

(No. 143.)

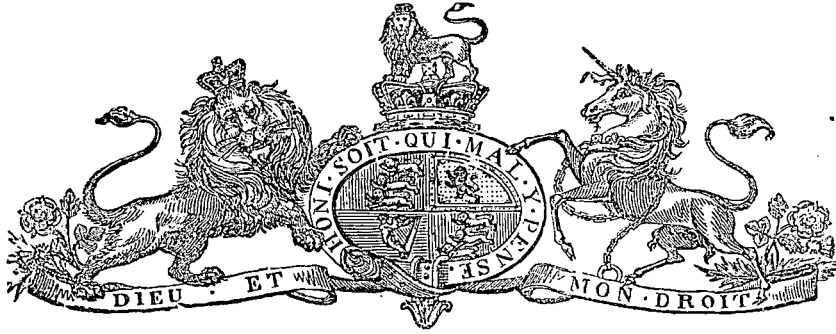


1861.

T A S M A N I A.

CLAIMS OF THE COLONY.

RESOLUTIONS OF BOTH HOUSES, 22 JANUARY, 1862.



CLAIMS OF THE COLONY OF TASMANIA UPON THE IMPERIAL GOVERNMENT.

RESOLUTIONS

AGREED TO BY BOTH HOUSES OF THE PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA,
22 JANUARY, 1862.

Resolved, That this House, having taken 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, and also His Excellency's Despatch, No. 182, to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, 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 12th May, 1860, and lastly, the Despatch of His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, No. 21, under date 5th March, 1861, together with the Memorandum of Her Majesty's Ministers in this Colony addressed to His Excellency in reply, dated 21st March, 1861, doth concur with the Protest which concludes that Memorandum.

Resolved, That, whilst on the one hand the Convict expense, as chargeable upon the Imperial Government, is decreasing, the charge thrown on the Colonial Government is increasing, in consequence of a Rule arbitrarily imposed upon the Colony which, in its operation, is partial and inequitable; and that, whilst the discussions on these claims have been going on between the Imperial and Colonial Governments, it is evident that much more serious evils are accumulated 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 that, in order to avoid any further delay in averting 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.

Resolved, That, by the adoption of such a course, the protracted irritation consequent upon these repeated discussions with the Imperial Government, would be for ever allayed.

Resolved, That the Executive Government of this Colony be authorised 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
Next Ten Years	£22,000
Last Ten Years	£11,000

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

That these sums are fixed, as the amount upon which this burden is recommended to be taken by the Colony upon its own resources on a consideration of the average per annum stated by His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, in his Despatch, No. 21, already referred to, 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.

That this House fully relies upon the Home Government keeping up such a Military Force in this Island as the circumstances of the Colony, considering its origin and the character of a portion of its population, imperatively require.

RESOLVED, That, in the opinion of this House, communication should be opened by the Executive Government with the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, in accordance with the terms of the said Resolutions, with a view to the settlement of the Claims of the Colony on the British Treasury—the transfer of Imperial Establishments for Convict purposes from Imperial Departments to the Local Government—and a permanent adjustment of the liabilities of the British Government on account of Convicts, Convict Paupers, and Invalids, and the destitute offspring of those classes who may be fairly chargeable on Imperial Funds.

Passed the Legislative Council the 21st
day of January, 1862.

CHESTER EARDLEY-WILMOT.

Passed the House of Assembly this
22nd day of January, 1862.

FR. HARTWELL HENSLOWE