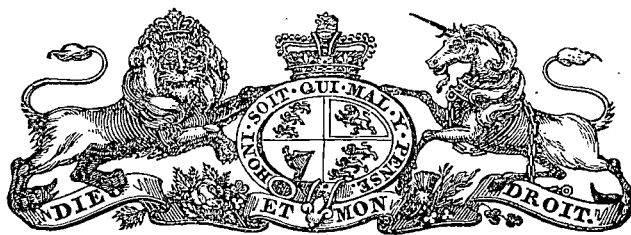


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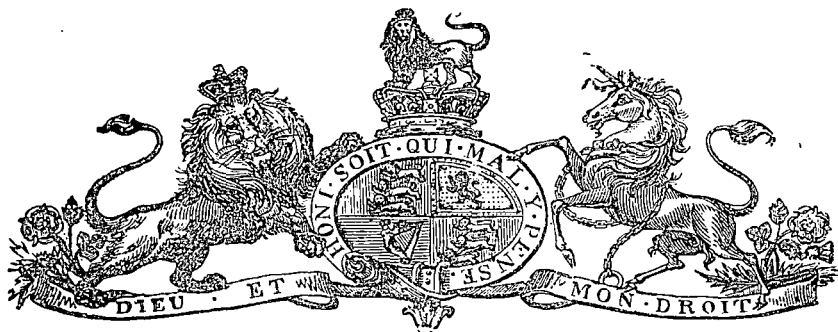
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

FISHERIES DEPARTMENT:

CORRESPONDENCE.

Return to an Order of the House of Assembly. (Mr. Huston.)

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Attorney-General, October 6, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, November 12, 1886.



*CORRESPONDENCE between the Salmon Commissioners and Chief Secretary
as to the Relations between the Salmon Commissioners and MR. SAVILLE KENT.*

Hobart, 11th June, 1884.

SIR,

REFERRING to the recent appointment of a Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries, whose arrival in Tasmania is shortly expected, I have to draw your attention to the present position of this Commission, whose duties are "to assist His Excellency in the management and general superintendence of the Salmon Fisheries throughout the Island."

It is evident that the Commissioners will have control over the Inspector in his position as Superintendent of the Salmon Ponds only; and as it is very undesirable that the responsibility of the officer in question should be divided between two departments, I have the honor, by instruction of the Commissioners, to submit for consideration the desirability of a reconstruction of the Commission so as to embrace the Fisheries of the Colony generally.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY BUTLER,
Pro Chairman Salmon Commissioners.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 19th July, 1884.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE much pleasure in introducing you to Mr. W. Saville Kent, F.L.S., Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries, who has just arrived from England.

The Government intend shortly to appoint a Commission to have the control and management of the Fisheries of this Colony; and in the meantime I shall be glad if you will afford Mr. Kent all the assistance and information you can.

I remain, &c.

WM. MOORE.

R. C. READ, *Esq., Chairman Salmon Commissioners.*

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 31st July, 1884.

SIR,

PENDING ulterior arrangements, I shall feel obliged by your placing yourself in communication with the Chairman of the Salmon Commissioners, and by your acting in concert with that body in all matters relating to Pisciculture in Tasmania.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

W. SAVILLE KENT, *Esq., F.L.S., Hobart.*

84, Davey-street, 1st August, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of yesterday's date, directing me to place myself in communication with the Chairman of the Salmon Commissioners, and to act in concert with that body in all matters relating to Pisciculture. I shall take great pleasure in carrying out your instructions in this direction with the least possible delay.

I have, &c.

W. SAVILLE KENT.

The Hon. WM. MOORE, Chief Secretary, Hobart.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 5th August, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, for the information of the Salmon Commission, copy of a letter dated the 31st ultimo, addressed to Mr. W. Saville Kent, F.L.S., Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

The Chairman of the Salmon Commissioners.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 31st July, 1884.

SIR,

PENDING ulterior arrangements, I shall feel obliged by your placing yourself in communication with the Chairman of the Salmon Commissioners, and by your acting in concert with that body in all matters relating to Pisciculture in Tasmania.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

W. SAVILLE KENT, *Esq., F.L.S., Hobart.*

Hobart, 29th October, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE been directed by the Salmon Commissioners to draw your attention to my letter of 11th June last, proposing a reconstruction of this Commission, so as to embrace the Fisheries of the Colony generally.

The present relations of the Commissioners with the Inspector of Fisheries are anomalous and inconvenient, and I have to express a hope that the matter will receive the early attention of the Government.

I have, &c.

A. G. WEBSTER,
Pro Chairman Salmon Commissioners.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 31st October, 1884.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 29th instant, I have the honor to inform you that a Bill is now being prepared for submission to Parliament, with the view of providing for the maintenance and protection of the fish industries generally throughout the Colony.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS.

The Chairman of the Salmon Commissioners.

Hobart, 6th March, 1885.

SIR,

IN my letter of the 29th October last, the Commissioners pointed out the desirability of the relations between the Inspector of Fisheries, Mr. Saville Kent, and themselves being more definitely settled, and in reply to that communication you informed the Commissioners that a Bill was then being prepared to provide for the maintenance of fisheries generally. That Bill has now become law (48 Vict. No. 23); and the Commissioners having had it under their consideration, have instructed me to submit to you that the provisions of it, so far from settling the respective positions of the Commissioners and the Inspector towards each other, appear to them calculated to enhance

the uncertainty which they complained of, and to increase the danger of misunderstandings and want of harmony. For whilst the authority of the Salmon Commissioners is entirely ignored, the Inspector is directed to act wholly under the direction of the Chief Secretary, and is thus rendered entirely independent of the Commissioners, even in matters connected with the Salmon Breeding Establishment, which has hitherto been more immediately under their control.

The Commissioners observe, however, that under the 2nd Section of the Act the Governor in Council has the power of framing regulations for all matters connected with the fisheries; and they desire me to suggest that in these it may be provided that the Salmon Breeding Establishment at the Plenty, or elsewhere, and all matters connected with the introduction and propagation of the salmonidæ, shall be carried on under their direction and authority.

The Commissioners request me to point out that a large shipment of salmon ova, which has been obtained under their instructions, will shortly arrive in the colony, and that, whilst they are most anxious to avail themselves of Mr. Kent's professional knowledge and skill in the disposal and treatment of the ova at the ponds, they deem it peculiarly desirable that before being thrown into close relations with him in this important matter, a clear understanding should be arrived at that he is to act with and under their authority.

