

(No. 1.)



1863.

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T A S M A N I A.  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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**CLAIMS OF THE COLONY ON ACCOUNT OF  
IMPERIAL PRISONERS.**

DESPATCH FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE, No. 73.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Innes, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
January 16, 1863.



[ TASMANIA.—No. 73. ]

*Downing-street, 24th November, 1862.*

SIR,

In another Despatch I have conveyed to you the answer of Her Majesty's Government to the terms on which the Colonial Government proposed to take over the charge and management of the whole Convict Establishment.

I observe that there are some Despatches from your predecessor on questions of a less comprehensive kind which have not yet received a reply, and on which I will now convey to you such remarks as are necessary.

From Sir H. Young's Despatch, No. 57, of the 20th June, 1861, it appeared that the whole cost of certain new buildings at the Asylum at New Norfolk had been put into the annual estimates, and added to the cost per head of Imperial Lunatics. As the buildings are the property of the Colony, and will so remain after the end of their occupation by Imperial Lunatics, the Comptroller very properly represented that it would be more equitable to regard the sums expended on buildings as a charge spread over 20 years, and to charge only the annual instalments against Imperial and Colonial Convicts respectively.

In this view I entirely agree; and as the provision for Imperial Convicts is a service which must obviously be constantly decreasing, no charge for new buildings can be admitted in any future estimates submitted to Parliament, except in conformity with the conditions above defined.

In your Despatch, No. 13, of the 25th of January last, you transmitted enclosures by which it appeared that the Colony had hitherto paid only for the rations, clothing, and bedding necessary for its own Prisoners. All the other expenses of those persons, although purely Colonial Prisoners, had hitherto fallen on the Imperial Government. This is so manifestly unjust that it can need no argument for its condemnation. It is enough for me to refer you to the letter from the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, transmitted to you in my Despatch, No. 16, of the 10th of April last, from which you will have perceived that their Lordships could not consent to ask the Imperial Parliament to vote money for defraying the expense of warming, lighting, and superintending Colonial Convicts.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

NEWCASTLE.

Governor GORE BROWNE, C.B.