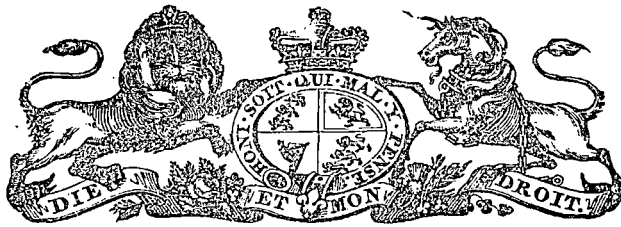


(No. 117.)



1861.

T A S M A N I A.

R E P O R T

OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE CLAIMS OF THE COLONY.

Brought up by Mr. Horne, and ordered by the House to be printed,
24 October, 1861.

JOINT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly appointed to take into consideration the Passages in His Excellency's Speech on Opening the Parliament which relate to the Claims of the Colony on the Imperial Government, together with the Imperial and Convict Questions generally.

MEMBERS.

<i>Legislative Council.</i>		<i>House of Assembly.</i>
MR. BUTTON.		MR. ALLISON.
MR. GELL.		MR. CROOKES.
MR. WILSON.		MR. DOWLING.
MR. WEDGE.		MR. HORNE.
MR. WHYTE.		MR. BUTLER.
MR. CARTER.		MR. ROOKE.
MR. HENTY.		MR. INNES.

DAYS OF MEETING.

No.—1. TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1861.

PRESENT.

<i>Legislative Council.</i>		<i>House of Assembly.</i>
Mr. Button.		Mr. Innes.
Mr. Wedge.		Mr. Horne.
Mr. Whyte.		Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Carter.		Mr. Butler.
Mr. Gell.		Mr. Rooke.
Mr. Henty.		
Mr. Wilson.		

No. 2.—FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1861.

PRESENT.

<i>Legislative Council.</i>		<i>House of Assembly.</i>
Mr. Wedge.		Mr. Horne.
Mr. Gell.		Mr. Allison.
Mr. Wilson.		Mr. Dowling.
Mr. Whyte.		Mr. Rooke.
Mr. Henty.		Mr. Crookes.

No. 3.—THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1861.

PRESENT.

<i>Legislative Council.</i>		<i>House of Assembly.</i>
Mr. Wedge.		Mr. Allison.
Mr. Button.		Mr. Butler.
Mr. Carter.		Mr. Rooke.
Mr. Gell.		Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Henty.		Mr. Innes.
Mr. Wilson.		

No. 4.—WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1861.

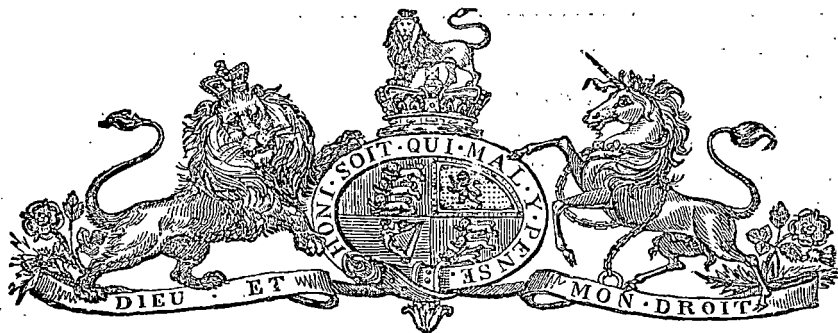
PRESENT.

<i>Legislative Council.</i>		<i>House of Assembly.</i>
Mr. Henty.		Mr. Horne.
Mr. Button.		Mr. Dowling.
Mr. Wedge.		Mr. Butler.

No. 5.—TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1861.

PRESENT.

<i>Legislative Council.</i>		<i>House of Assembly.</i>
Mr. Button.		Mr. Horne.
Mr. Carter.		Mr. Crookes.
Mr. Henty.		Mr. Innes.
Mr. Wedge.		Mr. Butler.
		Mr. Rooke.



THE JOINT COMMITTEE of the Legislative Council and the House of Assembly, appointed to take into consideration the Passages in His Excellency's Speech, on Opening the Parliament, which relate to the Claims of the Colony on the Imperial Government, together with the Imperial and Convict Questions generally, have considered the matters to them referred and have agreed to the following

REPORT.

YOUR Committee have taken into their earnest consideration the passages in His Excellency's Speech, on the opening of Parliament, the 16th day of August, 1861, which relate to the Claims of the Colony upon the Imperial Government, together with the Imperial and Convict Questions generally.

Your Committee have in this matter, taken under review the whole subject referred to its consideration, more particularly from His Excellency's Despatch, No. 182, to the Right Honorable Sir Wm. Molesworth, under date 14 December, 1855, down to the Memorandum addressed by Her Majesty's Ministers in this Colony to His Excellency Sir H. E. F. Young on the 12 May, 1860; and lastly, the Despatch of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, No. 21, under date 5 March, 1861, together with the Memorandum of Her Majesty's Ministers in this Colony, addressed to His Excellency, in reply, dated 21 March, 1861.

With the Protest which concludes that Memorandum this Committee feels bound emphatically to express its concurrence; at the same time it declines to repeat or to enter again upon the irritating topics of the just Claims of the Colony upon the Imperial Government, which appear to be ignored by the Despatch of His Grace, above alluded to. Your Committee, however, cannot but remark that whilst on the one hand the Convict expense, as chargeable upon the Imperial Government, is decreasing, it is from the same cause, increasing, and thrown upon the Colonial Government, and that whilst the discussions on these Claims have been going on between the Imperial and Colonial Governments, it is evident to your Committee that much more serious evils are accumulating within the Colony, arising out of the Imperial policy in the management of the Convicts, over the discipline and control of whom the Parliament of this Colony has no direct authority, and your Committee are of opinion that, in order to avoid any further delay in providing ample means against the dreadful social evils which must continue to arise out of the present system, it is desirable that arrangements may, if possible, be made by which the control and management of the whole Convict Establishments may be brought under the direct control of the Local Government.

Your Committee are also of opinion that, by the adoption of such a course, the otherwise protracted irritation consequent upon these repeated discussions with the Imperial Government, which might find vent in some retaliating measures to rid the Colony of the incubus it complains of, would be for ever allayed.

Your Committee therefore recommend that the Executive Government of this Colony be authorized to make immediate arrangements with the Imperial Government for taking over the entire control and management of the Convict Department, and all matters connected with the same subject, excepting Military, provided that, in satisfaction of all claims by or against this

Colony, an annual payment be made by the Imperial Government of the following sums, for the following periods:—

For Ten years.....	£44,000 per annum.
Next Ten years	£22,000 „
Last Ten years	£11,000 „

After which payments, all demands are to cease in reference to Convict matters,

Your Committee are induced to fix these sums, as the amount upon which this burden is recommended to be taken by the Colony upon its own resources, from the average per annum, stated by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle as the cost to the Imperial Government of the maintenance of the Convict Establishments for eight years since the abolition of Transportation,—viz., £157,144,—and from the conviction that the present system, although altered and amended by Parliament, could not be brought to an earlier termination, or borne at a less cost to the Colony.

THOS, HORNE, *Chairman,*