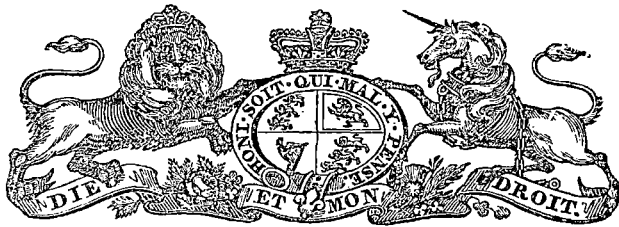


(No. 45.)



1860.

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T A S M A N I A.

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T A S M A N ' S P E N I N S U L A .

Report from the Joint Committee of both Houses of Parliament ;  
together with the Proceedings of the Committee, and Minutes of  
Evidence.

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Brought up by Mr. Gell, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
20 September, 1860.



*The JOINT COMMITTEE appointed to enquire into the desirability of opening up  
TASMAN'S PENINSULA have the honor to*

## R E P O R T

THAT they have examined the Surveyor-General, the Director of Public Works, the Commandant of Port Arthur, Mr. Ballantine, late Superintendent of Convicts, Messrs. Degraives, Gourlay, and King; also various Returns furnished to Parliament, and such other documentary and statistical evidence as could be procured; and a considerable number of your Committee have visited the Peninsula and inspected the Imperial Establishment.

Your Committee have first endeavored to ascertain the value of Tasman's and Forrestier's Peninsulas, and next what prospect there is of that value being realised, which directly leads them to the consideration of the first great hindrance to the occupation of the Peninsulas,—the Imperial Establishment at Port Arthur. The desirability of continuing this Establishment as at present has been fully considered; and the question as to how far Convict discipline, reform, employment, supervision, and security can be obtained, with due regard to economy of management, supply, and profitable work, has been investigated.

In conclusion, they have respectfully recommended such alterations as suggested themselves during the enquiry, with a view to the profitable occupation of a large tract of Land, and also with the view of placing the present and future Penal Establishments of this Colony upon a more satisfactory basis.

The general character of the land of Tasman's Peninsula, containing 140,000 acres, and also Forrestier's Peninsula containing 44,000 acres, is inferior, with the exception of about 4000 acres in each Peninsula of Pastoral Land, and various detached portions of fair Agricultural Land, altogether about 2500 acres.

It has been estimated that the Lands, if offered for Sale, would realize from £30,000 to £40,000, (exclusive of the Buildings at Port Arthur), their value being chiefly due to the Timber growing upon them, which appears to be abundant in quantity, and of first-rate quality, with easy access to water carriage.

The Fish in the surrounding waters are superior and abundant. There is a large demand for dried fish both for home consumption and exportation, and every probability of a considerable profitable trade being established if Fishing vessels had free access to the coasts, and if the shores of the Peninsulas were available for the establishment of Fishing Stations. There are several excellent and convenient Ports.

The Mineral productions at present discovered consist of Freestone and Anthracite Coal: a Coal Mine is now worked on Tasman's Peninsula.

The Penal Establishment at Port Arthur consists of 564 men under sentence, 76 Paupers, 87 Lunatics, 171 Invalids; the Paupers, Lunatics, and Invalids are Imperial, except 80 Invalids chargeable on this Colony. Of the men under sentence 301 are borne on the Colonial books,—though it appears by a Return published 20th July, 1860, that only one-tenth, or 30, ought in equity to be on the Colonial books, nine-tenths being British Convicts placed upon the Colonial funds by the operation of the arbitrary rule laid down by the Duke of Newcastle, July, 1854, now the subject of Protest on the part of this Colony.

There are 37 Officers, 64 Constables, 4 Wardens, 12 Attendants, and 41 Military, being at the rate of 1 guard to 4 Convicts, with ample accommodation in the shape of Buildings scattered over a considerable area.

The cost of the Establishment is stated to be £30,000 per annum, exclusive of the Military, and the expenses of the Steamer to keep up communication and furnish supplies at £1300 per annum; to which may be added the cost of Imperial Establishments in Hobart Town and in England in connection with Port Arthur.

