

(No. 79.)



1880.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

SILVER AND BRONZE COINAGE:

CORRESPONDENCE IN REFERENCE TO ITS SUPPLY
TO THE COLONIES.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, August 31, 1880.



Circular.—No. 1.

Downing-street, 27th February, 1879.

SIR,

WITH reference to the Earl of Kimberley's Circular Despatch of the 27th June, 1871, transmitting Regulations respecting the supply of British Silver Coins to Colonial Governments, I have the honor to enclose, for communication to your Legislature, and for publication in the Colony under your Government, extracts of a letter from the Treasury, (12th February, 1879,) enclosing revised Regulations for the Supply of new Silver and Bronze Coin.

2. I entirely concur in the opinion expressed by the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, that as the conditions of supply of new coin have now been made so favourable, it is incumbent on the Governors of Her Majesty's Colonies to secure that the silver coinage is kept in proper condition by the systematical withdrawal of worn coin, and I trust that they will specially charge themselves with that duty.

3. Copies of this Despatch and of its enclosures have been sent to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, and to the Agents-General in London for the Australasian Colonies.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,
M. E. HICKS BEACH.

The Officer Administering the Government of Tasmania.

EXTRACTS from a Letter from the Treasury to the Colonial Office, dated 12th February, 1879.
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"Sir Michael Hicks Beach will perceive that the Mint will from henceforth defray all expenses connected with the shipment of silver and bronze coin to the port in the Colony agreed on between the Master of the Mint and the Agent of the Colony in London, including packing, freight, insurance, and shipping charges."

"7. This bronze coin is now for the first time included in the Regulations, and the Colonies using Imperial token coin will in all cases be supplied with such amounts as they require on the mere payment of its nominal value."

"8. I am to request that the Secretary of State, if he approves of the proposed arrangement, will cause copies of the amended Regulations to be sent to the Governors of all Colonies using the Imperial system of coinage, and to the Agents of those Governments in London."

"9. It will be observed that it is not necessary to require that application for supplies of coin should any longer be made to the Mint through the Colonial Office and the Treasury."

"12. My Lords trust that the Secretary of State will point out to the Governors of the Colonies affected by the Regulations that, as the conditions of supply have now been made so favourable, it is incumbent on them to secure that the silver coinage is kept in proper condition, by the systematic withdrawal of worn coin."

REGULATIONS for the Supply of British Silver and Bronze Coinage to the Colonies.

Treasury Chambers, 12th February, 1879.

New silver and bronze coin (half-crowns, florins, shillings, sixpences, and threepences, and pence, halfpence, and farthings) can be supplied to Colonial Governments from the Royal Mint on the following conditions:—

1. On receiving an application from the Agent of the Colonial Government in London, the Master of the Mint will cause to be packed, and held to his order, such an amount of silver or bronze coin as may be required on behalf of the Colony.

2. The Master of the Mint will undertake the payment of all expenses, including packing, freight, insurance, and shipping charges, connected with the shipment of silver and bronze coin to the port in the Colony agreed upon by the Master of the Mint and the Agent of the Colony in London.

3. The Agent of the Colonial Government will be required to pay to the account of the Master of the Mint at the Bank of England, on or before the delivery of the coin, the sum representing the nominal value of the new silver or bronze coin ordered.

4. The Colonial Government will be required to make such arrangements as may be deemed necessary for the withdrawal of worn silver coin from circulation, and to cause the coin so withdrawn to be forwarded to the Mint or one of its branches (at Sydney or Melbourne) for recoinage. The Master of the Mint will defray all expenses, including freight, insurance, and shipping charges, incurred in the transmission of worn coin to London, Sydney, or Melbourne, from a port of shipment to be agreed upon by the Master of the Mint, or the Deputy-Master at Sydney or Melbourne, and the Agent of the Colony.

5. The Imperial Government will pay to the Colonial Government, or its Agent, the nominal value of the worn coin so withdrawn from circulation, as soon as it is received at the Royal Mint or one of its branches.

FOR Ministers.

F. A. W.
May 24th, '79.

FORWARDED to the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

Copies of this Despatch and enclosures will have to be laid upon the tables of both Houses of the Legislature.

It is desirable that the course the Government may decide upon adopting should be intimated to Parliament at the same time.

THOS. REIBEY.
28th May, 1879.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, Tasmania, 5th December, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enquire, on behalf of the Government of Tasmania, whether you could at the present time supply the Government with say £5000 worth of new silver coin, upon the terms of the Treasury Regulations, of 12th February, 1879.

