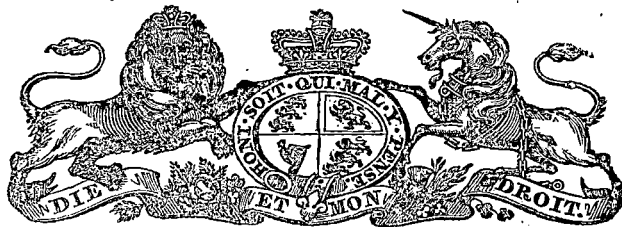


(No. 2.)



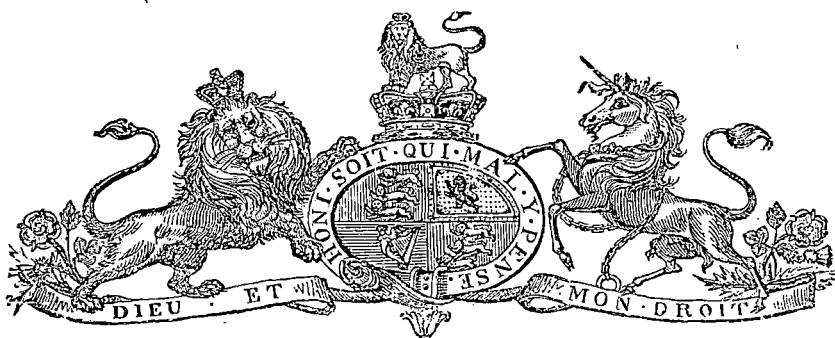
1861.

T A S M A N I A.

CLAIMS UPON THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.

1. DESPATCH FROM HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE.
2. MEMORANDUM BY MINISTERS IN REPLY.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 16 August, 1861.



Downing-street, 5th March, 1861.

[TASMANIA.—No. 21.]

SIR,

I CAN assure you that I have not overlooked your Despatch, No. 54, of the 14th of May last, accompanied by a Statement from your Ministry expressive of their adherence to the opinion that Tasmania has pecuniary claims on this Country of vast amount, on account of the presence of Convicts in the Colony.

I have considered this Statement with the respect due to the gentlemen from whom it has emanated, but I regret that I find it impossible to subscribe to their conclusions. Into the details of the argument I will not enter: they were examined by my predecessor, Sir Edward Lytton, in his Despatch, No. 19, of the 25th of February, 1859, and notwithstanding the answers which have been suggested, the views expressed by him still appear to me substantially correct.

Your Ministers show, with great force, that some branches of expenditure in the Colony are much heavier than they would have been if there had been no Convicts. This is perfectly true: but no just inference can be drawn from that fact without considering the history and original composition of the Colony. Tasmania was first occupied wholly for the reception of Convicts; the Settlers came to it slowly and by degrees; they were attracted probably by the presence of the Convicts, which was notoriously deemed a great advantage in Australia at a time when every other kind of labour was deficient. These men furnished hands to the farmers for their agricultural operations, and supplied to the community at large roads and other public works which rapidly developed the material resources of the Island; but, in process of time, as the free inhabitants became more numerous, and after an unfortunate excess in the number of Convicts poured into the Colony had produced evil effects, the Colonists, actuated by sentiments which all must respect, objected to receive any more Prisoners, and Transportation accordingly ceased. This was a fair and proper conclusion of the question. But to contend, not merely that Transportation ought to have been discontinued, but that the Colony ought to be placed in the same position as if it had never existed, appears to me to push the argument too far. It does not seem unjust that Tasmania, which reaped the material advantages of the presence of Convicts, should bear, like every other community, the mixed conditions of good and ill belonging to its origin and history.

That this Country has not ceased still to expend within the Colony very large funds which must be supposed to be of some benefit to its inhabitants, could readily be proved. The last Convict went to Tasmania in the year 1852. From that date this country has not been relieved of a single offender by his removal to Tasmania; and yet the Table which I append to this Despatch, shows that the votes of the Convict Establishments since that time have been Eight hundred and fifty-one thousand five hundred and seventy-one Pounds, and that the Military Expenditure, which, in the neighbouring territories of New South Wales and Victoria is borne almost wholly by the Local Governments, but which, in Tasmania, is still entirely defrayed by Great Britain in consideration of the presence of Convicts, has amounted to upwards of Four hundred thousand Pounds. This makes a total sum of at least a Million and a quarter sterling expended by Great Britain in Tasmania since the time when the Colony has ceased to receive any offenders from this country.

