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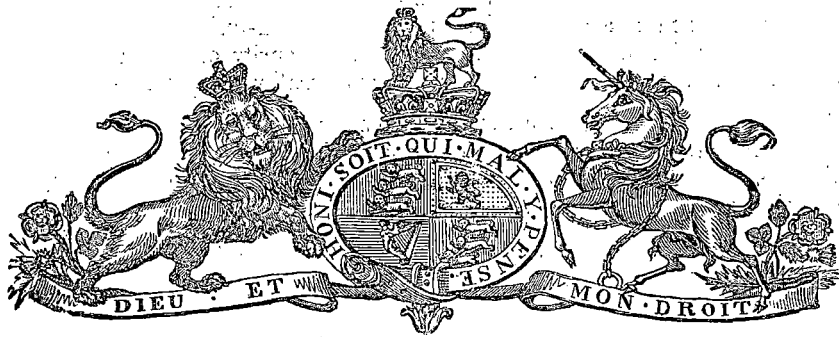
1859.

T A S M A N I A.

R E P O R T

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS IN REFERENCE TO ROADS AND
OTHER PUBLIC WORKS FOR WHICH PROVISION REQUIRES TO BE
MADE IN THE PRESENT SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

Presented by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed,
25 August, 1859.



Office of Public Works, Hobart Town, Tasmania,
August, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to submit for the consideration of the Government, that provision be made by Loans Bill for the under-mentioned Public Works.

Under the respective heads of service is set forth the probable cost of each work, with a Report of the nature and extent thereof, the necessity for the same, and the cause of demand.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. R. FALCONER, *Director of Public Works.*

The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

Alterations to interior of Court House, to adapt same for the purposes of a Post Office, Hobart—£1500.

THE Buildings at present occupied as a General Post Office are rented premises, for which £400 per annum is paid, all repairs having to be executed by the Government, whose term of tenancy will expire in March, 1861. It is proposed to make alterations in the interior of the Court House of a character to enable its being converted into a Post Office, with a plain Verandah fronting on Murray-street, the estimated cost of which is as stated.* Under this arrangement the Post Office will be transferred to a building the property of the Crown, under the same roof and connected with the Public Offices of the Government, to which the Postmaster daily finds it necessary to have access.

Taking the outlay at six per cent. per annum, it will cause a saving of £310 a year, and the Government will not be liable to the inconvenience that generally arises at the expiration of a tenancy between landlord and tenant.

2. Alterations to Penitentiary, Launceston, to adapt the same for the purposes of a Custom House and Bonded Warehouse—£3600.

The Government at present pay £200 per annum for the offices occupied by the Customs Department at Launceston. The proposed arrangement for converting the old Penitentiary into a Custom House and Bonded Warehouse will, it is estimated, give an annual income of £1000 to the Government: hence, the work may be looked upon as one of a reproductive character. It will be a considerable advantage to the Customs Department, and the mercantile and general public, to have the whole Customs in a building the property of the Crown, where, from its admirable situation (being in close proximity to the shipping and harbour), the receiving and delivering of all goods can be carried on under the direct personal supervision of the Head of the Department. The estimated outlay will, in a few years, be repaid by the receipts, and buildings at present profitless and unoccupied turned to beneficial use. The Collector at Launceston looks forward to the change with considerable satisfaction, and deems it well calculated to afford facilities for the better and more satisfactory working of this branch of the Public Service; and the Chamber of Commerce highly approve.

3. Alterations, &c. to House of Correction and Penitentiary, Launceston—£2500.

The sum stated is the estimated probable cost of alterations at the old House of Correction, in order to fit up a portion for the custody of Male Prisoners transferred thereto, and for affording separate accommodation for Female Prisoners; also for alterations at the Penitentiary for Police purposes.

* If front erected in stone, and the building made to correspond with new Court House, the cost is estimated at £5000.

The introduction of Male Prisoners into the House of Correction is an arrangement consequent upon the relinquishment of a portion of the old Tread-mill to which the Police have been transferred. Provision has to be made for the due security of offenders, additional cells have to be provided, and for these purposes necessary alterations require to be effected.

It also becomes indispensable to provide suitable separate accommodation for Free Women who may be sentenced to imprisonment, so that they may not be mixed up or associated with old hardened offenders. Minor alterations for the classification of the Prisoners, generally, and the proper working of the establishment, are also absolutely required.

