

(No. 42.)



1866.

T A S M A N I A .

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

S O R E L L C A U S E W A Y .

R E P O R T O F T H E C O M M I S S I O N E R S .

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 4, 1866.



Board Room, Public Buildings, Hobart Town,
21st August, 1866.

SIR,

WE have had the honor to receive your Letter of the 21st ultimo, requesting that we should forward to you a Report of our proceedings as to the Sorell Causeway, for presentation to Parliament.

2. The Progress Report of the Chairman (the Honorable Mr. Wilson) of the 17th of July of last year, (Paper No. 2. of last Session), stated that the lowest tender for the construction of the works was £8479 in excess of the amount placed at our disposal, so that we were compelled to allow them to remain in abeyance until last Session.

3. By the Public Works Act of last Session, (21st August, 1865), through the liberality of the Parliament, the sum of £9000 was voted for the completion of the Causeway, and placed at our disposal. We lost no time in availing ourselves of the vote, by meeting on the 1st September following, and making arrangements with Mr. Thomas Oldham for the final acceptance of his tender, as detailed to you in the Progress Report, with some slight modifications.

4. Those modifications were as follows:—

1. That, in lieu of £1000 or Debentures being deposited as security for the due fulfilment of the contract, the Trustees will accept two approved sureties of £500 each by Bond.

2. Payments will be made for the first three instalments at the rate of £700 for every £1000 of work completed, and upon all after instalments at the rate of £800 for every £1000 of work completed, on the Contractor producing a certificate of the Officer of the Trustees that he is entitled to such instalment, under the 17th and 18th clauses of the conditions.

3. That, on the payment of the first three instalments, the Bond given by the two sureties for £500 each shall be cancelled.

5. The contract was duly signed, and the necessary security given on the 14th of October last. The contractor immediately proceeded with building huts and offices for his work-people, getting his plant on the spot; and he broke ground early in February. A synopsis of the work done up to this time, compiled by the Clerk of the Works from his several Reports, will be found appended to this communication.

6. Connected with the proper supervision and progress of the work, it was necessary to have a person of scientific attainments in the position of Inspector and Surveyor; and the Trustees nominated Mr. Falconer to that office, with a remuneration of two per cent. on the outlay. The nomination was approved of by the Governor in Council, under the provisions of the 5th Section of "The Sorell Causeway Act, No. 2."

7. It is impossible to over-estimate the responsibility and important duties pertaining to the office of Inspector; for with him rest the entire control of the work, and its successful progress according to the specifications, as the Trustees make no payments without receiving from him the necessary certificate that the amount is due,—and in Mr. Falconer the Trustees have every possible confidence. The Report of the Commissioners (House of Assembly Paper, No. 108, of 1862,) most clearly proves that the failure and loss sustained by the late Trustees was solely owing to *laches* in the superintendence and inspection.

8. The Trustees obtained from the Inspector a Return of the routine duties to be performed by the Clerk of the Works; and after advertising for applications for that office, and considering the relative claims of the parties, they decided to nominate Mr. W. H. Glover, of Sorell, at a stipend of £150 per annum.

9. The funds at the disposal of the Trustees are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
23 Vict. No. 44, 23rd September, 1859	4000	0	0
28 Vict. No. 5, 21st September, 1864	4000	0	0

[The 8th Section of this Act gives power to the Governor in Council to levy a Rate on the Property Valuation Roll of Sorell not exceeding 5*d.* in the £, to redeem the said sum and pay interest.]

29 Vict. No. 1, 21st August, 1865	9000	0	0
	<u>£17,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Of which amount £2000 was paid to the late Trustees on the 24th September, 1861, leaving to complete the Causeway	15,000	0	0
Also available assets of £1510 in Bills, including a verbal promise of £100, which may be estimated at	750	0	0
	<u>£15,750</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
The present contract for the work.....	14,479	0	0
	<u>£1271</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Thus allowing the latter amount for salaries and miscellaneous expenses.

10. The Trustees have received the sum of £2050 from the Colonial Treasury, leaving a balance to the credit of the Works at this time of £12,950. The Trustees have caused a statement of all moneys received by them, and the appropriation thereof, to be published in the *Gazette* of the 13th of February last, pursuant to the 24th Section of "The Sorell Causeway Act, No. 1;" and they have since paid two instalments to the contractor (Mr. Oldham) amounting to £1400.

