

(No. 18.)



1872.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

**ESCAPE OF FRENCH CONVICTS FROM NEW
CALEDONIA:**

**CIRCULAR DESPATCH DATED DECEMBER 21, 1871, FROM
SECRETARY OF STATE.**

**Laid upon the Table by Mr. Wilson, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
June 25, 1872.**



CIRCULAR.

Downing-street, 21st December, 1871.

SIR,

WITH reference to my Circular Despatch of 14th July last, I transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a correspondence which has taken place with the Foreign Office, on the subject of the Convicts sent to New Caledonia by the French Government.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

KIMBERLEY.

The Officer Administering the Government of Tasmania.

MR. HAMMOND to the Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

(Copy.)

Foreign Office, 23rd November, 1871.

SIR,

I AM directed by Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to transmit to you, to be laid before the Earl of Kimberley, the accompanying Copy of a Despatch from Mr. West, reporting the departure for New Caledonia of a certain number of French Convicts.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

No. 184.

MR. WEST to EARL GRANVILLE.

(Copy.)

Paris, 19th November, 1871.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to your Lordship's Despatch, No. 425, of the 20th June last, I have the honor to inform you that the French Transport "Jura" is reported to have left Toulon for New Caledonia with a considerable number of Convicts. The vessel proceeds by way of the Isthmus of Suez.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

The Earl GRANVILLE, K.G.

MR. HOLLAND to MR. HAMMOND.

(Copy.)

Downing-street, 29th November, 1871.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Earl of Kimberley to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, enclosing a Copy of a Despatch from Mr. West, reporting the departure of a number of French Convicts for New Caledonia.

Lord Kimberley would suggest, for the consideration of Earl Granville, whether it may not be desirable to express, through Lord Lyons, the confident hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Government of France will not fail to make the fullest provision for the safe custody, and for preventing the escape to the neighbouring English Colonies of any Convicts confined in New Caledonia, or other adjacent Island.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) H. T. HOLLAND.

The Right Hon. E. HAMMOND.

MR. HAMMOND to the Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

(Copy.)

Foreign Office, 2nd December, 1871.

SIR,

I HAVE laid before Earl Granville your letter of the 29th ultimo, suggesting that communication should be made to the French Government on the subject of the safe custody of the Convicts sent to New Caledonia, and I am directed by His Lordship to request that you will inform the Earl of Kimberley that Her Majesty's Minister in Paris has been instructed to express to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs the hope of Her Majesty's Government that proper precautions will be taken to prevent the escape of the Convicts to British Colonies.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) E. HAMMOND.

The Under-Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

CIRCULAR.

Downing-street, 25th January, 1872.

SIR,

WITH reference to my Circular Despatch of 21st December, I transmit to you for your information a Copy of a Letter addressed to Lord Lyons by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, which has been forwarded to this Department from the Foreign Office, respecting the measures taken by the French Government to prevent the escape of Convicts from New Caledonia to the Australian Colonies.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

KIMBERLEY.

The Officer Administering the Government of Tasmania.

M. REMUSAT to LORD LYONS.

(Copy.)

Versailles, le 9 Janvier, 1872.

M. L'AMBASSADEUR,

DANS une lettre en date du 4 Décembre dernier, M. Sackville West m'avait témoigné au nom du Gouvernement de la Reine le désir d'être assuré que des mesures de précaution suffisantes étaient prises afin d'empêcher que les individus condamnés à être déportés dans l'archipel de la Nouvelle Calédonie ne pussent s'échapper dans les possessions Anglaises voisines. M. le Ministre de la Marine, à qui j'ai fait part de cette communication, m'écrit que, pour répondre à la préoccupation manifestée par le Gouvernement Britannique, il a recommandé aux autorités de notre Colonie pénitentiaire d'exercer au point de vue qui nous était signalé une surveillance particulière. Les précédents sont d'ailleurs de nature à donner pleine confiance sur l'efficacité des dispositions générales, adoptées à l'égard des condamnés, car, depuis l'origine de la transportation à la Nouvelle Calédonie, trois évasions seulement ont été accomplies avec succès.

Je m'empresse de porter à votre connaissance cette réponse de M. l'Amiral Pothnan.

Agréez, &c.,

(Signé) REMUSAT.

S.E. LORD LYONS.