The old Watch-house was removed in order to afford a suitable site for the new Public Buildings now in course of erection under a vote of the Parliament, and the Police were transferred to the old Tread-mill, a portion of which building it was arranged to fit up in lieu of the accommodation taken. The health and comfort of the Force depends on their being provided with proper and suitable quarters; the old cells used by them as dormitories were originally constructed as places of punishment, their dimensions are so limited, and ventilation so defective, that in a sanitary point of view re-arrangement becomes an absolute necessity; besides the wretched condition of the "Night Charges" doomed to incarceration in the cells requires consideration.

The sale of the present Police Office and ground on the completion of the new Public Buildings will realise £4000, a sum much beyond the present contemplated outlay.

4. *Bridge across South Esk at Fingal—£1600.*

The measures before the Parliament in connection with the Gold-bearing Districts of the Colony, coupled with the Commissioner's Report of the 6th August, and the formation of enterprising Companies for the purpose of testing the Quartz Reefs at Fingal, renders it absolutely necessary that facilities be afforded to a mining population to have access to such Reefs; it is therefore proposed to erect a bridge a few yards from the present "fording-place," across the South Esk at Fingal: by it the vacant lands between the South Esk and Fonthill, and those extending westerly to Ben Lomond, may be approached. Upwards of 85,000 acres of Crown Land lie in this direction.

5. *Road to Fingal—£3000.*

On my recent visit of inspection to this locality, I found the road that branches from the main line at Campbell Town to Fingal, so far as it had been made, passable, and in a fair state of repair,—yet the surface is so worn and thin that a few weeks' heavy traffic would destroy and completely cut up the line. Of the unfinished portion, about six miles remains to be completed: this part is a mere bush track, and will, if left in its present state, become quite impassable. In order to provide for its construction the sum of £3000 is proposed to be provided. This amount, if granted, will enable the Road Trusts of the District to apply the moneys collected by Assessment to necessary repairs along the made portion of the line. The work is one of importance.

6. *Enlargement of O'Brien's Bridge—£1500.*

In consequence of the destruction of property and loss of life during the disastrous floods of 1858, certain inhabitants in this locality brought under notice the supposed insufficiency of the span of the bridge to carry off the water of "Humphrey's Rivulet," and represented that in the event of a heavy flood there would not be a single house safe within range of the waters that would spread over the Township. The place was inspected by an Officer of the Public Works Department, who reported that the rivulet overflowed its banks far above any level affected by the bridge; and on a careful examination of the creek, on the Tolosa side, found impediments to have existed of a much more mischievous extent than the supposed narrowness of the bridge opening, and which impediments had been erected by one or other of the owners of property with a view in each case of protecting himself, and also retaining as much space as possible. It was considered, in the event of the inhabitants arranging amongst themselves to give up for the bed of the creek a direct channel of a uniform width and sufficient to carry off the water during flood time, so that the banks would not be broken, the Government would do right to forward such an arrangement by extending the span of the archway. Several of the inhabitants who have property on the upper or Tolosa side have gone to great expense in completing certain embankments and in improving the bed of the creek. It is, therefore, proposed to increase the present span of 15 feet to 35 feet, to afford sufficient width of waterway at the Bridge in case of floods. The sum stated is the estimated probable cost.

7. *In aid of construction of Causeway across the Estuary at Sorell—£4000, (provided a like Sum be raised by private Contribution by the Inhabitants.)*

It is proposed to grant this sum in aid for the construction of a Causeway at Sorell, on the condition that a further sum of not less than £4000 be raised by private contribution, and that the plans of the work are approved by the Government, and a satisfactory guarantee obtained for the completion of the undertaking: the contribution of the Government to be paid according to the progress of the work, in proportion to the total estimated cost.

The Petition of the Inhabitants to His Excellency the Governor sets forth the particular grounds upon which they base their application for the consideration of Parliament.

WATCH-HOUSES throughout the Territory, £6200—add for Contingencies, 10 per cent., £620—Total, £6820.

UNDER the proposed arrangements of the Inspector of Police, the above is the probable cost of the several Buildings which this Officer states he requires to meet demands for Police protection throughout the Colony in the localities indicated in the Appendix hereto attached.

W. R. FALCONER, *Director of Public Works.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

APPENDIX.

Avoca (District of Fingal)—£250.

The old building is quite inadequate to the wants of this locality in consequence of the increased traffic to Fingal. The Magistracy complain of the inconvenience. The sum stated is for the purpose of affording additional accommodation.

