

(No. 108.)



1860.

T A S M A N I A.

V O L U N T E E R S.

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

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 25 September, 1860.



Launceston, 26th June, 1860.

SIR,

I AM instructed by the Board of Management of the Launceston Volunteer Artillery Company to request that the use of the upper floor of the Commissariat Stores in St. John-street, Launceston, may be granted to the Members for Drill meeting. The Corps now numbering eighty-five Members, the room they are at present using is not large enough for the purpose. The St. Andrew's Society are at present occupying the centre floor only, and they expect to be able to vacate during the present week. They will not throw any obstacle in the way; and I need scarcely add, that every care shall be taken with the place.

I have, &c.

GEO. HUDSON, *Hon. Sec. Launceston Volunteer Artillery Company.*

Colonel BROUGHTON, Commanding the Troops.

Hobart Town, 27th June, 1860.

SIR,

THE building in question, of which the Launceston Volunteer Artillery Company request the use, has been in charge of the Colonial Government. Application shall be made to resume the occupation, when I shall have much pleasure in acceding to the request of the Artillery Company.

I have, &c.

W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON, *Colonel Commanding.*

GEO. HUDSON, *Esq. Hon. Sec. Launceston Volunteer Artillery Company.*

Colonial Treasury, 13th September, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acquaint you that the Director of Public Works has this day reported to me that he has caused the keys of the old Commissariat Premises at Launceston to be restored to an Officer recognised by you. As, however, there are urgent occasions on the part of the Local Government for the accommodation afforded by these premises, I beg, with the sanction of His Excellency the Governor, to apply that they may be handed over to it, subject to the conditions which have been exacted in similar cases, unless the Imperial Government has any immediate occasion for the premises which precludes a compliance with my request.

I have the honor to be, &c.

F. M. INNES.

The Honorable Colonel E. DELVES BROUGHTON, R.E.

By Electric Telegraph.

Launceston, 14th September, 1860.

Message for the Honorable Colonial Treasurer.

AM I to have the use of the Commissariat Stores for Drill to-morrow evening ?

R. C. D. HOME, *Commanding L.V.A.C.*

By Electric Telegraph.

14th September, 1860.

Message for transmission to Captain HOME, Launceston.

I AM unable to reply until reference is made to Colonel Broughton. Immediately on receipt of his answer I will communicate further with you.

F. M. INNES.

By Electric Telegraph.

Friday, 14th September, 1860.

Message for transmission, Captain HOME.

COLONEL Broughton objects to the use of the Commissariat Store for the purposes applied for. He, however, is willing to grant the spare Barrack Rooms, respecting which I know nothing. More anon.

F. M. INNES.

By Electric Telegraph.

Launceston, 14th September, 1860.

Message for the Honorable Colonial Treasurer.

No ROOM at the Barracks capable of drilling one-third of our numbers, therefore quite useless. The Commissariat Store is alone equal to our requirements. In the absence of authority to occupy, our drill must cease. We have a drill to-morrow night, and a special drill under arms for the whole Corps on Monday night, 140 men.

Are we to understand the Colonel commanding the British Troops in this Colony to refuse the temporary use of the unoccupied Commissariat Stores for that purpose ?

A. HARRUP for CAPTAIN HOME.

By Electric Telegraph.

15th September, 1860.

Message for transmission to Captain HOME.

I AM in communication through the Governor with Colonel Broughton, and hope to arrange for your having the Stores as formerly.

F. M. INNES.

COPY of Minute of His Excellency the Governor written on a Telegram forwarded to Colonel Broughton on Saturday last, 15th September, 1860.

REFERRED to the Colonel Commanding; and, with reference to the application which I authorised the Colonial Treasurer to address to the Colonel for the use of the old disused Commissariat Building at Launceston, I authorise and request the Colonel to place at the disposal of the Colonial Government the building in question, on terms similar to those sanctioned by the Secretary of State in respect of the more important Guard-house in Hobart Town.

H. E. F. YOUNG.

15 September, 1860.

By Electric Telegraph.

17 September, 1860.

Message for transmission to Captain HOME.

COL. BROUGHTON informs me this afternoon that instructions have been forwarded to make the Commissariat Store accessible to the Volunteer Corps when required by it.