If you should consider it desirable, the Commissioners will be prepared to depute two or three of their number to wait upon you and discuss any matters upon which you may wish for information.

I have, &c.

J. W. AGNEW,
Pro Chairman Salmon Commissioners.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 6th March, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that your letter of this day's date, on the subject of the relations between the Salmon Commissioners and the Inspector of Fisheries, will be laid before the Chief Secretary immediately on his return to town in the course of next week.

I have, &c.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

The Chairman of the Salmon Commissioners.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 19th March, 1885.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 6th instant, on the subject of the relations between the Salmon Commissioners and the Inspector of Fisheries, I have the honor to inform you that the Commissioners at present have full charge and control of the Salmon Ponds at the Plenty, and that Mr. Saville Kent will be happy at any time to render any assistance they may require.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS.

The Chairman Salmon Commissioners.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 16th June, 1885.

MY DEAR DR. AGNEW,

As the Salmon Commission is now sitting, I should be glad if you would obtain from them an expression of their views as to the most effectual means of securing and promoting the success and progress of the fisheries of the Colony generally.

I remain, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS.

*The Hon. J. W. AGNEW, Chairman
Salmon Commission, Hobart.*

Hobart, 16th June, 1885.

MY DEAR MR. DOUGLAS,

WHEN your note of the 16th instant, requesting the advice of the Salmon Commissioners for the fisheries of the Colony, reached my hands, the Commissioners were discussing the accompanying Resolution which, on its adoption, I was directed to forward to you.

You will observe that, although the creation of the office of Inspector of Fisheries was suggested by the Royal Commission on the Fisheries of the Colony, the details of his salary and duties were fixed, and the active steps for his appointment were taken by the Salmon Commission, with the approval of the Government; and that the Commissioners from the earliest period contemplated the appointment of a General Fishery Board, under which the Inspector would act.

The agreement in London as signed by Mr. Saville Kent in no way prevents his acting under such a body, as it is therein specified he is to "carry out the instructions of the Chief Secretary or other duly authorised officers of the Government;" and the appointment of Mr. Kent was made by Mr. Brady under the terms of the letter of the Chairman to the Chief Secretary of 5th July, 1883, which defined one of his duties—"to act as general adviser to the present Salmon Commission, or to the General Fishery Board suggested by the Royal Commission, should such a board be appointed."

Very sincerely yours,

J. W. AGNEW.

The Hon. ADYF DOUGLAS.

RESOLUTION.

The Salmon Commissioners having had under their consideration the following facts:—

That on 20th September, 1882, the Royal Commission on the Fisheries of Tasmania, in their Report, page 24, recommended "that for the better protection of the fisheries of the Colony generally, the general administration, control, and direction of all matters relating to sea and inland fisheries be vested in one Central Board, working under the Governor in Council; and that a skilled Inspector be appointed to carry out the Regulations to be fixed from time to time by the said Board."

On 25th May, 1883, the Salmon Commissioners at a meeting discussed certain proposals of Mr. E. Shoobridge, amongst others, that a skilled Superintendent of the Salmon Ponds should be introduced from Europe; at the same time they discussed the above recommendation of the Royal Commission, and decided to wait upon the Chief Secretary in support of the latter recommendation.

On 23rd June, 1883, the Salmon Commissioners waited upon the Chief Secretary and urged the appointment of an Inspector of Fisheries, who would also act as Superintendent of the Salmon Ponds Establishment, when the Chief Secretary desired information as to the salary and duties of such an officer.

On the 5th July, 1883, the Chairman wrote to the Chief Secretary stating proposed salary and duties of the officer, one of his proposed duties being, "to supervise the Salmon Ponds Establishment and to act as general adviser to the present Salmon Commission, or to the General Fishery Board suggested by the Royal Commission on Tasmanian Fisheries, should such a board be appointed."

On 24th November, 1883, the Chairman wrote to the Chief Secretary referring to his letter of the 5th July, and to the vote of Parliament for the office of Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries, suggesting that the Government invite Mr. Brady, Inspector of Irish Fisheries, to select the officer.

On 30th November, 1883, the Chief Secretary replied approving of the Commissioners suggestions, but proposing that the Commissioners should communicate with Mr. Brady.

On 5th December, 1883, the Chairman replied accepting the task, but proposing that they be authorised to submit to Mr. Brady certain terms upon which the appointment was to be made.

On the 31st December, 1883, the Chief Secretary acceded to the proposals of the Commissioners, and approved of the terms of appointment.

On January, 1884, the Chairman wrote to Mr. Brady, asking him to favour the Commissioners "by conferring the appointment in question upon some person who in your opinion would be competent to undertake the duties indicated in the enclosed copy letter to the Chief Secretary of 5th July last, suggesting the creation of the office"—(the copy letter is the one hereinbefore referred to in page 1).

On 25th March, 1884, Mr. Brady replied that he had obtained the services of Mr. Saville Kent, "who will, I am sure, prove equal to the duties devolving upon an Inspector of Fisheries for Tasmania, on the terms mentioned in your letter."

On 6th May, 1884, the Chairman wrote to the Chief Secretary announcing that Mr. Brady had appointed Mr. Saville Kent.

On 15th May, 1884, the Chief Secretary approved of the appointment.

On 11th June, 1884, the Chairman wrote to the Chief Secretary referring to Mr. Saville Kent's probable early arrival, and proposed a reconstruction of the Salmon Commission so as to embrace the fisheries generally.

On July, 1884, Mr. Saville Kent arrived in Hobart.

On 19th July, 1884, the Chief Secretary wrote to the Chairman introducing Mr. Saville Kent, and that "the Government intend shortly to appoint a Commission to have the control and management of the fisheries of this Colony."

On 5th August, 1884, the Chief Secretary wrote to the Chairman forwarding copy of a letter he had addressed to Mr. Saville Kent,—the copy letter stating that, pending ulterior arrangements, "Mr. Kent was to act in concert with that body (the Salmon Commission,) in all matters relating to pisciculture in Tasmania."

On 29th October, 1884, the Chairman wrote to the Chief Secretary drawing his attention to his, the Chairman's, letter of 11th June, and pointing out that the present relations of the Commissioners with the Inspector are anomalous and inconvenient, and asking that the matter may receive early attention.

On 31st October, 1884, the Chief Secretary replied that a Bill was being prepared to provide for the maintenance and protection of the fish industries generally throughout the Colony.

On 6th March, 1885, the Chairman wrote to the Chief Secretary referring to former correspondence, pointing out that the Bill referred to had become law, but that it only enhanced the difficulty previously pointed out, and asking that there should be a clear understanding as to the relations of the Commissioners with the Inspector.