Escape is rare, but more owing to the extensive arrangements to retake Absconders than to the security of their position: these arrangements necessarily interfere with the productive work of the Prisoners. The Prisoners are chiefly employed upon unprofitable work, and repay but a very small fraction of their maintenance. Sufficient suitable employment for incorrigible offenders cannot be found in that locality, on account of the difficulty of providing for their security and supervision. The means for improved reformatory discipline, as recently carried out in Ireland and England, do not exist; and the distance of Port Arthur from visitation and supervision greatly detracts from its value as a Penal Station. At the same time, your Committee desires to place upon record their high opinion of the valuable services of the Commandant, Mr. Boyd, and their conviction that every thing is done that can be done, both by that gentleman and his officers, to render the Establishment as perfect as possible.

On account of the facts which we have stated, we cannot consider Port Arthur a suitable place for the detention of Convicts any longer than will permit arrangements being made for their safe custody elsewhere, and such alterations in the Law, if required, as may prevent the possibility of escape.

And it now becomes necessary to recommend such alterations as have been suggested by the enquiry; and we respectfully submit that we are of opinion, that, taking into consideration the probable and future wants of the Colony, it would be prudent to provide a Prison (unless the authorities can point out any Building suitable for the purpose) adapted to contain 200 Prisoners, where more perfect Reformatory Discipline can be enforced, at a far less cost for inspection and management, and where the labor of the Prisoners might be made to contribute, to a considerable extent, towards the cost of their maintenance.

This arrangement would also permit the sale and occupation of Tasman's Peninsula; and from the Evidence we are justified in calculating that the amount realised would more than pay for the cost of the proposed improvements: and it cannot be doubted that the settlement of this large tract of Land would benefit the trade and increase the resources of the Colony.

We consider that Forrester's Peninsula might be at once thrown open without interfering with Penal discipline at Port Arthur. The Prisons at Port Arthur might be occupied by the Invalids, Lunatics, and Paupers, with such reduced Staff of Officers as the altered character of the Establishment would permit, looking forward to the time—which cannot be far distant—when, by the operation of natural causes, there will be no longer any necessity for this accommodation.

Should the suggestions of your Committee be carried out, it must be evident that some arrangements must be made with the Imperial Government by which this Colony may be reimbursed for the charge of Imperial Convicts; and the present time appears to be suitable for considering this question, claims of a similar character being now under review.

Your Committee cannot but think that the Imperial Government ought to pay, not only for the present maintenance of their Prisoners, but such further sum as from Police Records each Convict is likely to cost this Colony during life; and though we should recommend, as the most desirable course, the entire removal of British Convicts to Bermuda, Gibraltar, or elsewhere, we feel bound to suggest that, should an arrangement founded upon equity not meet with the concurrence of the Imperial Government, we think that this Colony should remove its own Prisoners from Port Arthur, and defend themselves from the entrance of incorrigible Imperial Prisoners by all Constitutional means.

W. LANGDON, *Chairman*,

*Committee Room, 20th September, 1860.*

*PROCEEDINGS of the JOINT COMMITTEE appointed on the 9th August, 1860, to enquire into the desirability and practicability of opening up to the useful Occupation of the Colonists the 200,000 Acres of Crown Land now lying waste and worthless to the Colony within Tasman's Peninsula.*

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MEMBERS.

*Legislative Council.*  
 MR. HENTY.  
 MR. WHYTE.  
 MR. WEDGE.  
 MR. BUTTON.  
 MR. GELL.  
 MR. CARTER.  
 CAPTAIN LANGDON.

*House of Assembly.*  
 MR. INNES.  
 MR. MEREDITH.  
 MR. MACLANACHAN.  
 MR. CHAPMAN.  
 MR. ADAMS.  
 MR. GREGSON.  
 MR. ALLISON.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 10, 1860.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

*Legislative Council.*  
 Mr. Henty.  
 Mr. Gell.  
 Mr. Carter.  
 Captain Langdon.  
 Mr. Whyte.

*House of Assembly.*  
 Mr. Meredith.  
 Mr. Gregson.  
 Mr. Allison.  
 Mr. Innes.  
 Mr. Maclanachan.  
 Mr. Chapman.

1. *Resolved*, "That Captain Langdon be Chairman of the Committee."
  2. *Resolved*, "That the Colonial Treasurer be requested to lay before the Committee any Reports, Surveys, and Charts in the Survey Office having reference to Tasman's Peninsula."
  3. *Resolved*, "That it is desirable that the Committee should visit the Penal Station of Port Arthur, and that the Chairman be requested to make the necessary arrangements."
- Adjourned till Monday next, at 12 o'clock.

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 1860.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

*Legislative Council.*  
 Mr. Henty.  
 Mr. Gell.  
 Mr. Wedge.  
 Mr. Button.  
 Mr. Whyte.  
 Captain Langdon.