Pending a more satisfactory and decisive arrangement, I hope the above will meet your convenience.

F. M. INNES.

*Commanding Royal Engineer's Office, Hobart Town,
17th September, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, with Telegraphic enclosures and Minute of His Excellency the Governor thereon. I had previously communicated to you my desire not again to give up the Commissariat Store at Launceston until such time as it had been inspected by an Officer of this Department; and this desire has been strengthened by a communication received through the Barrack Master, stating that nearly "one-half of a shed on the premises had been allowed to fall down." On receipt of your communication I had the honour of an interview with His Excellency; and his desire seemed so urgent that the Volunteer Company should have the use of the upper room for drill that I at once called on you to signify my compliance with this request, but was not fortunate enough to see you,—indeed the Offices were all closed at half-past two o'clock on Saturday. I am at a loss, in the face of a letter from myself, quoted by Lieut. J. O. Connor, of 27th June last, to understand how it is assumed that I should throw any obstacles in the way of the Launceston Volunteers; and deprecate the system that prevails, that when the Volunteers do not immediately obtain all they request, the Authorities are to be charged with a desire to place difficulties in the way of a movement I have so long advocated, and have so strenuously sought to improve.

I have desired the Barrack Master to order his Sergeant to attend and open the upper part of the building for the purposes of drill for the Launceston Volunteers, whenever they notify their desire to that effect.

I have the honour, &c.

W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON,
*Colonel Commanding Royal Engineer, and commanding
the Troops in Tasmania.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

COL. BROUGHTON's reply submitted to His Excellency. It does not appear to me to be a reply to the application made to the Colonel.

F. M. INNES,
17 Sept. 1860.

I CONCUR. Apply for a specific reply, and specification of the present Military purpose, if any, which would make compliance with the application to use the building, pending the decision of the Secretary of State, objectionable.

H. E. F. Y.

Colonial Treasury, 17th September, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of this date, referring to the Commissariat Store, Launceston, wherein you state that you "have desired the Barrack Master to order his Sergeant to attend and open the upper part of the building for the purposes of drill for the Launceston Volunteers, whenever they notify their desire to that effect."

Permit me to say that this is not a reply to my letter of the 13th instant; and I have now to request to be favoured with a reply to that letter (which was written under instructions from His Excellency the Governor), and that you will specify the immediate Military purpose which prevents compliance with the request that the Commissariat Offices in Launceston be handed over to the Local Government, pending the final decision of the Secretary of State as to their appropriation.

I have, &c.,

F. M. INNES.

*The Honorable Colonel E. DELVES BROUGHTON, R.E.,
Colonel commanding the Troops.*

*Commanding Royal Engineer's Office, Hobart Town,
18th September, 1860.*

SIR,

I REGRET to find my letter of the 14th instant was not considered sufficiently distinct as to the giving up to the Colonial Government the Commissariat Store at Launceston. I therein pointed out my desire to have this building inspected by an Officer of the Royal Engineer Department before again allowing it to be transferred for the various purposes (all damaging to the building) to which the Colonial Government have hitherto appropriated it.

This building, I may remind you, is one I have already recommended to the Secretary of State to be retained for Military purposes. I still adhere to that opinion, and shall take the earliest opportunity of referring the matter home, as I feel it is necessary some more definite instructions should be given as to Imperial properties generally,—regretting I cannot at once comply with your request further than to allow the Volunteers the use of the upper story for their drill. The Imperial Government possess valuable Barrack Stores at Launceston, without the necessary storage, and it is my intention to recommend that they should be removed to this building at once.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON,

Colonel Commanding Royal Engineer.

The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

SUBMITTED for the information of His Excellency, with copies of my letters to the Colonel, to which this purports to be a reply.

F. M. INNES.
19th September, 1860.

SAY to the Colonel I request to be furnished with copy hereof, which should have reached me at the time of transmission,—the building being then in Colonial use.

H. E. F. YOUNG.
September 19, 1860.

Launceston, 16th September, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to bring under your notice the following circumstances connected with the recent application made to the Colonel commanding the Troops for the temporary use of the unoccupied Commissariat Store, for the purpose of drilling the members of the Launceston Volunteer Artillery Corps, and which application that Officer has deemed it proper to refuse.

