

(No. 33.)



1866.

SESSION II.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

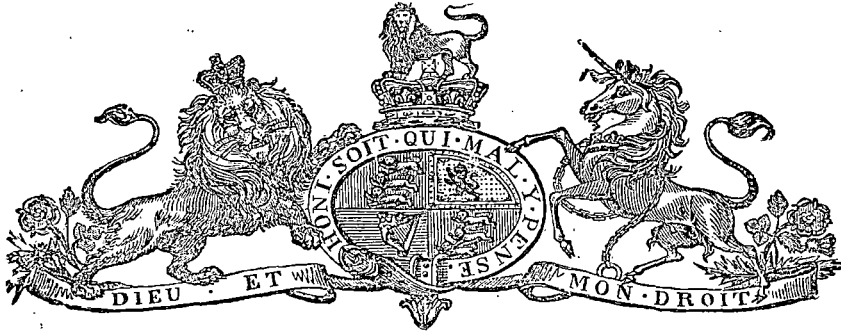
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**HARGRAVES EXPLORATION IN SEARCH OF  
GOLD.**

UNAUTHORISED EXPENDITURE.

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Laid upon the Table by Sir Richard Dry, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
February 13, 1867.



*Colonial Secretary's Office, 28th August, 1866.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, forwarding, on behalf of the Committee of the Hargraves Exploration Fund, a Statement of the Expenditure of the Balance of the Fund remaining in their hands, and as vouchers the cheques passed by the Committee for the various items.

On the 14th June, 1865, you forwarded a statement of expenditure made from the Hargraves Fund to the 10th of that month, showing a balance to the credit of the fund of £357 10s. 3d.

On the 22nd June your letter was acknowledged, and it was requested that all outstanding accounts might be closed, and the necessary vouchers furnished.

On the 20th July you forwarded a "continuation of statement of receipts and outlay from the Hargraves Fund, with vouchers for the same to the present, showing a balance in the fund of £282 16s. 11d." This statement was transmitted to you on the 28th of that month as incomplete, and insufficiently supported by the necessary vouchers, and it has not since been returned.

In your letter of the 20th July you ask, by authority of the Committee, "if the Government would sanction the employment of such portion of the balance in hand as may be necessary in fitting out a few well-organised prospecting parties for such places as may be recommended by Mr. Gould;" and you add that the Committee feel "they cannot now, without further sanction, make any additional outlay, and will await the pleasure of the Government in the matter."

On the 24th July your letter was acknowledged, and you were requested to "forward the balance in your hands to the Colonial Treasurer, as the Government do not feel justified in sanctioning any further expenditure of Public Funds on this account."

On the 10th August you again addressed me, urging on behalf of the Committee the desirability of fostering the exploration then being carried on at "The Den," and expressing your hope that the application of the Committee would meet with "the favourable and speedy consideration of the Government."

On the 29th August Mr. Wilson, in my absence, replied to that letter in the following words :— "The Committee suggest a further expenditure of Government money to the extent of the balance of the Hargraves Exploration Fund, in fostering the operations now being conducted at the Den Diggings; but private enterprise being now fully directed to this quarter, the Government do not consider it necessary or advisable to disburse any further sums in prospecting for gold."

On the 27th September Mr. Douglas, at the request of the Gold Committee, applied again for permission to expend the balance with the view of developing the Den Diggings, and requesting instructions.

In answer to this letter Mr. Wilson referred to his letter to you of the 29th August, and again requested that the balance might be at once paid into the hands of the Colonial Treasurer.

No notice having been taken of his letter, Mr. Wilson, on the 8th February, 1866, called Mr. Douglas's attention thereto, and again repeated his request for the payment of the balance without further delay.

Still no notice was taken of these repeated communications, and on the 29th May I addressed Mr. Douglas on the subject, calling his attention to the previous correspondence, and expressing the hope that he would "see the necessity for an immediate compliance with the wishes of the Government, furnishing at the same time a final account with the supporting vouchers."

On the 31st May Mr. Douglas replied, expressing his regret that I had "not received satisfactory replies from the Secretary," adding "but I have always forwarded your letters to him."

