

(No. 34.)



1865.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HIGHWAY AND OCEAN LIGHTS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

(In completion of Paper No. 16.)

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte; and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 10, 1865.



NEW SOUTH WALES.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 26th July, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th ultimo, in reference to the proposed increase to the contribution hitherto made by the Colony of New South Wales towards maintaining the Light-houses in Banks' and Bass's Straits.

2. In reply, I would beg again to draw your attention to the communication from the Treasurer of New South Wales of the 13th May last, and the Memorandum by the Superintendent of Pilots, Lights, and Harbours enclosed in my last communication of the 6th ultimo; by which it is shown that New South Wales already contributes more than her proportionate share in maintaining the Southern Lights, whilst the maintenance of the Northern Light-houses falls entirely upon her.

3. Although it may be conceded that New South Wales has a considerable interest in the proper maintenance of the Lights in Banks' and Bass's Straits, yet the Colonies principally benefited are Tasmania and Victoria; while these latter Colonies derive a large amount of benefit from the Northern Lights, to the maintenance of which they do not contribute anything.

4. It does not appear that the Colonies of South Australia and Queensland have been invited to contribute to the maintenance of these Lights, and yet they have the advantage of their establishment.

5. The commerce of the several Australian Colonies is so intermixed and blended together that it is almost impossible for any partial scheme to solve the difficulties of the case: that can only be done by some plan embracing all the Colonies.

6. The Government of New South Wales is quite willing, and has always shown its willingness, to join with the other Australian Colonies in any general system which would embrace the whole of the Highway Lights in the waters of Australia.

7. The subject is, as you are aware, already under discussion; and pending its decision, and for the reasons I have stated, it appears to this Government that the Colony of New South Wales cannot fairly be called upon to augment her contribution towards maintaining the Lights in Banks' and Bass's Straits.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
CHARLES COWPER.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary of Tasmania.

VICTORIA.

Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 9th August, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th of July, bringing under notice your communication of the 23rd of May last, on the subject of the proposed re-arrangement of the contributions by the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria to the maintenance of Light-houses on Tasmanian territory, and requesting that you may be furnished with an expression of the views entertained by this Government thereon.

In reply I have to inform you that the Government of Victoria has always desired to co-operate heartily with the Governments interested in a re-adjustment of the arrangement entered into in the year 1856, and is in no way responsible for the delay which has occurred in arriving at a settlement of the question.

This Government is prepared to abide by the decision of the recent Conference; but, as their Report does not appear to have met with concurrence on the part of all the Colonies interested, I have now to state that, in order to bring the matter to an issue, it is willing, subject to the approval of Parliament, to enter into an arrangement with the Governments of Tasmania and New South Wales for the maintenance of the Six Lights enumerated in the accompanying Schedule on the basis of contributions in proportion to the Tonnage of each Colony respectively deriving benefit from such Lights.

The Schedule shows the Tonnage of the Vessels entered inwards and cleared out at the several Colonies interested in the proposed arrangement during the year 1863, and contains a Statement of the expense of maintaining the Light-houses for such period.

It is considered desirable that the division of the expenditure incurred in maintaining the Six Lights referred to during the years 1865 and 1866 should be based on the Returns of Tonnage for those years.

As it is contemplated to place the whole of the Marine matters of this Colony under a Board, I would suggest, should the proposed arrangement be approved, that it should take effect from the 1st of January, 1864, and cease on the 31st of December, 1866.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

JAMES M'CULLOCH.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

STATEMENT showing the Tonnage of VICTORIA, NEW SOUTH WALES, and TASMANIA benefited by the Straits Lights; the Cost of Maintenance of such Lights in 1863; and the proportionate Charge to the above Colonies for that Year as proposed by the Government of Victoria.

Light-houses.	Contributing Colony.	TONNAGE.			Proportion charge-able to each Colony.	Cost of Maintenance of Lights, 1863.
		Inwards.	Outwards.	Total.		
KING'S ISLAND..	Victoria	320,831	91,725	412,556	£ 550 12 8½	£ 861 18 4
	New South Wales ...	161,611	62,650	224,261	299 6 4	
	Tasmania.....	3,824	5,139	8,963	11 19 3	
KENT'S GROUP..	Victoria	122,131	110,994	233,125	448 12 4	863 7 3
	New South Wales ...	164,450	4,974	169,424	326 0 7½	
	Tasmania.....	35,635	10,465	46,100	88 14 3½	
SWAN ISLAND AND GOOSE ISLAND.....	Victoria	40,188	192,478	232,666	966 4 5½	1102 2 2
	New South Wales ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	—	
	Tasmania.....	23,539	9,182	32,721	135 17 8½	
WILSON'S PROMONTORY.....	Victoria	246,726	454,109	700,835	804 19 1	1123 5 4
	New South Wales ...	102,235	136,650	238,885	274 9 8	
	Tasmania.....	18,635	19,529	38,164	43 16 7	
GABO ISLAND...	Victoria	131,302	111,116	242,418	360 18 7	864 19 8
	New South Wales .	172,524	139,850	312,374	464 19 4	
	Tasmania.....	12,168	14,098	26,266	39 1 9	