

(No. 52.)



1865.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

**TASMANIAN HIGHWAY LIGHTS IN BANKS'
AND BASS'S STRAITS.**

Correspondence between the Honorable the Colonial Secretary and the Marine Board on the Re-adjustment of the Contributions from the adjacent Colonies to the Maintenance of the Highway or Ocean Lights situated on Tasmanian Territory.

(In continuation of Paper No. 16.)

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 6, 1865.



Colonial Secretary's Office, 28th January, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward to you herewith, for the information of the Marine Board, a copy of the Report of the late Inter-colonial Conference on Australian Highway or Ocean Light-houses, together with a copy of a letter I have addressed to the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales on the same subject, dated 12th ultimo.

The figures added in ink in the right hand margin of Tables A and B, appended to the Report of the Conference, represent the estimated aggregate Tonnage of Shipping employed in the trade of the several Colonies passing the Tasmanian and other Light-houses during the year 1863.

These figures have been compiled by the Department of Trade and Customs of Victoria from Returns furnished for the use of the Conference.

I also forward you a copy of a Tabular Statement which I have caused to be prepared, showing the relative proportions of the cost of the maintenance of the Light-houses therein named justly chargeable to the several Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania, calculated upon the estimated aggregate Tonnage of each Colony benefited by those establishments.

I intend to propose to the Governments of the several Colonies above indicated, that the Tasmanian Light-houses should for the future be maintained by joint contributions based upon these estimates of Tonnage for 1863.

The Government would be glad to receive from the Marine Board any observations they may feel disposed to offer upon a subject of so much importance to the Shipping and Commercial interests, as well as to the Public Revenue of the Colony.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES MILNE WILSON, *pro Colonial Secretary.*

*The Master Warden Marine Board,
Hobart Town.*

NOTE.—The three enclosures contained in this letter will be found in Paper No. 16 of the Legislative Council, laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed, July 25th, 1865.

Hobart Town Marine Board, 1st February, 1865.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, enclosing copy of Report of the Australian Conference on Light-houses, copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of New South Wales, and statement of "Proportionate Cost" of certain Light-houses to be defrayed by the three Colonies, New South Wales, Victoria, and Tasmania.

All these documents have been carefully considered by the Marine Board; and, in compliance with the request of the Government, I beg to make the following observations as the result of their deliberations on the important questions referred to in your letter.

The statement of the "proportionate cost for the maintenance of certain Light-houses," namely, Kent's Group, King's Island, Swan and Goose Islands, proves, when the calculations are carried a step further, that if the Resolutions adopted by the Conference of February, 1864, had been carried

into effect, the saving to Tasmania on the Light-houses above named would have amounted to upwards of £1300 per annum,—an amount sufficient to warrant the Marine Board in reducing by at least thirty per cent. the heavy charge levied on sailing vessels for Light dues. From this amount, however, would have to be deducted the sum which Tasmania would be called upon to pay Victoria and New South Wales as her contribution towards the maintenance of the Light-houses on Cape Otway, Wilson's Promontory, Gabo, Cape Schank, Cape St. George, and South Head.

It is impossible for me to calculate exactly what the contribution of Tasmania would be, because I am not aware what these Light-houses cost annually; but a calculation sufficiently accurate for all practical purposes may be arrived at by assuming that each of these Light-houses costs the same as King's Island, (£861), by far the best in Tasmania. I know some of them cost more, others may cost less. On this basis the amount to be paid by this Colony on account of the five Light-houses named is £151 5s. per annum, as shown by enclosed statement marked A., so that the net saving to Tasmania by the plan agreed to at the Conference would be £1217 11s. 1d.

I enclose another statement marked B., showing the part of this sum to be charged to Victoria and New South Wales respectively; from which it will be seen that the share of the former is £1121 18s. 6d., while that of the latter is only £95 12s. 7d.

