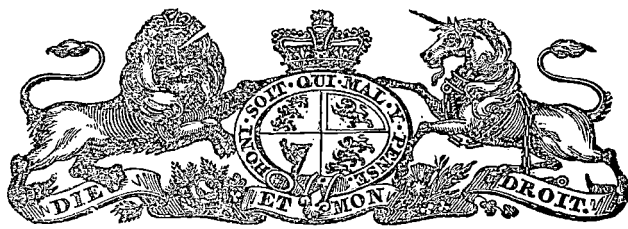


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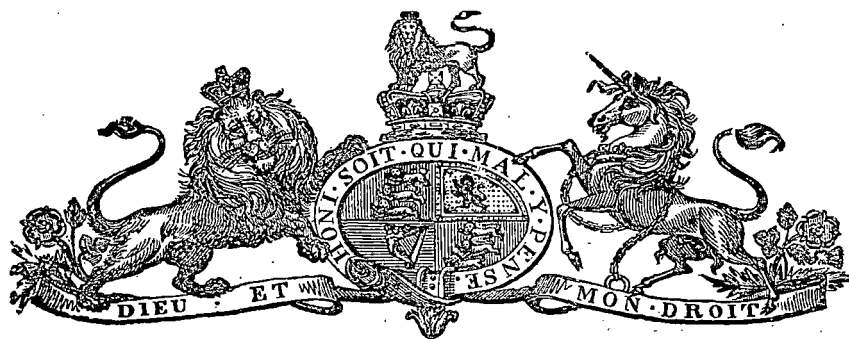
1868.

T A S M A N I A .

H U O N R O A D .

R E P O R T O F S E L E C T C O M M I T T E E .

Brought up by Mr. Charles Meredith, and ordered by the House to be printed,
September 10, 1868.



SELECT COMMITTEE appointed on the 3rd. September, 1868, to inquire into the Cost of the HUON ROAD, and the Nature and Value of the Produce brought into Hobart Town consequent on the Construction of the said Road.

MEMBERS.

MR. DOUGLAS.
MR. SALIER.

MR. LEWIS.
MR. C. MEREDITH. (*Mover.*)

DAYS OF MEETING.

8th September, 9th September. *Present*—All the Members.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

1. Mr. Risby, Timber Merchant.
2. Mr. Evans, ditto.
3. Mr. Dowdell, ditto.
4. Mr. Burgoyne, Cooper.
5. Mr. Clark, Engineer and Timber Merchant.
6. Mr. Millhouse, Tollgate-keeper.
7. Mr. Ross, Ship-builder.
8. Mr. Cheverton, Foreman of Works.

R E P O R T.

YOUR Committee have examined several Witnesses on the second part of the Question remitted to them, and they append to this Report the Evidence which they have taken.

It appears that the cost of the Huon Road, according to the Report of the Director of Public Works as shown in Paper No. 23, 1868, has been under the Public Works Bill £17,259 15s., and that in 1858 £5000 was voted by Parliament; but a portion of the Road under construction by this latter sum has been discarded, and no longer forms part of the Huon Road.

Mr. Chesterman's present Contract is £4000; and Mr. Cheverton, Foreman of Works, estimates that an additional £8000 will complete the line, and place the public in full possession of its numerous advantages.

For the expenditure of this sum, your Committee have ascertained that the City of Hobart Town and the export trade of the Colony have benefited to a large extent.

The quantity of Firewood supplied to the City which passed through the Tollgate on this Road since January, 1867, amounted to 9094 Loads; and the quantity of Sawn and Split Timber and Ship-building Timbers passing through the same Tollgate appears to have been valued at nearly £5000.

All the Witnesses expressed their opinion that the opening of this Road had been most beneficial in at once supplying the demand for prepared Timber for exportation and for Ship-building purposes; and one of the Witnesses referred to splendid beds of Timber, the access to which has been rendered comparatively easy by the opening of the Huon Road.

CHARLES MEREDITH, *Chairman.*

Committee Room, 10th September, 1868.

EVIDENCE.

TUESDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 1868.

MR. RISBY *called in.*

The value of the Timber I have received during the last ten months from the new Huon Road is about £400. It was in the log. I have not had any Split Timber. I cut up the Timber I got, and it then realised about £800. I am preparing more machinery, and next year I expect to get double the quantity of Timber, if not more. We could not get the Timber if it were not for the facilities afforded by the Road. The logs could not be brought into Town but for the Road. Before the Road was opened we did not get Timber from there. A quantity of Timber came from that neighbourhood before the Road was made, but nothing like the quantity now brought in. The Timber is brought from about a mile on the other side of Hall's Saddle. I think it is taken from private property, and all from near the road. There is a great quantity of Timber there; I have not been there for six months; the Road was then much cut up.

Mr. Risby withdrew.

HUBERT EVANS *called in.*

I have had in a year and nine months 600,000 Palings from the neighbourhood of the new Huon Road. I got the first in December, 1866; I also got a few Shingles. The value of the Palings was £2100; of the Shingles £50. I don't know the place where the Timber is brought from. I am told there is a splendid bed of Timber where the Road leads to. I got my supply before 1866 from the Huon. Some of the Huon Timber was better than that from the new Huon Road. No Palings were brought from the place near the Huon Road before the Road was made. The best Timber is at the Sandfly. It will be brought by the Road: there is no water carriage.

Mr. Evans withdrew.