The new coin is required for the purpose of replacing the worn coin at present in circulation; and payment would be made on or before the delivery of the coin at Hobart Town, in such mode as you may desire.

After receipt of the new coin I would at once proceed to make arrangements for calling in the worn coin, and would address you further as to its transmission to Melbourne in accordance with the Regulations.

I have, &c.

The Deputy Master of the Mint, Melbourne.

W. R. GIBLIN.

Melbourne, 11th December, 1879.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter, dated 5th instant, on the subject of new silver coin required by the Government of Tasmania, I have the honor to inform you that it will be necessary for you to place to the credit of the "Imperial Mint Silver Coin Account," at the Union Bank of Australia, Melbourne; the nominal value of the new coin you may require.

Immediately after receipt of a notification of the amount thus provided I will ship to you, in the manner you may desire, new silver coin of similar nominal value.

The worn coin which you may cause to be withdrawn from circulation will be received and paid for by this branch of the Royal Mint, in accordance with the Treasury Regulations of 12th February last, to which you refer. The coin, which should be counted before leaving Tasmania, will be recounted at the Mint, and the payment made to the Government will be decided by the nominal value as ascertained at the Mint.

I have, &c.

*The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer of
Tasmania, Hobart Town.*

V. DELVES BROUGHTON.

Melbourne, 14th May, 1880.

SIR,

I DEEM it to be proper to call your Excellency's attention to the liberal arrangements which were made last year, at my instance, by the Imperial Government, for the renewal of the Silver currency in the Colonies either by the purchase of worn coin for cash at its nominal value or by its exchange for new Silver Coin in like proportion.

Your Excellency will probably have received through the Secretary of State for the Colonies copies of the correspondence which took place between the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, the Master of the Mint, and the Secretary of State, together with copy of the new Regulations, from which you will have learnt that all expenses of shipment to and from this branch of Her Majesty's Mint, will be borne by the Imperial Government.

Would you allow me to suggest to your Excellency the desirability of making known these new regulations by advertisement.

I would add that if the banks in the colony of Tasmania should think fit to take advantage of these arrangements, their shipments to this branch of Her Majesty's Mint should not be less than £1000 nominal value in each case.

It would be desirable that information should be conveyed to me from time to time of the amounts which the banks in the colony might require, together with information as to the denominations of coin preferred.

I have, &c.

V. DELVES BROUGHTON, *Deputy-Master.*

*His Excellency the Acting Governor
of Tasmania.*

Government House, Hobart Town, 12th June, 1880.

SIR,

I AM directed by His Excellency the Administrator of the Government to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th of May last, which His Excellency has forwarded to Ministers for their consideration.

I have, &c.

GEO. BROWNE, *Private Secretary.*

V. DELVES BROUGHTON, *Esq., Deputy-Master
of H. M. Mint, Melbourne.*

FOR MINISTERS.

F. S.
26th May, 80.

FORWARDED to the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer with copy of letter addressed to the Manager of the Bank of Australasia, and the reply.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
14th June, 80.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 31st May, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward a copy of a letter (14th May, 1880), from V. Delves Broughton, Esq., Deputy-Master of the Victorian Mint, calling attention to the liberal arrangements made, at his instance, by the Imperial Government, for the renewal of the silver currency in these Colonies.

I shall feel obliged if you would ascertain what action, if any, the banks propose to take in order to secure an influx of new silver coin in Tasmania to replace the large quantity worn and defaced now in circulation.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

C. M. POYNTER, *Esq., Manager, Bank of Australasia.*

Bank of Australasia, Hobart Town, 3rd June, 1880.

SIR,

I AM in receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, covering copy of a communication from the Deputy-Master of the Melbourne Mint, for which I am obliged.

In reply to your enquiry as to the action proposed to be taken by the banks for renewal of the silver currency in this Colony, I beg to state that our Melbourne office having intimated to me that the Mint would be prepared to supply the banks here with new silver coin, on condition that they retained the worn silver passing through their hands for subsequent transmission to the Mint, a meeting of Managers was held on 22nd April, when it was resolved to avail ourselves of the liberal terms offered to the extent of £20,000 if obtainable.

The Mint authorities have been communicated with, requesting them to ship £10,000 to Hobarton and the same amount to Launceston; and a reply has been received stating that their stock of silver coin is now very low, but that a further supply has been ordered from England, on receipt of which our wants shall be supplied.