It is, therefore, a matter of not much importance in a monetary point of view whether New South Wales consents to any new arrangement that may be proposed by the Government or not; but it is of great importance to establish the principle that the cost of maintaining the chief Light-houses in the Straits shall be borne on equitable proportions by the Colonies deriving benefit from the same.

It is satisfactory that "the Government of Victoria fully admits the injustice of the existing arrangements," and "is willing to accede to any reasonable suggestion for the re-adjustment of the proportionate contributions of the Colonies to the support of the Light-houses now under consideration." The scheme of distribution proposed by the Conference held in Melbourne in February, 1864, is the most equitable that could be devised; but is open to this objection, that it is too complicated to work well.

I have therefore to submit for the consideration of the Government another scheme of distribution, which is equally fair and just to all the Colonies interested, and has the advantage of being simple and easy of application.

This scheme is explained in the statement enclosed marked C.

You will observe that I suggest two modes of apportioning the cost of the Light-houses in Banks' Straits, (Goose Island and Swan Island): by the first, Tasmania will have to pay a fair proportion of the cost of these Lights; by the second, she will be called upon to pay twice as much as she ought to do.

I recommend the Government to adopt the second plan; for this reason—that the additional contribution thereby imposed upon Tasmania is more than an equivalent, and may be set off against her share of the cost of the Light-houses on Wilson's Promontory, Cape Schank, &c., which she would have to pay if the scheme of the Conference had been carried out.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

CRAWFORD M. MAXWELL, *Master Warden.*

The Hon. J. M. WILSON, Esq.

A.

PROPORTIONATE Cost for the Maintenance of certain LIGHT-HOUSES to be borne by Tasmania, in accordance with a Report of the Conference upon the Subject of Light-houses of February, 1864.

<i>Light.</i>	<i>Contributing Colony.</i>	<i>Tonnage Inwards and Outwards.</i>	<i>Total Tonnage.</i>	<i>Proportion for Tasmania.</i>	<i>Estimated Maintenance, 1863.</i>	
CAPE OTWAY	Victoria	320,831 Inwards ..	412,556	£ s. d.	£	
		91,725 Outwards..				
	New South Wales	161,611 Inwards ..	224,261			
		62,650 Outwards..				
	Tasmania	3824 Inwards ..	17,505			23 11 0
		18,681 Outwards..				
		654,322				
WILSON'S PROMONTORY	Victoria	246,726 Inwards ..	700,835			
		454,109 Outwards..				
	New South Wales	102,235 Inwards ..	238,885			
		136,650 Outwards..				
	Tasmania	18,635 Inwards ..	38,164			33 9 0
		19,529 Outwards..				
		977,884				
GABO ISLAND....	Victoria	131,302 Inwards ..	242,468			
		111,166 Outwards..				
	New South Wales	172,524 Inwards ..	312,374			
		139,850 Outwards..				
	Tasmania	12,168 Inwards ..	26,266			38 10 0
		14,098 Outwards ..				
		581,108				
CAPE SCHANK ..	Victoria	578,123 Inwards ..	1,143,615			
		565,492 Outwards..				
	New South Wales	99,622 Inwards ..	215,366			
		115,744 Outwards..				
	Tasmania	33,655 Inwards ..	48,337			29 6 0
		14,682 Outwards..				
		1,407,318				
CAPE ST. GEORGE, N.S.W.....	Victoria	124,595 Inwards ..	232,970			
		108,375 Outwards..				
	New South Wales	977,728 Inwards ..	1,127,627			
		149,899 Outwards..				
	Tasmania	12,009 Inwards ..	27,556			17 1 0
		15,547 Outwards..				
		1,388,153				
SOUTH HEAD LIGHT, SYDNEY, N.S.W....	Victoria	124,595 Inwards ..	232,970			
		108,375 Outwards..				
	New South Wales	1,156,805 Inwards ..	2,261,452			
		1,104,647 Outwards ..				
	Tasmania	12,009 Inwards ..	27,556			9 8 0
		15,547 Outwards..				
		2,521,978		£151 5 0		

B.

