

(No. 3.)



1863.

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

REPAYMENT TO COLONIAL GOVERNMENT ON ACCOUNT
OF PRISONERS ERRONEOUSLY CHARGED AGAINST
THE COLONY.

DESPATCH FROM SECRETARY OF STATE, No. 75.

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



[TASMANIA.—No. 75.]

Downing-street, 26th November, 1862.

SIR,

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 62, of the 18th of July, accompanied by the Minutes of the Committee of Officers on Convict Expenditure, for the year ended the 30th of June, 1862.

With respect to the repayment made to the Colonial Government on account of old claims, stated in these proceedings at Four thousand six hundred and seventy-nine pounds Six shillings and Three-pence, I have the honor to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter addressed, by my direction, to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, from which you will learn the view which I have taken of this matter.

I have to instruct you to take whatever steps may be necessary to ensure Convicts taking up their Conditional Pardons with no delay after the receipt of the requisite sanction from home; and I should be glad to hear from you what measures are adopted for securing this end.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

NEWCASTLE.

Governor GORE BROWNE, C.B.

Sir F. ROGERS to G. A. HAMILTON, Esq.

(Copy.)

Downing-street, 26th November, 1862.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to acquaint you that he has had before him your letter of the 26th September, forwarding one from the Officer in charge of the Commissariat in Tasmania, on the repayment to the Colonial Government of the sum of Four thousand six hundred and eighty-one pounds Two shillings and Nine-pence, (£4681 2s. 9d.) for money which had been erroneously paid into the Treasury chest by the Colony, in respect of persons who have now been pronounced to be properly chargeable to Imperial Funds.

I am desired to transmit to you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, the enclosed copy of a Despatch from the Governor, containing the Minutes of the Committee of Officers for the quarter ended the 30th of June last, in which quarter the foregoing repayment was made, although its amount is stated in these Minutes somewhat differently, as being Four thousand six hundred and seventy-nine pounds Six shillings and Three-pence, (£4697 6s. 3d.)

I am directed to state, that the Duke of Newcastle thinks that the Officer in charge of the Commissariat acted very properly in drawing special attention to this repayment. After the concession of a new principle had been made on the part of the Imperial Government, it would doubtless have been more liberal on the part of the Colonial authorities to view it as prospective, instead of setting a subordinate functionary, stimulated by a commission of five per cent., to search out old claims which could be made under the principle recognised at a subsequent date. Seeing, however, that the particulars of each case appear to have been carefully gone into, and that the whole of them are reported by the Comptroller-General to be entitled to admission, the Duke of Newcastle thinks that the most becoming course will be not to contest the matter, but to acquiesce in the repayment.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) F. ROGERS.

G. A. HAMILTON, Esq.

JAMES BARNARD,
GOVERNMENT PRINTER, TASMANIA.