

(No. 63.)



1887.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

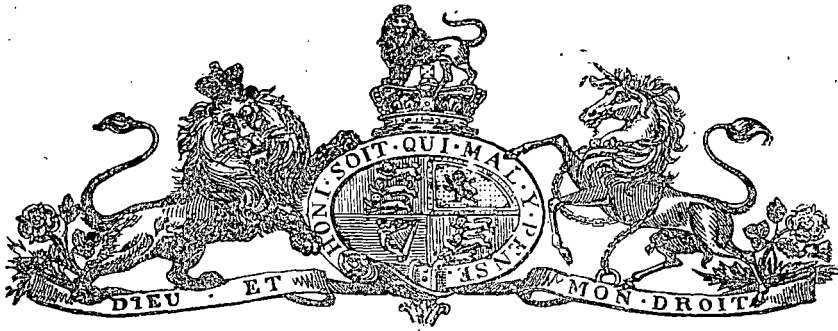
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KING'S ISLAND:

REPORT BY MR. JOHN W. BROWN.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



## REPORT ON KING'S ISLAND.

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Hobart, August, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, in obedience to instructions dated 28th January last, I proceeded to King's Island, and on arrival landed stores, camp equipment, &c. at Currie Harbour, and without delay got rations packed to south end of the Island, intending to examine that portion first, and gradually work north towards Cape Wickham.

### *Camp No. 1.*

Encamped in Hunter's abandoned hut on bank of lagoon one mile east from Surprise Bay, the only harbour on south-west end of Island.

My first journey from camp was on to the east track to the mouth of Seal River, the outlet to a long chain of lagoons, continuous in the rainy season, running parallel with the coast, and inland about one mile. They are surrounded with thick scrubs of the swamp tea-tree, many of them of large size, straight and tall, used for firewood and posts and rails by the present lessee of the Island in the absence of other timber. On the south portion is open grass land and thickets of mangrove, currant bush, and boobyalla. Some good land, suitable for cultivation, occurs in the vicinity of the lagoons, but up to the present time little has been done to improve it, but the introduced grasses are taking hold. Clover, trefoil, meadow fescue, rye, and other grasses may be said to hold their own, whilst potatoes, turnips, mangolds, tomatoes, &c. do well about the homestead.

Examined the south point right round from the East Coast to Surprise Bay. South of the homestead about one mile the land is well covered with coarse herbage, upon which some hundreds of sheep are pastured and are doing well. Beyond this, sandhills, quite bare of vegetation, extend to the south point, resting on a clay-slate formation; direction of beds, north; dip, 10° to the south west.

### *Camp No. 2.*

Left for Camp No. 2, passing large lagoon on north-west side, forming one of the chain before-mentioned, extending about three miles in a north-easterly direction parallel with the coast. The north-easterly one comprises an area of about 200 acres, with a depth of five feet. A good stream of water runs into it at its north-west end 20 feet wide. This drains a large area of country extending to the north and west; the northerly branch coming out of Swamp Gum Forest, the westerly one unwatering a number of small lagoons and tea-tree swamps.

About two thousand acres of medium quality land are met with in the vicinity that could be improved by cultivation. Kelp and seaweed are to be had in abundance at all seasons of the year. This will apply to the whole coast of King's Island. Resuming journey, crossed main stream and got out into open country, well grassed between the ridges, with belts and clumps of tea-tree, boobyalla, mangrove, and currant bush, with undergrowth of stunted ferns. The course lay about one mile inland, crossing a succession of sandy ridges, with good feed, for a distance of about five miles. Here a change of rock occurs, granite showing in round weathered masses, and running out into the sea.

Continued on along slopes of the highest part of the Island, the land to the west of this rising to a height of 700 feet by observation taken by the late Captain Stanley; crossed a small stream, and camped in thicket of mountain tea-tree. Noticed the Native Trout (*Galaxias*) here. Made short journey to the west into the forest, which I found to consist of large blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*), dogwood, tea-tree, native olive, tree ferns (*Dicksonia Antarctica* nad *Alsophila*), the prickly variety of tree-fern. Good land—area considerable. Next day, continued my examination of the coast to the north; passed several fine streams of water running over the granite rocks into the sea. The forest before alluded to is gradually coming down to the sea shore; the timber of much larger growth. About five miles from camp came on to the edge of a fine reach of fresh water, 10 chains in length and one chain wide, the forest coming down to the sea; very large gums, blackwood, dense growth of ferns and other scrub; finishing the walk in a northerly direction at Boulder Point, thence back to camp.

