

(No. 59.)



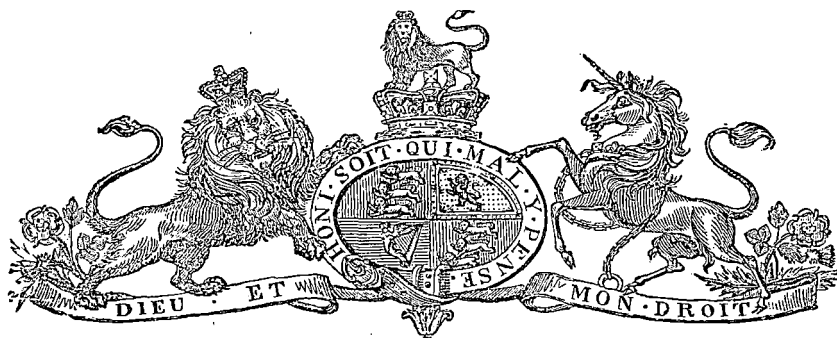
1861.

T A S M A N I A.

COMMISSARIAT STORE, LAUNCESTON.

CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO ITS TRANSFER FROM THE
COLONIAL TO THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.

Presented by Mr. Innes, and ordered by the House to be printed,
12 September, 1861.



[DEMI-OFFICIAL.]

Head Quarters, New Plymouth, Taranaki, 31st October, 1860.

MY DEAR SIR HENRY,

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th September, with its enclosures. I have not with me the correspondence relative to the Hospital and Barracks at Launceston therein referred to, but I have no doubt that I objected to Hospitals and Barracks being filled with stores when they were occupied by troops, and when there were other places for their reception in the place belonging to the Imperial Government.

It is very desirable to cherish the Volunteer movement; and I agree with the concluding portion of the "Progress Report" you sent to me; and as there are now no regular troops in Launceston, if there is room for the Barrack stores in the Barracks, and they can be stored there with safety, I can see no objection to the Colonial Government having the use of the Commissariat Store as a temporary measure, with the distinct understanding that it shall be restored to the Troops when the Barracks are re-occupied, or when it is otherwise required for Imperial purposes, and in as good order as when lent to the Colonial Government: all this, of course, subject to the decision of the War Department.

There is one portion of this correspondence which I do not understand. It appears to me that Colonel Broughton, in giving the upper floor of the store gave all that was asked for by the Volunteers, but that the Colonial Government require the whole store. I must presume that they do this for purposes connected with the Volunteer movement, and not for such ones as would deteriorate the building.

I enclose a letter on the above subject, which I request you will forward to Colonel Broughton.

Believe me,
Very faithfully yours,

G. S. PRATT.

To His Excellency SIR H. YOUNG, C. B.,
Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief, &c., Tasmania.

I have no copy of my letter of 29th September, but my belief is, it merely transmitted the printed correspondence; but I will write to-day to General Pratt for a copy.

H. E. F. YOUNG.

2nd September, 1861.

*Deputy Adjutant-General's Office, New Plymouth,
Taranaki, 31st October, 1861.*

SIR,

I AM directed by the Major-General Commanding to acquaint you that a number of documents relating to the occupation of a Commissariat Store for the use of the Volunteers at Launceston, have been sent to him by His Excellency the Governor.

Time will not admit of the matter being referred to you; and, as the Major-General is anxious to encourage in every way the Volunteer movement, he requests, that if the Barrack Stores can be safely placed in the Barracks at Launceston, now unoccupied by Troops, you will dispose of them in this manner, and hand over the Commissariat Store to the Colonial Government as a temporary measure, as he has stated to His Excellency, with a distinct understanding that it shall be restored to the Troops when the Barracks are re-occupied, or when otherwise required for Imperial purposes, and in as good order as when so lent, pending such decision as the War Department may send out.

I have, &c.,

ROBERT CAREY, *Deputy Adjutant-General.*

To Colonel BROUGHTON, *Royal Engineers,
Tasmania.*

(No. 59.)

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*Commanding Royal Engineer's Office,
23th November, 1860.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, covering an enclosure from Major-General Pratt, respecting the Commissariat Stores, at Launceston. Not having been made acquainted with what His Excellency may have written to General Pratt, I am at a loss to reply. The more so, as from the tenor of the Major-General's letter it would appear that it has not been communicated to him that the accommodation sought for by the Launceston Volunteers was at once conceded to them by me: a fact well known to His Excellency at the time he made his communication to the Major-General.