On 19th March the Chief Secretary replied that the Commissioners have at present full charge and control of the Salmon Ponds, and that Mr. Saville Kent would be happy to render any assistance they may require.

That inasmuch as many of our indigenous fish frequent the same waters as the imported Salmonidæ, and for other reasons, it is in their opinion inevitable that divided authority in dealing with interests so interwoven must clash, and so tend to neutralise the advantages so far attained and hoped for in the future from a long expenditure of public money. They therefore submit to the Government the propriety of either resolving the present Salmon Commission into the Board contemplated by the Royal Commission, and by the Chief Secretary's letter of 19th July, 1884, or of forming a new Board; Mr. Saville Kent, the Inspector, acting under the authority and control of such Board.

Fisheries Department, 19th October, 1885.

SIR,

A LARGE portion of the salmon fry per s.s. *Yeoman* having now been distributed, and there being abundant space to spare at the Government establishment on the River Plenty, I beg leave to apply for permission to utilise two of the Ponds, with their connecting streams, and two of the troughs in the hatching-house recently constructed to my plans, for the purpose of artificially cultivating certain of the more valuable freshwater fishes of this Colony.

I propose to include in this category more especially the Cucumber Mullet or Herring, the Blackfish of the northern rivers, and the large freshwater Lobster, all of which, I am of the opinion, might be artificially propagated in large quantities, and turned with advantage into many of the rivers at present inadequately stocked with fish.

A brief intimation, should such be necessary, on your part to the Salmon Commissioners that you would wish practical effect to be given to my application will, I am sure, meet with their cordial support; and feeling confident that you will yourself approve of the attention I propose to direct towards the protection and propagation of our valuable, but hitherto much neglected, indigenous species,

I have, &c.

W. SAVILLE KENT,
Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

FORWARDED to the Chairman of the Salmon Commissioners for the consideration of the Commissioners.

ADYE DOUGLAS.
21st Oct. 1885.

Hobart, 24th October, 1885.

SIR,

IN reference to the letter of Mr. Saville Kent, dated 19th instant, forwarded by you for the consideration of the Commissioners, and in which Mr. Kent applies for the use of certain of the hatching-boxes, ponds, and rills at the Salmon Ponds Establishment, I have the honor to inform you that the matter was duly considered at a meeting of the Commissioners held on the 22nd instant, when the following Resolution was adopted :—

“That whilst the Salmon Commissioners are alive to the desirability of taking steps to preserve the fish indigenous to the Colony, they deprecate the surrender of any part of the limited accommodation provided at the Plenty for the breeding of various species of Salmonidæ, it being their decided opinion that, in order to secure the establishment of these valuable fish in Tasmanian waters, further importations of ova will be needed.”

I am also requested by the Commissioners to state that the various streams of the Colony can readily be stocked with Blackfish, by means of their fry, from any of the rivers already supplied with that species. The South Esk River has already been stocked in this way.

The ova of the Cucumber Mullet can at any time be procured in unlimited quantities from several of the Northern rivers.

I have, &c.

J. W. AGNEW, *Chairman Salmon Commissioners.*

The Hon. Chief Secretary.

FORWARDED for the perusal of the Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
28th Oct. 1885.

Fisheries Department, 31st October, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to return the communication remitted to you by the Chairman of the Salmon Commissioners in response to my application for the use of certain of the ponds, rills, and hatching-troughs at the River Plenty for the culture and propagation of specified varieties of Tasmanian freshwater fish.

After carefully perusing this communication I cannot but imagine that their unexpected refusal to grant the application made is based upon an imperfect comprehension of the concession sought. In place of asking the Commissioners to permanently surrender any portion of the ponds, troughs, or streams occupied in the culture of imported salmonidæ, I have to point out more fully that the application was made for the temporary use only of such of these as were not in use for such purposes, or that could not possibly be so utilised during the interval that I required them.

There is thus one at least of the ponds with its connecting streams which has been standing empty for many months, for which there is no immediate use, and which I was led to understand some time since would be at my disposal when required for the experimental culture of the large freshwater lobster. The troughs in the hatching-house, again, which I propose to use later on for the development of the ova of the cucumber mullet, are already partly unoccupied, and will be entirely so a few weeks hence. It will be at least six months, May or June, before they be again used for the ova of the imported salmonidæ, and in the interim my operations would be completed and the troughs again empty.

If on reconsideration of the subject with this fuller explanation the Salmon Commissioners consider themselves justified in withholding the concession sought, in so far as the present accommodation at the Salmon Ponds is concerned, I have to propose that there being ample space upon the ground leased by the Government for the Salmon Ponds Establishment for the construction of additional ponds and connecting rills, one or more such ponds shall be constructed and placed at my disposal for the purpose indicated. In like manner the hatching-house having been enlarged to my plans for the express purpose of providing accommodation for hatching operations on an extensive scale, and in a variety of directions, I would propose to add one or more troughs suitable for my requirements in the unoccupied space in the hatching-house that is available for such purposes.

Should the above proposition be unfavourably entertained, no other course will be left open to me but to recommend the inauguration of a separate establishment for the culture of indigenous freshwater fish, and which proposition, in face of the superabundant space and facilities to spare at the River Plenty, cannot but appear to you as a very undesirable duplication of expenditure.

I must point out, in conclusion, that the Salmon Commissioners have been either misinformed as to the facts, or are practically unacquainted with the breeding habits of the Cucumber Mullet, relative to their statement that "the ova can at any time be procured in unlimited quantities from several of the northern rivers." The spawning season of this fish is restricted to certain of the earlier autumn months (February to April), and the collection, fertilisation, and successful development of the ova demands, on account of their minute size, as much or more technical skill than is involved in the treatment of the ova of the ordinary Salmonidæ. The method by which I propose to treat the ova, and restock the Derwent and other rivers of this Colony with this valuable food fish, is fully described in pages 12 and 13 of my recently published Report. Regarding the Blackfish, I beg leave to observe that while the transport to a river such as the South Esk of fry obtained from other adjacent streams is a very easy process, the stocking of rivers such as the Derwent, that are situated at a long distance from their natural haunts, would be much more effectually and economically achieved by the maintenance of a breeding stock of the fish in question in a pond specially prepared for their reception.

Trusting that the suggestions laid before you will recommend themselves to both your approval and to the acceptance of the Salmon Commissioners,

I have, &c.

To the Hon. the Chief Secretary.

