

The proportion unfinished are 4·7 per cent., and 95·3 per cent. finished. The number of houses inhabited are 95 per cent., and 5 per cent. are uninhabited. Leaving out the Military, and the Convicts on public works, who are lodged in barracks, an average is given of 1 house to every 6 persons in the Colony. The increase in house-building has been progressing at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum since the previous Census.

III. *Correspondence on the Introduction of Salmon from Scotland into the Rivers of Tasmania.* [Read 11th December, 1850.]

SIR W. DENISON to EARL GREY.

“13th August, 1849.

“MY LORD,

“Mr. James Burnett, Chief Clerk in the Survey Department, when on leave in England visited Mr. Young, the manager of the Duke of Sutherland’s Salmon Fisheries, for the purpose of consulting him as to the practicability of introducing the Salmon into the rivers of this Colony.

“Several attempts have been made to bring out the spawn, but they have all failed: as, however, Mr. Young is a practical man, who is probably better acquainted with the habits of the fish than any person to whom application could be made,—as he is willing to supply the fish,—to superintend all the necessary arrangements which may be made for their safe conveyance to this Colony,—it would, I submit, be very desirable to make the experiment, which can cost but little, and the result of which, if successful, may prove of great benefit to the Colony.

“The simple plan would be, to allow the tanks, or whatever may be necessary to contain the fish, to be placed upon the poop of one of the Convict Ships coming out to the Colony, with directions to the surgeon to take charge of the fish, and comply with the directions given by Mr. Young. A trifling premium may be held out, should the fish arrive in safety, as an inducement to the surgeon to take some trouble in the matter.

“The expense of preparing the tanks, &c., might, I submit, be charged to the Land Fund. I have enclosed a letter to Mr. Young, to be forwarded to him in case your Lordship should sanction the experiment; and in this I have pointed out to him the best mode in which the transport of the fish might be managed, and requested him to take upon himself all the arrangements relative to the construction of tanks, &c., submitting an estimate of the expense, and receiving your Lordship’s sanction to the outlay before any liabilities are incurred. Trusting that your Lordship will allow the experiment to be made,

“I am,

“Your Lordship’s most obedient humble servant,

“W. DENISON.”

B. HAWES, *Esq.*, *Under-Secretary of State, &c.*, to
A. YOUNG, *Esq.*

“*Downing Street,*
15th February, 1850.”

“SIR,

“I am directed by Earl Grey to transmit to you the copy of a Despatch from the Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen’s Land, respecting the introduction of Salmon into the rivers of that Colony, and referring his Lordship to yourself as being most competent to superintend the arrangements necessary for carrying the proposal into effect. A private letter to you, which Sir W. Denison has also forwarded with his Despatch, is also enclosed; and should it be in your power to render assistance in this matter in the mode pointed out by the Lieutenant-Governor, I am to suggest that you should place yourself in communication with the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, relative to the conveyance of the spawn, as Lord Grey has already been in correspondence on the subject with their Lordships.

“I am to add that, on application to Mr. Barnard, the Colonial Agent, No. 3, Cannon Row, Westminster, any expense which it may be requisite to incur will be repaid to you on the part of the Government.

“I am, &c.,

“B. HAWES.”

A. YOUNG, *Esq.*, to *Mr. Under-Secretary HAWES, M.P.*

*“ Invershin, Bonar Bridge,
7th March, 1850.*

“ SIR,

“ I had the honour to receive your enclosures of the 15th February, including a letter from Mr. Burnett, from Van Diemen’s Land, and I quite agree with Mr. Burnett’s suggestion of getting a Smack, with proper wells, for the carriage of Salmon to that Colony: and, if Earl Grey will agree to the expense of such, it is certainly preferable to the proposed attempt on a cheaper scale, for in this case there is little or no chance of a failure, and the Smack could be fitted up so as to carry both Salmon and Smolts, I think, in perfect safety; and certainly the additional security is worth much more than the additional expense. I may mention that I have experimented on Salmon in all stages of existence, and among others I have kept Skin (?) Salmon in a small pond, not nearly the size of the well of a Fishing Smack, for the space of nine months, and at the end of that time they were in perfect good spirits; therefore, from that and other experiments I have made, I have full confidence that they could be carried from Scotland to Van Diemen’s Land quite safe.