Leaving the camp, proceeded in a north-easterly direction, and after passing over a mile of the usual coast country got into high ferny flats, with clumps of tea tree, very difficult to force one's way through, so applied the firestick, expecting a clearer road on the return journey. Fired for half a mile, and at about two miles from starting point came on edge of a magnificent forest, blue gum trees of three, four, five, six, and seven feet in diameter being quite common, and of a great height. The under-scrub is composed of musk, sassafras, dogwood, pittosporum, and olive, the latter quite new to me—I do not think it is found on the mainland. It attains a height of thirty feet, with a girth of four feet, diameter fifteen inches, bright green foliage, and bears a berry of a purple colour with hard rough nut, specimens of which I collected. The swamp tea-tree attains a large size here; prickly wattle, and the small prickly shrub, with an oblong seed of a red colour; fern trees of a large size (*Dicksonia* and *Alsophila*), the latter the finest I have ever seen, attaining a height of 35 feet, with very large spreading heads. The land, a deep alluvial soil, with much decomposed vegetable matter, thin layers of light-coloured clay. Country undulating. Elevation from 300 to 600 feet above sea; water plentiful; and well sheltered from the prevailing westerly winds. The stream draining this country is locally known as the Big River. Some years ago a Victorian Company laid down a short line of tramway, intending to work the blue-gum and blackwood beds, but the Tasmanian Government would not allow it, and work was discontinued. The bush fires soon destroyed the tramway.

A very considerable area of land fronting the sea, and extending from Sea Elephant River in a northerly direction to the south bank of the Big River, with a depth of one mile inland, resting on the forest, is capable of great improvement, and would, I believe, grow good crops of vegetables, fruit trees, and grain. It has a nice warm aspect, fairly watered, and large quantities of kelp are thrown on the beach after every breeze.

Next day struck out west from the camp, through open and light scrub and fair country, about one mile wide, extending in a westerly direction into burnt forest. This strip divides the blue-gum forest on the north from one of swamp gums. On the south some few blue gums are found, accompanied by prickly mimosa, tea-tree, Banksia, cutting-grass, high bracken fern, and a few tree ferns, "old-man" (*Dicksonia* and *Alsophila*).

The timber, as a rule, is not so large as the northern or blue gum-forest, but of good serviceable size. Continued firing on my return along edge of timber to camp, arriving there at 2 o'clock. Wind shifted to north west, driving the fire towards us, and notwithstanding that two creeks, with swampy margin and high green tea-tree scrub with quite a dense undergrowth lay between us, it got so great a hold that it swept over every impediment, and once fairly on the grassy ridges on which my camp was situated, the progress of the fire was so rapid that my companion and self had barely time to bundle our belongings into the knapsack and hasten to the sea shore, which fortunately presented a good wide margin of sandy beach, and to the edge of which the fire followed, the dense volumes of smoke and heat being rather trying. Pitched camp on sandy beach for the night, intending to make home in the morning. Game very plentiful; kangaroo and wallaby in splendid condition, quite fat. Rain heavy in night; started back to main camp. The country presents a very dismal appearance this morning, burnt as far as the outline of the country is discernible north and south seven miles, with an average width of one mile. This will do good; it has not been burnt for years before.

Left No. 2 camp for Etterick Creek, keeping on the track, passing the Pear Shape country, so called from the pear-like shape of the lagoon, on the banks of which the lessee had built a hut and fenced in a large area of land, on which he had expended considerable labour in planting artificial grasses, some of which promise to succeed well. The land in the vicinity of Pear Shape is lightly timbered, white gum country, well grassed and undulating, many portions of which could be brought under cultivation at a small cost. The forest mentioned in that portion of my report dealing with the East Coast, and particularised in my report as the swamp-gum forest partially burnt, runs right through to this country, thereby bringing the timber suitable for building and fencing purposes within a convenient distance of this rather extensive area. West of this lagoon is a large extent of good feeding land known on Stanley's chart as Catarague Point (named after ship lost years ago), part of it resting on Fitzmaurice Bay and extending south to Surprise Bay, the shipping-place on the south-west side of the Island.

