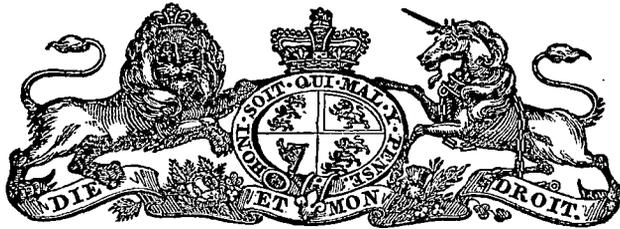


(No. 68.)



1870.

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BRIDGEWATER CAUSEWAY.

REPORT.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 13, 1870.



## BRIDGEWATER BRIDGE.

THE Commissioners have the honor to transmit to the Government the within Report, read at a Meeting of the Commission held at Bridgewater on the 2nd of March, 1870; the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer, and the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works—who inspected the Bridge and Causeway—being present.

THOS. Y. LOWES, }  
 FRED. M. INNES, } *Bridgewater Commissioners.*

*Bridgewater Commission, 2nd March, 1870.*

GENTLEMEN,

As you intend this day to make an inspection of the Bridge and Causeway, accompanied by the Members of the Government, I have the honor to submit the following brief Report for your information.

The portions embracing the piling, woodwork, and drawbridge were erected under a contract with Messrs. Thompson and Blackburn at or for the sum of £7823, and the Bridge opened for traffic by Sir Wm. Denison on the 30th of April, 1849.

The entire cost of construction was paid off in 1858.

Tolls were levied from April, 1849, to September, 1858, on all passengers, animals, and vehicles when passing and repassing the Bridge. By the Bridgewater Bridge Act, No. 3, relief was granted from 1st October, 1858, by exempting from toll passengers, &c. when repassing on the same day.

In 1859 the present Commissioners provided new warps at a cost of £64 14s. 10d., and paid for Engineer's works, £63 10s. 8d.

In 1860 they also expended in the erection of a new jetty £300.

The old toll-house floors being at high tide several feet under water, the Commissioners erected, on a different site and out of the reach of floods, a new toll-house, the basement story of which, owing to the nature of the ground, is below the level of the road.

	£	s.	d.
Cost of foundations .....	136	10	0
Ditto for toll-house .....	679	0	0
Supervision, plans, and expenses .....	43	8	3
Castings for machinery were provided at .....	116	19	9
Contract for metal for road.....	150	0	0
Shipwright's, blacksmith's, and engineer's work.....	164	9	11

In 1861 gates and fencing were repaired, water tanks furnished, and fresh castings for machinery supplied, at a cost of £229 16s. 7d.

A reduction of one Assistant, or £91 a year, in the expenditure was made, leaving but one Collector at £150 per annum, one Assistant at 5s. per diem, and the Secretary.

In 1862 there was paid for planking and repairs to Bridge and carpenter's work and fittings to toll-house, &c., £177 16s. 4d.; and for metal for causeway, £315 2s. 6d.

In 1863 there was expended for engineer's, carpenter's, and shipwright's work, repairs to fencing and planking, and clearing incident to the floods of that year in removing drift timbers, &c., £183 2s. 9d.

In 1864 the Commissioners, owing to the dangerous state of the Causeway, which the tide overflowed, deemed it right to propose to the Governor in Council the raising thereof; and, with the approval of His Excellency, entered into a contract for the performance of the work, and for building retaining-walls, at a cost (including supervision, &c.) of £3219 9s. 7d. This work was completed in 1865, and the balance on foot of contract paid in 1866.

Repairs to woodwork of bridge, and engineer's work to machinery, were also made to the extent of £116 19s. 5d.

When the foregoing works were completed in 1866, the Commissioners had cleared off the entire liability, except £41 13s. 9d., which was due on their overdrawn account to the Bank of Van Diemen's Land.

In 1867 there was a special expenditure for repairs to Bridge, planking, and engineer's work to machinery, £169 8s. 2d.

In 1868 there was incurred for special repairs to roadway, carpenter's, shipwright's, engineer's, and other works, and for beams and timber, £284 12s. 7d.

On 1st January, 1869, the Commissioners had a balance to their credit of £1077 13s. 6½d., which enabled them to pay into the Colonial Treasury, in accordance with the provisions of the Act 10 Vict. No. 11, £1000, in aid of the General Revenue of the Colony.

Besides the £1000 so paid into the Treasury, the Commissioners also procured from England, through Mr. Askin Morrison, two iron girders, each 84ft. 10in. long × 12in. + 18in., in four lengths, weighing 13 tons 7 cwt. 1 qr. 14 lbs., with necessary connection rivets, &c., at a cost of £306 2s. 3d.

The Commissioners also expended during the year, in renewing decayed planking, making good roadway, and repairs to machinery, &c., £198 15s. 5d., and paid into the Colonial Treasury for metal £52 10s.

Notwithstanding the several amounts so paid in 1869, the Commissioners' balance, as appears by the statement certified by the Colonial Auditor, amounted on 1st January to £106 16s. 6d. The Commissioners have no outstanding liabilities. The Bridge and machinery are in good working order, and it is not anticipated that any very large outlay will be necessary during the coming year, other than may arise from floods, accidents to machinery, or unforeseen causes.

On the recommendation of the Commissioners, the toll of 3d. levied on foot passengers was, by proclamation of His Excellency, reduced from 1st May to 0½d.

I may be permitted to state that the Commissioners' management has given general satisfaction to the public, and resulted in most substantial benefits to the General Revenue of the Colony.

The Chairman, who resides within a few miles of the Bridge, has, by his constant attention to the works, and by directing timely repairs to be effected, prevented dilapidations which would otherwise not only have entailed a large outlay of public money, but have caused impediments and inconvenience to the public traffic.

The Collector, the Assistant Collector, and myself tender to the Commissioners our thanks for the support, consideration, and kindness we have invariably received at their hands in the discharge of our respective duties.

I have the honor to be,  
Gentlemen,

Your very obedient Servant,

JAMES GRAY, *Secretary to Commissioners.*

To the Hon. THOS. Y. LOWES and the Hon. F. M. INNES,  
*Bridgewater Commissioners.*