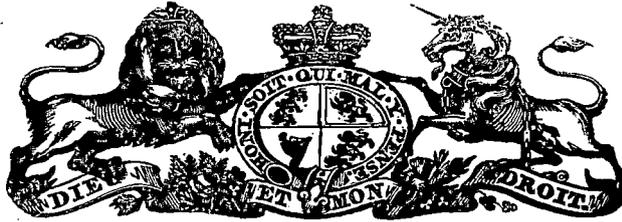


(No. 103.)



1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

LIGHTHOUSE, TASMAN'S ISLAND:
CORRESPONDENCE.

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



The Treasury, 15th July, 1885.

SIR,

WITH reference to our conversation respecting the erection of a Lighthouse on Cape Pillar, I have now the honor to state, for the information of the Marine Board, that the Government, being fully alive to the importance of increasing the number of lights on the coasts of this Colony, has decided to ask Parliament, during the coming session, to assent to the expenditure of a sufficient sum of money to defray the cost of erecting lights at the following places:—(1.) Eddystone Point, the cost of construction and future maintenance to be equally borne by the Governments of Victoria and Tasmania; (2.) Table Cape; (3.) Cape Pillar; as also to provide for placing Swan Island in telegraphic communication with the mainland.

Before the proposal is submitted to Parliament I shall be glad to know whether the Marine Board has any suggestions to offer with regard to the contemplated works.

I have, &c.

W. H. BURGESS, *Treasurer.*

The Master Warden Marine Board, Hobart.

Marine Board, Hobart, 18th July, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that your letter of the 15th instant, having reference to the construction of Lighthouses, has been before the Board, and that steps are being taken to convene an early meeting of the Consolidated Board to consider the proposal to erect a Lighthouse on Cape Pillar.

I have, &c.

A. G. WEBSTER, *Master Warden.*

The Honorable the Treasurer.

Marine Board, Hobart, 29th July, 1885.

SIR,

WITH reference to my letter of 18th instant, relative to the proposed Lighthouse on Cape Pillar, I have the honor to inform you that the question was considered by the Consolidated Board yesterday, and it was determined to have an inspection made of Tasman's Island, to enable the Board to decide whether that or the site proposed is suitable for a Lighthouse. You will be duly informed as to the result.

I have, &c.

A. G. WEBSTER, *Master Warden.*

The Honorable the Treasurer.

PROPOSED Lighthouse, Tasman's Island.—Commander STANLEY'S Report of Visit, 4th August, 1885.

[Extract from *Hobart Mercury*, 8th August, 1885.]

“THE Master Warden then read the following report, furnished by Captain Stanley, who had inspected the proposed lighthouse site on Tasman's Island:—‘In accordance with the understanding arrived at by the Consolidated Marine Board, I visited, in company with yourself, Mr. Warden Bailey, Mr. Huxon (Government Engineer), and Mr. Henry (the Director of Telegraphs), the proposed locality of a lighthouse at the entrance to the estuary of the Derwent in the vicinity of Cape Pillar. Mr. Huxon and I were fortunate enough to obtain a landing near the north point of Tasman's Island, and with some difficulty traversed the island to its south extreme. After attaining the summit of the basaltic cliffs which almost overhang the island on all sides we found ourselves on a table land covered with a stunted scrub almost similar to that found upon Mount Wellington, slightly varied by patches of bull oak and honeysuckle; of the latter thousands of trees were found in a dead or decaying state, the surface of the ground being almost entirely covered with them, and the whole was overgrown with grass and stagshorn fern; other ferns were also observed, including the tree fern, and a deep chasm appeared almost to cut off the north-west corner of the island. In addition to the landing-place chosen by us, there were at least two others; the difficulty about landing is not so much the actual disembarkation as the choice of a spot from whence the summit of the island may be reached, and we only discovered three such places, one on south-east side,

and two on north-west ; each of these places is frequented by the mutton-bird ; that on the south-east side being a comparatively large rookery. I judged the island to be about 700 feet in height, and of nearly the same elevation from north to south ; it is about one mile in length, and its summit over the cliffs at the south extreme affords a favourable site for a light-house. From this position a full view to the westward was obtained, but in consequence of some timber near the centre of the island the Hippolite rocks were not visible. I have no doubt that with a tower about 50 feet high, the timber being levelled, an uninterrupted view all around can be obtained, but it will only be necessary to clear as far round to the northward as to enable a light to be seen when clear of the Hippolite rocks. I would suggest that if it is decided to erect a lighthouse on Tasman's Island, that before deciding upon the height of the tower a party of men should be sent to erect a temporary platform of the required elevation, and cut down the trees at present interrupting the view. I may conclude by remarking that my visit to Tasman's Island has convinced me that it would be a serious mistake to erect a lighthouse upon Cape Pillar, and would most likely lead to disaster. I would recommend a fixed dioptric light of the first order."

Electric Telegraph Department, 10th August, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that, through the courtesy of the Hobart Marine Board, I was enabled to pay a visit to Cape Pillar and Tasman's Island on the 2nd instant.

Tasman's Island is decidedly the best position for a signal station ; and should it be decided to erect a lighthouse thereon the two can be combined, as no difficulty will be experienced in carrying a wire across from the mainland to the island.

The distance between the cliffs, where the supports would be fixed, is about 800 or 900 yards, and for this span a compound steel and copper wire would be used, which will easily bear the strain.

I have, &c.

ROBT. HENRY, JUN., *Superintendent of Telegraphs.*

The Hon. the Treasurer.

Marine Board, Hobart, August 22, 1885.

SIR,

ADVERTING to your letter of 15th July, and to my reply thereto of the 18th idem, on the subject of the erection of a Lighthouse on Cape Pillar, I have now the honor to refer you to the annexed copy of resolutions unanimously agreed to at a meeting of the Consolidated Marine Board held yesterday.

I enclose for your information copies of reports by Commander Stanley, R.N., and Mr. R. Huckson, Clerk of Works, with a detailed estimate of the cost of the work. Assuming the cost of the Light apparatus and Lantern to be about £3500 when erected, it will be seen that the total outlay should not much exceed £13,000. If Parliament votes £5000 in aid, as proposed, the Marine Board anticipates no difficulty in providing the required balance out of the accumulating fund at its disposal.

I have, &c.

A. G. WEBSTER, *Master Warden.*

The Hon. the Treasurer.

COPIES of Resolutions passed by the Consolidated Marine Board on Friday, 21st August, 1885.

1st. Proposed by Mr. Harrap, and seconded by Captain Ditcham :—

"That this Board, having before it the Report of Commander Stanley, R.N., which is confirmed by other nautical men, is of opinion that the only admissible situation for a Lighthouse in the vicinity of Cape Pillar is on the southern end of Tasman's Island ; and that the exact site be hereafter determined by a further examination of the locality."

2nd. Proposed by Mr. Facy, seconded by Mr. Harrap :—

"That, contingent upon a sum of £5000 being voted by Parliament in aid of the construction of a Lighthouse on Tasman's Island, its erection be agreed to."

3rd. Proposed by Mr. J. M'C. Browne, and seconded by Mr. M'Kenzie :—

"That, with reference to the preceding Resolution, in the event of the Government being desirous to establish a signal station for defence purposes on Tasman's Island, and upon such funds being provided as may be found necessary to complete a Lighthouse establishment, this Board agrees to co-operate with the Government by proceeding at once, upon the passing of the votes, to the erection of the requisite landing facilities and quarters for the station."