Bicheno (District of Glamorgan)—£250.

The Inspector of Police states that suitable quarters are very much required, the present dilapidated old convict huts and cells being unfitted for Police quarters. A place for the safe custody of prisoners is forcibly urged by the Inspector.

Cleveland (District of Campbell Town)—£600.

The dilapidated state of the Police buildings at Cleveland renders any outlay on them impracticable. The Watch-house is unsafe and insecure. A substantial building is required; the sum stated is the estimated cost.

Deloraine (District of Westbury)—£600.

The Magistrates of the District represent the old building to be totally unfit for Police purposes. The separate cells are too small, and the place altogether inadequate to the wants of this populous district. The sum of £600 is proposed to be expended in the erection of suitable buildings.

Forth, (District of Mersey)—£250.

The Inspector represents that a Station at this point is much required, in consequence of the increase in the population, and the opening up of the country between the Forth and Mersey.

George's Bay, (Fingal District)—£250.

George's Bay is 50 miles distant from head-quarters, and 25 miles from any intermediate station. The Police have hitherto occupied the Old Military Barracks at the mouth of the Bay, where their services are of little use. It is proposed to erect a station upon the line of coast road, in a settled part of the district.

Huon Track, (Kingborough District)—£200.

The Track from Ironstone Creek to Hobart Town is a long and dreary one; there is not a station on the new Huon Road between the Franklin and Hobart; it is most desirable that Police protection be afforded the settlers along the line. The sum stated is the estimated cost of a Lock-up and suitable quarters for the Police intended to be stationed at the point indicated.

Piper's Lagoon (Selby District)—£250.

The Districts of Port Sorell, Westbury, and Selby unite at the place on which it is proposed to erect suitable buildings, in order to afford Police protection to a district which the Inspector reports offers very great facilities for sheep and cattle stealing.

Peppermint Bay (Kingborough District)—£200.

The Inspector represents that at this place the Constables occupy a miserable hut, and that there is not any place where offenders can be placed in security.

Perth (Longford District)—£600.

The Government rent a building, for which £20 per annum is paid; the lease expires in October next. It is quite unsuited to the wants or requirements of the place, and the Inspector purposes to provide a suitable building at the estimated cost stated.

Southport (Franklin District)—£250.

The buildings at Southport used for Police purposes are old convict barracks; it would be injudicious to incur expense in their repair. It is considered better to provide a lock-up and quarters at the cost stated, than to carry out patching to the old buildings, which could not be made secure except at a very great expense.

Snug River—£200.

The Inspector represents that it is desirable to afford Police protection at the place stated. Sawing and splitting is carried on to a very great extent; the Snug is on the line of road between Hobart Town, Oyster Cove, and Port Cygnet, and the population is increasing.

Stoney Creek, (Campbell Town District)—£250.

Stoney Creek is on the line of road leading from Campbell Town to Fingal. The hut used by the Police is represented by the Inspector to be uninhabitable in winter; the sum stated is the estimated cost of a suitable building, with cells and lock-up for offenders.

Swansea, (Glamorgan District)—£600.

The state of the building at this place has been brought under notice. There is, I understand, great difficulty of access to the Police Office from the accumulation of sand between it and the township. It is proposed to provide a new building in an eligible situation, of the following dimensions:—Day-room, 15 × 12; office, 15 × 15; Constables' room, 10 × 10; 2 cells, 10 × 6 each; with skilling 10 × 10. It is estimated that the proceeds by sale of the present building would cover the contemplated outlay.

Spring Bay (Glamorgan District)—£600.

A similar class of building is required at Spring Bay. The Government now pay £20 per annum for a building which they are bound to keep in partial repair, and which is ill-adapted for Police purposes.

Table Cape (Horton District)—£200.

In consequence of the increase of population, and the growing importance of the place, the Inspector represents that it is necessary to provide extended Police protection.

Tarleton (Mersey District)—£250.

Represented by Inspector that this is a station requiring Police accommodation.

Whitefoord Hills—£200.

The Inspector represents that there is a necessity for extended Police protection in this locality, and he proposes to establish a station at the Whitefoord Hills.

Black Boy Quartz Reef (Fingal District)—£200.

The Inspector of Police urges the necessity of a Station and Lock-up at the Black Boy, and that the building should be erected without delay, in order that it may be ready for use and occupation before the locality becomes thickly populated. Companies are now at work on the Reef, and several Claims have been taken.