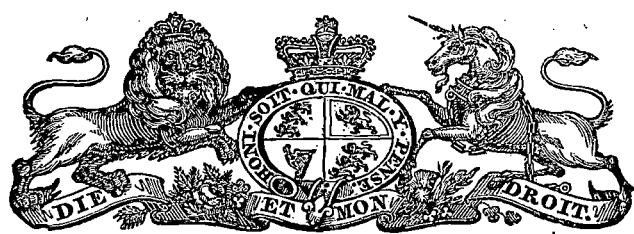


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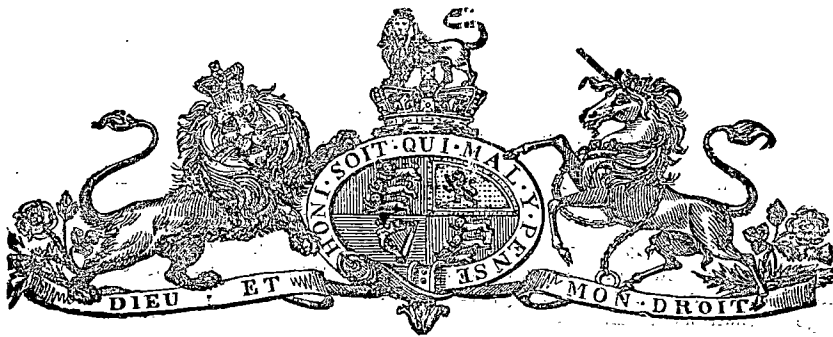


1868.

T A S M A N I A.

DISTRICT SURVEYORS.

Laid upon the Table, by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 15, 1868.



Survey Office, 14th September, 1868.

SIR,

REFERRING to the request of the Honorable Member for Brighton for information about the appointment of Surveyors, which you spoke to me about on the 12th, and to your orders to forward you a copy of the Terms of Agreement under which they hold their districts, and to show what each has earned during the past 12 months, I beg to hand you the papers you required, with such explanations as I think will enable you to reply to his enquiries. The following shows what each man has received for Surveys for the Year ending 12th instant.

<i>Name of Surveyor.</i>	<i>Amount paid.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
	£ s. d.	
Hurst.....	302 8 4	The District Surveyors have also received £106 ls. for preparing Maps for the Waste Lands Committee, but which was Special work, and not paid for from Survey Office funds.
Hall.....	238 3 8	
Simmons.....	173 10 2	
Dooley.....	169 18 0	
Brown.....	127 10 4	
Combes.....	98 6 7	
Smith.....	97 16 8	
Innes.....	87 18 4	
Wedge.....	65 5 0	
Sorell.....	59 15 3	
Thompson.....	28 13 8	
Hogan.....	12 2 6	
Jackson.....	11 0 0	
Thomas.....	10 1 0	Has received £175 Special work not paid from Survey Office funds. Has left the Colony a few months ago.
Burgess.....	—	
	£1482 9 6	

Of the 15 Surveyors above named, 10 have earned less than £100 each, the average of their earnings being £47 2s., and the average for the whole of our Field Staff being about £95; which, after deducting travelling expenses and cost of labour, left them barely enough to buy bread for their families.

The terms on which our Surveyors hold their Districts are contained in the printed paper herewith. You will see that they are quite binding, both on the Government and the Surveyor; and are not to be set at nought any more than any other agreement is; and so long as the Surveyors perform their part of the compact, the Government is bound in honor and good faith to do its part also, as set forth in the printed paper above referred to; viz.—of giving them all the Survey work it requires to be done in their respective districts.

Touching the subject of giving every Surveyor in the country who pleases to go in for such a share of the Government Survey work as he can secure in the scramble that some propose to make of so much of it as is done by gentlemen of this Department for the Real Property Office, I beg to say that I went so fully into it in a semi-official letter written on the 8th June last, (in reply to some enquiries you made of me after receiving a note from a gentleman who also thought it should be given to all comers) that I will here take leave to make such extracts from it as I think bear on the question under review, especially those parts of it that show the necessity of continuing existing conditions, as made originally, not by me, but by my predecessor, which will show you that Government Surveys, if they are to be carried on properly, must be done by dividing the territory into districts, as is done at present, and according to his other arrangements, which (with one exception) cannot be abandoned without injuriously affecting public interests in so far as they are connected with public Surveys.

I remain, Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

J. E. CALDER.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

EXTRACTS REFERRED TO.

He commences by stating his belief that the Surveys required by this Department should be thrown open to what he calls *qualified* Surveyors, by the want of which arrangement, he says, public business is impeded, great delays created, loss caused, and disaffection excited; all of which he might have said in six words, namely, do away with your District Surveyors.

To general and indefinite accusations like the above against present Survey arrangements, whereby the Island is lotted out into Districts, and each confided to one Surveyor, there is no other way of replying, except by detailing the circumstances that renders this course necessary, when I think it will be seen that any subversion of it will be far more disadvantageous than beneficial.

