

(No. 32.)



1873.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

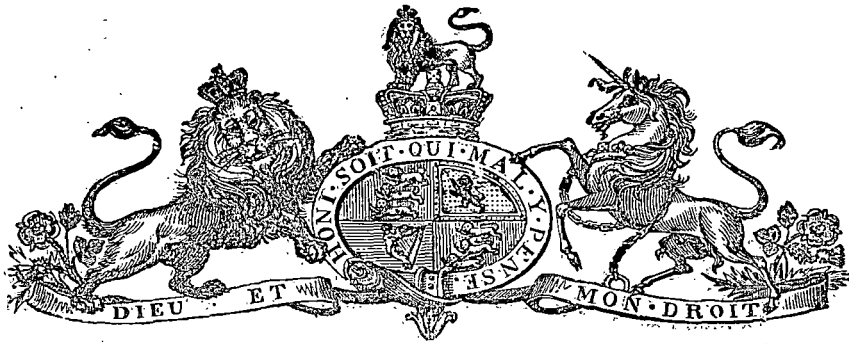
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ADMIRALTY SURVEY OF TASMANIAN COASTS.

CORRESPONDENCE AS TO COMPLETION.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Scott, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
June 17, 1873.



CORRESPONDENCE IN REFERENCE TO COMPLETING THE  
ADMIRALTY SURVEY OF THE COAST OF TASMANIA.

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*Sydney, 13th March, 1873.*

DEAR SIR,

It may be in your recollection that I had the pleasure of holding some conversation with you during your late visit to Sydney, on the subject of reviving the Nautical Survey of the Coast of Tasmania.

On referring to the latest Admiralty chart of the Colony, it appears that, beyond a partial survey of the North Coast by H. M. S. "Acheron" in 1843, nothing has been done by recognised authorities since the time of Flinders, who made a reconnaissance of portions of the coast in the beginning of the present century.

It would be presumption on my part to remind you of the importance, to an insular Colony such as Tasmania, of a comprehensive and trustworthy survey of its shores and waters; particularly when, from its geographical position, that Colony must conduct communication with all parts of the world by water.

The maritime interests of such a Colony must be, I would think, of paramount importance, inasmuch as they contribute most to its prosperity.

Tasmania is the only British Colony which has not been examined by modern surveyors. Admiralty surveys have been for many years in operation on the coasts of all the chief Colonies of Australia, and last year the survey of Western Australia was commenced.

The expenses of a nautical survey of Tasmania, conducted in the same manner as was the coast survey of this Colony, would amount to £3000 per annum; and I have no doubt the Home Government, on an application from the Colony, would be prepared to subsidise the undertaking to the extent of one-half that amount, and send the requisite officers, instruments, and appliances.

The survey might be conducted in a small schooner, either built or bought for the purpose. A steamer would of course be preferable, and in the end less expensive, as allowing of more rapid progression with the work.

Under favourable circumstances the survey would be completed within five years by a sailing vessel.

Although I make this statement entirely without authority, yet I think that in the case of Tasmania the Admiralty would be inclined to be more liberal in their grant towards the expenses of this work than in the case of the larger and more wealthy sister Colonies of Australia.

My duties in New South Wales are drawing towards a close, by the completion of the inner navigable waters, and should the Government of Tasmania decide to apply to the Home Authorities for the continuation and completion of this important work, so long left in an unfinished and almost fragmentary state, I shall be very glad to undertake it, with the consent of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

I am,

Dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

JNO. J. GOWLLAND, *Nav. Lieut. R.N.,*  
*Admiralty Surveyor.*

*Hon. F. M. INNES, M.P., &c., Tasmania.*

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THE Colonial Treasurer will be much obliged by receiving the opinion of the Marine Board, Hobart Town, on the proposal contained in this communication.

FRED<sup>K</sup>. M. INNES,  
19th March, 1873.

*Hobart Town Marine Board, 28th March, 1873.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter dated Sydney, March 13, 1873, addressed to you by Lieutenant John J. Gowlland, on the subject of reviving the Nautical Survey of the coast of Tasmania, and referred by you for the opinion of the Marine Board; which has been duly laid before the Members of the Board at its last meeting.

The Board was unanimously of opinion that it is most desirable that such a Survey as described should be effected for the reasons given by Lieutenant Gowlland in his letter to you, herewith enclosed.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

HENRY TONKIN, *Master Warden.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.*

REFERRED for opinion of the Marine Board, Launceston.

FRED<sup>K</sup>. M. INNES,  
28. 3. 73.

*Marine Board Office, Launceston, 9th April, 1873.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of Lieutenant Gowlland's letter to you, dated Sydney, 13th March, referred for the opinion of this Board; and having submitted the same to the members of the Board, I am directed to say they are unanimously of opinion that the survey of the coasts of Tasmania referred to by Lieutenant Gowlland is of very great importance, and should be effected as speedily as possible.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

RICH. GREEN, *Master Warden.*

*The Hon. F. M. INNES, Colonial Treasurer, Hobart Town.*

*Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 22nd April, 1873.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM in receipt of your letter of the 13th ultimo, on the subject of completing the Nautical Survey of the coast of this Colony.

I have taken the opinion of the Marine Boards at Hobart Town and Launceston on the subject, and they both agree that it is most desirable that the work should be done; I therefore propose bringing the question under the notice of Parliament at an early date.

I am, my dear Sir,  
Faithfully yours,

FRED<sup>K</sup>. M. INNES.

*Lieut. J. J. GOWLLAND, R.N., Admiralty Surveyor,  
Sydney, New South Wales.*