W. SAVILLE KENT,
Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries.

P.S.—I should mention that the cost of the proposed additional ponds and apparatus at the River Plenty, if approved, would be defrayed out of my estimate of expenditure for the Fisheries Department for the year 1886, and will involve no outlay whatever of the funds placed at the disposal of the Salmon Commissioners.

FORWARDED for the further consideration of the Salmon Commissioners.

ADYE DOUGLAS.
2nd Nov. '85.

Board Room, 20th November, 1885.

SIR,

REFERRING to Mr. Saville Kent's renewed application of the 21st ultimo for the use of a portion of the Salmon Ponds for a certain period, I beg to state the matter was brought without delay under the notice of the Salmon Commissioners.

After careful consideration the Commissioners, in reply, have thought it advisable to draw up a statement on the entire subject, which I have now the honor of submitting for your information.

I have, &c.

J. W. AGNEW, *Chairman.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

WITH respect to the renewed application of Mr. Saville Kent, the Commissioners, having given it careful consideration, see no good reason for altering their former decision.

It is natural that the views of Mr. Saville Kent and the Salmon Commissioners should differ with respect to the management of the ponds, rills, and hatcheries on the Plenty. The reason is obvious. Mr. Kent, with the natural enthusiasm of a student of general biology, has sympathies of wider range than the field to which the Commissioners consider themselves restricted—viz., the culture and protection of a limited number of important food fishes.

Mr. Kent's temptation, therefore, will be to cause the true objects of pisciculture to be overshadowed by matters which more properly appertain to general biology.

That there is a serious temptation to a specialist in drawing the line between the objects of his favourite studies and that of his proper duties is apparent from the close relation which they often bear to each other as regards the fascination of the study of marine zoology generally for its own sake. Dr. Romanes, in his recent work on Jelly-fish, Starfish, and Sea-urchins, writes that "a summer's work resembles the pleasure-making of a picnic prolonged for months, with the sense of feeling all the while that no time is being profitlessly spent. Whether one is sailing about upon the sunny sea fishing with muslin nets for the surface fauna, or steaming away far from shore to dredge for other material, or, again, carrying on observations in the cool sea-water tanks and bell-jars of a neat little wooden workshop thrown open to the sea breezes, it alike requires some effort to persuade oneself that the occupation is really something more than that of finding amusement."

It is not surprising, therefore, that Mr. Saville Kent should prefer to occupy himself as a student of zoology in Tasmania rather than restrict himself to his proper duties as Inspector of Fisheries, for which he was originally appointed by the Government through the mediation of the Salmon Commissioners.

That Mr. Kent has already succeeded in establishing himself as the sole student of a marine zoological station in Tasmania is only too apparent by the provision made in the Estimates for 1886. The sum provided for that year, viz. £1598, exceeds that provided for the Salmon and Trout Breeding Establishment by £1178; and, however conscientious the officer may be, there is no guarantee that the greater portion of the expenditure of this sum may not be determined by the interests of a zoologist's private studies rather than by the actual need of the duties properly appertaining to the Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries. The honest fulfilment of the conditions under which Mr. Kent was appointed to act, a *Central Board of Supervision* is the only safeguard against possible abuse of this kind. With such considerations it is natural that the Salmon Commissioners should strongly object to the grave danger of the gradual conversion of the establishment at the Plenty into a mere naturalist's laboratory. At the same time, individually and collectively, they may fairly claim to have disinterestedly and zealously devoted more of their time during many years to matters connected with the protection and propagation of our important indigenous fishes, and the welfare of our fisheries generally, than any other class of persons in Tasmania.

The Commissioners are indeed sorry to write in this strain, as they are also of opinion that if the Colony is disposed to afford the necessary expense it would be a great gain to education if a properly equipped zoological station was maintained in Tasmania where zoological students generally, as well as the Inspector, might avail themselves of such favourable conditions for the pursuit of important studies. But they have been compelled to speak out plainly on this matter, since Mr. Kent ungraciously is only too prone to attribute ignorance to the Commissioners on all matters where they have the misfortune to differ with him in opinion. With regard to the habits, distribution, and variability of Tasmanian fishes, as well of pisciculture, the Commissioners can fairly claim to have considerable experience. The only works on these subjects yet published with reference to Tasmania are the products of some of their number, and the evidence and Report of the Fisheries Commission, largely composed of members of the Salmon Commission, substantially contain all the important recommendations subsequently adopted and submitted by Mr. Kent in his Report for the year 1885.

In the Report of the Fisheries Commission, 1883, the habits and spawning season of the Cucumber Mullet are recorded, and even Mr. Kent himself is indebted for information on this subject to one of the Salmon Commissioners, who actually guided Mr. Kent and assisted him in the capture of the gravid fish. Mr. Kent deserves much credit for his zeal in this matter; but surely it is neither dignified nor candid on his part under these circumstances that he should attempt to make it appear that the Commissioners were ignorant of the spawning season of the Cucumber Mullet. The phrase used "at any time," is unjustifiably expanded so far as the meaning which the Commissioners intended to convey is concerned.

With regard to the Cucumber Mullet (*Prototroctes marana*), there is good evidence to show the various rivers had never wholly been depopulated by the original wide-spread plague about 17 years ago, and even now the Commissioners are pleased to learn from various sources that they are again rapidly increasing in waters thought to be wholly untenanted. It is probable, therefore, that natural causes are again working round to favour their development in the waters where they were once so abundant. The Commissioners would willingly give up a portion of the hatchery on the Plenty for the culture of this fish were it not that they are very anxious now to obtain one more importation of *eyed* salmon ova in order that the success of the salmon experiment may be assured. Mr. Brady, Inspector of Fisheries for Ireland, in a letter just received, strongly recommends this course, and is again generously prepared to assist the Commissioners in every way. His opinion on a practical matter of this kind is of the highest value.

As regards the Blackfish (*Gadopsis marmoratus*), the Commissioners desire to point out that nearly all the rivers in the Island northward from Rocky Hills on the south-east to the tributaries of the Arthur on the north-west are already stocked, and that there would not be the slightest difficulty to stock the southern waters with the fry.

Moreover, it must be borne in mind that a considerable modification of the ordinary means of hatching must be adopted with respect to the small eggs of these fish, if conducted upon a sufficiently large scale. To hatch them successfully on a large scale would require the importation or local construction of special incubators, such as the automatic chase jar, or the improved box incubator used by the Northville Hatchery in America in the incubation of the eggs of the White Fish. Particulars of these incubators are given pp. 261-2, vol. 2, Bulletin of the United States Commission for 1882. Such a form of hatchery could easily be erected in town at little expense.