*House of Assembly.*  
 Mr. Meredith.  
 Mr. Allison.  
 Mr. Maclanachan.  
 Mr. Adams.

CAPTAIN LANGDON *in the Chair.*

1. *Resolved*, "That the Steamer *Culloden* be engaged to convey the Members of the Committee to Port Arthur on Saturday,—to return on Monday."
- Adjourned.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1860.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

*Legislative Council.*  
 Captain Langdon.  
 Mr. Wedge.  
 Mr. Button.  
 Mr. Henty.

*House of Assembly.*  
 Mr. Allison.  
 Mr. Maclanachan.  
 Mr. Meredith.

CAPTAIN LANGDON *in the Chair.*

- Evidence of Mr. Boyd taken at Port Arthur laid before the Committee.  
 James E. Calder, Esq., Surveyor-General; William R. Falconer, Esq., Director of Public Works; and C. Degraives, Esq., examined.
- Adjourned till Thursday at eleven o'clock.
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THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1860.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

*Legislative Council.*

Mr. Wedge.  
Mr. Gell.  
Mr. Button.  
Mr. Henty.  
Captain Langdon.

*House of Assembly.*

Mr. Allison.  
Mr. Adams.  
Mr. Maclanachan.  
Mr. Chapinan.

CAPTAIN LANGDON *in the Chair.*

William R. Falconer, Esq., Director of Public Works, Mr. King, Captain Gourlay, and R. Ballantyne, Esq., examined.

Adjourned till Wednesday at twelve o'clock.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1860.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

*Legislative Council.*

Mr. Button.  
Mr. Wedge.  
Mr. Gell.

*House of Assembly.*

Mr. Allison.  
Mr. Maclanachan.  
Mr. Chapman.

1. *Resolved*, "That Mr. Button be Chairman of the Committee *pro tempore*."

Mr. Wedge laid before the Committee a letter from Mr. Boyd to Captain Langdon on the subject of the contract for fresh meat, which was read.

Mr. Wedge also laid before the Committee a Return showing the ages of the Prisoners under sentence, as also of the Paupers, Invalids, and Lunatics at Port Arthur, on the 29th August, 1860.

R. Ballantyne, Esq., further examined.

Adjourned till Friday at eleven o'clock.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 1860.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

*Legislative Council.*

Mr. Button.  
Mr. Henty.  
Mr. Wedge.  
Mr. Gell.

*House of Assembly.*

Mr. Allison.  
Mr. Maclanachan.  
Mr. Adams.

MR. BUTTON *in the Chair.*

Draft Report read and considered.

Adjourned till Wednesday, at eleven o'clock.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1860.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

*Legislative Council.*

Mr. Button.  
Mr. Gell.  
Mr. Wedge.

*House of Assembly.*

Mr. Allison.  
Mr. Adams.  
Mr. Maclanachan.  
Mr. Chapman.

MR. BUTTON *in the Chair.*

Draft Report proposed by Mr. Gell read, and agreed to.

*Ordered*, to report with Minutes of Evidence.

*LIST of Persons examined.*

JAMES BOYD, ESQ.  
JAMES E. CALDER, ESQ.  
WILLIAM ROSE FALCONER, ESQ.  
C. DEGRAVES, ESQ.

MR. KING.  
CAPTAIN GOURLAY.  
R. BALLANTYNE, ESQ.

## MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

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MONDAY, AUGUST 20, 1860.

(*At Port Arthur.*)

MR. BOYD *examined.*

1. *Chairman.*—What number of Convicts are there on the establishment at this time? Five hundred and sixty-four, three hundred and one being charged on the Colonial, and two hundred and sixty-three on Imperial, funds.

2. What are the rules and regulations, and by what authority are prisoners discharged? The rules are, three-fourths of their terms must be served, except in extreme cases, when the Executive Council interferes.

3. What number are released on the average? About 8 to 9 every fortnight.

4. Does this rule extend to all prisoners, those trebly convicted, and men sentenced for unnatural crimes? Yes, to all.

5. What is the cost of each man per annum? £34 15s. 9d.

6. What number of Officers, Constables, Wardens, and Military are on the establishment? 64 Constables, 4 Wardens, 12 Attendants, 37 Officers, 41 Military: total 158.

7. How are the men generally employed? In a great variety of ways, in fact jobbing.

8. What do you consider the value of their labour? Almost useless for the public good.

9. Do you believe a plan can be adopted for employing any of these men usefully, and with perfect safety, and with greater economy, in or near Hobart Town? I do, with great advantage to the Imperial and Colonial Governments.

