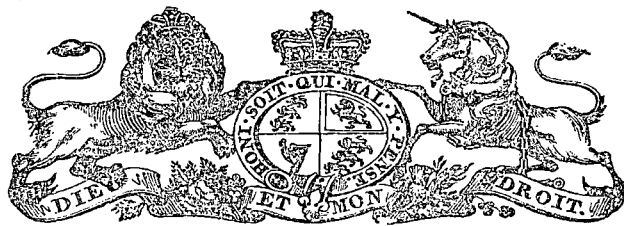


(No. 16.)



1860.

T A S M A N I A.

EXAMINATION OF THE DISTRICT BETWEEN
CHUDLEIGH AND LAUNCESTON.

MR. GOULD'S LETTER.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be
printed, 3 August, 1860.



Geological Survey Office, August 2, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, in accordance with your instructions, I have made a short examination of the District between Chudleigh and Launceston (through which it is proposed to construct a line of Railway), for the purpose of ascertaining whether any mineral products exist in it of commercial value, and such as might be likely to prove sources of increased traffic in the event of that proposition being carried into effect.

Understanding from you that it was not advisable that I should at present devote to that District the time necessary for completing a detailed Survey of it, I have confined myself to making such general observations as I conceived would be sufficient for the purpose that you had in view.

I find that limestone exists in many situations in such considerable abundance that the lime produced from it would probably form a staple article of transport, and could be delivered in Launceston at prices far below those which it now commands; in fact, the difficulty and expense of carriage at present almost entirely prohibit its being forwarded to that Port, and lime is only produced at the various kilns in sufficient quantities for the supply of their immediate neighbourhood; while, upon the other hand, I am informed that it is actually imported into Launceston at considerable expense from the neighbouring Colony of Victoria. The limestone is of a dark grey or blue and occasionally black colour, veined more or less abundantly with calc spar, and apparently non-fossiliferous. The lime produced from it is stated to be of very superior quality.

It is probable that it may exist at many points in proximity to the proposed line. Among the most important localities where I myself observed it, were "The Arms of the Creek," three miles south east of Deloraine, and upon and near the township of Chudleigh, from which situations an inexhaustible supply could be obtained.

Freestone suitable for building purposes occurs at several spots within a moderate distance of the line; while it is possible, among the Palæozoic schists which occur a few miles south of Deloraine, that good building stones, and even slates, may eventually be discovered. The geological formation last alluded to appears to be equivalent with that at Fingal; and there is, therefore, also the possibility of the existence in this locality of Gold-bearing Quartz Reefs.

I have the honour to remain,

Sir,

Your very obedient Servant,

CHARLES GOULD.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.