With regard to the Fresh water Lobster (*Astacopsis Franklinii*), the Commissioners are astonished that Mr. Kent should propose to breed this predatory and burrowing crustacean anywhere near the artificial and natural salmon redds, rills, and ponds on the Plenty. No matter what care was taken, there would be the greatest danger to the eggs and fry of all kinds of fish by the introduction of the lobster anywhere near the breeding grounds, where the natural enemies of the young salmon are already too abundant.

The destructive habits of the burrowing Lobster in the neighbourhood of the ponds, rills, etc. is also a matter of considerable importance.

Finally, the proposed joint occupation of the Salmon Ponds by two independent departments whose functions so overlap each other would lead to constant irritation and confusion, as previously indicated by the Commissioners when urging the centralisation of all matters relating to Tasmanian fish and fisheries; and the original recommendation of the Fisheries Commission, and of this Commission, was "for the better protection of the fisheries of the Colony generally, we recommend that the general administration, control, and direction of all matters relating to sea and inland fisheries be vested in one central Board working under the Governor in Council, and that a skilled Inspector be appointed to carry out the Regulations to be fixed from time to time by the said Board." It was under the exact terms of this recommendation, which was approved by the Government, that the present Inspector was engaged by Mr. Brady on behalf of the Government of Tasmania.

As the original intention has been departed from in a matter which the Commissioners deem to be of vital importance, and as they are not desirous of perpetuating a system which involves division of authority and responsibility, they are prepared to give way to enable the Government to devise some means to centralise and harmonise the working of the two departments. The perpetuation of the present unsystematic division of management must inevitably bring the two departments into unprofitable collision.

CORRESPONDENCE *RE* APPOINTMENT OF MR. SAVILLE KENT TO THE FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

EXTRACT from Resolution of Salmon Commissioners forwarded to the Chief Secretary, 30th May, 1883, when an interview was asked for:—

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*

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They submit—

- " 1. That the recommendation of the Royal Commission as to the appointment of an Inspector of Fisheries be given immediate effect to."
- " 2. That the question of construction of new ponds should be considered after the appointment and arrival of the Inspector."

[23 June, 1883.] The Salmon Commissioners waited upon the Chief Secretary, when he desired information as to salary and duties of the Inspector.

Hobart, 5th July, 1883.

SIR,

REFERRING to the interview of the Salmon Commissioners with you on Saturday, the 23rd ultimo, at which they urged the appointment of an Inspector of Fisheries who would also act as Superintendent of the Salmon Ponds Establishment, when you desired information as to the proposed salary and duties of such an officer, I may mention that the office of Superintendent of the Salmon Ponds has existed for many years and was formerly filled by the late Mr. Ramsbottom. After his death the vacancy was not supplied, but the office, without any salary, has been annually inserted in the Estimates.

The duties devolving upon the Inspector would be—

1. To supervise the Salmon Ponds Establishment, and to act as general adviser to the present Salmon Commission, or to the General Fishery Board suggested by the Royal Commission on Tasmanian Fisheries, should such a Board be appointed.
2. To exercise a general control over the fisheries of the Colony, under Regulations to be prepared.
3. To advise and assist any private efforts to establish fish-ponds or oyster-beds throughout the Colony.

The salary of such an officer should not exceed £350 per annum, with an allowance for travelling expenses.

He should be a man of fair educational attainments, with a thorough knowledge of pisciculture and with practical experience. A special qualification as to artificial ostriculture should, however, be indispensable.

The present value of the Tasmanian fisheries, with the scope existing for their extension, as pointed out by the Royal Commission, induce the Commissioners to submit that the officer's services might reasonably be expected in a short time to become reproductive.

The great difficulty under which the Salmon Commissioners have for a long period laboured has been the absence of that skilled advice which, if available, might have led to the imported Salmonidæ being now regular market-fish, and of greater value to the Colony than they at present are.

There are several matters in connection with the imported Salmonidæ which lack attention. Their habits under new conditions, and the physical obstructions to the necessary movements of the fish during the spawning season, all require the study of one skilled in such matters, whose time could be devoted to such a purpose.

It is unnecessary to point out the value to the Colony of a well-ordered salmon fishery.

The evidence taken by the Royal Commission on the former productiveness of the oyster-beds of Tasmania, which, from an annual supply of 22,350,000 oysters, has now been reduced to about 100,000, shows how a highly important industry has been almost lost to the Colony.

The great success attending artificial ostriculture in other countries should be an encouragement for a skilled effort to establish such a fishery in our waters.

If the recommendations of the Royal Commission be given effect to by the appointment of a Fishery Board, it will be necessary that statutory power be provided to make Regulations for the government of the fisheries. The Inspector would Act under the Board in carrying into effect such Regulations.

I have &c.

H. BUTLER,

pro Chairman Salmon Commissioners.

The Honorable W. MOORE, Chief Secretary.

Redlands, 24th November, 1883.

SIR,

REFERRING to my letter of the 5th July last, copy of which I enclose, and to the vote of Parliament for the office "Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries," I have the honor, by direction of the Salmon Commissioners, to suggest that it would be a desirable course for the Government to invite Mr. Thomas F. Brady, Chief Inspector of Irish Fisheries, who, as you aware, has already rendered service to this Colony, to select a gentleman suitable for the office in question, whose qualifications would enable him to perform the duties indicated by the letter above referred to.

The Commissioners submit that the appointment should be for three years certain, contingent upon the person selected possessing the requisite qualifications for the office.

I am desired to urge that in view of the probable early arrival of a consignment of salmon ova, the appointment should be made with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.

MATTHEW SEAL,

pro Chairman Salmon Commissioners.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 30th November, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th instant, referring to your former communication of the 5th July, respecting the appointment of "Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries;" and in reply, to inform you that the Government approve of the suggestion contained

in that letter, and would propose that the Commissioners should place themselves in communication with Mr. Thomas F. Brady and request his co-operation in the selection of a gentleman possessing the qualifications specified by you, on the terms mentioned in the letter now under acknowledgment.

The Government fully recognise the desirability of this appointment being made as early as may be, consistent with the requisite caution in selecting a thoroughly competent officer.

I have &c.

The Chairman of the Salmon Commissioners.

WM. MOORE.

Hobart, 5th December, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, replying to mine of the 24th, respecting the appointment of "Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries," and proposing that the Commissioners should place themselves in communication with Mr. Brady, and request his co-operation in the selection of a gentleman possessing the necessary qualifications for the office.