An imported fodder plant, one of the numerous trefoil family, is gradually but surely taking possession of all the moist flats and gullies on this west and the east coast of the Island. It grows most luxuriantly, completely smothering everything else, scrub not excepted, reaching a height of two and three feet,—a dense mass of vegetation. Two tons an acre could be cut on hundreds of acres in a state of nature. This has been carried and propagated by the cattle and horses, the latter used by the kangaroo hunters, who inform me that its increase and adaptability is astonishing.

Continuing on in a northerly direction, after passing over Muddy Creek, a fine and constant stream of water running into Fitzmaurice Bay. Left the main Currie Harbour track to the left, and after passing over an undulating country consisting of open grassy flats and low ridges of tussocky grass with numerous patches of the creeping "mesembryanthemum" (pigface), gradually fell into the watershed of the Etterick, a fine stream of water, constant in all seasons, having many tributaries, on one of which I formed our camp. Native trout very numerous.

#### Camp No. 3.

Situated on a small stream of about one sluice-head of water. It rushes out of a high sandy ridge or hummock at right angles to the stream, and I think contains lime in solution. The aforesaid stream running south west, and containing a volume of ten (10) sluice-heads of water in summer. Pitched tent in close clump of gum and honeysuckle, Banksia, and mountain tea-tree, and, as an additional protection, built breakwind on open side, intending to leave permanent camp here for some time while examining the large area of land north-east and south.

Followed down the Etterick to its confluence with the sea on the west coast. A deep gorge, with steep ridges on both sides, well grassed, with patches of currant bush and mangrove, and a fringe of tea-tree on bank of the Etterick, which runs over a hard crystalline schistose rock, reference to which will be made in grouping the different rocks of this Island. Examined the country south of the Etterick, which consists of low ridges and open flats—good feeding land, clumps of tea-tree, mangrove, and currant bush, boobyalla, &c. Beautiful streams of water trickling out of the sandbanks at each little indent on the coast, and depositing lime rapidly.

At about the centre of Fitzmaurice Bay a very beautiful lime formation occurs, known as the Dripping Well. The water draining the back country runs under the overlying sand hummocks, and has formed large masses of lime stalactites depending from the overhanging roof of the caves, the floor of which is composed of stalagmites and numerous basins and terraces of carbonate of lime. Near this is a large spring rising quite 12 inches vertical and 10 inches in diameter. South of this is situated the memorial tablet of iron recording the wreck of the ship *Catarague*, and the loss of 433 lives, on August 4th, 1845.

Left tent and main camp standing, taking only small calico fly and knapsack, to examine the country east.

Crossed the Etterick and kept away to east (see Chart), passing over flat and undulating land, with the streams running away to the south-west, evidently tributaries of the Etterick. Rough grass and ferns, with good patches of land in the valleys, changing into tea-tree flats, stunted swamp gums, heath, light sandy soil, high grassy ridges on the left hand, and dead timbered country on the right, about two miles easterly from Camp No. 3 changing to deep brown peaty soil, with numerous small ponds and lagoons fringed with belts of tea-trees, cutting-grass, &c. This country is very wet in winter, in fact, under water, and doubtless is the source of many of the streams met with on the coast. It could be drained and would grow grasses; at present it is too sour. About three miles came on edge of forest—tall honeysuckles *Banksia* (50 feet high), with tea-tree, swamp gum, cutting-grass, dogwood, tree-ferns (*Alsophila* and *Dicksonia*), with a few blue gums (*Eucalyptus globulus*), suitable for piles, &c., the forest gradually becoming thicker with large growth of timber. Encamped on dry watercourse.

#### Camp No. 4.

Next day started track-cutting, keeping a course north of east, in forest of young timber; the blue gum more plentiful; blackwood of medium size, dogwood, pittosporum, leather-wood, musk, tea-tree (of large size), cat-head, lady, and black ferns, the tree-ferns numerous. Country undulating, land varying in character from light loamy to black and brown, with sub-stratum of clay and sand. This seems to be the general character of the country right through to the east and south coast, and is a continuation of the blue gum forest before mentioned in that portion of my report dealing with the south-east coast. Rain coming on, and continuing all night, next day made back to the main camp, No. 3, after a very wet and fatiguing journey.

