

(No. 82.)



1881.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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**CAMPBELL TOWN WATER SUPPLY :**

**CORRESPONDENCE IN REFERENCE TO GOVERNMENT GRANT.**

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
August 26, 1881.



*Municipal Council Chambers, Campbell Town, 5th April, 1867.*

SIR,

IN accordance with a Resolution passed by this Council on the 1st instant, I have the honor to submit a Petition from the inhabitants of Campbell Town to the Council, praying for the erection of a dam across the Elizabeth River, in the vicinity of Kearney's Bogs, in order to insure a supply of water to the town throughout the year; together with letter from John Meredith, Esq., and Report of certain Members of the Council.

I am desired by the Council to ascertain the views of the Government in reference to the matter, and to enquire what, if any, assistance the Government would be disposed to give towards compensation to Messrs. James Lord and John Meredith, whose land, it is believed to the extent of some 1200 acres, would be submerged in the event of the prayer of the Petition being carried out.

There is but little doubt but that the expense of the erection of the dam would willingly be incurred by the inhabitants of the Municipality, as the advantages to be gained by having a supply of pure water, not only sufficient for ordinary purposes but to carry on irrigation to a large extent, are almost incalculable.

I have, &c.

CLAUDS. THOMSON, *Warden.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.*

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*To the Worshipful the Warden and Councillors of the Rural Municipality of Campbell Town, &c.*

The humble Petition of the Inhabitants of Campbell Town,

SHOWETH :

THAT during several months of the year the Elizabeth River, upon which the inhabitants of the said town and its neighbourhood solely depend for their supply of water, ceases to run, and the water consequently becomes unwholesome.

That it has been represented to your Petitioners that if a dam were erected across the said river, near Kearney's Bogs, a good and sufficient supply of wholesome water could be obtained throughout the year at a cost not exceeding four hundred pounds.

Your Petitioners therefore pray that Your Worship and Honorable Council will take this matter into your most serious consideration, and adopt such means as you may consider necessary to carry out an object so highly beneficial to the inhabitants of the said town and its neighbourhood.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

[Here follow 91 Signatures, with remarks in three instances.]

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, 25th June, 1867.*

SIR,

YOUR letter of the 5th April, with the Petition of the inhabitants of Campbell Town to the Municipal Council, has received at the hands of my colleagues and myself the careful consideration that a proposal to construct so important a work as that contemplated merited.

The precise question put to me in your letter is—"What, if any, assistance the Government would be disposed to give towards compensation to Messrs. James Lord and John Meredith, whose land, it is believed to the extent of some 1200 acres, would be submerged in the event of the prayer of the Petition being carried out?"

The facts and proposals are at present in so indefinite a form that it will be impossible for me to do more than reply generally that Ministers would be prepared to recommend Parliament to sanction an exchange of land being effected between the Crown and Messrs. Lord and Meredith in order to secure the necessary area of Kearney's Bogs for a reservoir, provided the exchange can be effected on reasonable terms, and the district is prepared to make the work a permanent and substantial one.

I understand that Mr. James Lord has expressed his willingness to accept a reasonable area of waste lands of the Crown adjoining his own at the Bogs in exchange for such part of his land as may be required for a reservoir. Mr. Meredith may be willing to accept similar terms. But these facts must be specifically ascertained, and the character of the proposed work and its cost must be determined, before any final or definite answer can be given as to the assistance to be afforded by the Crown.

I would venture to suggest that under any circumstances the services of an able engineer should be secured to report upon the scheme, and that any operation that is now proposed should be carried out with a view to its becoming hereafter part of a larger and more extensive work.

I have, &c.

RICHARD DRY.

*The Worshipful the Warden, Campbell Town.*

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*Rosedale, Campbell Town, 12th April, 1879*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to write you with reference to the interview we had with you on the 8th inst., when we submitted a statement as to the alienation by the Crown of certain land at Kearney's Bogs required for a reservoir to supply the Elizabeth River, when you were good enough to say that you would give a written reply confirmatory of the opinion then expressed by yourself and colleagues—"that the land should not have been alienated, and that you would in your place in Parliament support a claim of compensation to the District,"—which expression of opinion will be most valuable by being on record.

I have, &c.

CHARLES H. LEAKE,  
*Chairman Water District, Campbell Town.*

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary,  
Hobart Town.*

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*Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 17th April, 1879.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, referring to the interview I had with the Deputation from the Campbell Town Water District on the 8th instant.

In reply, I have to inform you that the Government are of opinion that certain land at Kearney's Bogs reserved for a reservoir to supply the Elizabeth River ought not to have been alienated, inasmuch as the retention by the Crown of this land was of paramount interest to one of the largest and most important districts in the Colony, being necessary not only for the supply of water to the inhabitants of Campbell Town but for purposes of irrigation, as shown by the report of Major Cotton. The Government, therefore, are prepared to support in Parliament such a measure as may be deemed to provide equitable compensation to your District for the alienation of Kearney's Bogs.