10. What number could be selected? At least eighty.

11. Please to favour us with your opinion as to the best means of disposing of the remainder, including those under separate treatment? The whole number may be as safely confined in Hobart Town as at Port Arthur. A Penitentiary capable of containing 300 prisoners is necessary.

12. Can you give some idea of the cost of erecting such a Prison? I should say £30,000.

13. Would you then recommend the Peninsula Establishment should be broken up? Yes, it will be a great saving, the prisoners can be kept more secure, and it will be every way advantageous.

14. Can Forrester's Peninsula be opened up now? It can.

15. *Mr. Henty.*—Do you think it is desirable that any class should be kept in perpetual confinement without hope or prospect of redeeming their time, or of some expectation of release? No, I do not think it wise to destroy all hope of release, yet there are some exceptions. I believe if Quigley was set free he would commit some crimes again immediately.

16. In the event of the Peninsulas being thrown open for sale do you believe it would realise the cost of erecting the Penitentiary in Hobart Town? Yes, and much more. The timber, mines, fisheries, and buildings would sell for much more.

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FRIDAY, AUGUST 24, 1860.

JAMES E. CALDER, *Esquire, Surveyor-General, examined.*

17. *Mr. Allison.*—Are you acquainted with Tasman's and Forrester's Peninsulas? Intimately.

18. Have you made any surveys of them? Yes. I have had to survey the coasts of both as far as was practicable.

19. Have you made any Report? I have never made any Report, I think.

20. What is the extent of Forrester's Peninsula? 44,000 acres.—And of Tasman's Peninsula? 140,000 acres.

21. Are you aware if there is any of this land suitable for occupation? More than 3000 on Forrester's Peninsula adapted for sheep and agriculture. I do not recollect whether there is any timber suitable for general purposes.

22. Are you aware whether there are any good ports on Forrester's Peninsula? Norfolk Bay on one side, and Lagoon Bay on the other side, are good ports.

23. Are you aware if a fishing bank extends as far as Lagoon Bay? I have no means of knowing.

24. *Mr. Allison.*—What quantity of agricultural land, out of the 3000 acres alluded to, would be available for agricultural purpose? I should think 300 acres, in detached portions.

25. Can vessels of considerable tonnage approach the coast of Forrester's Peninsula? Yes.

26. Are you acquainted with Lagoon Bay? Yes.

27. In the immediate vicinity, is there any land that could be available for small settlers? It is all private property.

28. Do you think it would be of any benefit to open up the land of Forrester's Peninsula? I think the throwing up of land anywhere must be more or less of advantage to the public.

29. What do you think the land on Forrester's Peninsula would realise? I think the 3000 acres I have alluded to would realise £1 per acre.

30. *Mr. Button.*—If Forrester's Peninsula were opened to the public, do you think it would offer superior attractions to the public? No, I do not.

31. *Mr. Allison.*—Are you aware that Forrester's Peninsula possesses any other advantages than those you have mentioned? It possesses blue slate paving-stones of a superior quality.

32. Do you think there is any chance of coal there? I never saw any indication of it.

33. Are you aware that there is any timber there of value? I am not.

34. *Mr. Wedge.*—Is there any other valuable stone to be found there? Yes, a stone I believe to be limestone, at the south head of Pirates' Bay.

35. *Mr. Allison.*—What quantity of land is available at Tasman's Peninsula for agriculture, pasture, or other purposes? There are about 2000 acres at Saltwater River. Slopen Island, containing about 300 acres, is suitable for agricultural purposes.

36. Is there any land in the neighbourhood of Wedge Bay that would be likely to be occupied? I do not think there is.

37. How many sheep would Tasman's Peninsula depasture? About 3000.

38. What quantity is available for agriculture not yet cultivated? I cannot say.

39. How much land is cleared by the Government at this time? About 300 acres at Saltwater River, and about 40 acres at the Valley Farm. I am not acquainted with the cultivation at Port Arthur.

40. *Mr. Wedge.*—Do you think the Peninsula offers inducements generally to settlers to go there? I do not think there are.

41. *Mr. Allison.*—Are there any ports on the Peninsula? Good ports are numerous there.

42. *Mr. Wedge.*—Are there any mines on Tasman's Peninsula? Yes, a coal mine which is let for £200 per annum.