I trust that the amount of coin we have asked for will be forwarded, in which case I have no doubt it will admit of all the worn silver being gradually withdrawn from circulation.

I may add that, in anticipation of receiving this supply, the banks have already commenced to set aside all silver coin not properly fit for issue.

I have, &c.

C. POYNTER, *Manager.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 17th June, 1880.

MEMO.

FROM Mr. Poynter's letter of the 3rd instant it appears that the Banks in this Colony have made arrangements among themselves to take advantage of the liberal terms offered by the Imperial Government for the supply of new silver coin; and that they, the banks, have ordered a sufficient quantity of new coin to enable them to withdraw from circulation in this Colony all defaced and worn silver coin. Under these circumstances the Government need not take steps to obtain a supply upon the terms offered in the Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, 27th February, 1879, now returned to the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. At the same time I desire to explain that this Department had made all its arrangements to take full advantage of the Regulations enclosed with the Despatch now returned, which it will now not be necessary to proceed any further with owing to the action taken by the banks in this Colony.

I do not see any objection to the suggestion made by Mr. Broughton, Deputy Master of the Mint, Melbourne, to make known the new Regulations for the supply of silver coin, by advertisement, and recommend that they be published in the *Government Gazette*.

J. W. AGNEW,
For Colonial Treasurer, absent.

I MAY supplement the foregoing Memo. by stating that in the early part of the present year Sir M. Hicks Beach's Despatch of 27th February, 1879, was brought under my notice, having been left in the Treasury from the time of my predecessor. Upon enquiry I ascertained that nothing had been done in the matter, and I therefore placed myself in communication with the Manager of the Commercial Bank, (with whom the Government Banking Account is kept,) and arranged for the importation of a sufficient supply of new silver coin from the Melbourne Branch Mint as soon as it might be needed. Before, however, any further representation reached the Treasury, the banks resolved to import a large quantity on their own account, thus rendering needless any further present action on the part of the Government.

It is, however, my intention from time to time to ascertain what quantity of worn or defaced coin require withdrawal from circulation here, and to that extent to take advantage of the very liberal arrangements made last year by the Imperial Government for exchanging all such coin for new at the Melbourne Branch of Her Majesty's Mint.

W. R. GIBLIN.
20th July, 1880.

RETURNED to His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, with a memorandum by the Colonial Treasurer, and copy of correspondence with the Manager of the Bank of Australasia.

The Regulations referred to by Mr. Delves Broughton are published in the *Gazette* of the 22nd instant.

J. W. AGNEW,
For the Colonial Secretary, absent.
23rd June, '80.

Government House, Hobart Town, 4th August, 1880.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th May, I have the honor to inform you that, after its receipt, I caused the revised Regulations for the supply of new Silver and Bronze Coin to be published in the *Gazette*, and also brought the subject, together with your letter, under the notice of Ministers.

It appears that the banks in this colony resolved in April last to avail themselves of the liberal conditions for obtaining supplies of new Coin to the extent of £20,000, and applied for that amount to the authorities in Melbourne, but were informed that the stock of Silver Coin was so low that their application could not be complied with until a further supply had been obtained from England. The local banks having adopted this course Ministers do not think it necessary to take any further action at present. But it is their intention from time to time to ascertain what quantities of worn or defaced Coin require to be withdrawn from circulation, and to that extent to obtain supplies of new Coin in exchange from the Melbourne Branch of the Mint.

I have, &c.

FRANCIS SMITH.

V. DELVES BROUGHTON, Esq., Deputy-Master of
H. M. Mint, Melbourne.

Despatch.—No. 57.

Government House, Hobart Town, 4th August, 1880.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honor to give your Lordship the following information with reference to your predecessor's Circular Despatch of the 27th February, 1879, referring to your Lordship's Circular Despatch of the 27th June, 1871, and transmitting for communication to the local Legislature and for publication in the colony extracts of a letter from the Treasury, enclosing revised Regulations for the supply of new Silver and Bronze Coin, and expressing concurrence in the opinion of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury as to the duty of Governors of colonies to secure that the Silver Coinage should be kept in proper condition by the systematic withdrawal of worn coin, and by taking advantage of the favourable conditions of supply of new coin.

2. My attention was first directed to the subject by a letter which I received from the Deputy-Master of the Branch of the Mint in Melbourne. Finding upon enquiry that the revised Regulations had not been published I caused them to be so in the *Gazette* of the 22nd of June, of which I enclose the leaf containing the notice. I intend also to cause them, together with the extracts of the letter from the Treasury enclosing them, to be communicated to the local Legislature.