“ If Earl Grey resolves upon this plan of carriage, I shall be glad to put myself in communication with the proprietors of Fishing Smacks, and ascertain what the expenses of a vessel from here to Van Diemen’s Land would be. I would also procure the fish, see them properly paired, and put into the wells of the ship.

“ I have, &c.,

“ A. YOUNG.”

MR. HAWES to MR. YOUNG.

*“ Downing Street,
18th March, 1850.*

“ SIR,

“ I have laid before Earl Grey your letter of the 7th instant, respecting the introduction of Salmon into the rivers of Van Diemen’s Land, and I am directed in reply to observe, that the mode of transport you represent Mr. Burnett to have suggested in the sealed letter trans-

mitted to you in mine of the 15th ultimo differs from the plan submitted by the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony, whose proposal, as you will perceive, is confined to forwarding the fish in tanks, to be placed on the poop of Convict Ships going out from this country. With respect to the employment of a Smack for the conveyance of the Salmon, I am to acquaint you that the expense would be far more than that which the Government would be able to incur for the object in question; I am therefore to request that you will inform Lord Grey how far it would, in your opinion, be practicable to send them out in the manner proposed by Sir W. Denison. :

“ I have, &c.,

“ B. HAWES.”

MR. YOUNG to MR. HAWES.

“ *Invershin,*

23rd March, 1850.

“ SIR,

“ I have received yours of the 18th instant, and in reply beg to state that my opinion is, that it will be practicable to carry old Salmon alive to Van Diemen’s Land in tanks fitted up on the poop of a Convict Ship, as suggested by Sir W. Denison, but not so practicable with Smolts (young Salmon),—and from the distance, at all events the length of time on the way, and the climate, the *ova* cannot be depended on.

“ 1st. The old Salmon are capable of enduring more fatigue and hardships than the young ones are; and when they are put into a river in Van Diemen’s Land, they are certain to remain in that river until their spawning process is over.

“ 2nd. When the *ova* (eggs) are hatched in any river, the Smolts produced therefrom, when they go from that river to the sea, are in course of time certain to return to the same river where they were hatched. Whereas Smolts carried from this country and put into these strange rivers, after going down to the sea, might not return to the river with the same punctuality as they always do to the rivers in which they are bred; therefore the old fish are preferable to the young in this case.

I enclose a copy of the letter I got from Mr. Burnett on the subject; and, although I can have no doubt that the fish can be carried out in tanks as proposed, I must say that if Government would

allow the additional expense, on account of the great additional security, I am decidedly in favour of a welled Smack, and one of these can be hired at not an extravagant sum above the expense of sending them in tanks.

“ I have, &c.,

“ A. YOUNG.”

J. L. BURNETT, *Esq.*, to MR. YOUNG.

“ *Hobart Town, Van Diemen's Land,*
13th September, 1849.

“ DEAR SIR,

“ On my arrival here, in June last, I immediately placed myself in communication with the Governor on the subject of introducing the Salmon into this country. I acquainted him with the interview I had had with you, and with the interest which you took in the matter. The result has been, that Sir W. Denison has taken the matter up warmly, and has addressed the Secretary of State on the subject, so that with your able assistance I really begin to have some hope of stocking our rivers with the finest of fish. It would indeed be a grand thing if it could be accomplished. Another plan, besides that which you have proposed, has occurred to me; viz., that of bringing the fish out in a regular Scotch Smack properly fitted up with wells—the great objection would be the expense. But what do you think of the money being raised by subscription—perhaps the Duke of Sutherland, a rich and liberal man, might assist or contribute towards a fund to be so appropriated? Could you give us any idea of the expense of purchasing a vessel, and fitting her out to come direct to Van Diemen's Land, properly fitted up and manned with regular fishermen? Surely, if a sufficient sum could be raised, there would be little doubt of getting the fish here. Sir W. Denison has written to you himself on the subject, and is quite anxious about its success, as indeed he is about every thing else that is at all likely to benefit the Colony. There was an animated discussion upon the subject last night at a meeting of the Royal Society for the promotion of science. I hope I shall hear from you after you have been in communication with the Colonial Office, in Downing-street, for I shall be quite anxious to know if the experiment is to be tried. I told Sir W. Denison I was quite sure you

would do all in your power to forward the measure, and I am sure you will. With thanks for the trouble you have already taken,

“ I remain, &c.,

“ JAMES L. BURNETT.”

