

(No. 130.)



1869.

T A S M A N I A.

CAPTAIN GILMORE'S CLAIM.

REPORT FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE.

Brought up by Mr. Davies, and ordered by the House to be printed, October 21,
1869.

SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED, OCTOBER 12, 1869, TO CONSIDER THE
CLAIMS OF CAPTAIN GILMORE.

MEMBERS.

MR. ADYE DOUGLAS.		MR. LETTE.
MR. J. REID SCOTT.		MR. DAVIES.

DAYS OF MEETING.

14th, 15th and 21st October.

WITNESSES EXAMINED.

The Honorable T. D. Chapman, Esq.
Ronald C. Gunn, Esq.



REPORT.

YOUR Committee have the honor to report that, having had under consideration the whole of the evidence which could be obtained in the Colony, and to which they invite the attention of your Honorable House, they have come to the conclusion that the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer would not be justified in recognising the claim of Captain Gilmore to the additional sum of Three hundred Pounds.

JOHN DAVIES, *for the Chairman.*

Committee Room, 21st October, 1869.

MINUTES OF MEETING.

No. 1.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1869.

Present—Mr. Douglas, Mr. J. R. Scott, Mr. Lette.

1. On the motion of Mr. Scott, the Chair was taken by Mr. Douglas.
 2. Mr. R. C. Gunn to be summoned as a Witness for to-morrow at 11.
 3. The Correspondence to be laid before the Committee at its next meeting.
- The Committee adjourned to Friday at Eleven o'clock.

No. 2.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1869.

Present—Mr. Douglas, Mr. Davies, Mr. Lette, Mr. J. R. Scott.

1. The Chairman stated the claim as it appeared from the Correspondence laid on the Table.
 2. Mr. Colonial Treasurer was called in and examined.
 3. Mr. Ronald C. Gunn was called in and examined.
 4. *Ordered*, That a Letter be written to the Colonial Secretary for Sir R. Dry's communication to Captain Gilmore, of 24th August, 1867, and any correspondence between June and December, 1867.
- The Committee adjourned to Three o'clock to-day.

No. 3.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1869.

The Committee met at 11:15 A.M. in accordance with the Order of the House.

Present—Mr. Davies, Mr. Lette, Mr. J. Reid Scott.

In the absence of the Chairman Mr. Davies was voted to the Chair, and took the Chair accordingly.

Resolved, That the Committee having had under consideration the whole of the evidence which can be obtained in this Colony, have come to the conclusion that the Colonial Treasurer would not be justified in recognising the additional claim of £300. (*Mr. J. Reid Scott.*)

Resolved, That the Chairman be authorised to prepare a Report embodying the above Resolution.

The Committee rose at 11:30.

EVIDENCE.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1869.

The Hon. T. D. CHAPMAN, Colonial Treasurer, called in and examined.

By the Chairman.—Captain Gilmore waited upon myself and the Colonial Secretary in the first week in April, 1868. We saw him in both of our offices, and both informed him that the claim he preferred in his letter of 1st April, 1868, could not be entertained by the Government. We told him that a telegram had been sent to him at Galle on 2nd March, with the decision of the Government as to the Clause in the Contract, and also a communication by mail that the Government did not want his services in the Colony, and were surprised at his coming out. I said, if you like to bring the question under the consideration of Parliament, you could do so. He said no, I withdraw the claim. A letter of 31st December, 1868, received in February, 1869, is among the correspondence reviving the claim, but I never saw it till now. I heard nothing more till Mr. Charles Thomson applied to the Government as Agent for Captain Gilmore for £300, in May, 1869, a few days after the Cable was laid, and some letters passed between myself and Mr. Thomson on the subject. I considered Captain Gilmore's claim entirely withdrawn till revived by letter of 31st December, 1868, and 27th January, 1869. He was to have 1 per cent. on £70,000. I did not receive any application from Captain Gilmore between April, 1868, and March, 1869. None came before me, and there was no correspondence. The Attorney-General was cognizant of the decision of the Government.

By Mr. Davies.—We had no idea of Captain Gilmore's coming out before the telegram was sent. I think the mail before he arrived there was a letter saying he thought of coming out.

By Mr. Lette.—I am aware that during Captain Gilmore's visit in April, 1868, he made arrangements for superintending the building of the steamer *Tamar*.

Mr. Chapman withdrew.

RONALD C. GUNN, Esq., called in and examined.

I am one of the Agents for Captain Gilmore, and know his affairs. They have for years past gone through my hands. He came to the Colony in April, 1868, wholly in connection with the Cable. I know of no other business which could bring him to the Colony. I have no reason to believe from his correspondence that he ever withdrew his claim on the Government. He always has pressed for it, and in his last communication still more strongly. I refused to sign the receipt for £700, as there was a Clause to the effect that it was "in full of all demands."

Mr. Gunn withdrew.

London, 27th January, 1869.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that Messrs. Charles Thomson and Ronald Gunn, of the Town of Launceston, hold my Power of Attorney to act for me during my absence from the Colony of Tasmania.

I beg you will pay over to them any moneys which may be due to me from the Government, and their receipt for the same will be sufficient.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

GEORGE GILMORE.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town, Tasmania.