I have, &c.,

W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON, *Colonel Commanding Engineers,
Commanding Troops in Tasmania.*

The Aide-de-Camp, Government House.

Government House, Hobart Town, 28th November, 1860.

SIR,

THE Adjutant-General's letter of 31st October last, addressed to you, was enclosed by the General to me, with a request that I would forward it to you. This was done yesterday, and is acknowledged by your letter to my Aide-de-Camp. I decline further correspondence with you on this matter. I shall await the effect of the General's instructions to you. The whole correspondence as printed and laid before Parliament at your request was forwarded by me to the General.

I have, &c.,

H. E. F. YOUNG.

Colonel BROUGHTON, R.E.

Colonial Treasury, 3rd December, 1860.

THE Colonial Treasurer presents compliments to Colonel Broughton, and in reference to the subject on which the Colonel was good enough to call upon him on Saturday, the Treasurer now begs to state, that he has just received copy of the Adjutant-General's letter to Colonel Broughton, through His Excellency the Governor, and he will be glad to know when it is the intention of Colonel Broughton to comply with the General's instructions, so as to enable the Local Government, without loss of time, to provide for the necessary repairs in the Commissariat Building, Launceston.

Commanding Royal Engineer's Office, 3rd December, 1860.

COLONEL BROUGHTON presents his compliments to the Colonial Treasurer. He knows nothing of any copies that may have been made of Despatches forwarded to him through His Excellency Sir H. Young. He considers he has already anticipated the Major-General's instructions, and it certainly is not his intention, as Guardian of Imperial property in this Colony, to give up possession of the Commissariat Store at Launceston, which he has communicated already to Major-General Pratt.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

Government House, 4th December, 1860.

MY DEAR GENERAL,

I REGRET to inform you that Colonel Broughton yesterday, in writing, declined compliance with your instructions to hand over the Launceston Store to the Colonial Government.

I enclose the Correspondence.

Believe me to be,
Very faithfully yours

H. E. F. YOUNG.

*Major-General PRATT, C.B.,
Commanding the Forces, Taranaki.*

Head Quarters, Hobart Town, 21st March, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward a Copy of Despatch dated 4th January, 1861, from the Secretary of State for War relative to the building at Launceston, and sanctioning that building being "temporarily placed at the disposal of the Colonial Government, on their undertaking to maintain it in proper repair, and consenting to surrender the same in good order to the War Department whenever it may be required for Imperial purposes."

On receipt of this undertaking, I shall be ready, in compliance with the above instructions, to hand it over to the Colonial Government, on Her Majesty's stores being removed, unless they can be allowed to remain where they are for security.

I have, &c.

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

War Office, 4th January, 1861.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 19th and 21st September, 1860, forwarding copies of a Correspondence that had taken place between the Colonial authorities and yourself, relative to the transfer of a building at Launceston known as the "Commissariat Store" to the Colonial Government.

I am to inform you, in reply, that it appears to Mr. Secretary Herbert, that sufficient evidence is not shown why the building in question might not be handed over temporarily for the use of the Colonial Government as requested.

He has therefore decided that, should no material change as to the disposition of the Troops have taken place since the date of the correspondence of a nature to render the building absolutely requisite for Military purposes, the building in question is to be temporarily placed at the disposal of the Colonial Government, on their undertaking to maintain it in proper repair, and consenting to surrender the same in good order to the War Department whenever it may be required for Imperial purposes.

I am, &c.

B. HAWES.

*The Officer Commanding the Troops,
Hobart Town, Tasmania.*

Colonial Treasury, 22nd March, 1861.

SIR

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st instant (inadvertently addressed to the Colonial Secretary), forwarding Copy of a Despatch, dated 4th January, 1861, from the Secretary of State for War relative to the building at Launceston known as the Commissariat Store, and "sanctioning that building being temporarily placed at the disposal of the Colonial Government on their undertaking to maintain it in proper repair, and consenting to surrender the same in good order to the War Department whenever it may be required for Imperial purposes."

And, in reply, I have the honor to state, that these being the conditions under which the Local Government applied for the building in question, there can be no hesitation now on its part in engaging to perform them.

In reference to the removal of the stores at present in the building, I shall do myself the pleasure of addressing you on receiving a report from the Director of Public Works; but you may safely rely on the wish of the Government to consult the convenience of the War Department, while taking advantage of the accommodation which has been so promptly conceded by the Right Honorable the Secretary of State.