43. Do you know who receives the rent? I believe the Commissariat.

44. Is there an extensive coal formation in the neighbourhood of the present coal pit? I am not sufficient geologist to answer.

45. Is there any useful stone on the Peninsula for building or other purposes? Plenty of freestone.

46. Is there any limestone? There must be.

W. R. FALCONER, Esq., *Director of Public Works, called in and examined.*

47. *Mr. Allison.*—Are you acquainted with Forrester's and Tasman's Peninsulas? I have been twice on Tasman's Peninsula. I have never been on Forrester's Peninsula, and know nothing of it but what is shown on the Maps.

48. Do you think that Tasman's Peninsula could be opened up to advantage to the public? I do not think there is any great advantage to be obtained from opening up the Peninsula at present. I don't think there would at present be much competition for the land or the timber.

49. Is the timber good on the Peninsula? It is very good, and there is plenty of it.

50. Is the timber easily accessible to the water? At Port Arthur it is.

51. Do you think the Prisoners might be advantageously removed from Port Arthur with a view to opening up the land to the occupation of the public? I think it would be attended with great expense. When the number of prisoners decrease at Port Arthur I think it might be a subject for consideration.

52. Are you aware of the cost of managing the Penal Establishment at Port Arthur? No, I am not.

53. Are you aware of what the earnings of the Prisoners there are? I am not, but I think they are very trifling, the men do very little work.

54. Do you think they could be placed anywhere else with safety, and their labour be made more advantageous to the public? I think there would be a difficulty in employing the Cockatoo and Norfolk Islanders in any other place. The better class of men might be employed in Hobart Town and Launceston on public works, for such there is sufficient accommodation in the present Penitentiaries.

55. Do you think they could be kept in perfect security in the Penitentiary? The better class of men might.

56. *Chairman.*—What number of men could the present Penitentiary at Hobart Town accommodate in addition to those already there? About 300.

57. *Mr. Button.*—Is there accommodation at the Launceston Penitentiary for any more than are at present there? There will be accommodation for an additional 100 when contemplated improvements are made.

58. *Mr. Maclanachan.*—Is there a large portion of men at present at Port Arthur who could be placed with safety in the Penitentiary? A large portion of the Prisoners now at Port Arthur could not be securely kept at the Penitentiary, but would require a new building to be erected.

59. *Mr. Allison.*—In the event of a new building being erected, could the Cockatoo and Norfolk Islanders be employed in breaking stones so as to lessen the cost of their keep? They might be employed in breaking stones, but their work would not be of more value than if they were employed in cutting timber at Port Arthur.

60. Could you give an idea of the cost of such a building for 300 men, including all the recent improvements? About £40,000.

61. Could any of the materials of the buildings on the Peninsula be made available for a new building in the way of lessening its cost? The timbers might be, but not any of the other materials.

62. Are you acquainted with the present systems of America? Yes, I am.

63. Are those prisons generally self-supporting? In most of the American Prisons, and those in Canada, the labour repays their expenses, but not all the expenses of supervision.

64. Can such a system be adopted in this Colony with advantage? It would be attended with some difficulty I apprehend.

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C. DEGRAVES, Esq., *called in and examined.*

65. *Mr. Allison.*—Have you examined any of the forests in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur? Yes.