11. The Trustees visited the Works on the 14th of April last, in company with yourself and the Colonial Treasurer; but as these general inspections are attended with considerable expense to the Trust, without any commensurate advantage, they have authorised the Chairman to perform this duty once every ten or fourteen days, reporting the same to the Trustees. This frequent inspection will expedite the progress of the work, and have the effect of a necessary supervision.

12. A sum of upwards of £1500 has been received by the late Trustees from private persons on behalf of the Causeway works. There is also due about £1000 by different individuals, which is in course of collection; and the Trustees purpose at the end of their labours forwarding to you, to lay before Parliament, a list of each contributor, and the amount subscribed and paid.

13. Since the 1st of September last there have been twelve meetings of the Trustees. They have passed a resolution only allowing matters of business to be disposed of by a quorum of three,—an omission in the several Acts relating to their duties,—and they have stated days of meeting, which gives regularity to their proceedings.

14. The Trustees hope that the above exposition contains every necessary information for the Government and the Parliament of the Colony; and they may be allowed to remark, that they indulge the expectation that within the time limited, notwithstanding the many impediments that have occurred under prior mismanagement, they will witness the completion of a great public work that will add numerous benefits in a variety of ways to a considerable portion of people,—an important structure, which will materially aid the development and add to the prosperity of a large agricultural district,—open up the public lands, and bring the entire East Coast and its products within an easy access of the Capital, but which would not have been carried out but for "The Public Works Act of 1865."

We have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

JAMES MILNE WILSON,

C. M. MAXWELL,

ASKIN MORRISON,

D. LEWIS,

F. ALLISON,

EDW. ABBOTT,

} Trustees of the
Sorell Causeway.

E. J. ABBOTT, *Secretary.*

The Hon. JAMES WHYTE, Esq., Colonial Secretary.

ABSTRACT of Work on the SORELL CAUSEWAY:

EASTERN SIDE OF MIDWAY POINT.

<i>Date—1866.</i>	<i>Embankment.</i>	<i>Excavation.</i>	<i>Men employed.</i>
To end of April (May Report)	240 feet. 104,000 cubic feet.	270 feet.	36
To end of May (June Report)	75 ditto. 70,000 ditto.	60 ditto.	39
To end of June (July Report)	30 ditto. 37,000 ditto.	33 ditto.	40
To end of July (August Report) . . .	30 ditto. 36,000 ditto.	50 ditto.	38
Total length of embankment	375 feet. 247,000 cubic feet.	Total, 413 feet.	Monthly average, 38 men.

Width of base 90 feet.

Maximum height above water level, 25 feet.

Maximum depth of excavation, 32 feet.

WESTERN SIDE OF MIDWAY POINT.

June (July Report)	32 feet. 38,000 cubic feet.	43 feet.
July (August Report)	20 ditto. 25,000 ditto.	40 ditto.
Total	52 feet. 63,000 cubic feet.	Total 83 feet.

Maximum height of embankment, 34 feet.

Maximum depth of excavation, 24 feet.

W. H. GLOVER, *Clerk of Works, Sorell Causeway.*

MEMORANDUM.

The material on the western side of Midway Point is wholly a hard durable sandstone rock.

That on the eastern side has hitherto alternated between clay rock and sandstone; but the same formation as constitutes the western side above alluded to has now been struck in the excavation on the eastern side, and the material will now be throughout of that superior stone.

By means of machinery on both cuttings fragments of rock up to about 2 tons are removed, and placed whole in the work.

S U M M A R Y.

EMBANKMENT.

Total forcing eastern side	Length 375 feet.	Cubic quantity 247,000 feet.
Ditto western side	Ditto 52 ditto.	Ditto 63,000 ditto.
Total forcing whole work	427 feet.	Cubic quantity 310,000 feet.

EXCAVATION.

Total excavation eastern side	Length 413 feet.
Ditto western side	Ditto 83 ditto.
Total excavation, whole work	496 feet.
Excavation and embankment together. Total, eastern side	788 feet.
Ditto. Total, western side	135 ditto.
Total length of excavation and embankment, whole work	923 feet.