On the 26th of June last, the Secretary of the Corps made a similar application direct to the Colonel commanding, to which he received the following reply:—

“Hobart Town, 27th June, 1860.

SIR,

THE building in question of which the Launceston Volunteer Artillery Corps request the use has been in charge of the Colonial Government. Application shall be made to resume the occupation, when I shall have much pleasure in acceding to the request of the Artillery Company.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON.

GEO. P. HUDSON, *Esq., Hon. Sec. Launceston V. A. Company.”*

On the receipt of this communication steps were immediately taken to obtain the consent of the Colonial Government, which was most readily granted; and relying on the good faith of the Colonel Commanding, the members of the Corps went to considerable expense in having the room fitted up with gas to enable them to proceed with their Drill, which they commenced on the 2nd July, and prosecuted with the greatest assiduity and regularity for several nights, weekly, until the evening of 11th September, when, on going as usual to their parades, they found that the doors, by order of Colonel Broughton, were closed against them. I beg here, especially, to draw your attention to the circumstance of this step being taken without any warning whatever, or any previous notice having been sent to myself, which, in common courtesy, as Commanding Officer of the Corps, I was entitled to expect.

On the afternoon of the 14th instant, the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer did me the favour to transmit to me a Telegram, to the effect that Colonel Broughton was willing to grant for the use of the Corps the spare rooms in the Barracks. It is scarcely necessary for me to state that there is no room in the Barracks wherein a body of upwards of 140 men can be drilled. Possibly the Colonel Commanding is not aware that the accommodation there is altogether inadequate for such a purpose. The Commissariat Store is the only building in Launceston at all suitable for our requirements; and, on that account, I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that, if my application for the temporary use of the Store be finally refused, it will very materially tend to the breaking up of the Corps altogether. Permit me to remark that, as it is, this proceeding on the part of the Colonel Commanding has caused the very greatest dissatisfaction here, and will, I fear, prove highly detrimental to the success of the Volunteer movement on this side of the Island; a result, you will admit, much to be deplored in the present defenceless state of Launceston, now entirely without Troops, and also as tending to check the patriotic efforts of the Colonists generally.

I consider it my duty respectfully to appeal through you to the Governor in Council, begging that His Excellency will be pleased to take such steps which, under the circumstances, may seem most advisable.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

R. C. D. HOME, *Captain Commanding Launceston
Volunteer Artillery Corps.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

FORWARDED for the perusal of His Excellency the Governor.

WM. HENTY.

18th September, 1860.

REFERRED to the Colonel Commanding for his information, and to be returned.

H. E. F. YOUNG.

September 19, 1860.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 18th September, 1860.^o

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by direction of the Colonial Secretary, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, on the subject of temporary use of the unoccupied Commissariat Store at Launceston for the purpose of drilling the Members of your Corps.

In reply I am directed to inform you that the subject will receive every consideration from the Government.

I have, &c.,

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

R. C. D. HOME, *Esquire, Captain
Launceston Volunteer Artillery Company.*

Head Quarters, Hobart Town, 20th September, 1860.

SIR,

IN returning a letter from Captain Home, of the Launceston Volunteer Artillery Company, addressed to the Colonial Secretary, dated the 16th instant, and referred to me by your Minute of the 19th instant, I am most anxious to remove the unjust inferences contained therein. Captain Home writes either in total ignorance of the facts connected with the resumption of the building in question, or upon misrepresentation of the real state of the case. I am, therefore, most desirous to remove these impressions,—although at the same time, in the face of my letter of the 27th June last, I am at a loss to conceive how Captain Home could arrive at the conclusions he appears to have done, which, to say the least, have been very hasty.

The facts are simply these:—After having been kept out of possession of the building during the entire period of my command at this Station, it was notified to me on the evening of the 13th instant, that “the Director of Public Works had caused the keys of this building to be returned to an Officer of the Royal Engineer Department, and requesting that they might again be handed over to the Colonial Government.”