66. What description of timber did you meet with? Blue Gum, Stringy Bark, Swamp Gum, and Lightwood.

67. What is your opinion of the quality of the timber? First class quality generally.



68. Which description preponderates? Blue Gum, which I consider the most valuable.
69. Are these forests easy of access to water carriage? The timber is nearly down to the water's edge.
70. Can you say whether the timber prevails generally over the Peninsula? I cannot; but from Port Arthur to the head of Long Bay, about 6 miles, it is a thickly timbered forest of good quality, and I consider the forest almost inexhaustible.
71. Is Port Arthur adapted for the erection of Saw-mills? Yes.
72. Are the streams calculated to drive a water-wheel? No.
73. Do you consider the inclination of the hills adapted for Tramroads? It could be made available for Tramroads.
74. Is the inclination of the country around the Bay adapted for bringing the timber to the water edge? It is: nearly all could so be brought.
75. Is Port Arthur adapted for Ship-building? Yes, the timber is, but it could better be done at Hobart Town.
76. *Mr. Wedge.*—Do you think the British Government could establish a Naval Dock-yard in any part of the Peninsula? I cannot say; but no Dockyard could be carried on with advantage without a resident population to supply artizans and labourers.
77. *Mr. Allison.*—Do you think the Prisoners at Port Arthur could be advantageously employed in splitting trenails and railway-sleepers for exportation? Yes.
78. What is the general price of trenails in this market? Two pounds per thousand.
79. What do they realize in the London market? Those I shipped realised £4 10s. to £5 a 1000, ten years ago.
80. How many years' experience have you had in judging of the forests of this Colony? Upwards of 30 years.
81. During that period have you been engaged extensively in working Saw-mills? Yes, during the whole period, and I am still an extensive proprietor.
82. Do you consider blue gum well adapted for trenails and railway-sleepers? I do.
83. *Mr. Chapman.*—Can you state the size of a railway sleeper? Those we have supplied to Melbourne are 9 feet 9 inches long and 11 × 5 inches, being 33 superficial feet; the price was 4s., but I think they are now lower.
84. *Mr. Wedge.*—As a ship builder, what is your opinion of the comparative quality of Blue Gum and Oak for trenails? My experience teaches me that Blue Gum is better in quality and better adapted than Oak.
85. Did you form any opinion of the quality of the land you passed over? I did; the quality was very inferior.
86. *Mr. Allison.*—Do you consider these Forests very valuable? Yes, I do; immensely so. A large fortune might be realised from a thousand acres, even if the timber fetched 7s. per 100 feet.

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1860.

W. R. FALCONER, *Esquire, called in and further examined.*

87. *Mr. Allison.*—Do you think 250 or 300 men could be safely kept on board a Hulk and employed on some useful public work, such as the Sorell Causeway, improving the Bridgewater Causeway, in erecting Fortifications, and other similar works? I think so; but arrangements would have to be made to coerce or remove any that were unruly or conducted themselves badly.
88. Could their labour be made more reproductive for the Colony than it is at present? I think so.
89. Would there be any difficulty in removing the Hulk from one place to another by means of

a Steamer, should their labour be required elsewhere? No. There were several Hulks at Port Philip Bay last year, ready fitted up for such purposes for prisoners, but unoccupied.

90. Do the Public Works require any quantity of timber, and could their requirements be supplied from Port Arthur? The Public Works Department requires a very considerable quantity of timber annually in Hobart Town and Launceston, and could be supplied from Port Arthur at one-third of the market price. At present very small supplies can be obtained, quite inadequate to the demand.

91. *Mr. Maclanachan.*—Could not the Convicts be as profitably employed to the Colony in cutting timber at Port Arthur as they would be in the Hulks up here? Not in the manner that they are worked at Port Arthur at present.

92. *Mr. Wedge.*—If a different system were adopted at Port Arthur, could not their labour be made equally as productive as if they were employed in the Hulks, or elsewhere? It is a question I am not competent to answer.

93. *Mr. Button.*—Do you think the mode of employing Convicts in the Hulks could be recommended as a permanent system? No, not for a permanent system; and I believe Hulks are not now approved of for prison discipline.

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MR. KING called in and examined.

94. *The Chairman.*—You are a fishmonger, I believe? Yes.

95. *Mr. Allison.*—Are you acquainted with Tasman's and Forrester's Peninsulas? I am.

96. Have you any knowledge of the land, bays, and ports, and for how long? I have for about fourteen years.

97. Do you know if there is any good land down there? There is.

98. Can you give an idea of the quantity of good land on the Peninsula? There is some at Fortescue Bay; about 3000 acres from that place to Opossum Bay, distant nearly 4 miles. It is heavily timbered, and the timber is remarkably fine, consisting chiefly of Light-wood, Stringy Bark, and Blue Gum.

99. Do you know of any other good land? There is good land from Port Arthur to the Coal Mines, about 21 miles; the character of the land generally is heavily timbered, and is fit for pastoral and agricultural purposes.

100. *Mr. Wedge.*—How much, in the whole of the land you speak of, is fit for agricultural purposes? I cannot say; but the extent of good timbered and pastoral lands is about 21 miles.

101. *Mr. Maclanachan.*—Do you mean the 21 miles you speak of to be in a direct line, or coastwise? Coastwise.

102. *Mr. Allison.*—Do you know Fortescue Bay well? Yes.

103. Would it be a good Station for a Fishing Establishment? It would.

104. Why? Because it abounds with fish of good quality of all kinds, such as Trumpeter, Gurnet, Perch, Habuker, John Doree; and is very well adapted for drying fish.

105. Do you think there would be a great demand for dried fish? Yes, for exportation, as well as for home consumption.

106. *Chairman.*—Do you export largely to the neighbouring Colonies? Yes; and it meets with a ready sale.

