

(No. 23.)



1863.

T A S M A N I A.

KING'S ISLAND LIGHT-HOUSES.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 3 March, 1863.



K I N G ' S I S L A N D .

*Marine Board, Hobart Town, 26th February, 1863.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to bring under your notice the claim of the Marine Board against the Government for £2261 5s. 3d. on account of King's Island Light-house.

The particulars of the claim were forwarded to the Assistant Treasurer on the 14th October last.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

CRAWFORD M. MAXWELL.

*Hon. C. MEREDITH, Colonial Treasurer.*

*COST of erecting the LIGHT-HOUSE on KING'S ISLAND.*

	£	s.	d.
Messrs. Kirkland & Co., amount of contract .....	12,869	4	9
Ditto, account for extras to Tower, additions to Houses, and materials left on King's Island.....	423	5	6
Cost of Light Apparatus, including freight from London, carriage, &c. ....	3226	11	8
Salary of a Mechanic sent from London to fit up the Light Apparatus, including his passage out and home.....	297	1	0
Horses, Cart, Boats, and Furniture supplied from this Colony .....	318	17	7
Cost of Plans and Specifications, and travelling expenses of the Engineer to the Board ...	384	3	9
Law expenses and advertising .....	116	3	3
Salary of Superintendent of Works whilst Light-house was building .....	677	12	1
	<u>£18,312</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>7</u>
Less interest received in London on remittances.....	31	0	0
	<u>£18,281</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>7</u>
Interest paid to Bank on overdrawn account.....	251	2	1
	<u>£18,533</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>8</u>
One-fourth payable by the Government of Tasmania .....	4633	5	5
Less amount paid .....	2500	0	0
	<u>£2133</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>

CRAWFORD M. MAXWELL.

*Marine Board, 22nd January, 1862.*

## MEMORANDUM.

"THE expense of constructing a Light-house depends upon the requisite height of the tower, the accessibility of the site, the facility of procuring material and workmen, and many other circumstances, varying with the locality or the character of the work."

King's Island Light-house is 157 feet high from the base of the tower to the vane. This great height was rendered necessary by the decision of the Commissioners from New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania, that the light, to be really useful, must be a certain height above the level of the sea.

The tower is built of granite. The only material found on the island was the stone: all other materials, including lime, timber, &c. had to be brought from this Colony or Victoria, and landed, at great risk, on an exposed and open roadstead, where vessels could land only in very fine weather.

With the exception of "*Skerryvore*," there is no Light-house in Great Britain so high as that on King's Island; but I annex, for the sake of comparison, a Memo. of the height, date, and cost of erection of such Light-houses as approach nearest in character to King's Island. All these, with one exception, are built on the main land.

I believe some of the Victorian Light-houses cost £25,000 to £30,000.

The tenders for building the tower only (of King's Island Light) ranged from £13,000 to £33,000.

C. M.  
22 January, 1862.

*LIGHT-HOUSES in Great Britain built of Granite.*

	<i>Height in Feet.</i>	<i>Cost.</i>	<i>Date.</i>
Ardnamurchan .....	118	£13,700	1849
* Skerryvore .....	158	87,000	1844
Barra Head.....	60	13,000	1833
Cape Wrath .....	65	13,500	1828
North Ronaldsay.....	139	13,000	1854
Girdleness .....	120	13,000	1833
Buchanness .....	115	12,000	1827

\* Skerryvore is built on a rock covered at high water; hence the enormous expense.

*Hobart Town, 14th October, 1862.*

DEAR SIR,

I ENCLOSE a copy of the Account against the Treasury for the balance of King's Island Light-house, with Interest up to 30 September, 1862.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

CRAWFORD M. MAXWELL.

T. V. JEAN, *Esq.*, *Assistant Treasurer.*

THE GOVERNMENT OF TASMANIA.

*DR. to the HOBART TOWN MARINE BOARD.*

1862.	£	s.	d.
October 13. To amount of Account rendered of Expenditure in completion of King's Island Light-house up to the 31st December, 1861	-	-	2133 5 5
Interest to the 30th September, 1862, 9 months at 8 per cent.	-	-	127 19 10
	-	-	<u>£2261 5 3</u>

*E. & O.E.*

CRAWFORD M. MAXWELL,  
*Hobart Town, 14 Oct., 1862.*

*Hobart Town, 3rd March, 1863.*

SIR,

WITH reference to the Vote for King's Island Light-house, I respectfully submit for your information the following remarks.

The site of the Light-house was chosen, and the height of the Tower was determined, by the Government.

The Light-house is 157 feet high, and is only equalled in height by one or two Light-houses in the world; namely, by one on the French Coast near Calais, 167 feet; another on the Coast of Holland, 166 feet;

a third on the west Coast of Scotland, 158 feet; and, lastly, one on Gabo Island, in the neighbouring Colony of Victoria, recently completed, which is 161 feet high, and cost £22,300.

King's Island Light cost £18,300; and when the magnitude of the work, and the difficulties that had to be surmounted, are taken into consideration, the cost cannot be thought extravagant. The Tower is built of granite, in courses; the wall is 14 feet thick at the base. A roadway had to be cut through a sand-hill, and a tramway laid for about two miles, at a cost to the Contractors of several thousand Pounds. All the materials for the building (except the stone) had to be brought from Victoria or this Colony, and landed on an open beach, where the surf is always considerable, and frequently so heavy that landing is impracticable for weeks together.

The only similar building in any of the Australian Colonies is the Light-house already mentioned on Gabo Island. I have been furnished by the Inspector-General of Public Works in Victoria with a Memo. of the cost of this erection. I beg to enclose a copy of the same.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

C. M. MAXWELL.

Honorable CHARLES MEREDITH, *Colonial Treasurer.*

*Department of Ports and Harbours,  
Williamstown, 27th January, 1863.*

Copy of Memo. supplied by the Inspector-General of Public Works.

LIGHT-HOUSE, GABO ISLAND.		£	s.	d.
Cost of erection of Light-house, Quarters, &c.....		17,558	2	10
Lantern and Apparatus .....		3207	17	4
		<hr/>		
		£20,766	0	2
Add to this for expenses of travelling, value of professional superintendence by Public Works Department .....		1539	5	4
		<hr/>		
Total .....		£22,305	5	6

		King's Island.
The height of Tower .....	130 feet.	133 feet.
Ditto to centre of Light.....	142 feet.	145 feet.
Ditto, top of Lantern.....	161 feet.	157 feet.

The Light-house is fire-proof, being constructed entirely of granite and iron.

The principal Light Keeper's quarters contain seven rooms (one of which is a store room), closet and Pantry.

The Quarters for two Assistants contain three rooms and a small store shed.

All the buildings are of red granite.

(Signed) W. W. WARDELL.