Continued examination of the coast north of Etterick Creek. The land well grassed on the low ridges and flats, with stunted thickets of currant bush. It may be as well to mention that the Borilla is found at high water-mark on the whole coast of the Island. Procured specimens of the coast rocks, schistose principally, with broken portions of quartz imbedded but not well defined; tourmaline and mica abundant, with masses of sand and shells; *Helicidæ* sandstone similar to that rock found on Flinders and Cape Barren Islands. Land shells abundant. This description will apply to the country lying between Etterick Creek and Currie Harbour, over which country I walked several times, carrying rations.

East of Currie Harbour the country is lightly timbered, comparatively level, with low sandy ridges, thickets of oil bush, currant, tea-tree and mangrove scrubs, with large patches of pig-face (*Mesembryanthemum*), the trefoil growing plentifully in all the valleys and moist places.

Three nice streams fall into Currie Harbour.

Proceeding north in the direction of my next camp, No. 5, locally known as Porky Lagoon (short for porcupine, formerly very numerous), some very good country is met with—open grassy flats, with patches of tea-tree, white and blue gum timber, extending in an easterly direction. My track led more along the coast, about 1½ miles inland, crossing several small streams of water. Passed on to ferny land with thick scrub, but this soon gave place to better land, known as the Man Trap, so called from a portion of wreck (vessel's hatch), set up by a hunter for shelter, falling on him during heavy stormy weather. Here the late lessee of the island cultivated some land in a very rough manner, and planted potatoes, which came up strong and promising, but through the neglect of the cultivator the native bracken-fern, left to themselves, choked the potatoes, and little more than half a crop resulted—no fault of the land, which is the best and largest area of improvable country I have yet seen, extending with only one break from Currie Harbour to Porky, and inland an area of thousands of acres.

Porky Rivulet drains a large extent of country extending several miles to the east, where the gum forests are again met with.

#### Camp No. 5.

Encamped on edge of Porcupine Lagoon, which occupies an area of about 20 acres, fringed on the south east side with a thick margin of tall swamp tea-tree, the north and west sides covered with lightly timbered white gum, dogwood, native olive, mangrove, boobyalla, and a few good blackwoods. Around the banks of the lake are numerous outcrops of limestone. Eels are numerous, and wild fowl visit the waters occasionally. This is also a favourite hunting station, a comfortable hut standing near the water, with a small garden enclosed.

Down the watershed of the Porky Rivulet are many nice flats of good land. Mushrooms very plentiful, many of which we gathered and made use of. The ridges carrying good grass, and generally open country, which extends right down to the sea, Whale Bay Beach, a distance of two miles.

My next examination was towards the east through good country, black loamy soil resting on hard compact sand, with frequent outcrops of limestone, and lime and sand *helicidae*. Large timber, swamp with occasional blue gums, low clumps of mangrove thickets, high ferns, good feeding land, resting on what has evidently been the beds of old lagoons now dried up.

This character of country extends eastward about five miles. Heavy forest, at some distant time now burnt out, the large stumps and boles of the trees only remaining. This succeeded by another growth which has also suffered destruction by fire, the usual under-scrub ferns, &c. rapidly giving place to the tussocky grass, and this also to better feeding herbage. Beyond this country is situated a large open heathy plain of about three thousand acres in extent, with numerous creeks running to the east and south. The greatest length is three miles east and west, with a mean width of two miles north and south.

North of this plain, and divided by a narrow grassy ridge, is another of similar character and the same area, viz., three thousand acres, extending its greatest length in a northerly direction, white gums on the margin, with patches of tea-tree and mangrove. These plains are very wet in winter time, but soon dry. Could be drained by taking advantage of the present natural watercourses by deepening and straightening. Are capable of great improvement. Kangaroo and wallaby very numerous and tame.

These extensive peaty flats are no doubt the source of the innumerable springs and streams met with on the coast.

This Porcupine and Man Trap country is well adapted for settlement, thousands of acres of medium class land well watered, partly open, good timber, proximity to Currie Harbour—the shipping place—the sea beach easy of access, from which kelp and seaweed in large quantities can be had at all times of the year, with a rainfall averaging 30 inches per annum. Kangaroo and wallaby very numerous, and the fattest I have seen, now with young early in April. The season for protection is all wrong so far as this place is concerned, as the hunters inform me that they find the does with young all through the year, but principally in January. This is attributable to the mild climate and good feed.

