

(No. 109.)



1878.

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TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

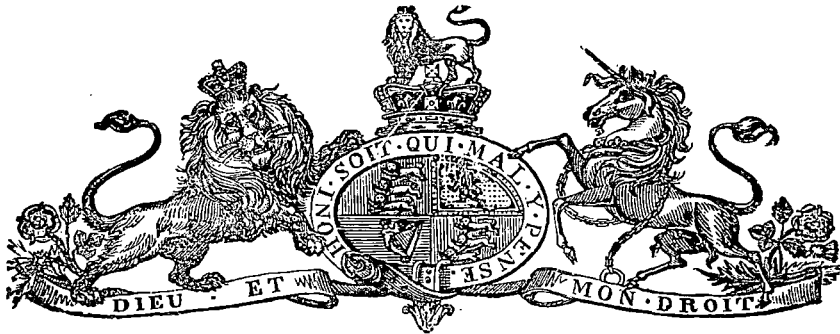
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NEW MAP OF TASMANIA:

CORRESPONDENCE.

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Laid upon the Table by the Minister of Lands, and ordered by the House to be printed, December 17, 1878.



*Lands and Works Office, Hobart Town, 11th July, 1878.*

SIR,

SINCE the existing Map of the Colony was compiled a large amount of information, more especially as regards the North-eastern and Western portions of the Island, has been obtained, which it is desirable to have recorded in a permanent form, and this object can be only attained by the compilation of a new Map.

As I am aware that you are in possession of a large proportion of the necessary information, and as moreover your scientific attainments, and the extensive personal knowledge of the country gained in the many journeys which your professional avocations have involved, exceptionally qualify you for the supervision of such a Map as will meet present requirements, and be of service hereafter in the compilation of a more perfect Map, you will oblige me by placing before me for the information of the Government,—

1st. Your consent or otherwise to undertake the supervision of the compilation of such a Map as I have indicated.

2nd. Your views as to the kind of Map which will embody in the best form for present purposes all the information that is obtainable.

3rd. On what terms you would undertake the necessary supervision of such a Map, what assistance you would require from the officers of the Lands and Works Department, and what would be the probable cost of completing such a Map.

It will be understood that all the information in the possession of the Lands and Works Department will be at your disposal, and that the Map when completed will be lithographed and published by the Government.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

NICHOLAS J. BROWN,  
*Minister of Lands and Works.*

T. STEPHENS, *Esq., M.A., F.G.S.*

*Hobart Town, 5th August, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th ultimo, inviting my assistance in the preparation of a new Map of Tasmania, which shall embody the results of exploration and survey since the publication of the existing official Map of the Colony in the year 1859, more especially as regards the Western and North-eastern districts.

I have, at your request, placed myself in communication with Mr. Albert Reid of the Lands and Works Office, and Mr. Charles P. Sprent, District Surveyor, the former of whom is prepared to undertake the work of drafting such a Map as appears to be required, and the latter will supply valuable information respecting the Western Districts which could not be obtained from any other source.

To the specific points of inquiry in your letter, I beg to reply as follows:—

1. The whole of my official time being fully occupied, I could not undertake any additional duty requiring continuous attention or much clerical work. As, however, the general supervision of the compilation of a Map is a work which may be performed in spare hours, and is also one in which I take a special interest, I have much pleasure in placing my services at the disposal of the Government.

2. The scale adopted by the late Mr. Sprent, Surveyor-General, is probably the most convenient for the required purpose. The triangulation upon which Sprent's Map is based has

defined with an accuracy that has never been questioned the general superficial area of the Island, the position and altitude of the principal mountains, and other points of importance; while the coast-line is traced with as much exactness as the size of the scale allows. Its defects are the absence of information respecting those portions of the Colony which, at the time of its publication, were almost entirely unexplored; the errors and omissions of the draftsman or engraver; and the attempt to render in minute detail, without sufficient information, the physical features of the Island.

The expense of bringing out this Map was, I believe, not less than £1400, including the copy on a reduced scale. An attempt to publish a new Map of the same description would entail great labour and long delay, and it would also be very costly; but I am persuaded that what is really required at the present time may be effected at a comparatively small cost, and in a form which will meet all practical requirements of the day, and serve as a foundation for any undertaking of a more pretentious character that may hereafter be demanded.

The chief physical features of the Island should receive special attention. The absence of sufficiently accurate surveys makes it impossible to give a minute delineation of the surface contour; but the principal mountain ranges and elevated plateaux may be represented with sufficient fidelity to give a far better notion of the general character of the country than is obtainable from any existing Map. The surveyed rivers, streams, and lakes; the county divisions; the centres of population, distinguishing important towns from mere hamlets or township reserves; the railways, telegraph lines, roads, and surveyed tracks, would be accurately laid down; and it might also be found possible to show approximately the boundaries of the occupied and waste lands of the Colony, the pastoral and agricultural settlements, the mining districts, the forest lands and the open country; but these are details which need not be discussed at present.

The geological features of the Island could not be shown in a satisfactory manner on such a Map as is now under consideration, even if the necessary materials were available. The proposed undertaking would certainly be an important contribution towards the preparation of a sketch Map of the geology of Tasmania; but only its general outlines, outside the areas described in Mr. Gould's reports, could be indicated without a special survey, which is not likely to be made in our time.