The Commissioners willingly accept your proposal; but before addressing Mr. Brady they would submit, for your approval, that they be empowered to authorise that gentleman to offer the appointment on the following terms:—

1. As already approved—a salary of £350 per annum, with £50 per annum travelling expenses, and an engagement for three years certain.
2. That the gentleman selected be allowed a first-class passage to Tasmania.
3. That his appointment shall take effect from the date of his embarkation.
4. That he be entitled to half salary from date of embarkation until arrival in Hobart.
5. That he be advanced two months' half salary for purchase of outfit, should he require any advance.
6. That the Crown Agents be instructed to meet the expense of passage and advance for outfit.

I have, &c.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

A. G. WEBSTER,
pro Chairman Salmon Commissioners.

Chief Secretary's Office, 31st December, 1883.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, having reference to the proposed appointment of a "Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries," and requesting that the Commissioners may be empowered to authorise Mr. Brady to offer the following terms, namely:—Salary at £350 per annum. Travelling expenses, £50 per annum. Engagement for three years certain. First-class passage to Tasmania. Appointment to take effect from the date of embarkation. Half salary from the date of embarkation until arrival in Hobart. An advance of two months' half salary for purchase of outfit, should such advance be required.

In reply, I have to inform you that the Government are prepared to accede to the request of the Commissioners, and the Crown Agents will be instructed accordingly; but to prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding, I desire to point out that the passage will not include the Superintendent's wife or family, should he be a married man.

I have, &c.

The Chairman Salmon Commissioners.

WM. MOORE.

Hobart, Tasmania, January, 1884.

SIR,

AT the instance of this Commission, the Government of Tasmania have provided for the appointment of a "Superintendent (of Salmon Ponds) and Inspector of Fisheries"; and they have proposed that the Commissioners should place themselves in communication with you and request your co-operation in the selection of a gentleman possessing the necessary qualifications for the office.

Fully realising the interest you have always shown in our efforts to establish salmon in these waters, I trust you will not consider that the Commissioners are imposing too much upon your time in asking you to favour them by conferring the appointment in question upon some person who in your opinion would be competent to undertake the duties indicated in the enclosed copy letter to the Chief Secretary, of 5th July last, suggesting the creation of the office.

The salary and emoluments of the office, and other conditions of the appointment which you are authorised to offer, are—

1. Salary of £350 per annum.
2. Travelling expenses, £50 per annum.
3. Engagement for three years certain.
4. First-class passage to Tasmania.
5. Appointment to take effect from date of embarkation for Tasmania.
6. Half salary from date of embarkation until arrival in Hobart.
7. Advance of two months' half salary for purchase of outfit, should such advance be required.

The Crown Agents of the Colony in London, Messrs. Julyan, Sargeaunt, Ommanney, and Blake, Colonial Office Buildings, Downing-street, have been instructed in the matter, and will comply with conditions 4 and 7 upon application.

To prevent the possibility of any misunderstanding, the passage will not include the Superintendent's wife or family, should he be a married man.

I venture to express a hope that you may be enabled to send us a gentleman who will render good service to Tasmania.

I have, &c.

R. C. READ,
Chairman Salmon Commissioners.

F. BRADY, *Esq., Inspector of Irish Fisheries,*
Dublin Castle, Dublin, Ireland.

Office of Irish Fisheries, Dublin Castle, 25th March, 1884.

SIR,

ADVERTING to your letter of January last, I have now the pleasure to inform you that I have succeeded in obtaining the services of a gentleman who will, I am sure, prove fully equal to the duties devolving on an Inspector of Fisheries for Tasmania, on the terms mentioned in your letter. His name is Mr. W. Saville Kent, and is a distinguished scientist, and very highly recommended by one of the first scientific men in England, Professor Huxley. I enclose you a copy of his testimonials, and he will sail for Tasmania in June, of which I have given the necessary intimation to the Colonial Agents.

Mr. Kent has undertaken the duties in the hope that the office may become permanent, and the remuneration increased, which I have informed him I would express to you for the information of your Government.

I have only to express a hope that this appointment may lead to satisfactory results to the Colony, and that the salmon ova sent out by me may prove a success.

I have, &c.

THOS. F. BRADY.

R. C. REID, *Esq., Chairman Salmon Commissioners, Hobart.*

Downing-street, London, 25th April, 1884.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 7th January last, No. L144, and to inform you that Mr. Brady has selected Mr. Wm. Saville Kent, F.Z.S. and F.L.S., to fill the post of Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries in Tasmania, and that he has arranged to leave England by one of the Orient line of steamers about the end of May next.

I enclose a counterpart of the agreements we have entered into with Mr. Kent, and, at his request, we have agreed to advance him two months' half pay on account of his outfit.

I have, &c.

W. F. OMMANNEY.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Tasmania.

FORWARDED for the information of the Chairman of the Salmon Commissioners.

WM. MOORE.
2nd June, 1884.

AGREEMENT made this 25th day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, between WILLIAM SAVILLE KENT, of 87, St. Stephen's Avenue, Uxbridge Road, in the County of Middlesex, of the one part, and the undersigned, one of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, of Downing-street, London, in the County of Middlesex, for and on behalf of Her Majesty, of the other part.

WHEREAS William Saville Kent hath been duly appointed Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries in Tasmania, at a salary of Three hundred and Fifty Pounds (£350) per annum, and hath been paid the sum of Twenty-nine Pounds Three Shillings and Fourpence (£29 3s. 4d.) as an advance on account thereof: Now the said William Saville Kent, in consideration of the premises, doth hereby agree with the said undersigned, one of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, that he, the said William Saville Kent, will repay the said advance of Twenty-nine Pounds Three Shillings and Fourpence (£29 3s. 4d.) to the Colonial Treasurer of Tasmania in such manner as the Governor of the said Colony may see fit to direct, or should he, the said William Saville Kent, refuse or neglect to proceed to, or depart this life before reaching the said Colony, or relinquish his appointment before such advance hath been repaid, he, the said William Saville Kent, or his executors or administrators, will refund and repay to the Colonial Secretary of the Government of the said Colony for the time being, or to the Crown Agents for the Colonies in London for the time being, the said sum of Twenty-nine Pounds Three shillings and Fourpence, or such proportion thereof as may then remain due.

As witness our hands the day and year above written.