Before leaving for the next centre of operations, visited Currie Harbour. Repacking botanical specimens, looking to labels of the numerous collection of rocks collected in this portion of King's Island, placing the whole in boxes ready for the vessel coming with the supplies for the light-house should she come west about.

Whilst here noticed the few sheep—about fifty—kept by the Superintendent, and that they were all in good condition, most of them with strong lambs dropped early in March. The few head of cattle for the use of the station were also improving in condition, after the longest spell of dry weather known in this place for ten years.

English grasses and vegetables do well here; the latter have to be protected by high scrub shelter fences on account of the heavy westerly gales. I may as well mention the luxuriant growth of the water-cress. It is found in numerous creeks right down to the sea, and seems to flourish in the salt atmosphere. This was imported.

Returned to camp at Porky, and left for Yellow Rock. Eighteen miles north of this place struck the coast track at about four miles, the first three through open forest land, white and swamp gums, open flats and glades well grassed, low ridges and clumps of mangrove. At five miles crossed the Pass Rivulet, a fine permanent stream unwatering a considerable area of land, capable of improvement similar to that previously spoken of.

The track north of the Pass Rivulet keeps to the beach about one mile, numerous small streams of good water running out of the sand-banks; terraces of lime of good quality. At seven miles the scrub, consisting of native currant and stunted tea-tree, grows down to the beach and extends inland, a considerable distance almost impenetrable. This continues three miles, during which cross another good stream half the size of the previous one. At about 12 miles sight Cape Wickham lighthouse, distant 14 miles, and from this elevation overlook a large extent of undulating country,—large flats and low ridges covered with coarse grasses, good rough feed extending away east, north, and north-westerly. The track turns more to the east, leaving the coast on the left hand, and, after crossing a series of sandy ridges, now covered with young grass, dips into what is locally known as the Gentleman's Park, so called from its park-like appearance, consisting of open glades with patches of mangrove, low ridges, here and there a gum, then a clump of currant bush and boobyalla, with their different colouring bright and sombre, quite justified the solitary kangaroo hunter who long ago gave it the name.

The country is of similar character through to Yellow Rock, so called from the yellow appearance of large boulders of granite on the beach close to the home station, formed many years ago by an early lessee of the island; two dilapidated huts and the ruin of the wool-shed remain, situated on the banks of stream also called Yellow Rock Rivulet. At about three-quarters of a mile from the sea a couple of miles of wire fencing were put up, enclosing part of an extensive marsh, and fencing out the sand hummocks on the sea side of the marsh. This was, I believe, to keep the stock off the land producing the poisonous tare (*Lobelia*), said to be very injurious to animals, but only at seed time. Sheep from Victoria were placed here, but most of them died. At the present time it looks the perfection of a sheep-run, the trefoil before-

mentioned growing luxuriantly, dispossessing the ferns and tussocks, and reaching a growth of four feet high in the marsh. Stock at other portions of the island take it freely whilst young, and again, whilst dry, in the autumn and winter, it makes good hay. Many acres hereabout could be cut with a small outlay of labour in removing a few tussocks and dry scrub. It is now, after the recent heavy fires which have been burning all over the island, coming up in all directions.

#### Camp No. 6.

Encamped in one of the huts at this camp; remained some time. Sank small prospecting holes, most of them on stiff clays, but did not find any indication of minerals. An entire absence of wash at all places. Thick masses of quartz occur on the beach in a hard compact schist, and in small and scattered pieces at two places inland, but cannot be considered as indicating minerals.

Made down to beach at mouth of the Yellow Rock Rivulet, rather thick with the usual coast scrub; thence south to Whistler's Point, the passage between the New Year's Island bearing west, these affording the only shelter on this north-west side of the Island. An extensive mutton-bird rookery exists on the outer one, undisturbed for years. Cabbages here grow wild, the soil being very rich owing to the periodical visits of these singular creatures, who make their nests on all the small islands around the coast of Tasmania, burrowing three feet into the ground; as food supply not to be despised. This coast hereabouts is much about the same, sand ridges lower, more sheltered from the west by the islands than that south, abundant feed and nothing to eat it, trefoil spreading rapidly. The marsh before referred to has been sown with a variety of grasses, but from all I can hear, in a very imperfect manner—simply scattering the seed on the land. Several are now to be seen with the white clover. Many weeds, including the dock, dandelion, thistles, two varieties chickweed and marsh-mallow. Watercress plentiful in the rivulet.