It will, however, not be difficult to show the localities in which metals and minerals of economic importance have been discovered; and these I should propose to represent by familiar symbols, without encumbering the Map with too great a multiplicity of names.

3. The cost of the Map would be confined to the fees paid to the draftsman and to surveyors or other persons qualified to give information which is not in the possession of the Lands and Works Department, and need not exceed £150, supposing that the printing, after transfer to the stone, is undertaken as part of the ordinary work of the Office. Some additional expense would be incurred in the publication of the Map in a convenient and attractive form; but this might be covered by the sale of copies at a moderate price. For the assistance that I should myself render in the shape of general superintendence or direction I could not accept any remuneration.

I may add, in conclusion, that a School Map of Tasmania has long been a *desideratum*. The proposed new Map, in addition to other advantages, would be specially adapted for use in the public and private schools of the Colony.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. STEPHENS.

*The Hon. NICHOLAS J. BROWN, Minister of Lands and Works.*

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*Lands and Works Office, 29th. August, 1878.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, in reply to mine of the 11th ultimo, on the subject of the completion of a new Map of Tasmania, and desire to thank you for so readily placing your services at the disposal of the Government in the general superintendence of the work.

Instructions have been given to Mr. Albert Reid, a draftsman of this Department, to place himself in communication with you, in order that you may arrange to proceed with the work without delay; and all information relating to the geography of the Island, so far as lies in the power of this Department to afford, is placed at your disposal.

I have, &c.

NICHOLAS J. BROWN.

T. STEPHENS, *Esq., M.A., F.G.S.*

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*Lands and Works Office, 9th September, 1878.*

SIR,

RESPECTING the proposed preparation of a new Map of Tasmania, I have the honor to state that I have estimated, as far as I am able, the time necessary to be devoted to the work after office hours, and am willing to draw the lithographic transfers for the sum of £60. A portion of the preparatory work, such as correcting the present map and making compilations from recent surveys, must necessarily be done during office hours; but I will be careful not to allow my ordinary work to get into arrear.

As you are anxious the Map should be issued as early as possible, I will endeavour to commence the work this week; and I believe it will be possible to have the two eastern sheets ready for the stone by the end of the present year, and the whole map will probably be completed within six months from this date.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

ALBERT REID.

*The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works.*

*Lands and Works Office, 10th September, 1878.*

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 9th instant, expressing your willingness to undertake the work of preparing the proposed new Map of the Colony, so far as that work involves attention out of office hours, for the sum of £60, I desire to intimate to you that it is the intention of the Government to ask the sanction of Parliament for an amount which will cover your charge of £60, and all other expenses incidental to the preparation of the map; and I trust you will proceed with the work with all possible despatch, so that the whole map may be completed within the period of six months, as mentioned by you in your letter under reply.

I am,

Sir,

Yours truly,

NICHOLAS J. BROWN.

ALBERT REID, *Esq.*, *Lands and Works Office.*

#### MEMORANDUM.

THE assistance proposed to be rendered by Mr. Sprent in the preparation of the new Map of Tasmania, under the arrangement made by the Hon. the Minister of Lands, will consist in the first instance of his revising the two charts recently published of the Western Country, which will be furnished to him for that purpose. It is to be hoped that Mr. Sprent's intimate acquaintance with a large extent of country south of the River Arthur and west of Lake St. Clair will enable him to correct these charts in many points of detail, to connect and harmonise the observations made by recent explorations and surveys, and to supply information respecting many portions of the western district which have hitherto been represented in outline only or with details resulting from mere conjecture.

The orography of the district will for the most part be only an approximate rendering of the altitudes and direction of the principal ranges and isolated mountains. Altitudes which have been ascertained either by actual survey or barometrical measurement, with tolerable accuracy, should be distinguished from those which are only estimated by comparison with known heights; but the most useful information will be furnished by rough contour lines, a single line being used for elevations of from 500 to 1000 feet, two lines for those about 2000 feet, three for those about 3000 feet, and four for those about 4000 feet and over.

The course of rivers, or streams of any importance, may be indicated in the usual manner where ascertained either by actual survey or from careful observation, all others being designated by dotted lines in the supposed direction.

Tracks should be carefully noted, distinguishing routes which are likely to be adopted as permanent lines of communication from those which have only served a temporary purpose.

The presence of important minerals or metals will be most conveniently indicated by the use of the ordinary symbols, the probable area of their distribution being roughly shown by a dotted line.

Any information respecting the geological formation of the country will be highly valuable, and especially if the general direction of the dip or strike of exposed beds be recorded.

It is almost unnecessary to add that, while the fullest possible information is required, there is no necessity for any elaborate drafting, or for any greater nicety of execution than is requisite to convey the information intended to be supplied.

T. STEPHENS.

*Hobart Town, 1st December, 1878.*

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FORWARDED to Mr. Sprent, with the request that he will do all in his power to supply the information sought for in this Memo. I believe Mr. Sprent will be remunerated for any trouble or expense he may be put to. Mr. Stephens informs me that the Minister of Lands and Works has promised Mr. Sprent £20 for obtaining this information.

H. J. HULL.  
13 Dec. 1878.

C. SPRENT, *Esq.*, *Table Cape.*