

(No. 40.)



1877.

SESSION II.

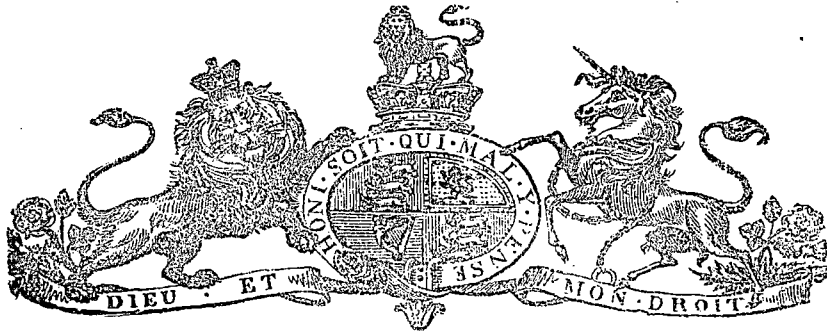
TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

WAR IN EUROPE.

TELEGRAMS.—DEFENCES.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, May 4, 1877.



By ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

IN the present disturbed state of Europe it is of the utmost importance to the several Australian Colonies to be in early possession of reliable information of the progress of the War between Russia and Turkey, and also as to the probabilities of other Nations being involved. Of course, the most authentic source from which such information can be obtained is the British Minister for Foreign Affairs. This Government therefore suggest that the several Governments unite in requesting Earl Carnarvon to send weekly, or more frequently should events prove of sufficient importance to warrant it, a cypher telegram containing the latest and most accurate information to the Governor of one of the Colonies for transmission to the others, and for simultaneous publication throughout Australia when no objection existed to such publication, the cost to be borne jointly by Colonies *pro rata* according to population. Shall be glad with your views hereon by telegram as early as possible.

(Signed) HENRY AYERS, *Chief Secretary.*
Adelaide, 3rd May, 1877.

The Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.

By ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

THIS Government concur in your suggestions respecting Telegrams from England relating to the War.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.
4th May, 1877.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, South Australia.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 3rd May, 1877.

SIR,

HAVING seen your arrival in Victoria announced in the papers, I have the honor, with reference to your communication of the 18th December last, to enquire when it may be convenient for you and Sir William Jervois to favour this Colony with a visit, with the object of reporting upon the best practicable means of defence for adoption by the Government of Tasmania.

Being unacquainted with the arrangements by which your joint services have been secured on behalf of the Governments of Victoria and New South Wales, may I at the same time enquire upon what terms this Colony can in like manner hope to secure the benefit of your advice upon this important question?

I addressed a communication to you on the 28th February in reply to yours of the 18th December, but my letter would not of course reach England till long after your departure.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. REIBEY.

Colonel SCRATCHLEY, R.E., Melbourne.