Signed by the said WM. SAVILLE KENT, in the presence of N. HARDINGHAM, Downing-street, London, S.W.	} W. SAVILLE KENT.
Signed by ERNEST EDWARD BLAKE (one of the Crown Agents for the Colonies as aforesaid), in the presence of N. HARDINGHAM, Downing-street, S.W.	
	} E. E. BLAKE.

ARTICLES of Agreement made the seventeenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-four, between the undersigned, one of the Crown Agents for the Colonies, of Downing-street, London, in the County of Middlesex, acting for and on behalf of the Government of Tasmania (hereinafter called the Government), of the one part, and WILLIAM SAVILLE KENT, F.L.S. and F.Z.S., of 87, St. Stephen's Avenue, Uxbridge Road, in the County of Middlesex, of the other part.

WHEREAS the said William Saville Kent has been appointed Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries of Tasmania, upon the terms and conditions hereinafter set forth: Now therefore these Presents witness that, in consideration of the premises and for the consideration hereinafter appearing, the said parties do hereby mutually agree, one with the other of them, as follows:—

1. That the said William Saville Kent agrees to proceed to Tasmania when directed by the said Crown Agents, there to perform the duties of a Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries for the period of Three years, commencing from the date of his embarkation for the Colony, subject to renewal for such further period and on such terms as may be agreed between the Government and the said William Saville Kent, if the Government still require his services.

2. That the said William Saville Kent shall, on his arrival in the Colony and during the time he shall continue in the service of the said Government, reside in such place, and carry out the instructions of the Chief Secretary of the Colony or other duly authorised officer of the Government; and he shall not, either directly or indirectly, without the permission of the Government, engage or be concerned in any other service or business whatsoever, but shall devote the whole of his time and attention to the service of the Government, and shall use his utmost exertions to promote the interests of the Government.

3. That the said William Saville Kent shall be paid a salary at the rate of Three hundred and Fifty Pounds (£350) per annum. Half salary to commence from the date of embarkation, full salary from the date of arrival in Hobart. An allowance for travelling expenses of Fifty Pounds (£50) per annum will also be made to the said William Saville Kent.

4. That the Government shall provide the said William Saville Kent with a free first-class passage to the Colony and (if his services should not be retained on the due and satisfactory termination of this Agreement) back again to England; and if the said William Saville Kent shall be compelled by reason of ill-health, not caused by his own misconduct, to resign his appointment within the said period of Three years, and produces a Certificate signed by the Colonial Surgeon to that effect, the said Government shall provide him with a free first-class passage to England.

5. That, if the said William Saville Kent shall at any time neglect or refuse, or from any cause (illness excepted, as provided in Clause 4) become unable to conform or comply with all or any of the articles of this Agreement, or all or any of the duties required of him, or all or any of the orders of the Government or any duly authorised officer of the same, or shall in any manner misconduct himself, it shall be competent for the said Government to declare the employment of the said William Saville Kent at an end, and he shall be forthwith dismissed by the said Government; and all rights, benefits, and advantages reserved to him by this Agreement shall cease, and he shall be liable to be called upon to repay the amount paid for his passage to the Colony.

6. The said Crown Agents shall not be in any way personally liable for anything arising out of this Agreement.

As witness our hands the day and year above written.

Signed by MONTAGU FREDERICK OMMANNEY (one of
the Crown Agents as aforesaid), in the presence of } M. F. OMMANNEY.
W. HARDINGHAM, Downing-street, S.W.

Signed by the said WILLIAM SAVILLE KENT, in the
presence of W. P. MALLAM, 169, Uxbridge Rd., W., } WILLIAM SAVILLE KENT.
Surgeon and Physician.

To the Honorable WILLIAM MOORE, Chief Secretary to the Government of Tasmania.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that I arrived at Launceston on the 15th, and at Hobart on Wednesday evening, the 16th instant; the voyage from England (Gravesend), where I embarked on board the Orient steamer *John Elder*, having occupied a period of seven weeks, dating from Wednesday, May 28th.

I herewith hasten to place myself at the disposal of yourself and the gentlemen forming the Board of the Salmon Commission in connection with the appointment of "Inspector of Fisheries" to which you have been pleased to nominate me.

Assuring you that my best energies will be devoted to the promotion and more profitable development of the fishing industries of Tasmania concerning which my services have been engaged,

I have, &c.

W. SAVILLE KENT.

Pressland House, Melville Street, July 18th, 1884.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 19th July, 1884.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE much pleasure in introducing you to Mr. W. Saville Kent, F.L.S., Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries, who has just arrived from England.

The Government intend shortly to appoint a Commission to have the control and management of the Fisheries of this Colony, and in the meantime I shall be glad if you will afford Mr. Kent all the assistance and information you can.

I remain, &c.

WM. MOORE.

R. C. READ, Esq., *Chairman Salmon Commissioners.*

Hobart, 18th July, 1885.

MY DEAR SIR,

A question has arisen in relation to the terms of Mr. Kent's appointment, which has caused the Commissioners to direct me to enquire from you the nature of the correspondence which passed between yourself and Mr. Kent prior to his acceptance of the office he now holds.

The principal point upon which information is sought is this—Whether, prior to the acceptance of the office, Mr. Kent knew that he would have to work under some Board, or if he was led in any way to believe that he would be subordinate to a Minister of the Crown without reference to any Board?

Did you at any time furnish Mr. Kent with a copy of the Chairman's letter to the Chief Secretary of 5th July, 1883, which was forwarded to you in the Chairman's letter of January, 1884, asking you to confer the appointment upon some person competent to perform the duties indicated in the letter of 5th July?

If the correspondence which passed between you and Mr. Kent is not voluminous, you may possibly see no objection to causing me to be furnished with a copy. At the same time would you kindly indicate how the Fisheries Department is worked in England and Ireland?

You will be glad to hear that there are upwards of 30,000 fry in our hatchery, as the result of the "*Yeoman*" shipment. I hope your queries have been answered by Mr. Kent; he distinctly promised me that he would write you on the points raised.

Apologising for troubling you so much,

Yours, &c.

PHILIP S. SEAGER, *Secretary Salmon Commissioners.*

THOS. F. BRADY, *Esq., Dublin.*

11, *Percy Place, Dublin, 27th September, 1885.*

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM in receipt of your letter of 18th July, and now send you a copy of Mr. Saville Kent's letter to me and my reply to him, which are all the material letters on the subject of his appointment. I cannot trace anything to show me that I sent him a copy of the Chairman's letter of July, 1883, to the Chief Secretary. The letter of the Chairman to me dated January, 1884, which really in substance dealt practically with the whole matter, was sent to him, and this treats of an Inspector of Fisheries under the Salmon Commissioners.

