adjoining the Museum. The records of the Royal Society show that on the 3rd of August, 1857, the Secretary wrote to the then Treasurer of the colony, the Hon. F. M. Innes, inquiring whether, in accordance with a letter which had been received from the Colonial Secretary, the ground that had been specified by the Government as a site for the proposed Tasmanian Museum (namely the ground at the angle of Murray and Macquarie streets above-mentioned) had been defined and its boundaries marked off on the maps of the colony, and requesting that, if this had not been done, such instructions might be given as would ensure its execution at an early date, so that the Society might be in a position to take immediate steps for raising funds to aid in the erection of the buildings. To this letter a reply was received, dated 5th September, 1857, which stated that "the sale of the allotment in question has been decided upon, but that the claims of the Royal Society will not be overlooked when the land attached to the present Government House is available."

In a subsequent letter to the Colonial Secretary, dated 30th November, 1857, the Secretary of the Society again urged the immediate necessity for making provision "for the erection of a building suitable for a Museum, or so much of a building as may suffice for the present requirements of the Institution and the country, *bearing in mind that ample space must be left around for extension hereafter, such Institutions being in their nature cumulative and expansive beyond any limit we can assign to them.*"

The Report of the Society for the year 1858 sets out that the overcrowded condition of the Museum had at length drawn from the Government a practical recognition of its urgent claims for assistance, the Legislature having granted a sum of £3,000 in aid of a building

fund, conditionally upon £1,500 being raised by private subscription. It is further reported that a subscription list had been commenced some time before, but that it was suspended in consequence of some doubts having arisen as to the possibility of obtaining from the Crown an appropriate site for the building, but the site so long promised having been gazetted on the 22nd of January of that year, and as it might be presumed that it was practically granted, the canvassing for subscriptions had been resumed, and the sum of £1,500 was shortly afterwards raised. (This was subsequently increased to £2,000.) The site last referred to is that now occupied by Franklin Square, and is marked on the Official Chart as "granted for a Museum," and gazetted on 22nd January, 1859. This site had a frontage of 140 feet on Macquarie-street and a similar length of frontage on Davey-street, with a depth of 265 feet, the whole area being 3 roods 16 perches.

The report for the year 1860 relates that, resting in all confidence on the good faith of the Government as to the granting of the site for the Museum, the sum of £1,600 had been raised by private subscription in accordance with the conditions of the Parliamentary Grant, but that the Government had intimated to the Council its inability to make a grant of the land which had been gazetted as a site, and expressed an intention of otherwise providing accommodation for the Museum. It was further reported that the proposal of Ministers was to give wholly inadequate and unsuitable accommodation in connection with a new range of buildings for departmental purposes which it was intended to erect at the back of the new Supreme Court-house in Macquarie-street. This proposal was accompanied by very onerous and, in fact, impossible conditions. It is to be noted in passing that the action of the Government in the matter was a distinct breach of faith with those who had subscribed so largely, relying upon the arrangement as to the site being loyally adhered to. In the following year it is reported that the Council had succeeded in obtaining a good site for the new Museum, and that designs had been furnished for the building. In the year 1862 the portion of the building, which was evidently only designed as a part of a more extensive building, was completed, and the Museum was established in its new quarters at the angle of Macquarie and Argyle streets.

No record has yet been discovered as to the exact area granted at this site, but from all that can be gathered it was clearly the intention to grant the land extending from Macquarie-street to Davey-street, and it is important to remember that even this area would be one-third less than that originally granted (now Franklin Square). The portion now left uncoloured on the accompanying plan was originally more or less covered by the waters of the harbour at high tide, and it was gradually reclaimed and came to be used as a convenient place for depositing stacks of timber. No steps seem to have been taken by the Society to secure their occupation of it. Attention having



been called to the fact that the occupant had no authority to use the land for this purpose, some sort of annual lease or licence was issued by the Lands Office, apparently without any notice to, or knowledge of, the Royal Society, which body by an Act of Parliament in the year 1885 handed over to the Trustees of the Museum all their right, title, and interest in the land and buildings (with the exception of one room retained for the meetings of the Royal Society), on the condition that the institution should be a public one, to which admission was to be free of charge. It is therefore the Trustees of the Museum and Art Gallery who now claim, through their predecessors, the Royal Society, that the whole of the site extending to Davey-street should now be permanently vested in them for the benefit of the public.

The MINISTER OF LANDS (Hon. E. Mulcahy) said that the Ministry sympathised with the trustees, and did not wish to see any injustice done. He understood that some difficulty had been experienced

in the matter of choosing a site for a Customs-house; one portion of the commercial community wanted it on the site of the Mariner's Church, but there were many reasons against that proposal. The tendency of the business was in the direction of the north-east end of the harbour, and the most suitable spot for shipping and commercial interests was where the Government proposed to have it, near the Museum. The Government could make use of the ground without infringing the rights of the Museum, and if the Government proposal was carried out the trustees of the Museum would actually get more land than they would receive under other circumstances. The Government could provide the necessary accommodation at the proposed site by utilising a portion of the street without infringing upon the footpath in any way; but the Marine Board or Corporation would require to be approached before this could be done.

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### DEATH OF MR. J. B. WALKER, F.R.G.S.

Widespread regret was expressed in the city on Saturday at the sad intelligence that Mr. James Backhouse Walker, F.R.G.S., of the firm of Walker and Wolfhagen, solicitors, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, had died from pneumonia, supervening on influenza. Mr. Walker had been out of health for some days previous to Monday in last week, when he was seized with influenza, and for the first two or three days was laid up with the usual symptoms. Then pneumonia set in, but of such a mild kind that up to Friday evening he had but little fever, and up to midnight on Friday he appeared to be going on well. He then told his nurse he was so much more comfortable that he could go to sleep, and he laid down and dozed, but during sleep the heart's action collapsed, and he could not be revived afterwards, death supervening at 10 o'clock Saturday morning, November 4, 1899.

The deceased was the eldest son of the late Mr. George Washington Walker, and was born in Hobart in 1841. He received his education at the High School, Hobart, and the Friends' School, York, England. He was admitted as a barrister in Tasmania in 1876, and was one of the original members of the Council of the University of Tasmania. In 1888 he was elected a member of the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania, and was a constant

contributor to the society's journal. Mr. Walker was recognised as the leading authority on the history of early Tasmania. At the meeting of the Fellows of the Royal Society held last month he read a most interesting paper on the aborigines of Tasmania. Few have taken a keener interest in higher education in the colony. He was also an active member as one of the trustees of the Tasmanian Library, and possessed one of the finest libraries of works relating to Australia and Tasmania. He was also much interested in the prosperity of the Workingmen's Club in the early stages of its career, and did good service in promoting thrift among its members. He was also for many years a zealous worker in the Davey-street Sunday-school, and his unobtrusive charity was well known throughout the city, though, like a true man, he liked best to do good deeds by stealth. The Council of the Law Society found him always a consistent supporter. In these, and in many other ways, he was a prominent and useful citizen, and will be much missed.

The funeral on Monday was a thoroughly representative one, showing the high esteem the deceased was held in by all classes of the community. At 9 a.m. carriages containing friends of the late gentleman assembled at his residence, corner of Antill and Davey streets. At 9.30 the *cortège* left his house in the following