CHARLES DOWDELL *called in.*

Since the construction of the Huon Road we have received about 1,200,000 Palings. In nine months of 1867 we received 413,000 Palings, 35,710 Staves, and 300 pair of Cart Shafts. The Staves were valued at 14s. per 100, Shafts 4s. per pair, Palings average 7s. per 100. Before the Road was opened we were supplied from the Huon; that supply was more regular. I purchase the Palings from the carts as they come in. I was never where the Palings are split. I have no difficulty in getting supplied with Palings. Splitters get about 4s. per 100 at the stump. At the Huon they get 4s.; but in some places, where the cartage is heavy, only 3s. We had a few Palings from the same place before the Road was opened, but nothing like the number we get now. The Palings are split about half a mile from the Road. The opening of the Road has reduced the price about 6d. per 100. I got no Sawn Timber except a few Cart Shafts.

Mr. Dowdell withdrew.

WILLIAM BURGoyNE *called in.*

I hand in a Paper (A.) showing the number of Staves I have received from the Huon Road. They are brought from a place about halfway to the Huon. I make of them water casks, tallow casks, &c. The lightwood Staves are used for oil casks. I got supplies from the Huon River before the Road was opened. I never got any from the same place before the Road was opened. Since the opening of the Road Timber has been cheaper. There is a reduction in wattle Staves of 2s. per 100; in lightwood Staves of 2d. each;—on an average fifteen per cent. cheaper. I am supplied more regularly now, and the Timber is delivered in the yard.

Mr. Burgoyne withdrew.

A.

STAVES from the Huon Road from the commencement of January, 1867, up to March, 1868.

	£	s.	d.
200 Lightwood Staves, at 1s. 6d.	15	0	0
1500 Five-foot Wattle Staves, at 20s.	15	0	0
3000 Four-foot Wattle Staves, at 13s.	19	10	0
2000 Three-foot-six Staves, at 11s. 6d.	11	10	0
4000 Two-foot-eight Staves,	15	0	0
	<u>£76</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

WM. BURGoyNE, *Cooper, New Wharf.*

ANDREW INGLIS CLARK *called in.*

We have received 40,000 feet of Timber in log since the opening of the Huon Road; no Palings. The logs are worth 3s. 6d. per 100 feet. We used to get Timber from the Huon before the Road was made. The Timber we get now comes from about Hall's public-house; most from the upper side. The logs are as long as 24 feet; general length, 10, 12, and 14 feet.

Mr. Clark withdrew.

RICHARD MILLHOUSE *called in.*

I am Tollgate-keeper on the new Huon Road. I hand in a Paper (B.) showing the traffic on the Road. Some men cart firewood as far as ten miles. Most of it is carted from four to six miles.

Mr. Millhouse withdrew.

B.

AMOUNT of Tolls collected for 18 Months ending 31st August, 1868.

	£	s.	d.
Say 8-12ths Firewood, 9094 loads.....	227	7	5
Say 3-12ths Palings, &c., 3410 ditto.....	85	5	3
Say 1-12th Private Vehicles, &c.....	28	8	5

TOTAL £341 1 1

Average per month, £18 13s. 4½d.

9094 loads Firewood, say 8s.	3637	12	0
3410 loads Palings, &c., at 33s.	5626	10	0

PRODUCE £9264 2 0

Average daily, say 24 loads of Produce, requiring 48 men and 24 horses at least to bring to Market.

R. MILLHOUSE, *Collector of Tolls, Huon Road.*

WEDNESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER, 1868.

MR. JOHN ROSS, *Ship-builder.*

We have had but little Timber from there yet;—10,000 feet sawn Timber, value 8s. 6d. per 100 feet; 150 crooks, knees, &c., worth £50; keel for schooner, worth £15. Very fine Timber, all gum. The Paling is principally of swamp gum. If not for the Road we should send down the river for the keel. We got it in a very short time: saved three weeks or a month of time with the vessel.

MR. CHEVERTON, *Foreman of Works.*

The total cost of the Road under the Public Works is £17,259. The men are just completing the portion this side Coombe's, 9 miles; there are two others further on. In a fortnight we shall be nearly done as far as Leslie. A little done from Leslie to Sandfly Basin. We have lately cut a track, so you can ride to the Sandfly. They have been cutting timber for 12 months past from the Basin. It is 4 miles from Leslie to the bed of timber in the Sandfly Basin. There is some splendid timber there. I should say in a month the whole of the road to Leslie will be done. We got the metal broken and spread at 5s. 3d. a yard. One man has now got 300,000 palings down at head of Southport. The £17,000 does not include the present contracts. Chesterman's is about £4000 more to be added.

By Mr. Douglas.—I know nothing of the money previously expended. It was expended under the Survey Department. I think it was £5000. The present contract will not complete the whole line. It will require the full amount voted for it. It will take all the £12,000. To keep it in order I cannot say how much. I and another Trustee proposed an assessment at 1s., which would bring in £70 in addition to the tolls which amount to about £250. The amount would keep the 10 miles road pretty good for a year or two. I should think £50 a mile would keep the road in order. The road from Leslie to Sandfly is in the Kingston District, I think. The trust money is employed in repairs of the road. The Toll-gate was advertised, and we only had £150 offered for it,—so that by putting Millhouse in charge we made more by it. I think it would have been better for the Government to have kept it in their own hands, as more work would be done than is done by the present system. When I was down at Southport the other day, I saw a bullock waggon with 1000 palings on it, weighing about 7 lb. each or upwards of 3 tons. This great weight must injure the bridges by the vibration.