



## Quelle

Beratungen des englischen Oberhauses über die Verhältnisse der Kolonie New South Wales (1844)<sup>1</sup>

”REPLIES to CIRCULAR LETTER addressed to Gentlemen residing too remote from Sydney to expect the favour of their personal attendance upon the Committee.

(No 44-3.—Circular.)

Legislative Council Chamber, Sydney, 4<sup>th</sup> June 1844.

Sir,

I have the honour to request, that you will be pleased to favour the committee now sitting to investigate the grievances connected with the lands of the colony, with your reply to the following queries. The committee will be obliged by your returning an answer at your earliest convenience, addressed to the Chairman of the Committee, Council Chamber, under cover to the Clerk of the Legislative Council.

I have &c.

(signed) WM. MACPHERSON,  
Clerk of the Legislative Council.

To -----

1. What is your opinion as to the expediency of raising the minimum price of Crown lands to 1 *l.* per acre?
2. What is your opinion of the Government regulations of the 2d of April last, in reference to depasturing licences, and what effect do you think they are likely to have upon the prosperity of the colony.
3. Will you state your opinion as to the nature and exercise of powers vested in the Commissioners of Crown Lands, both within and beyond the boundaries of location?
4. Will you state your opinion as to the efficiency of the border and native police?
5. What is your opinion of the influence exercised by the present depasturing licensing system upon the general improvement of the colony, and the social and moral condition of its inhabitants?
6. What is your opinion as to the effect of the Government enforcing the payment of large arrears of quit-rents?
7. If you should be of opinion that grievances exist on any of the subjects above mentioned, can you offer any suggestions for their remedy?
8. Do you consider that a right of pre-emption should be given to the squatters?

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From JOHN CLEMENTS WICKHAM Esq., J. P., Police Magistrate, Moreton Bay.

1. With respect to raising the minimum price of Crown lands to 1 *l.* per acre, I am of opinion that it is expedient, as, from what I have observed during the time that I have what it may. In the usual method of marking out land for sale, the portions or allotments are laid out according to straight

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<sup>1</sup> Correspondence Relative to Crown Land and Emigration in New South Wales, in: The Sessional papers Printed by order of the House of Lord [...] in the session 1846 (9o & 10o VICTORIAE, arranged in Volumes, Volume 8, [London] 1846, pp. 141 f.

lines, without any regard to the quality of the ground passed over, so that it mostly happens that a proportion (at times disproportionate) proves to be next to useless; consequently, in order to possess a small piece of good ground, the purchaser is, not unfrequently [sic], compelled to pay a high price for that which is of no value. I think that the upset price of country lots should not exceed 5s. per acre.

2. With respect to the Government regulations of the 2d of April, it appears but not reasonable that separate licenses should be paid for stations in different districts, but hard that the settler should pay 10% for an additional license to enable him to depasture, say, 1,000 sheep, or a proportionate number of cattle, beyond the number stated in those regulations. I am of opinion that, in some districts of the colony, 20 square miles will not afford sufficient sustenance for 4,000 sheep, particularly in seasons of drought.

3. I am of opinion that the powers vested in Commissioners of Crown lands is greater than the present state of the colony requires; when those officers were first appointed, it was doubtless necessary that they should possess great power, particularly in distant districts, where the number of magistrates was very limited; but, owing to the great change that has taken place with regard to the description of persons squatting community if cases relating to the Crown Lands Act were heard before a court held at the Commissioner's station, and composed of a certain number of the magistrates of the district, at which court the commissioner should preside. With respect to the exercise of the powers vested in the Commissioners, I am not aware that they have ever been abused; my own observations are confined to the district of Moreton Bay, in which district I have not heard the slightest complaint.

4. With respect to the border police, I consider them extremely inefficient, on account of the class of men from which they are selected; being prisoners of the Crown, they have a fellow-feeling for all convicts, and I am fully persuaded there is a description of freemasonry amongst that class, which prevents them from doing their duty when a fellow-prisoner is concerned. I am of opinion that the border police will never be efficient until a more respectable class of men are selected, and then it will probably be found that a much smaller number will be sufficient to perform the necessary duties. With respect to a native police, I am inclined to think there will always be much uncertainty attending such a force; the natural fondness of the native for a bush life will induce him to leave any employment for the sake of joining his tribe at certain seasons of the year (there are instances of such in this district); if taken away from their own districts more reliance might be placed in them, but at best they are scarcely to be trusted; and I question the policy of arming a number of natives, when it is well known that the natives of one tribe will destroy those of another upon the slightest provocation.

5. With respect to the present depasturing licensing system, I consider it to be very objectionable, as, owing to the uncertainty of tenure, few are disposed to make permanent improvements. I am of opinion that if the squatters held their runs by lease instead of annual licence, we should soon see comfortable dwellings erected throughout the bush, instead of the present description of huts that are put up as temporary residences, and there would not be that dislike to the bush which is now prevalent. No doubt there are families whose interests would lead them to adopt a bush life, and who would readily undertake it if the present objections were removed; a very different society would then be established, and the social and moral conditions of all classes much improved.

6. With respect to the Government enforcing the payment of large arrears of quit-rent, no doubt the parties indebted are bound to pay; but as these arrears have been permitted to go on accumulating until, in many instances, they have reached a considerable sum, I am of opinion that it would be judicious to postpone the enforcement of these demands, as in the present state of colonial affairs few will be able to pay the amount due without considerable difficulty, and in some cases, to compel immediate payment may be attended with ruinous effects.

7. [fehlt, N.F.]

8. With regard to the right of pre-emption being given to squatters, I am of opinion that it should be granted to them; but as the spots chosen for homesteads will, no doubt, be selected from

the best part of the run, I think that in such cases, the upset price of the land should not be below 10s. per acre, particularly when the station is within a certain distance of a township.”

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Auf diese Quelle bezieht sich ein einführender und erläuternder Essay von Finzsch, Norbert: Pre-Frontier, Landnahme und Sozioökologische Systeme in Australien, 1788 bis 1901. In: Themenportal Europäische Geschichte (2013), URL: <<http://www.europa.clio-online.de/2013/Article=614>>.