You will observe there is no mention of the Volunteers' wish to occupy this building for drill purposes; and I demurred to handing it back to the Colonial Government until it should have been inspected by an Officer of this Department, and wrote to the Colonial Treasurer to this effect. Subsequently, on Saturday, I had an interview with Your Excellency on this subject, when, finding how the matter stood with regard to the Volunteers, I at once acceded to their having the use of the upper story of the building, which was all they had ever required, and called on the Colonial Treasurer to say so. It appears the Government Offices are all closed at 1 o'clock on a Saturday, and I could not find him; I went therefore immediately to the Barrack Master, and requested he would at once order his Sergeant to open the building to the Volunteers whenever they notified their desire to drill, and which was done by him by the first post out of Hobart Town. I now ask Your Excellency what more I could have done, and where is the obstruction complained of?

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,

W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON,

Colonel Commanding the Troops in Tasmania.

His Excellency SIR H. E. F. YOUNG, C.B.

Government House, Hobart Town, 19th September, 1860.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of yesterday's date, addressed to the Colonial Treasurer, on the subject of the Commissariat Store at Launceston, and which has been placed in His Excellency's hands this day, I am directed by him to suggest to you that the Barrack Stores at Launceston, which you mentioned to His Excellency as now being in the Military Hospital attached to the Barracks, may be retained there or placed in some portion of the Barracks, instead of being removed to the Commissariat Store.

On Saturday last His Excellency informed you, that he authorised and requested you to transfer the Store temporarily for Colonial public uses, on the same terms as had been sanctioned by the Secretary of State in the case of the Main Guard-house in Hobart Town.

His Excellency cannot consider the now empty Barrack and Hospital insufficient or unsuitable for the temporary continued retention of the Barrack Stores, which are mentioned in your letter of the 18th instant; nor is it advisable that they should be removed from the Barracks or Hospital to the vacant Commissariat Store, which has for the last four or five years been occupied on sufferance by the Colonial Government, and is now urgently needed by the Military Volunteer Force at Launceston.

I am directed therefore to request that you will be so good as to make the transfer of the Store to the Colony as a temporary arrangement, subject to approval in England, and accept his authority and request as sufficient for so doing.

I have, &c.,

HENRY MAULE, *Aide-de-Camp.*

Colonel BROUGHTON, R.E., *Colonel Commanding.*

Head Quarters, Hobart Town, 20th September, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of yesterday's date on the subject of the Commissariat Building at Launceston.

Your Excellency is probably not aware that the occupation of a portion of the Barrack as a Store by the Barrack Master has already been objected to by the Major-General Commanding, and that it is contrary to all existing regulations.

The building in question having been in the occupation of the Colonial Government so long, was caused, I beg most respectfully to say, by their disinclination to give it up; and it has always been my intention, on getting possession of it, to convert it to the purposes of a Barrack Master's Store, for which it is well adapted, without expense to the Imperial Government.

Under the existing regulations of the guardianship of the Imperial property, sufficient authority is vested in myself as Commanding Engineer, without troubling Your Excellency for further authority in the appropriation of buildings; it being against all regulations, as stated above, to misappropriate Barrack accommodation,—it would be acting in defiance of all instructions to convert Barrack Rooms or Hospitals into Barrack Stores, even thought temporarily unoccupied.

The upper floor of the building, which it appears the Volunteer Artillery Company were allowed to occupy for the purposes of drill by the Colonial Government during their occupancy, has been continued to them.

I have only further to regret that this correspondence should have been found necessary, and that I should have been drawn into even the shadow of a difference with Your Excellency.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,
W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON,
Colonel Commanding the Troops in Tasmania.

His Excellency Sir H. E. F. YOUNG, C.B.

Commanding Royal Engineer's Office, Hobart Town, 20th September, 1860.

SIR,

IN reference to your letter of this date, requesting to be furnished with a copy of a letter which should have reached Your Excellency at the time of transmission, I have the honor to forward an extract of the remark on the Return of Imperial properties furnished annually to the Government, and which does not appear to come within the category of communications copies of which are furnished to Your Excellency.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,
W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON,
Colonel Commanding Royal Engineer.

His Excellency Sir H. E. F. YOUNG, C.B.

EXTRACT from Annual Statement of War Department Property in Tasmania, forwarded by the Commander Royal Engineer, on the 13th July, 1859, to the Authorities in England.

“ COMMISSARIAT STORE, LAUNCESTON.

