

(No. 137.)

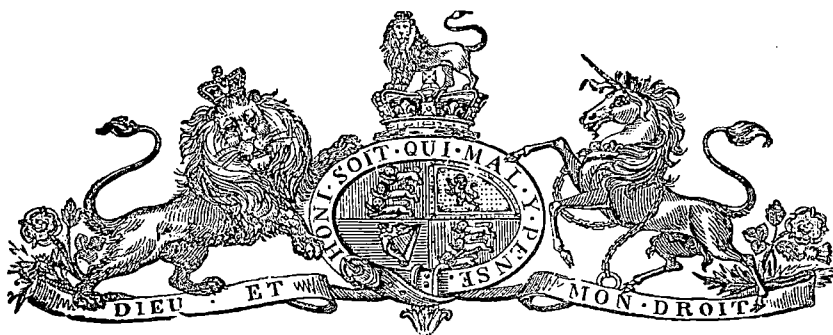


1861.

T A S M A N I A.

C O N T R A C T S U R V E Y S.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Chapman, and ordered by the House to be printed,
17 January, 1862.



Survey Office, 17th January, 1862.

MEMO.

THE excess of expenditure under the head of "Surveys of Land by Contract" for the year 1860 over the £6000 voted by Parliament may be accounted for by the large number of Surveys effected of selections made under the 19th Section of *The Waste Lands Act*, for which the Survey Fees had been deposited with the Government, and which were greatly in excess of the number anticipated; the Survey of leased lands being at the same time proceeded with under the instructions received from Mr. Gregson when holding the office of Colonial Secretary, and which had not been countermanded.

In the year 1859, the number of applicants for land under the 19th Section amounted to 496, and in 1860 to 503, making a total of 999. The greater part thereof were surveyed in 1860; to effect which the services of additional Surveyors were engaged, and hence the excess of expenditure. Without additional strength, many of the Surveys would have been delayed to the great dissatisfaction and disadvantage of applicants, some of whom came from adjacent Colonies and were desirous of being at once located.

It must not be forgotten that, with the exception of charges for road reserves to give access to the lands marked off for sale (which amount to a large sum and are difficult to estimate), and also occasional connecting lines, all Surveys are paid for by the public. In the case of private selections the fees are deposited in the Survey Office before the Survey is effected, and in all other cases it is added to the price of the land and becomes part of the purchase-money.

During the year 1860, £2293 5s. were deposited for Surveys, and £3399 added to the prices of land purchased by auction, &c., being a return towards the outlay of £5692 5s.; and it must be remembered that an unusually large number of lots for which Surveys were paid in 1860, amounting to a considerable sum, would not come into the market till 1861.

For three years prior to the passing of *The Waste Lands Act*, the sum paid for Surveys amounted to £24,577; whilst, during the years 1858, 1859, and 1860, the Surveys cost £23,307; the land sold during the latter period having realised £274,637.

In 1858, the Surveys cost £6166 4s. 10d., and the lands sold realised £68,900 0s. 6d. In 1859, £7,314 2s. 3d. were spent, and £92,401 16s. 6d. obtained; and in 1860 the Surveys cost £9,826 17s. 2d., and the land sold for £113,335 14s.; showing clearly that the excess of expenditure in Survey Fees has been followed by a considerably augmented Land Revenue.

Since writing the above, I have had the Surveyors' accounts gone through, and find that the amount paid for Road Surveys and connecting lines during 1860 was	£1,605	1	4
Add Fees received.....	5,692	5	0
Deduction from my Estimate made by Government.....	1,000	0	0
	<u>£8,297</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>

Which leaves a difference of £1,529 10s. 10d., the Surveys represented by that amount having been made available in the year 1861.

J. E. CALDER, *Surveyor-General*.

The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 26th March, 1857.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that it has been deemed to be desirable to put up as large an amount of Crown Land as possible for sale; and I have therefore, by direction of the Governor, to request that you will cause such instructions to be issued as shall secure the Survey in advance of lands, in various localities, with the least possible delay.

Of course, any number of Contract Surveyors, in whom you can place confidence, you will be at liberty to engage for this purpose.

I have, &c.,

The Surveyor-General.

T. G. GREGSON.