I have, &c.

F. M. INNES.

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

REFERRED to Director of Public Works to report.

W. HENTY, *pro Treasurer.*
9th April, 1861.

9th April, 1861.

I HAVE the honor to report that, the Commissariat Buildings authorised by the Secretary of State to be handed over to the Colonial Government are urgently required, and it is absolutely necessary for the requirements of the Colonial Service that the portion now occupied with Imperial stores should be taken over with the least possible delay. The articles in store can be transferred to the buildings in Charles-street, from whence they were taken.

W. R. FALCONER, *Director of Public Works.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 10th April, 1861.

SIR,

WITH reference to my letter of the 22nd ultimo, respecting the Commissariat Store at Launceston, I have the honor to inform you, that having communicated with the Director of Public Works, that Officer reports, that the buildings authorised by the Secretary of State to be handed over to the Colonial Government are urgently required, and that it is highly necessary for the requirements of the Colonial Service that the portion now occupied with Imperial Stores should be transferred with the least possible delay.

I shall therefore feel obliged by your issuing the necessary instructions for the removal of the stores referred to, which might possibly be effected to-morrow, and the handing over the custody of the building to the Director of Public Works.

I have, &c.,

W. HENTY, *pro Treasurer.*

Colonel W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON, *C.R.E*

[TASMANIA.]

Head Quarters, Hobart Town, 11th April, 1861

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated 10th April, 1861, respecting the store at Launceston, which, coupled with the letters from the Commanding Officers of the Volunteer Corps at that Station, demonstrates the fact, that it has not been for the Volunteers that this building has been sought on the part of the Colonial Government.

The necessary order to remove Her Majesty's stores, and to hand over the building to the Colonial Government, has been given to the Barrack Department.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

W. E. DELVES BROUGHTON,

Colonel Commanding the Troops in Tasmania.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Treasury, 23rd April, 1861.

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt, on my return from Melbourne, of your letter of the 11th, reporting that the necessary orders had been given to the Barrack Department to hand over Launceston Store to the Colonial Government.

I am desired to express the regret of the Governor in Council that this communication has not been limited to the mere announcement of your obedience to the Secretary at War's decision of 4th January, 1861, corroborating as it does, in effect, the instructions of the Major-General Pratt, of 31st October, 1860, with which you had declined compliance.

Had your letter been thus restricted to what alone was necessary, it would have obviated an addition, on the part of the Local Government, to a protracted and unpleasant correspondence, which, for all practical ends, is now closed satisfactorily to it, by the Secretary at War affirming the precise conditions which the Government proposed and the Major-General prescribed.

The inaccurate and supererogatory portion of your communication calls for notice however, lest, if passed over in silence, it may give rise to continued future misrepresentations. You infer, from the enclosure to my letter, and from the letters of Volunteer Officers, that the fact is demonstrated, "it has not been for the Volunteers that the Launceston Store has been sought on the part of the Colonial Government."

It ought to be unnecessary to remind you that you have already been informed, verbally and in writing—everywhere, indeed, throughout the correspondence,—that the whole building known as the old Commissariat Store, formerly occupied in its entirety by the Colonial Government for various purposes (prior to your arrival) from the time when it was wholly disused for Commissariat Stores was the express and precise application which you refused; and the Government desired to be allowed to have it restored to them for several Colonial purposes, and more especially in 1860 for the Volunteer force. Obviously, one floor—which was the persistent limit of your tardy concession—could be no substitute for the “building in question” mentioned in your letter of 27th June, 1860; nor could one floor be of equal value to “the Old Commissariat premises” asked for in my notes of the 13th and 17th September, 1860; nor could one floor be the “Commissariat Store,” the use of which you objected to on the 14th September for Volunteer purposes proposing the substitution of “Barrack Rooms” that were known to be unsuitable as a place for drill.

The Parliamentary Address communicated to you officially on 20th September, 1860, among other aids to the Volunteer Force, expressly mentioned “buildings required for drill practice and orderly rooms.”

The Governor in Council then is surprised to find, notwithstanding these plain and distinct intimations of the designs of the Local Government, or in utter disregard of them, and contrary to the ordinary rules of intercourse, instead of accepting and acquiescing in the Government's interpretation of its own intentions, you have been pleased to reiterate an allegation which contradicts its repeated assertions that the Volunteer movement is one of the public purposes for which more accommodation is needed in the Launceston Store.