THIS Building and Plot of ground, though temporarily given up to the Colonial Government, I strongly recommend to be retained by the War Department, from the circumstance of its being the only lot in their possession bearing on the Wharf at Launceston, and which it would be very desirable to keep.”

Head Quarters, Hobart Town, 20 September, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your assent to an Address from the Legislative Council, which I shall have the honor of referring home for instructions.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your Excellency's most obedient humble Servant,
W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON,
Colonel Commanding the Troops in Tasmania.

His Excellency SIR H. E. F. YOUNG, C.B.

Commanding Royal Engineer Office, Hobart Town, 19th September, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward a correspondence that has recently taken place relative to a building at Launceston, which it is sought on the part of the Colonial Government to obtain. It will be remembered that this building is one I particularly recommended in my Statements of Property, 1858 and 1859, should be retained on the part of the Imperial Government, on account of its locality and right of wharfage. So long as a Barrack exists at Launceston, I am clearly of opinion still that it should not be given up. It may not be required as a Commissariat building, but as Barrack Stores it is necessary. At present the Barrack Master is constrained to fill the Hospital building at the Barrack with bedding and all other stores for want of a sufficient place of storage. This evil has been recently remarked upon by the Major-General Commanding, consequent on a report from the Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, and was only not reported home, as I was in daily expectation of obtaining possession of the building in question, but which was only given up to me last week, after having been misapplied to all sorts of purposes, such as a storage for powder, straw, &c., as an Emigrant Depot, and in fact to any use which could furnish a pretence for retaining it. I need hardly say it was with difficulty I regained the possession, and request to be supported in retaining it.

The tendency, naturally perhaps, on the part of the Colonial Government is to obtain possession of all the Imperial buildings which can be made available to themselves. In this way the Officers' Quarters at Launceston, the Old Guard House at Hobart Town, and other buildings have been obtained by them, which were severally reported upon at the time, and approved, on my recommendation, by the Secretary of State for War. I have directed the Barrack Master to retain possession of this building as his Barrack Store, and request your authority confirming its occupation for this purpose.

I have, &c.,

W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON,
*Colonel Commanding Royal Engineer, and
Commanding the Troops in Tasmania.*

The Under Secretary of State for War.

Head Quarters, Hobart Town, 21st September, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, in continuation of my letter and enclosures of the 19th instant, to forward a further correspondence that has taken place in reference to the building at Launceston. You will perceive His Excellency has requested the building to be given over to the Colonial Government, and that I have pointed out to him the instructions bearing on the subject. The upper part of the building had been already conceded for the use of the Volunteers, so far complying with His Excellency's wishes; but I still most strongly recommend that this building should not be given up to other purposes than those I have recommended in my letter of the 19th instant.

I have, &c.

W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON,
Colonel Commanding the Troops in Tasmania.

The Secretary of State for War.

Head Quarters, Hobart Town, 21st September, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward the assent of His Excellency the Governor of this Colony to an Address of the Legislative Council, requesting to be informed to what extent similar applications may have been allowed, and pointing out that the Military Stores here are available for the Australian Colonies generally, on application from the Major-General Commanding, who I am precluded from consulting in consequence of his absence at Taranaki, New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON,
Colonel Commanding the Troops in Tasmania.

The Secretary of State for War.

Government House, Hobart Town, 22nd September, 1860.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, and the copies of your letters of the 19th and 21st instant, to the Secretary of State for War.

As you decline to make the transfer of the Launceston Commissariat Store to the Colonial Government on the terms already approved by the Secretary of State in the case of the Hobart Town Guard-house, the matter must remain in abeyance until determined by higher Military authority.

I regret that you should have thought it your duty to obstruct the wishes of the Local Government under the existing circumstances of the Volunteer movement, and the absence of Troops in Launceston, and have directed the Barrack Master to retain possession of the Commissariat Store as his Barrack Store.

My unaltered conviction is, that the Secretary of State will view the concession as one you ought to have made (subject to approval in England) at the request of the Governor and his Ministers, and in the spirit of the Parliamentary Address transmitted for your information.

I have, &c.,

H. E. F. YOUNG.

Colonel BROUGHTON, R.E., Commanding the Troops in Tasmania.