MR. HAWES to MR. YOUNG.

“ *Downing Street,*
13th April, 1850.

“ SIR,

“ I have laid before Earl Grey your letter of the 23rd ultimo, and I am directed to acquaint you, in reply, that his Lordship regrets that he does not feel justified in incurring the expense of sending out the Salmon to Van Diemen’s Land in a welled Smack ; and his Lordship would, therefore, feel obliged by your making such arrangements with the Department of the Admiralty as may be necessary for the conveyance of the fish in tanks placed in the Convict Ships. Lord Grey would also propose that a proportion of young fish should be placed in the tanks, together with the old, which you suggest as best calculated for conveyance to the Colony.

“ I have, &c.,

“ B. HAWES.”

MR. YOUNG to MR. HAWES.

“ *Invershin,*
29th April, 1850.

“ SIR,

“ I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, and to intimate that since receiving it I have had a conversation with Captain Denison, a brother of Sir William, the Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen’s Land, regarding the sending out Salmon to that Colony, and he (Capt. D.) advises strongly not to attempt the carrying of them out in tanks, as the high temperature of the water when crossing the line would very likely kill the fish. I therefore wish to lay Captain Denison’s objection before you, and beg to suggest that it might be as well to defer attempting to carry them out in tanks until Earl Grey would communicate with Sir William, and learn whether the Colony would not be at the expense of sending a welled Smack direct. I will willingly give all the

assistance in my power in whatever way the carrying may be tried; but the proper erection of tanks, the collecting and selecting of the fish, &c., will cost a good deal, and if it should prove a failure, it will be a vexing matter. Therefore, to make sure work, I am anxious that Sir William should be advised on the most practicable way previous to our proceeding.

“ I have, &c.,
“ A. YOUNG.”

MR. HAWES to MR. YOUNG.

“ *Downing Street,*
14th May, 1850.”

“ SIR,

“ In answer to your letter of the 29th ultimo, and especially adverting to the opinion which you there state had been expressed by Capt. Denison as to the great risk of taking out Salmon in Tanks to Van Diemen’s Land, I am directed by Earl Grey to inform you that this appears to his Lordship to be a conclusive objection to such mode of conveyance, and that, under all the circumstances, he has thought it right to apprise the Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony that no further proceedings will at present be taken in the matter. His Lordship, however, desires me to add the expression of his acknowledgment of the ready assistance rendered by you in endeavouring to forward the arrangements.

“ I am, &c.,
“ B. HAWES.”

EARL GREY to SIR W. DENISON.

“ *Downing Street,*
16th May, 1850.”

“ SIR,

“ With reference to your Despatch, No. 115, of the 14th of August last, suggesting that, through the instrumentality of Mr. Young, the Manager of the Duke of Sutherland’s Fisheries, the experiment should be tried of sending out salmon from this country, with a view to their being introduced into the rivers of Van Diemen’s

Land, I herewith transmit for your information copies of the correspondence which have passed with that gentleman on the subject.

“ I regret that the result should not have proved more favourable to your project; but from the enclosed letters, and more especially from Mr. Young’s last communication of the 29th ultimo, you will see that the obstacle to the proposed plan has been the apparent impracticability of carrying the fish in the mode you suggested, namely, in tanks placed in the poop of Convict Ships; while, on the other hand, the alternative of using a welled Smack for their conveyance has, for the present at least, been abandoned, as being attended with too much expense. Under these circumstances, therefore, it has not been considered advisable to take any further steps in the matter until I shall be in possession of any additional suggestions which you may have to offer upon it.

“ I have the honour to be,

“ Sir,

“ Your most obedient humble servant,

“ GREY.”

IV. *On Experiments for determining the Manures most suitable to the Turnip Crop.* By SIR W. T. DENISON, F.R.S., &c. [*Read 9th October, 1850.*]

THERE is a Report drawn up by the members of the Annandale Farmers’ Club, and printed in the Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland for March, 1850, which is remarkable for two things:—1st. The spirit which caused a body of farmers to unite and carry out a system of inspection, the sole object of which would appear to have been the attainment of information which they might apply usefully to the cultivation of their farms.—2nd. The results of the system of cultivation pursued.

As I believe that a system of careful experiment would be most advantageous to the agriculture of this colony, and