

(No. 68.)



1881.

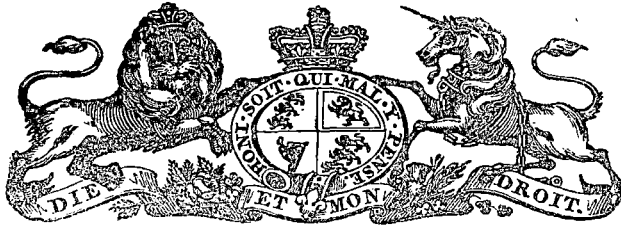
T A S M A N I A .

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

REDUCTION OF INTERCOLONIAL POSTAGE:

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E .

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 22, 1881.



REDUCTION OF INTERCOLONIAL POSTAGE RATE TO 2d. PER HALF OUNCE.

EXTRACT from House of Assembly Paper, No. 2, Session 1873, being the Report and Minutes of Proceedings of the Intercolonial Conference held at Sydney, New South Wales, during the months of January and February, 1873.

Representatives on behalf of Tasmania—

The Honorable F. M. Innes, Treasurer.

The Honorable J. M. Wilson, President of the Legislative Council.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

IV. Postal Rates and arrangements.

WITH reference to postal charges, and the further facilities required in this department of the Public Service, the Conference adopted Resolutions to the following effect:—

- * * * * *
- (2.) That there be, on and after the 1st January, 1874, a uniform Intercolonial letter rate of 2d. per half ounce, both overland and by sea; and that a uniform Intercolonial parcel and book-packet rate be also adopted, according to a scale agreed upon. (*Vide Minutes.*)
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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

Sir Henry Ayers then moved,—

“That as inconvenience is caused through letters to the various Australian Colonies, posted for despatch by sea or overland, intercolonially, being charged at different rates of postage, one uniform rate be adopted of threepence for all letters, whether despatched overland or by ship; also, that the several Australian Colonies adopt one uniform rate on parcels and book packets, whether for despatch by sea or overland, intercolonially; viz.—

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Not exceeding 1 oz.	0	1
1 oz. but not exceeding 2 ozs.	0	2
2 oz. " $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	0	4
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. " $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	0	8
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. " $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	1	0
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. " 1 lb.	1	4

and so on, increasing 4d. for each $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. or fraction of a $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.”

After discussion, the Motion was amended as follows, and agreed to:—

“That as inconvenience is caused through letters to the various Australian Colonies posted for despatch by sea or overland, intercolonially, being charged at different rates of postage, this Conference are of opinion that one uniform rate should be adopted, of two-pence, for all letters, whether despatched overland or by ship; also, that the several Australian Colonies adopt one uniform rate on parcels and book packets, whether for despatch by sea or overland, intercolonially, to come into operation on 1st January, 1874; viz.—

	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Not exceeding 1 oz.	0	1
1 oz. but not exceeding 2 ozs.	0	2
2 ozs. " $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.	0	4
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. " $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	0	8
$\frac{3}{4}$ lb. " $\frac{3}{4}$ lb.	1	0
$\frac{1}{2}$ lb. " 1 lb.	1	4

and so on, increasing 4d. for each $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. or fraction of a $\frac{1}{4}$ lb.

The Representatives of Tasmania and Western Australia did not vote.

The Representatives of New Zealand also did not vote.

At the same time, they desire it to be recorded that they will recommend the adoption of the Resolutions to their Governments.

SESSION OF TASMANIAN PARLIAMENT, 1880.

“ A BILL to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to the Post Office.”

No. 20, Section 9.

“ The following shall be the rates of postage payable according to the scale aforesaid upon all letters received at any Post Office :—

* * * * *

3. Upon all letters received at any Post Office for transmission to any of the Australian Colonies or New Zealand the postage shall be Two-pence.”

Passed by both branches of the Legislature ; but laid aside by the House of Assembly on the 22nd October, 1880, with regard to Amendments made in Clauses 3, 14, 16, 21, 22, 25, 27, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 61.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 21st December, 1880.

MEMO.

THE Governments of the Australian Colonies and New Zealand some time ago assented to an arrangement to adopt a uniform rate of postage to be charged upon all Intercolonial letters—2d. per half oz.—and at the time the Government of this Colony was not prepared to concur in the arrangement; but, in order to meet the public convenience and to give effect to the wishes of the Legislature, is now prepared to endorse the action of the other Colonies and make the Intercolonial rates of postage on letters the same for Tasmania.

Will the Solicitor-General be good enough to advise whether, under Section 10 of “ The Post Office Act, 1869,” His Excellency the Administrator of the Government has power to endorse the arrangement referred to, and reduce the rate of postage on Intercolonial letters to 2d. per half oz. on and from the 1st January next in the manner provided under Section 11 of the same Act?

In the event of the Solicitor-General being of opinion that the Administrator of the Government in Council has power to make the proposed alteration, will the Solicitor-General be good enough, after consultation with the Secretary of the Post Office, to cause a Proclamation to be prepared for His Excellency’s signature providing for the change to be made on the 1st January next.

W. R. GIBLIN; *Colonial Treasurer.*

ASSUMING that the conditions mentioned in Section 10 of the Post Office Act, 1869, have been complied with, I am of opinion that the proposed alteration can be made by Proclamation, and I have prepared and send such a Proclamation for His Excellency’s signature.

ROBT. P. ADAMS.
23rd Dec., 1880.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 24th December, 1880.

THE Colonial Treasurer submits and recommends that the Proclamation herewith, to reduce the Intercolonial rate of postage to two-pence per half ounce, the same rate as is charged in all the other Australian Colonies and New Zealand, be approved and issued for general information.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

THE Administrator in Council approves.

E. C. NOWELL.
24. 12. 80.

THE POST OFFICE ACT, 1869.

By His Excellency SIR JOHN HENRY LEFROY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Lieutenant-General in Her Majesty's Army, Administrator of the Government of the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies.

A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS, in pursuance of the powers conferred by the tenth section of "The Post Office Act, 1869," arrangements have been made with the constituted authorities in the Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland, and New Zealand for the purpose hereinafter expressed: Now therefore I, SIR JOHN HENRY LEFROY, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Companion of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Lieutenant-General in Her Majesty's Army, Administrator of the Government as aforesaid, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, and in pursuance of the provisions of "The Post Office Act, 1869," do by this my Proclamation declare that, pursuant to the hereinbefore-mentioned arrangements, on and from the first day of January, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-one, on all letters received at any Post Office in Tasmania for transmission to either of the Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland, or New Zealand, the postage shall be Twopence for any weight not exceeding half an ounce, and for every additional half an ounce or fraction of half an ounce in weight the further sum of Twopence, anything to the contrary contained in the said Act or in "The Post Office Amendment Act," 34 Victoria, Number 4,) notwithstanding.

Given under my hand at Hobart Town, in Tasmania aforesaid, this twenty-fourth day of December, one thousand eight hundred and eighty.

J. H. LEFROY.

By His Excellency's Command,

W. R. GIBLIN, Colonial Treasurer.

A COMPARATIVE Statement showing the Number of Intercolonial Letters despatched from Tasmania during the Half Years ended 30th June, 1879, 1880, and 1881, respectively.

PERIOD.	NUMBER.	INCREASE.
Half-year ended 30th June, 1879	135,806	—
" " 1880	139,406	3600
" " 1881	159,787	20,381

RETURN of Revenue received by the Post Office Department for the First half of each of the Years 1879, 1880, and 1881.

1879.	1880.	1881.
£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
12,380 15 7	13,624 5 4	13,992 18 10