Left Yellow Rock for East Coast, accompanied by Henry Grave, who has considerable local knowledge, having hunted the north and east of the Island for the last ten years; our course lay up the coast, passing several lagoons, the largest of which is known as Bob's Lagoon, and one to the south as Sam's, a distance from the camp of four miles. All open country, well grassed, trefoil abundant.

Bob's Lagoon, an extensive sheet of water, now occupies the site of a heavy forest of *eucalyptus* (blue gum.) The standing dead boles and fallen trees, partly submerged, present a singular appearance; about thirty acres are now covered by the water. After passing this lagoon our course became more easterly, trending to south east. Traversing a large area of grass country, comparatively level good land, suitable for cultivation and the growth of artificial grasses. This was all forest at some not far distant time, as evidenced by the large stumps and remains left by a succession of fires. This extends three miles in a southerly direction, with patches of scrub and ferns, but all gradually giving place to grasses. This fact was pointed out by Grave, who remembered extensive scrubs a few years ago, now good feeding land. About six miles came into tea-tree scrubs, heathy flats with rushes, stunted gums, honeysuckle, prickly mimosa, and with many small lagoons and swampy depressions. Only noticed rock once, specimens of which I procured. This is the general character of the land down to hunter's hut, at which we encamped.

South of our track a belt of swamp gums runs through from east to west coast, about one mile in average width.

#### Camp No. 7.

The land hereabout is of better quality, but patchy; small marshes running parallel with the coast, distant three-quarters of a mile. West of this thick scrubs of tea-tree, white gum, dogwood, blackwood, and prickly mimosa. Many good homes could be made on this part of the coast. Next day's journey led down the coast, which is generally low-lying ridges of sand, covered with ferns, rushes, and rough grass, with patches of currant and oily bushes.

The small creeks thick with a margin of tea-tree; heavy scrub inland. Struck the beach, and followed it down to Sea Elephant River, a wide shallow inlet. The main branch turns and hugs the coast ridges, salt water extending inland about four miles; heathy land, but good clay bottom, large area, capable of improvement. Shelter here for boats.

#### Camp No. 8.

Encamped at hunter's hut, known as the River Camp. Next day struck inland through heathy flats with belts of tea-tree and decomposed vegetable matter. Medium class land, could be drained, and is capable of great improvement. This extends south and west five miles, and is oval in shape, the east end resting on Frazer's River. At about seven miles passed over undulating country and low ridges of red soil, open land and clay bottom, suitable for cultivation. This brought me to the third hut used by Grave, down to which similar country to the above extends. A small creek runs through the low-lying land, cutting deep into the soil, resting on brown clay. This flat is covered with a wiry grass, now green and abundant, the pack-horse eating it with much relish.

#### Camp No. 9.

My journey next day continued on down the coast, crossing small stream of water before reaching the Frazer River, which is a good stream, emptying into the sea under high rocks of schistose formation, the forest coming right down to the cliffs, consisting of large honeysuckle, Banksia, tea-tree, prickly mimosa, swamp and blue gum. Continued on the beach, going south two miles, crossing several small streams, until it was impossible to proceed further without cutting track, the cliffs coming down vertical into sea, known as "The Wall." This forest extends along the coast to Grassy, and inland to Pear Shape (see plan),

containing an area of many thousand acres. The branches of the Frazer River, coming in from the west and south, drain that part of the forest containing the best blackwood, whilst the sassafras, dogwood, and tree-ferns grow to large size.

The fine weather having quite departed, succeeded by rain and storm, the rations also getting low, shall make back to-morrow. Next day made back, chiefly along the beach, to Sea Elephant River, at which place remained on Sunday. Monday, continued return journey, resting for the night at Camp 7 on the chart.

Next day kept along the coast, passed close to two large lagoons called "Martha Lavinia," after a vessel of that name wrecked near this.

Most of this country is poor in character,—stunted scrubs with heath and tea-tree patches; young forest of gums coming after fire. This continues until a low flat ridge is crossed, under which is situated the extensive scope of country known as the Reedy Flats on chart.

This fine and extensive tract of land extends four miles in an easterly direction, whilst its northerly extent comprises the land resting on the south side of the Big Lake, at about the south-west boundary of the Lighthouse Reserve, inside of which extensive area a large part is of similar quality.