The Fisheries Department in England is under the control of the Home Secretary—only one Inspector. In Ireland under the Lord Lieutenant—three Inspectors. In Scotland the Fisheries are managed by a Board of Commissioners and Inspectors under them.

I am very pleased to hear that you have as many as 35,000 fry alive from the *Yeoman* shipment, but am greatly disappointed at not getting any report or observations with regard to the state of the ova in each box as numbered to correspond with my report. I was particularly desirous of having this for my own information and guidance.

If you are thinking of getting out a batch of eyed ova, I should get instructions at once to prepare a place on the river side. No difficulty about this, and far less expense than before. It need only be removed when vessel ready to receive it, and may be all brought ready packed to London at once. About a week before Christmas best time to take the ova,—and might then be despatched latter end of January or beginning of February. You need not hesitate to call on me; whatever I can do will afford me pleasure—and I really think you ought to get out say about 100,000, or even 200,000 eyed. You will then have done everything in your power.

Believe me, &c.

THOS. F. BRADY.

P. S. SEAGER, *Esq.*

I would be greatly obliged if Mr. Saville Kent would send me his report on each lot opposite to my observations, or even by number.

W. SAVILLE KENT to THOS. F. BRADY.

15th March, 1884.

MY DEAR SIR,

PROFESSOR Huxley has written to me suggesting that I might be inclined to offer myself as a candidate for a post connected with the Tasmanian Fisheries to which you have the appointment. He quotes briefly the terms stated in your letter, and refers me to you for further information.

So far as I am at present in a position to judge I am much attracted by the idea, but there are necessarily many points that I must enquire into before entering my name as a candidate. In the first place, I should like to know what my precise duties will be, and what title or position will be connected with the appointment, as, for example, that of a Fishery Commission Assistant, Commissioner, Scientific Adviser, Director, or Inspector of Fisheries, or what? I also particularly wish to know, provided that I give satisfaction to the Government, whether the appointment will be made a permanent one at the end of three years; and whether I may look forward then to an improved emolument? Tasmania is rather a long way off to be stranded with no occupation after so relatively short an engagement.

Compared with the wages paid to servants, mechanics, and others in that region, and taking into consideration the information I have gained so far with respect to the expenses of living, I find, again, that the emolument offered is so small that, except for the fact that I have some private means

at disposal, I could not afford to accept the appointment. In the direction of an increased emolument, I would enquire whether additional Government work could not be found me in the way of assisting the further development of the Hobart Natural History Museum, or in the establishment and superintendence of a special museum, with aquaria, for fish culture. The systematic dredging and exploration of the Tasmanian seas is another subject I should delight to take in hand, and which would well repay the cost. If by any one or more of such supplementary services the salary proposed could be raised to a total of £500 per annum, I should be prepared at once to accept the offer—such a salary, I may mention, is no more than I was formerly in receipt of as naturalist and curator to various of our large public aquaria. I must not forget to ask you how soon, in the event of my being appointed, I should be required to embark? It will necessarily entail such a revolution of all my domestic arrangements, and there are so many other matters requiring attention, that I should be glad of the longest possible delay.

I may further tell you that within the last few months I have been greatly interesting myself in a scheme of establishing a zoological station in this country, and with which, if I persevere, there would be, I think, a good chance of success. The enclosed circular will explain matters. There is, furthermore, an influential meeting to be held at the Royal Society's Rooms, with Professor Huxley in the chair, on the 31st instant, for the founding of a Society having for its aim the establishment of zoological stations generally, and for carrying out a systematic biographical survey of the British seas. My Brighton scheme may or may not be one direction in which operations may be commenced, but in any case there are those who will bring forward my claims for association with whatever undertaking is decided on. I should like to be allowed to delay my final decision until we see what is likely to be the upshot of this meeting. The Tasmanian region at the same time offers beyond doubt a grand field for original work, and this fact is in itself to me a great temptation. I trust therefore that the questions I have put with reference more particularly to the future permanent character of the appointment, and to the likelihood of an increased emolument, may admit of a favorable reply. I enclose with this copies of testimonials that were given to me at the time when there seemed to be a probability of augmenting our Home Fisheries Staff, and which would, I think, be appreciated by the colonial authorities. Since, however, Professor Huxley has been kind enough to recommend me to your notice, such additional testimonials in my favour will, I anticipate, in at least your own case, be superfluous. Looking forward to the receipt of your reply to this communication,

I am, &c.

W. SAVILLE KENT.

THOS. F. BRADY to W. SAVILLE KENT.

17th March, 1884.

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM in receipt of your note of the 15th instant, on the subject of the appointment of an Inspector of Fisheries for Tasmania, and think it best to give you the extracts from the letters from the Government, which I enclose, as they will give you all the information I possess.*

I could not say whether the appointment will be made permanent by the Government or not; but I cannot imagine it being only temporary if all went on smoothly and satisfactorily—I think that would depend greatly on the Inspector of Fisheries himself. I cannot say anything about either increased remuneration or additional Government work being obtained—the gentleman who may be selected must take chance for all this.

The Tasmanian Government are anxious that the gentleman selected should go out as soon as possible, but no precise time has been named; a reasonable time should naturally be given to anyone to get ready his affairs. On this head I should like to know about what time you could go if selected, and I will communicate with the Colonial Agents. I am authorised by the Tasmanian Government to make the appointment at once without further reference, and from your testimonials and what Professor Huxley has stated, I would have no hesitation about offering you the appointment if you will be able to go out in any reasonable time. I shall be glad of an early reply.

Yours faithfully,

THOS. F. BRADY.

May I ask if you have any particular knowledge on the subject of *Ostreiculture*?

Mr. Kent wrote to me on the 20th March, 1884, accepting the appointment, and expressing a hope that I would mention to the Tasmanian Government that he had accepted it in the hope

* NOTE.—Extracts enclosed in my letter :—The whole of letter signed by R. C. Read, Chairman, dated January, 1884, addressed to me—save paragraph relating to Crown Agents. This letter contained, amongst other things, "engagement for three years certain."—T. F. B.

that the appointment would be made a permanent one in the event of his performing his duties satisfactorily, and that he might look forward in the future to improved emolument.

On the 23rd March I wrote to Mr. Saville Kent that I agreed he should start for Tasmania on the 1st of June, and to call on Mr. Ommanney, Crown Agent; that I would communicate his suggestions when writing to the Government.—See my letter dated 25th March, 1884, to R. C. Read, Chairman Salmon Commission.