I have entered reluctantly, and only out of respect for the gentlemen who have addressed you, into even this degree of discussion. One good fruit of the abolition of Transportation should be the close of unpleasant differences between the Colony and this Country. So far as regards details, Her Majesty's Government may reasonably decline to re-open, so many years afterwards, points which were settled whilst the practice was in force, by those familiar with the facts; and if, on the contrary, the debate be extended to the merits and demerits of Transportation, it becomes a general and almost historical question, on which no practical results can be expected from discussing it in official correspondence. The introduction of Convicts must, of course, be attended by a great multiplicity of effects, both good and evil; but, at all events, in Tasmania it has resulted in the

existence of a fine and flourishing Colony : the inconveniences, whatever they may be, cannot but be in course of diminution, and at no distant time they may be expected to be lost from sight in the progress of a numerous, free, and thriving community.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,
NEWCASTLE.

Governor SIR H. E. F. YOUNG, C.B.

BRITISH EXPENDITURE IN TASMANIA SINCE THE ABOLITION OF TRANSPORTATION.

Colonial Office, March, 1861.

THE last Convict was sent from England to Tasmania in 1852.

The annual Amounts since voted by Parliament for the Convict Service in this Colony have been as follows :—

| <i>Year.</i> | <i>Convict Establishments.</i> | <i>Police and Gaols.</i> | TOTALS. |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| 1853..... | 94,300 | 25,000 | 119,300 |
| 1854..... | 179,728 | 22,000 | 201,728 |
| 1855..... | 124,236 | 18,000 | 142,236 |
| 1856..... | 108,247 | 12,000 | 120,247 |
| 1857..... | 77,760 | 6,000 | 83,760 |
| 1858..... | 60,964 | 6,000 | 66,964 |
| 1859..... | 58,336 | 6,000 | 64,336 |
| 1860..... | 47,000 | 6,000 | 53,000 |
| <i>Total of Eight Years</i> | 750,571 | 101,000 | 851,571 |

NUMBER and Cost of TROOPS present in Tasmania since Transportation was abolished.

| <i>YEAR.</i> | <i>Rank and File.</i> | <i>Cost to Great Britain.</i> |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| | | £ |
| 1853..... | 636 | 67,175 |
| 1854..... | 645 | 68,126 |
| 1855..... | 656 | 69,287 |
| 1856..... | 568 | 59,993 |
| 1857..... | 476 | 50,275 |
| 1858..... | 315 | 33,232 |
| 1859..... | 315 | 33,232 |
| 1860..... | 230 | 24,265 |
| <i>Total of Eight Years.....</i> | 3,841 | 405,585 |

N.B.—The cost for the first five years is taken from a Parliamentary Paper, 114, of July, 1859. For the three last it is arrived at from Official Returns of the numbers present, and from assuming the same average cost as before per man.

SUMMARY.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| | £ |
| Expenditure on Convict Establishments in eight years..... | 851,571 |
| Expenditure on Troops in the same period | 405,585 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total British Expenditure in Tasmania in eight years since abolition of Transportation | £1,257,156 |
| | <hr/> |
| Average per annum | £157,144 |
| | <hr/> <hr/> |

21st May, 1861.

MEMO.

YOUR Excellency having laid before us the Despatch of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle (No. 21,) of 5th March, 1861, in answer to our Memorandum on the claims of this Colony on the Imperial Government, we consider it due to ourselves, as responsible Advisers to Your Excellency, whose future administration is threatened by serious embarrassments in consequence of the tenor of that Despatch, and to the interests of justice which appear to us to be outraged by it, that a single Mail should not take its departure for Europe without conveying to His Grace the Secretary of State our renewed, respectful, but firm remonstrance against the decision which he has given on the claims in question.

Your Excellency is aware with what earnestness we contended in the respective branches of the Legislature for a patient waiting for the decision of Her Majesty's Government, and against the premature adoption of measures calculated to embarrass your Government; we urged that the decision would come from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle; and we relied upon it that His Grace, being in a principal degree responsible for those rules in fixing the relative liabilities of the Home and Colonial Revenues on account of Convicts, Paupers, Expirees, &c., of the injustice of which we complained, the Colony might rely on the most scrupulous consideration of the case submitted in our Memo. This hope, however, is disappointed.

Into the statements offered by His Grace, as a reply to our remonstrance, it appears superfluous for us to enter. If they will suffice as a refutation of our case, they will suffice to cover further injustice. If, because the Colony has derived some incidental advantages from Transportation, a process such as that which we have exposed for shifting the cost of British Criminals from Imperial on Colonial Funds may be justified in the past, we may reasonably apprehend that a similar course will be adopted in respect to the remnants of Convictism which remain under Imperial control in the Colony, and of the custody of which we know that the British Government is weary.

We respectfully beg that Your Excellency will communicate this our protest against the decision which has been given by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle. Unwilling as we are to commit ourselves to any expressions that may be interpreted as personally disrespectful, we are constrained by our sense of right to regard His Grace's reply to our remonstrances as unjust to this Colony, and, in the situations we fill, it is our duty that we should say so.

WILLIAM HENTY.
FRED. M. INNES.

His Excellency the Governor.