If at any time the Government should deal with this Island in the way of settlement, I think it would be desirable to reduce the large areas set apart in both localities for Lighthouse purposes, say at least two-thirds, making one thousand acres each. This would be ample for all requirements, firewood, pasture &c. The Reedy Flats country lies north west and south east,—about eight thousand acres in extent,—covered with a thick growth of native grasses, including the tussock, wild nettle, trefoil, Scotch thistle, dock, and sow thistle.

Made Grave's hut and homestead on west coast four miles south from Cape Wickham. Examined the land about here, which is all open and grassy, protected by ridges of one hundred feet elevation from the west, the windy quarter. A fine stream runs out on to the beach about three quarters of a mile from hut, constant in the driest summer. Collected land shells and specimens of the rocks. Formation much like that at Etterick.

Walked up to Cape Wickham; the distance is said to be four miles; the track is inland from the coast about half a mile. All open land recently burnt, undulating ridges and valleys well grassed, the trefoil coming up thick in all directions. This continues to the fence three-quarters of a mile from the station, inside of which artificial grasses have been sown, and are now extending themselves; English grass being well established in the several enclosures near the Lighthouse. I remained at Wickham for some time and examined the country south of the station, including the north-east coast down as far as the track; followed on the return journey from east coast.—(see chart.) It presents no special feature different to miles of country already mentioned, excepting that where stock have long been kept the native grasses are giving place to imported varieties, which seem to have thoroughly established themselves. North of the Big Lagoon is situated a large block of land suitable for settlement. It may be said to form portion of the Reedy Flats, being separated only by small low ridges and the lagoon, whilst the coast is of the usual character, viz., low sandy ridges, covered with stunted scrub and ferns.

I have now brought my description of this extensive Island from the southern to its northern extremities to a close, and have personally visited all parts known to residents of some years, besides exploring large areas comparatively unknown. I will now call attention to the shipping-places, and particularise those I think should be reserved. Surprise Bay, on the south-west, suitable for small vessels; Currie Harbour, on the west coast, and enclosed by the Lighthouse reserve, is the only harbour suitable for steamers, and is the outlet for a large area of country in vicinity of Porky and the Man Trap, roads from which must be reserved through the Reservation, and Seal Bay on the south-eastern end where any vessel may lay with safety in westerly weather.

As the result of my examination I am of opinion that King's Island contains an approximate area of say 90,000 acres of good land, denoted by pink colour on the plan accompanying this Report. The highest altitude is about 700 feet above sea level.

Subject to your approval, I have named the highest point Mount Stanley, after the late Captain Stanley, R.N., who observed the height when making a survey of King's Island for the Admiralty.

In conclusion, I cannot close this Report without thanking the Hobart Marine Board for their courtesy in affording information; and to the Superintendents of the Lighthouses at Cape Wickham and Currie Harbour I am indebted for cheerful assistance rendered, so far as lay in their power, to facilitate the exploration of a very extensive area of country.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

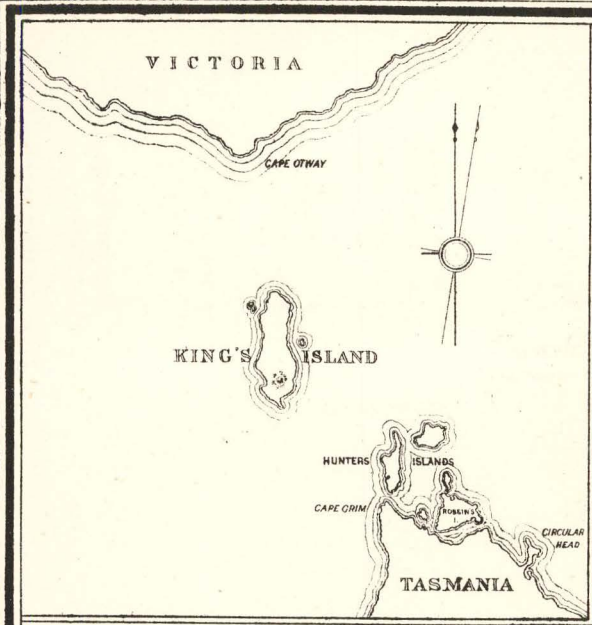
Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN W. BROWN, *Surveyor*.  
10th August, 1887.