Finally, on the 1st June, I wrote to you enclosing a copy of Mr. Douglas's letter of the 31st May, and once again requesting that the balance might be paid into the Colonial Treasury.

This letter you never even acknowledged, but on August the 21st you forward to me the letter and statement now before me.

I cannot but express my very great surprise at the course pursued by the Committee since your communication of the 20th July, 1865; and I have to point out that, inasmuch as they not only decided to spend the balance without authority, but in direct contravention of the most explicit instructions, they have rendered themselves personally liable for the amount acknowledged as the available balance in your letter of the 14th June, viz. £357 10s. 3d., less the amount of any liabilities incurred before the date of my reply to that letter, viz. the 22nd June.

I return herewith the statement of accounts forwarded with your letter of the 21st instant, deficient, as was the former, of the signature of the Chairman or Treasurer; and as "the whole of the correspondence, with a statement of the expenditure on the Hargraves Exploration Fund," has been ordered to be laid upon the Table of the House of Assembly, I have to request that you will lose no time in furnishing me with a complete statement from the commencement. The voucher required to complete the former account was for £12 11s. 6d. "resale of horses."

It will be a subject for consideration what steps the Government may feel called upon to take with reference to the amount now due to the Public Treasury by the Hargraves Committee.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES WHYTE.

W. J. NORWOOD, *Esq.*, *Launceston.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 5th September, 1866.*

SIR,

I HAVE to call your attention to my letter of the 28th ultimo upon the subject of the Hargraves Fund Committee Accounts. In that letter I informed you that the correspondence was ordered to be laid upon the Table of the House of Assembly; and as the Accounts as yet furnished by you are incomplete, I must again urge you to supply accounts properly signed, and also forward the missing voucher without any further delay.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) JAMES WHYTE.

W. J. NORWOOD, *Esq.*, *Launceston.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 15th September, 1866.*

SIR,

I AM directed by the Colonial Secretary to call your attention to his letter of the 5th instant, upon the subject of the Hargraves Exploration Fund and Accounts, and to inform you that, unless some immediate steps be taken by you to render a satisfactory explanation of the course that has been pursued in reference to the acknowledged balance, and to furnish properly audited and certified accounts, the Government will be compelled to take into consideration what proceedings may be necessary to ensure a compliance with their requests.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

(Signed) B. T. SOLLY.

W. J. NORWOOD, *Esq.*, *Launceston.*

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*Launceston, 18th September, 1866.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of this day. I have to plead excessive occupation for some time past as the only reason why your request for an authenticated copy of Statement of Accounts of Hargraves Committee has not been forwarded, and also sale note from

Bell & Westbrook, Auctioneers, for horses sold on account of Committee (the wanting voucher referred to). I shall, if possible, have it sent down to-morrow evening, or at the latest the evening after.

Hoping that this delay will not cause any inconvenience,

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

W. J. NORWOOD,  
*Hon. Secretary Hargraves Committee.*

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.*

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*Launceston, 19th September, 1866.*

SIR,

IN accordance with intimation in my note yesterday I have now the honor to enclose to you, as requested in your letter of 28th August, a complete statement of the expenditure of Hargraves' Fund, in accordance with vouchers already forwarded, and accompanied with voucher from Bell & Westbrook for resale of horses, and signed and attested by the Chairman of the Committee. The balances are struck and carried on in the same manner as in the separate accounts heretofore rendered. Trusting this will be satisfactory,

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. J. NORWOOD,  
*Hon. Secretary to the Committee.*

*To the Honorable JAS. WYTHE, Esq.,  
Colonial Secretary.*

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*Tasmanian Auction Mart, Launceston, 19th September, 1866.*

On the 27th July, 1865, we paid to Mr. W. J. Norwood a cheque for £12 11s. 6d., proceeds of Mare sold on account of "Hargraves Fund."

BELL & WESTBROOK.