STATEMENT relating to LIGHT-HOUSES.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By agreement of 1864, Conference should pay towards King's Island	299	6	4			
But only paid	215	9	7			
				83	16	9
By same agreement towards Kent's Group	326	0	7			
But only paid	287	15	9			
				38	4	10
				£122	1	7
Less amount to be paid by Tasmania to New South Wales—						
Towards Cape St. George Light-house	17	1	0			
Towards South Head, Sydney	9	8	0			
				26	9	0
				£95	12	7

VICTORIA.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By agreement of 1864 towards King's Island	550	12	8			
But only paid	430	19	2			
				119	13	6
By agreement of 1864 towards Kent's Group	448	12	4			
But only paid	287	15	9			
				160	16	7
By agreement of 1864 towards Swan and Goose Islands	—			966	4	5
				£1246	14	6
Less amount to be paid by Tasmania to Victoria—						
On account of Cape Otway	23	11	0			
Wilson's Promontory	33	9	0			
Gabo Island	38	10	0			
Cape Schank	29	6	0			
				124	16	0
				£1121	18	6

RECAPITULATION.

	£	s.	d.
New South Wales	95	12	7
Victoria	1121	18	6
	£1217	11	1

	£	s.	d.
The Honorable J. M. Wilson's Statement shows	1368	16	4
Less Tasmania contributing to other two Colonies	151	5	0
	£1217	11	4

Marine Board, 1 February, 1865.

C. M.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of two SCHEMES for distributing the Cost of certain LIGHT-HOUSES between the three Colonies of Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania.

	<i>Scheme of Marine Board.</i>	<i>Scheme of Conference, February, 1864.</i>	<i>Cost in 1863.</i>
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
KING'S ISLAND.			
Victoria 5-8ths	538 14 0	550 12 8½	
New South Wales 3-8ths	323 4 4	299 6 4¾	
Tasmania Nil.	—	11 19 3	
			861 18 4
KENT'S GROUP.			
Victoria 4-8ths	431 13 7	448 12 4	
New South Wales 3-8ths	323 15 3	326 0 7¾	
Tasmania 1-8th.	107 18 5	88 14 3¼	
			863 7 3
SWAN AND GOOSE ISLANDS.			
Victoria 7-8ths	964 6 10	966 4 5¾	
New South Wales Nil.	—	—	
Tasmania 1-8th.	137 15 3¼	135 17 8¼	
			1102 2 2
Or, Victoria 3-4ths	826 11 7½	—	
Tasmania 1-4th	275 10 6½	—	
			1102 2 2

Marine Board, 1st February, 1865.

C. M.

Marine Board, Hobart Town, 6th February, 1865.

SIR,

SINCE writing to you on the 1st instant regarding the Light-house question, it has occurred to me that the "Scheme of Distribution" (marked C.) which was submitted for the consideration of the Government may be improved in one respect.

In that scheme it is proposed that Tasmania shall not contribute any thing towards the maintenance of King's Island Light, but shall contribute twice as much as her share towards the Lights on Goose and Swan Islands. I now suggest that it would be better if the additional contribution to be borne by Tasmania, in consideration of her being relieved of all charges in respect of Lights in Victoria and New South Wales, should be made on account of King's Island Light, and not on account of those in Banks' Straits, (as shown in annexed Statement).

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed) C. M. MAXWELL.

The Hon. J. M. WILSON, M.L.C.

KING'S ISLAND.

Victoria, 4-8ths of cost	£ 430 19 2
New South Wales, 3-8ths of cost	323 4 4
Tasmania, 1-8th of cost	107 14 10
	<u>£861 16 4</u>

Marine Board, Hobart Town, 25th April, 1865.

SIR,

I RETURN the Correspondence relating to the Light-houses which you were kind enough to send for my perusal.

It is satisfactory to know that the Government of Victoria admit that "the sum contributed by Tasmania towards the maintenance of the four Lights alluded to by you is excessive."