*The Hon. E. N. C. BRADDON, Esq., Minister of Lands and Works, Hobart.*

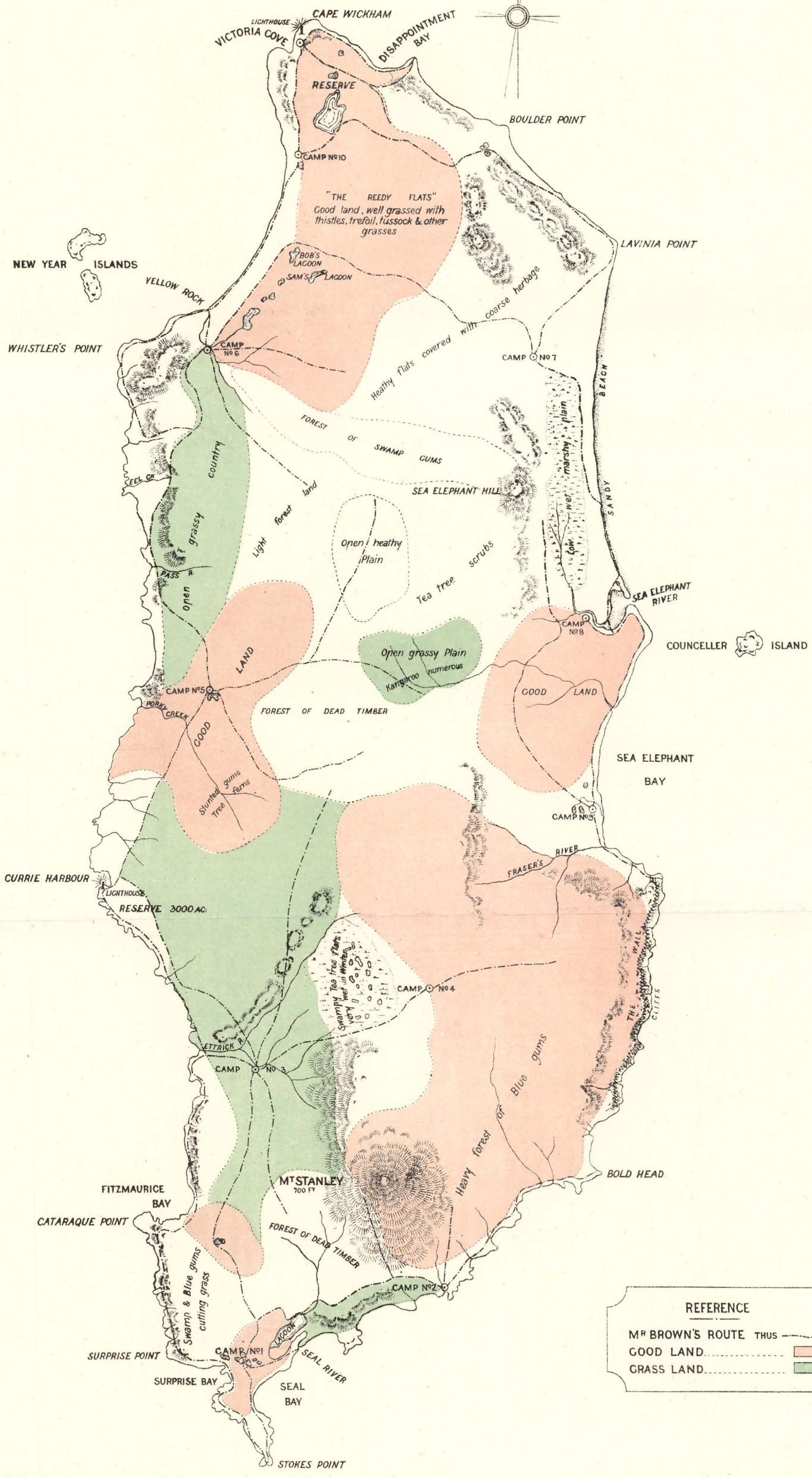
WILLIAM THOMAS STRUTT,  
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.





# KING'S ISLAND

SCALE  
MILES 0 1 2 3 4 5  
E.W.N. BUTCHER 1887



REFERENCE

MR BROWN'S ROUTE THUS ———

GOOD LAND.....

GRASS LAND.....