

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.

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

order:—The hearse; carriages containing relatives, and his old and esteemed friend, the Rev. Geo. Clarke, Chancellor of the University; carriage of His Excellency the Administrator (Hon. J. S. Dodds, C.M.G., C.J.); carriage with the Premier (the Hon. N. E. Lewis, M.E.C.); two carriages of the members of the Council of the Royal Society, containing Messrs. Thos. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., vice-presidents, and the Hons. N. J. Brown, Speaker of the House of Assembly, C. H. Grant, M.E.C., Messrs. A. G. Webster, Bernard Shaw, Colonel W. V. Legge, R.A., members of the Council, Alex. Morton, secretary, and Mr. J. W. Beattie, vice-president of the Historical Section; carriages with the representatives of the University, Professors Williams, Brown, Macaulay, the Registrar (Colonel Cruickshank), and several of the members of the University; carriage with the President of the Legislative Council (the Hon. Adye Douglas, M.E.C.), Mr. E. C. Nowell, Clerk of the Executive Council,

and Mr. T. R. Atkinson, Usher of the Black Rod. The legal department was represented by His Honor Mr. Justice A. I. Clark, and nearly all the members of the legal profession. Carriages containing the trustees and librarian of the Public Library, of which Mr. Walker was a trustee. Altogether there were about 50 vehicles in the procession. Arriving at the grave the ceremony for the interment of the dead was carried out by the members of the Society of Friends in a very impressive manner. The funeral arrangements were entrusted to Messrs. A. Clark & Son, of Collins-street. The Bishop of Tasmania (Right Rev. H. H. Montgomery, D.D.), who is in the North-Western districts, forwarded the following telegram to the secretary of the Royal Society:—“Deloraine, November 6, 10.25 a.m. Deeply regret Walker’s death. Irreparable loss to higher interests in the colony. If not too late ask the Dean to represent me at the funeral.”



James Stralder