Two objections are taken by the Government of Victoria to the scheme submitted by you for the equitable settlement of the question. The most important of these objections is, that the scheme is one-sided. While Tasmania is to be relieved of a large portion of the expense of four important

Lights on her own territory, no provision is made with regard to her contribution towards the Lights in Victoria and New South Wales named in the margin.* The objection is unanswerable. The amount, however, at issue is very trifling, as will be seen by a reference to my letter of 1st February.

The other objection is, that the Government of Victoria should not be asked to agree to any scheme to which the other Colonial Governments are not parties. I have no copy of the "Proceedings of the Conference of 1864," and am therefore unable to ascertain how, or to what extent, the interests of Victoria are affected by South Australia being left out of the question. But as New South Wales has been asked to contribute to our Light-houses in the same proportion as Victoria, it can be no reason for the latter to refuse doing what is admitted to be right because New South Wales may, perhaps, refuse to do the same. If New South Wales will not contribute more than she has hitherto done, the loss falls, not on Victoria, but on this Colony.

From 1858 to 1863 the amount paid by Victoria towards the maintenance of Tasmanian Light-houses was £3247 13s. 9d. According to your scheme the amount would have been £11,209 0s. 2d. Assuming, therefore, that your scheme is right in principle, this Colony, during six years, has paid about £7000 more than she ought to have done in the maintenance of Light-houses,—to say nothing of the fact that she contributed several thousand pounds more than her fair share towards the building of King's Island Light.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

CRAWFD. M. MAXWELL

To the Hon. J. M. WILSON, *Executive Councillor.*

* Cape Otway, Wilson's Promontory, Gabo Island, Cape Schank, Cape St. George, South Head.

COMPARATIVE Statement showing the Amount contributed by the Colony of Victoria towards the Maintenance of Light-houses in Tasmania from 1858 to 1863 inclusive; and the Amount that would have been contributed on the Basis of the Arrangement of Re-distribution proposed by the Government of Tasmania on 17th February, 1865.

	<i>Paid by Victoria towards King's Island and Kent's Group.</i>	<i>Proposed Share of Victoria towards King's Island, Kent's Group, Swan and Goose Islands.</i>
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1858	315 19 3	1601 14 2
1859	298 17 4	1489 18 3
1860	305 17 5	1455 11 10
1861	713 1 11	2057 1 8
1862	895 2 11	2646 3 3
1863	718 14 11	1958 11 0
	£3247 13 9.	11,209 0 2

COMPARATIVE Statement showing the actual Contributions to Bass's Straits Lights by Victoria from 1858 to 1863 inclusive; the Amount chargeable to Victoria for Lights in Bass's and Banks' Straits on the Basis of the Proposals of the Tasmanian Government, 17th February, 1865; the Amount chargeable to Tasmania for "Australian Highway Lights" on the Basis of Mr. Moore's Letter, 12th April, 1865; and the Amount actually expended.

	<i>Victorian Contributions for King's Island and Kent's Group.</i>	<i>Victorian Contributions according to Scale proposed in Mr. Wilson's Letter, 17th February, 1865, to King's Island and Kent's Group.</i>	<i>Tasmanian Contributions to Australian Lights (per 4 Paragraph of Conference Report), as estimated in Mr. Moore's Letter, 12th April, 1865.</i>	<i>Actual Expenditure by Tasmanian Government on the 4 Lights on Tasmanian Territory in Bass's and Banks' Straits.</i>
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1858	315 19 3	1601 14 2	500 0 0	1591 16 8
1859	298 17 4	1489 18 3	500 0 0	1476 0 7
1860	305 17 5	1455 11 10	500 0 0	1431 2 7
1861	713 1 11	2057 1 8	500 0 0	1723 9 3
1862	895 2 11	2646 3 3	500 0 0	2231 0 4
1863	718 14 11	1958 11 0	500 0 0	1605 7 6
	£3247 13 9	11,209 0 2	3000 0 0	10,058 16 11