I have, &c.

THOS. REIBEY.

CHARLES H. LEAKE, *Esquire, Chairman Campbell  
Town Water District, Campbell Town.*

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[*Extract from the Hobart "Mercury," of 20th May, 1881.*]

CAMPBELL TOWN WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT.

YESTERDAY a deputation waited upon Ministers to urge the claim of the inhabitants of the Water District of Campbell Town to a grant of money from the Treasury, to enable the Trustees to acquire possession of certain lands required for the purposes of the Act of Parliament under which the Trust has been appointed by the District.

Mr. C. H. Leake (Chairman), and Messrs. David Taylor and F. Hart, having been appointed as a deputation to wait upon the Ministers, were received by them yesterday; the Hon. the Premier, the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney-General, and the Minister of Lands being present.

The Chairman (Mr. Leake) said they had come as a deputation to urge the just claim of the inhabitants of the Water District of Campbell Town, to apply to the Ministers to put such a sum on the estimates as would have to be paid as compensation to the owners of the land required to form a reservoir to supply the Elizabeth River in the summer. He referred to the strong expression of not only past Ministers, but also of a portion of the present Ministry, as to the claims they had for assistance to obtain land which should never have been alienated, as being the source of a river, and of the water supply of a large, important, and increasing township—and felt confident of the united support of the Ministry to enable the trustees to construct such a necessary, and each year as population increased more important work, by recommending to Parliament that such a sum be placed upon the estimates as should pay for the compensation to be given; as unless that was done they would not have power to pay for that and the necessary expensive work of erecting the dam, &c.

Mr. David Taylor showed that this was the only instance where the source of a river had been alienated; and felt assured that if this work was proceeded with it might be looked upon quite as much or more a public work than many undertakings, and be indirectly re-productive to the State.

Mr. Hart could fully support all that had been said, and knew that as there had been much sickness in the past so it would be in the future, and it would prevent many from coming and residing with their families in Campbell Town.

The Ministers, without actually pledging themselves, seemed to be much impressed with the justice of the claim, and said they would write the Trustees what they were prepared to do.

The Chairman also urged that power should be given the Trustees to issue debentures, as thereby they would get money on much more reasonable terms.

The Attorney-General promised to bring a bill in to this effect.

The deputation, having thanked the Ministers for their courtesy, withdrew.

Hobart, 19th July, 1881.

SIR,

At the request of the Trustees for the Campbell Town Water District, we have the honor to forward you, for the information of the Government, a statement of the sums which the Trustees have either paid or contracted to pay to enable them to acquire the site at Kearney's Bogs on which to erect the proposed dam in connection with their Water supply.

Under the first arbitration with Mr. Meredith the Trustees were ordered to pay him a compensation of £3313 13s.; but deeming this a very excessive amount, we advised the Trustees to exercise their power and withdraw from the award, which they accordingly did, and under the second arbitration the sum awarded to Mr. Meredith was £1814 3s. 9d.

The following figures show the total sum which the Trustees have spent in purchasing the site for their dam:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Meredith's personal expenses of first arbitration and Arbitrator's fees and costs of award .....	64	15	8
Trustees' expenses of first arbitration .....	7	5	0
Expenses of Mr. Meredith and his witnesses at second arbitration .....	97	5	10
Mr. Meredith's legal costs of first and second arbitration .....	64	12	10
Trustees' legal charges for ditto .....	122	11	8
Trustees' witnesses expenses for second arbitration and hire of vehicles .....	29	17	6
Compensation awarded to Mr. Meredith by second award for 1013 acres of land ....	1814	3	9
Fees of Arbitrators and Umpire .....	52	10	0
Contract price of 248½ acres purchased from the late James Lord .....	372	15	0
Cost of conveyances both for vendors' and purchasers' Solicitors, including stamps, fees, and contingencies, say .....	75	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE .....</b>	<b>£2700</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>

I have, &c.

DOBSON & MITCHELL.

The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

FORWARDED to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary with a view to the matter being brought under the notice of the Cabinet at an early date. This letter has not been acknowledged.

W. R. GIBLIN, Colonial Treasurer.  
20th July, 1881.

*Rosedale, Campbell Town, 27th July, 1881.*

SIR,

A DEPUTATION of the Trustees of the Campbell Town Water District had the honor of waiting on the Ministers of the Government on the 19th May last, asking that aid should be given them to the extent of the amounts they will have to pay to obtain the necessary lands to form a reservoir sufficient to supply the Elizabeth River so that it be kept running in the summer; and understood that an answer would be given.