107. *Mr. Allison.*—Do the Ports or Bays abound with fish? Yes, all of the Bays.

108. *Mr. Wedge.*—Are there any more places well adapted for Fishing Stations? Yes; Roaring Beach, between Fortescue Bay and the Blowhole; also Wedge Bay, where there is plenty of fish, but not of the same description, or of so good a quality as I mentioned before.

109. Is there a Boat Harbour at Roaring Beach? Yes, a good one.

110. If the Peninsula were thrown open would you form Fishing Establishments in any of the

places you speak of? I would, certainly; and I think others would do the same, and become purchasers of small lots of land for themselves and families.

111. If the Peninsula were thrown open, with all its Bays, could fish be supplied more cheaply, as well as abundantly? Yes, I would be able to supply smoked Trumpeter and Habuker at 2d. per lb.; and these are the best fish we have.

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*Captain GOURLAY called in and examined.*

112. *Chairman.*—You are in command of the *Culloden* steamer, and well acquainted with the coast of both the Peninsulas? I am.

113. *Mr. Allison.*—Have you any knowledge of the land on the Peninsula? Yes, in the vicinity of the stations.

114. Do you know of any good land? Yes, between Wedge Bay and Slopen Main there is some very fair land. I should say about 4000 or 5000 acres in that quarter. At the Cascades there is some good land. At Saltwater River, also at Forrester's Peninsula between the Sounds and Lagoon Bay; you could also, in various localities about the Peninsula, pick out many little spots of about 15 or 20 acres each.

115. Are you acquainted with the ports on the Peninsula? Yes; there are some good ports, as Fortescue, Wedge Bay, and Port Arthur.

116. Do the ports abound in fish? Yes, all three of the bays I have just mentioned; and I believe that if the Peninsulas were opened up to the public many fishing stations would be established, particularly at Fortescue; and blocks of land would be purchased, and little settlements formed, if the Prisoners were removed from that locality. I have met fishermen at Port Arthur, Fortescue Bay, and along the Coast, who have complained sadly that they were not allowed to land for the purpose of curing the fish, and were prevented by bad weather coming on to Hobart Town. They were not permitted to do this in consequence of the Convicts being on the Peninsula.

117. Do you think it would increase the trade of Hobart Town, and the Colony generally, if Port Arthur were opened up? I do not think it would, in consequence of better land being available at the Huon, and in other portions of the Island, but it would be of some benefit in regard to the fishing trade. I also think many persons would settle on the Peninsula for the sake of the fine timber.

118. *Mr. Button.*—Have these fishing grounds been much frequented? Only for the last three or four years. I think these parts of the Coast likely to be permanent fishing stations or grounds.

119. *Mr. Allison.*—Do you think the land in the vicinity of Lagoon Bay, Saltwater River, the Cascades, and Wedge Bay would sell readily if opened to the public? I think just round Wedge Bay, Cascades, and Saltwater River the land would.

120. *Mr. Button.*—Do you think that land would realise the upset price of £1 per acre? I think a certain portion of it would.

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*MR. BALLANTYNE called in and examined.*

121. *Mr. Gell.*—Are you acquainted with Tasman's Peninsula? I am well. I had formerly the charge of the Establishment at the Cascades for seven years. I had also the charge of nearly all the Colonial Convicts up to the year 1855. I have been all over the explored portions of Tasman's Peninsula; the character of the land generally is very poor, but there are some few exceptions. The best portion of cultivated land is at Saltwater River, about 300 acres; and there are many small sections of agricultural land, from 40 to 60 acres, in various localities. There is also a considerable quantity of pastoral land running from Slopen Main to the back of Wedge Bay and the Saltwater River Station. It would carry about 4000 sheep, and I think would realize the upset price. At Forrester's Peninsula there is some good grazing land, as well as some small patches of agricultural land here and there. The timber is excellent and available, with easy access to water carriage; and I have measured trees that were 170 feet to the first branch. The climate on the north-east side is mild and dry, but the south-west side is wet and cold. There is coal from the Mines unto the Cascades, but of an inferior quality. There is, however, excellent sandstone for building and flagging, and abundance of clay.

