

(No. 106.)



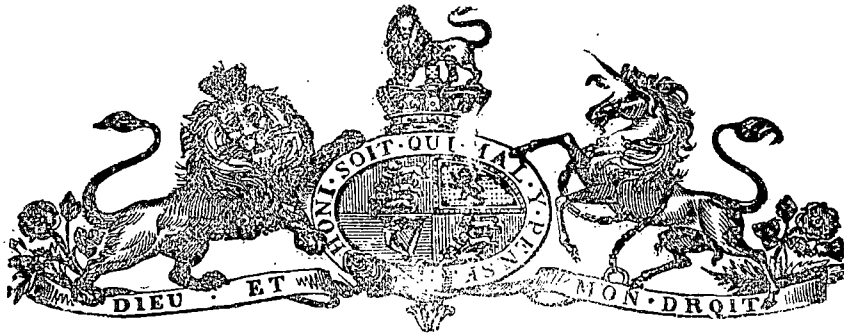
1885.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

**VOTES EXPENDED IN AIDING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF MINING:**

**LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY FOR MINES AND WATER
SUPPLY, VICTORIA.**

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



VICTORIA.

*Department of Mines and Water Supply,
Melbourne, 19th August, 1885.*

SIR,

IN reply to your telegram of to-day, I have the honor to inform you that the votes expended during the past financial year, 1884-5, in aiding the development of mining resources in this Colony were applied partly to boring in search of deep leads and quartz reefs by means of diamond drills, and partly to direct pecuniary grants of from £50 to £500, by way of gift, to such Companies, prospecting associations, or parties as could show that their proposed works were of a *bonâ fide* prospecting character either in new country or untested continuations of leads and reefs, or at deeper levels than had yet been obtained in the latter.

In the majority of cases, it was incumbent upon the recipients of these grants to expend £1 for £1 at least of the money so given on work, such as sinking deeper, driving, cross-cutting, &c., as might be approved by the Hon. the Minister, and payments on account were made from time to time on receipt of vouchers for expenditure and attested declarations as to the nature and amount of work performed.

The general rule was followed of allowing payment only on account of the labour expenditure on such work as actual sinking or driving, but in exceptional cases this rule was so far relaxed as to recognise payments for material and appliances.

The Geological Surveyor of this Department, and the Local Mining Surveyor for the District in which the mine of an applicant was situated, were required to inspect and report upon the merits of each application. The final decisions as to the allotment of the grant were made by the Hon. the Minister upon the advice of the Secretary for Mines with the assistance of the Geological Surveyor.

The diamond drills, with one or two exceptions, were and still are being worked solely at the cost of the Government in such localities, whether Crown lands or freehold, as have been favourably recommended by the Geological Surveyor.

I may add for your information, that in several cases gratifying results have been obtained by recipients of grants-in-aid, and that the position and depth of a large extent of deep alluvial ground likely to become available for future mining operations have been ascertained by means of the diamond drills.

Enclosed I beg to forward copies of the conditions under which applications for monetary assistance are received, and of the letter notifying applicants as to the allotment of grants-in-aid.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

C. W. LANGTREE,
Secretary for Mines and Water Supply.

*The Hon. NICHOLAS J. BROWN, Minister
of Public Works, &c., Hobart.*

MEMORANDUM RELATIVE TO PROSPECTING VOTE.

Respecting the vote for £10,000 for prospecting purposes, the Minister of Mines will be prepared to receive applications up to the _____ proximo from mining companies and others desirous of obtaining assistance from the vote to prospect areas for gold in remote mountain regions, and also from pioneer mining companies engaged in prosecuting works likely to be of advantage in developing the mines of any district.

The amount to be granted to any one company must necessarily be limited, and assistance in respect of such applications as may be approved will be given only to the extent of one-half of any necessary expenditure in the payment of miners' wages which may be incurred in approved prospecting work after such application shall have been granted.

Applicants are desired to state specifically the nature and approximate value of the work already executed by them in promoting the object for which assistance is required, and also to describe the character and site of their proposed operations, so as to facilitate any necessary inquiries in respect of such applications.

Office of Mines, Melbourne.

Corr. No.

DEPARTMENT OF MINES AND WATER SUPPLY.

M.D. 8

Melbourne, _____ 188 .

SIR,

Adverting to prior correspondence from your company asking for assistance from the Prospecting Vote, I am now desired by the Honorable the Minister of Mines to state that he will be prepared to recognise vouchers for expenditure incurred by the Company since _____ in carrying out the undermentioned work, viz.:

Payments from the sum allotted to your company () will be made to the extent of *one-half* the amount of the approved vouchers for the wages of miners engaged *bonâ fide* in mining operations, and I have to request that the vouchers may be forwarded monthly for examination, accompanied in each instance by a certificate, under seal and signed by two directors and the Legal Manager, in the following form:—"We certify that these vouchers, showing an expenditure of £ _____ s. _____ d. _____ represent disbursements in wages actually paid to miners from the _____ to the _____ for the following work, viz.:

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Secretary for Mines and Water Supply.

Esq.,

Manager of the

Company,