Before this scheme was adopted, 21 September, 1857, every one of the Surveyors had the entire Colony for his district so to speak, instead of a limited portion only that he could easily master: thus the distances he had often to travel to measure a few lots, or sometimes only one, were out of all reason. A hundred or a hundred and fifty miles were nothing uncommon; and when he reached his journey's end, he usually found himself utterly ignorant of the position of every old boundary in the neighbourhood of his work, and which he had to acquaint himself with before he could advance his own work an inch, at a cost of labour, research, and loss of time often hardly credible. It may be thought that this knowledge of boundaries might have been had for the trouble of asking. But this was not often the case, for as far as my own experience went I have seldom met a Settler who knew where his boundaries were. This arose, perhaps, from the universal practice in use from times unknown of Proprietors often fencing in their leased lands along with their own, so that they seldom had any immediate interest in their own lines. Weeks at a time, and not once only, but often, have I lost in acquiring this knowledge before I could measure a chain.

From the prevalent practice of the times I am writing about of sending Surveyors everywhere, they indeed acquired much general knowledge of the Country, but little of any particular District, and could no more give a Report on its condition, value, capabilities, or products than they could on the wilds of Central Africa.

But all this is now reversed. The Surveyor is not now required to travel beyond the limited area comprised within his own Survey District. But as he is generally moving within this confined space, he necessarily gains a knowledge of everything useful to him within it. He can give the Government, and often does, whatever information it requires of its lands, without hesitation or delay; frequently advises intending Settlers where to make a selection, and thus does far more for the cause of Settlement than any other person can, and is ever at hand to do any job connected with his profession as soon as its turn comes round, though, of course, not always directly he gets his orders, as some unreasoning persons expect, who appear to think there is no one to serve but themselves, or that every one's business must be put aside for theirs.

It may be thought that in thus writing I am supporting a scheme of my own, but such is not the case; and though, as an old practitioner, I highly approve of this salutary measure of creating Survey Districts, extinguishing as it did, and I hope for ever, many more serious impediments to progress than any your correspondent can bring against the Department, I gladly acknowledge that the entire merit of it belongs, not to myself, but to my predecessor.

Mr. Sprent's Circular, establishing Districts, and naming the terms on which the Surveyors are to hold them, is herewith. It is very properly a regular compact, and is not to be broken through to suit anyone. Indeed all its conditions, except the 6th, which was not found to answer, are so perfect, that it is not desirable to alter them, even if it would not be very unfair to do so.

Your correspondent complains that I will not gazette the Town Surveyor of Launceston to survey lands for the Real Property Department. Of course I will not. Our own Surveyors have got quite little enough to do as it is, and that little I will not make less by so dividing it as to make it still more inconsiderable than it is at present. Nor do I think with him that it would be fair to appoint a person already in the receipt of a public salary, and therefore able to undersell the legitimate practitioner, by working up his idle time (when everything however small must be all profit), and thus place them at disadvantage in the field of competition.

He next asserts that the delays of the Survey Department diminish your receipts in every way. But I submit we are not bound to trust mere assertion, above all when opposed by the damaging fact that those receipts for the last ten years have averaged just about £75,000 a year, raised, or rather created, by the industry of the Survey Department in the worst of times, and under circumstances by no means encouraging to it, which I take it give this statement the most complete falsification. Contrast it with the industry of the preceeding ten years—the golden years of the Colony—when it was conducted by others with whom I doubt not he will tell you I am unfit to be named, and what were the Treasury receipts of those years of abundance?—Under £52,400 a year; the yearly difference being £22,000 in favour of the ten-year period just past.

It may be thought by some that this success is due to improved Legislation; but when we bear in mind that *before* 1858 (the year of the passing of the first Waste Lands Act) our sales were all cash transactions, and that *since* then payment has been generally spread over eight and even eleven years, I do not think the assertion about our dilatoriness will gain much by being looked at from this point of view.

CIRCULAR, No. 4.

21st September, 1857.

MEMO.

I BEG to offer for your acceptance, on the terms stated in the within Memorandum, all the surveying which may be required by Government within the District of *on the accompanying tracing.*

The Skeleton Plan referred to in Clause No. 2 cannot be furnished at present, but shall be supplied at as early a date as possible.

JAMES SPRENT.

TERMS UPON WHICH SURVEYORS WILL BE APPOINTED TO DISTRICTS.

- 1st. That all the work within the District shall be given to the Surveyor appointed.
- 2nd. That he shall be furnished with a Skeleton Plan of his District by the Survey Department.
- 3rd. That he shall be allowed to employ an Assistant, subject to the approval of the Surveyor-General.
- 4th. That he shall carry out his instructions without delay, giving the preference to Government work over private surveys.
- 5th. That, so soon as the Skeleton Plan can be supplied, he shall henceforward, from time to time, plot thereon all surveys which he may have effected since the furnishing of the said Plan.
- * 6th. That, depending upon this Plan being kept up, all applicants for tracings will be referred to the District Surveyor.
- 7th. That he shall make himself thoroughly acquainted with his District, and acquaint the Surveyor-General with the nature of the Land, stating whether it be adapted to agriculture or grazing, and particularly reporting all trespasses or encroachments on Crown property which may come to his knowledge.
- 8th. That, although this is not to be regarded as an order, nevertheless the Surveyor-General will expect, and be thankful for, any geological or mineralogical specimens which his District may supply; and, lastly, the Surveyor-General will at all times be most happy to receive any information which he can afford, or suggestions which he may desire to offer, regarding his District.

* The 6th condition was soon found to be quite inoperative. The District Surveyor was seldom at hand to give the information; so tracings were continued to be supplied from this Office.