122. *Mr. Allison.*—Do you think it would be safe to open up Forrester's Peninsula at once to the Public? I think it would be perfectly safe, particularly when you take into consideration the small number of convicts now on Tasman's Peninsula, and the perfect arrangements adopted for their safe custody. I have little doubt that, were the whole of the prisoners removed from Port Arthur, a

very large portion of both the Peninsulas would be taken up by the public; settlements for fishing, sawing and splitting timber would be established, and I have no doubt the grazing lands would be also occupied. I think it quite possible that the many buildings on the Peninsula would enhance the value of the lands, particularly about the Saltwater River station.

123. *Mr. Wedge.*—Do you think that the convicts now at Port Arthur could, with safety, be confined at Hobart Town and Launceston with the view of throwing open Tasman's Peninsula to the public? I have no doubt that many men who have short sentences of penal servitude, and whose previous records are not of a bad character, might safely be removed and put to works of a reproductive nature; but the doubly and trebly convicted hardened criminals should on no account whatever be brought to the main land, being perfectly irreclaimable, and not fit to be permitted to work under the eye of the public.

124. *Mr. Button.*—Do you believe that prison discipline can be efficiently and properly carried out on board of hulks? No. I have always been opposed to keeping Convicts in hulks, particularly in this climate. It is not advisable.

125. *Mr. Gell.*—Do you think danger is increased by isolating Convicts? If the men were worked in chains, and with a proper Military guard, the danger would not be so great; but the guard should have authority to shoot any Convict who attempted to escape.

126. Is distance from inspection and visitation an evil? I think not. I do not consider the distance of Port Arthur objectionable in the event of any outbreak as long as the Military guard is kept up efficiently.

127. *Mr. Henty.*—Do you think the incorrigibles should not be permitted to come up to the Main Land on account of the present want of means to coerce them, or otherwise? There is a certain class of men who I think should not be permitted to leave under any circumstances whatever. That class does not entirely consist of Convicts for Life; and they would, under the regulations existing at present, be allowed to come up with Tickets-of-Leave. Such regulations are, in my opinion, radically wrong.

128. *Mr. Gell.*—Might the system of employing the 563 Convicts now at Port Arthur be so improved as to make their labour profitable? To some extent I think it might.

129. Can the Convicts at Port Arthur be more economically managed there than they are at present? No, I should say not.

130. If transferred to another place, built in accordance with modern improvements and present requirements, would the management of them be more economical? Yes, with regard to transport, Police supervision, and also to the application of their labour.

131. *Mr. Chapman.*—Are you aware of any other place in the British Empire where Convicts are maintained at a lower rate of cost than at Port Arthur? I am unable to answer that question.

132. *Mr. Gell.*—What, in your opinion, was the cause of the great loss in the value of the labour which ought to have been derived from the Convicts? One cause is, the very little interest taken by any one in authority, together with the divided authority, as so many different heads of Departments require to be consulted.

133. Has the employment of Convicts on useful and productive works a better moral effect than on mere purposeless employment? Yes, undoubtedly.

134. *Mr. Henty.*—Does your opinion of the advisability of retaining Port Arthur as a place of Prison discipline rest upon the presence there of the class of incorrigible offenders? It does.

135. And when that class is reduced to a smaller number the necessity would not exist? It would not.

136. What is the minimum number of that class, in your opinion, which would necessitate the keeping of Port Arthur as a place for Penal discipline? From 50 to 60.

137. Looking to the probability of that class being reduced to that number within the next two or three years, is it too soon now to make preparations for abandoning Port Arthur as a Penal Station? No. I should say not.

138. Do you think the management of Penal discipline could be better carried out under the control of the Imperial Government or under that of the Colony? Much better under Colonial authority.

139. How long were you employed under the Imperial Government in the control of Convicts in this Colony? Nearly 15 years.

140. If an equitable arrangement could be made with the Home Government, would it be more economical for the Colonial Government to take the entire charge of the Convicts now chargeable on Imperial Funds? The saving would be but trifling; but their labour might be turned to a better account.

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1860.

MR. BALLANTYNE *called in, and further examined.*

141. *Mr. Allison.*—In the event of the Penal Establishment being removed from Port Arthur, can you give the Committee any idea what the sale of the Peninsulas would realise in a period of five years? I have no doubt that £30,000 or £40,000 would be realised. It would depend upon the price of timber. I am certain a large portion of the land would be taken up at once.

142. *Mr. Button.*—Do you include the buildings in this estimate? I do not include the buildings at Port Arthur.

143. *Mr. Allison.*—Do you think that if Forrester's Peninsula were opened up it would find a ready sale? I am certain a large portion of it would be taken up at once.

144. *Mr. Button.*—Have you made any detailed estimate? No. I give only a rough idea.