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1865.	Receipts.	£	s.	d.
June 10.	Balance in hand .....	357	18	3
July 27.	Cash from Bell and Westbrook, proceeds of horses sold.....	12	11	6
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		£370	9	9

1865.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
June 14.	Hargraves, cheque to Viney .....	1	10	0
16.	Cheque, sundries for party at Wislooka	8	3	6
	Ditto, R. T. Edwards, wages .....	2	0	0
23.	Ditto .....	1	0	0
26.	Ditto .....	6	0	0
	Ditto, Weymouth, wages .....	6	0	0
	Ditto, R. T. Edwards, road expenses	1	5	4
July 4.	Ditto, Ackerman, tent .....	2	0	0
5.	Ditto, Mechanics' Institute, hiring rooms .....	2	1	6
6.	Ditto W. B. Dean, biscuits .....	1	10	0
	Ditto, balance of wages in full .....	56	2	6
		<hr/>		
		87	12	10
Balance in hand to debit .....		282	16	11
		<hr/>		
		£370	9	9

1865.	Receipts.	£	s.	d.
June 26.	Balance in hand.....	282	16	11
Oct. 4.	Cash received for tools and rations sold to Diggers.....	7	15	3
1866.	Balance overpaid by Committee .....	14	8	10
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		£305	1	0

1865.	Expenditure.	£	s.	d.
July 26.	Cheque paid Bartley, provisions for party at Wislooka .....	10	1	6
Aug. 23.	Ditto, M. Tankard, provisions .....	8	7	0
	Ditto, C. T. Weetman, flour.....	8	16	0
	Ditto, J. S. Hadfield, clothing .....	1	14	0
	Ditto, D. G. Freeman, wages .....	3	0	0
	Ditto, W. J. Norwood, stores and sundries purchased for Den .....	58	16	10
	Ditto, John Barrett, for cartage ..	5	17	0
26.	Ditto, Wm. Cox, for palings.....	3	0	0
	Ditto, D. Higgins, cartage .....	2	0	0
28.	Ditto, Cowie and Johnson, timber	10	19	10
	Ditto, expenses party to Den .....	2	10	0
Sept. 7.	Ditto, cartage .....	3	2	0
	Ditto, Ridge, boots and oatmeal ..	1	1	0
8.	Ditto, Newey, potatoes .....	1	11	6
	Ditto, M. Tankard, beef .....	7	10	0
	Ditto, sundries for Den .....	3	0	5
26.	Ditto, D. G. Freeman, wages .....	3	0	0
Oct. 5.	Ditto .....	3	0	0
14.	Ditto, Richards, cartage .....	2	0	0
		<hr/>		
Nov. 11.	Ditto, Richards, wages..	1	10	0
	Ditto, Rations .....	9	9	3
		<hr/>		
16.	Ditto, Williamson & Thomas, rugs	4	13	6
1866.		<hr/>		
Jan. 1.	Ditto, Beddowes, wages	21	11	6
	Ditto, Clare, ditto .....	24	8	6
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		46	0	0
11.	Ditto, Rankin, Stewart, &c., cartage and provisions .....	8	15	6
	Ditto, Ackerman, hire of forge ..	2	10	0
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Mar. 5.	Ditto, J. Barrett, 21 ds. hire	6	6	0
	Ditto, J. Barrett, cartage..	0	15	0
		<hr/>		
		7	1	0
25.	Ditto, P. C. Rasmussen, wages ..	3	0	0
April 3.	Ditto, wages and sundries .....	17	5	4
11.	Ditto, D. Avery, wages.....	2	0	0
14.	Ditto, John Barrett, cartage and timber .....	3	17	0
17.	Ditto, Clare, balance of wages .....	11	0	0
May 3.	Ditto, Stephen Griffiths, cartage ..	1	10	0
4.	Ditto, P. C. Rasmussen, 14 weeks' wages.....	31	8	0
	Ditto, Avery 8½ weeks wages' .....	12	0	6
7.	Ditto, Rankin, horse-hire .....	1	0	0
June 18.	Ditto, Tankard, balance of account	2	13	10
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		£305	1	0

June 19. Balance expended by Committee in excess of amount on hand..... £14 8 10

I hereby certify the above is a correct account of the Expenditure of the Hargraves Fund, and is in accordance with the cheques passed by the Committee for payment.

T. WILLIAM THOMAS, *Chairman of Committee.*