Orderly Rooms have been needed since the movement originated, and it has been an instruction to the Director of Public Works to arrange for them at the earliest possible time for service of all the Northern Volunteer Corps after the restoration of the Store to the public uses of the Colony.

I am also desired to make a further statement, which tends to put the subject which you have needlessly revived in a light in which it did not appear at the date at which the correspondence was printed for Parliament at your instance.

It is obvious that the need of storage for Barrack Stores is stated on your part, throughout the correspondence, to constitute the necessity for lodging them in the Commissariat Store, and retaining this building from again reverting to Colonial control.

On the 11th December last, a fact comes to light which was not mentioned in any part of your prolonged correspondence, as to the urgent need of the old Commissariat Stores as a Barrack Store; and this fact not transpiring in this manner as might naturally have been expected, it escaped the attention of the Local Government, until brought to notice by the Director of Public Works, when required by you at that date to empty the store to receive the Imperial Barrack Stores.

The fact is, viz., that there was, all the time, in Charles-street, Launceston, a Military Barrack Store, fitted up with shelving and all usual requirements, and that from thence the Barrack Stores left in the unoccupied Barracks and Hospital were actually taken for the use of the detachment of the 12th Regiment, on their arrival in Launceston.

Had this fact not been omitted from your correspondence, it would have enabled the Local Government, the Major-General, and the Secretary at War, to estimate aright the validity or the cogency of the reasons on which the Commissariat Store was alleged to be needed by you as a Barrack Store, when the Military Barrack Store in Charles-street is capable of answering every purpose, and of being made better than ever, as the Colonial Director reports for £50 to be expended in shingling and repairs.

In conclusion, I have only to say, that the Director of Public Works' letters and mine, on which you erroneously rely for your view of the case, were prompted by the instructions he had received to extend additional accommodation to the Volunteers in the building in question. I beg also to observe that, as an Officer of rank, it must be patent to you that letters of Volunteer Officers, expressing opinions different from those entertained by their Colonial Superiors, are unsuitable to be used as countervailing the wishes and plans of the Colonial Government; and I beg to remind you that the only Commanding Officer of a Volunteer Company who has written on the subject of accommodation for the Volunteers is Captain Home, whose letter is adverse to your opinions. The other Officers are an Adjutant and a Lieutenant, whose correspondence took place with you on your recent Military visit to Launceston, and their opinions are incompetent and irregular opinions conveyed to you unnecessarily on Volunteer business, to the neglect of their authorised Lieutenant-Colonel and Commanding Officer.

I have, &c.,

F. M. INNES.

*Colonel Broughton, R.E., Commanding the Troops,
Tasmania.*

[Received 12th September, 1861.—H.E.F.Y.]

Head Quarters, Melbourne, 9th September, 1861.

SIR,

IN compliance with the request contained in Your Excellency's letter of September, 1861, I have the honor to forward a copy of your letter to me dated 29th September, 1860.

I have the honor to be,

Your Excellency's most obedient Servant,

G. S. PRATT, *Major-General Commanding.*

His Excellency SIR HENRY YOUNG, C.B.,
Governor, Tasmania.

(Copy.)

Government House, Hobart Town, 29th September, 1860.

MY DEAR GENERAL,

I REGRET very much having to trouble you with copies of a correspondence with Colonel Broughton, R.E., on the subject of a Commissariat Store at Launceston, which has (on sufferance) been used by the Colonial Government for the last five years, but which has recently been resumed as a Military Building, in order, as the Colonel states, to the storage of Barrack Stores, although the Barracks and Hospital at Launceston are empty.

I enclose copy of my Despatch on the subject to the Secretary of State, and have expressed my intention to communicate with you.

I entertain the hope that the accommodation of the Store in question may be obtained, under your directions, from the Colonel earlier than from the Secretary of State.

I beg very sincerely to express my hope that the extremely arduous and peculiar difficulties of the native insurrection at Taranaki may be capable of being effectually overcome by the limited means at your disposal.

Believe me to be, &c.,

H. E. F. YOUNG.

P.S.—The "authority and request" which I, as Civil Governor, repeatedly conveyed to the Colonel was not meant to be instead of his Military authority, but in support of it, if it should be exercised in this case at my instance.

True Copy.

R. CAREY, *Lt.-Col., D.A.G.*

Major-General PRATT, C.B.,
Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in Australia.