Parliament being now in Session, the Trustees are anxious to know what amount the Executive Government will recommend to be placed on the Estimates; and wish to state that the amount of £2700 will have to be paid before they can obtain possession of the lands required—for lands which should not have been alienated, as the source of a river and the water supply of a large township.

The Trustees are only empowered to raise a certain amount, viz., £7000. The tenders they received for the erection of the dam varied from £5500 to £4500—but taking the lowest, and the expense of cutting a channel from the dam to the course of the river is estimated at about £500—so that these, and the expenses they are already liable for, obliged them to refuse all tenders until they know what aid they will get, as the total would be beyond the amount they are empowered to expend.

The Trustees submit that a township being established in a central part of the Island, the supplying it with water is a public work, and the trustees should not be impeded at the outset to have to incur such large expenses, before they even begin this each year more necessary and imperative work, by having to purchase the site, and feel sure Parliament will recognise their claim for aid.

The Trustees understand a few individuals are petitioning against being included in the defined Water District. After being voted for by a large majority of the landholders, and on the faith of the rating power, large liabilities having been incurred, they feel sure that the Legislature will not assist in the repudiation wished by a few to meet the individual cases of one or two who may not be so benefited as undoubtedly nearly all within the Water District will be.

I have, &c.

CHARLES H. LEAKE  
*Chairman Campbell Town Water District.*

*The Hon. W. R. GIBLIN, Colonial Treasurer,  
Hobart.*

*Treasury, Hobart, 29th July, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 27th instant, on the subject of the Campbell Town Water Supply; and in reply beg to state that the matter is now before the Cabinet, with a view to the precise sum to be asked for from Parliament being determined.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN.

C. H. LEAKE, *Esq., Rosedale, Campbell Town.*

*Treasury, Hobart, 2nd August, 1881.*

SIR,

ADVERTING to my letter of the 29th ultimo, I have now the honor to inform you that the matter referred to in yours of the 27th of the same month has been brought under the notice of the Cabinet, and that it has been decided to submit and recommend to Parliament the appropriation of a sum not exceeding £2186 18s. 9d.,—being Compensation awarded Mr. Meredith, £1814 3s. 9d., and purchase of land from the late Mr. James Lord, £372 15s.—for the purpose of enabling the Trustees to liquidate the claims for the purchase of lands required to give effect to the Act passed by the Legislature to secure a better and more regular supply of water to the District of Campbell Town.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN.

C. H. LEAKE, *Esq., Chairman Water Supply,  
Campbell Town.*

*Rosedale, Campbell Town, 4th August, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of 2nd instant, stating the Cabinet has decided to submit and recommend to Parliament the appropriation of a sum not exceeding £2186 18s. 9d., for the purpose of liquidating the claims for the purchase of lands required for the site of the proposed dam and reservoir at Kearney's Bogs.

I am directed by the Trustees of the Campbell Town Water District to point out that the whole of the £2700 the Trustees gave a memo. of (memo. to Messrs. Dobson & Mitchell) to you, and for which the Trust is liable, has been incurred in acquiring the necessary lands—and they could not acquire them without—so is in fact the price of the lands, and trust Ministers will recommend that the whole amount be given as aid, as the amount the Trust are empowered to raise, viz.—£7000, will be required for necessary expensive works and their maintenance and care afterwards.

As, besides the cost of the dam, there will be many charges for Engineer and Clerk of Works whilst erecting, and Caretaker afterwards, and the Trustees believe that the

	£
Tender they will have to accept, instead of £4500, will be . . . .	5000
Channel from Dam . . . . .	500
Engineer . . . . .	200
Clerk of Works . . . . .	150
Caretaker, per annum . . . . .	50
Contingencies—Interest on . . . . .	100
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	£6000
So that of the £534 incurred in acquiring the land . . . . .	534
	-----
	£6534
Would only leave the narrow margin of . . . . .	466
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To absorb the Total . . . . .	£7000

the Trust is allowed to raise; and it would hardly be safe for them to accept the responsibility of accepting the tenders, so trust that they may receive aid amounting to the total that will have to be paid; viz.—£2700 to enable them to proceed.

I have, &c.

CHARLES H. LEAKE, *Chairman Campbell Town  
Water District Trust.*

*The Hon. W. R. GIBLIN, Hobart.*

*Treasury, Hobart, 5th August, 1881.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant, in reference to the sum which it is the intention of the Government to ask Parliament to appropriate for the purposes of the Campbell Town Water Supply District, and stating your reasons for asking that the amount may be increased.

When the question of bringing the matter before Parliament, to the extent indicated in my letter of the 2nd instant, was under the notice of the Cabinet it received very careful consideration, and the Executive then decided that Parliament should not be invited to appropriate a larger sum than that already stated, £2186 18s. 9d., which decision the Government is not prepared to depart from.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN.

C. H. LEAKE, *Esq., Chairman Water Supply District,  
Campbell Town.*