3. I requested Ministers to inform me what steps had been taken in compliance with the Circular Despatch, and have lately received from the Treasurer the following information:—

4. The Despatch was referred by Governor Sir Frederick Weld to the late Ministry in May, 1879. When upon the change of Ministry the present Treasurer came into office it was brought to his notice in the early part of the present year as one of the papers left in the Treasury by his predecessor. Upon ascertaining that nothing had been done in the matter the Treasurer entered into an arrangement with the Manager of the Commercial Bank (the bank with which the banking account of the Government is kept) for obtaining supplies of new Coin, as they might be needed; from the Branch of the Mint in Melbourne. Before, however, anything was done under this arrangement the local banks adopted a resolution to import a large quantity of Silver Coin on their own account, which, in the Treasurer's opinion, rendered needless any further present action on the part of the government.

5. The Treasurer now informs me that it is his intention to ascertain from time to time what quantities of worn or defaced Coin are required to be withdrawn from circulation; and to that extent to take advantage of the very liberal arrangements made by the Imperial Government for exchanging such Coin for new at the Melbourne branch of the Mint.

6. I am fully impressed with the importance of securing that the Silver Coinage shall be kept in proper condition by the systematic withdrawal from circulation of worn Coin; and will see that the subject is not lost sight of while I continue to administer the Government.

I have, &c.

The Right Honorable the Earl of KIMBERLEY.

FRANCIS SMITH.

No. 390—80.

Melbourne, 10th August, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Your Excellency's letter, dated 4th instant, acquainting me of the consideration which Your Excellency's Government has given to my letter or the 14th May last, on the subject of the Regulations issued by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, on the 12th February, 1879, for the supply of New Silver and Bronze Coin to the Colonies.

I have undertaken to supply to the Tasmanian Banks Silver Coin of the nominal value of £20,000 immediately on its arrival. I hope to be in a position to forward this Silver in about a month's time.

I have, &c.

V. DELVES BROUGHTON.

His Excellency The Honorable SIR FRANCIS SMITH, *Knt.*,
Administrator of the Government of Tasmania.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Chamber of Commerce, Hobart Town, 29th November, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by desire of the Committee, to ask you to take into consideration the necessity of importing a supply of silver coin, for the purpose of renewing the silver currency of the Colony. I believe the Imperial Government are willing to exchange worn or defaced coin for its full nominal value.

It has been suggested that a supply might be obtained from the Victorian Government, who have lately made a large importation of new silver coin; and that about Five thousand Pounds might be sufficient for the present.

I have, &c.

The Honorable Colonial Treasurer.

JAMES MACFARLANE, *Chairman.*

2nd December, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 29th inst., drawing my attention to the necessity of importing a supply of new silver coin to replace the worn coin now in circulation in this Colony.

I beg to assure you that the subject did not escape the attention of my predecessor, and that I have now the Despatch of the Secretary of State under consideration, with a view to the speedy withdrawal of worn silver and bronze coin.

I have, &c.

J. MACFARLANE, *Esq.*, *Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Hobart Town.*

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

Chamber of Commerce, Hobart Town, 29th August, 1880.

SIR,

I VENTURE to bring under your notice the annexed paragraph cut from to-day's *Mercury*, reporting the arrival of the *John Elder* from London at Melbourne, bringing Silver Coin to the value of Fifty thousand Pounds.

May I suggest the desirability of an application being made to endeavour to secure a supply of New Coin for Tasmania.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

JAMES MACFARLANE, *Chairman.*

* * * * *
"On freight there is also Silver Specie to the value of £30,000 for this Colony, and another lot of the value of £20,000 for Sydney."

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 28th August, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE had brought under my notice by the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Hobart Town, the following extract from a paragraph in this day's *Mercury*, speaking of the arrival at Melbourne of the Steamship *John Elder*, "on freight there is also silver specie to the value of £30,000 for this Colony, and another lot of the value of £20,000 for Sydney."

May I ask whether the Hobart Town Banks have received any advice with respect to the new silver ordered by them for distribution in this Colony, namely, £20,000.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

C. J. BARCLAY, *Esq., Manager, Commercial Bank,
Hobart Town.*

Commercial Bank, Hobart Town, 31st August, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th instant, asking me whether the Hobart Town Banks have received any advice with respect to the new silver coin ordered by them for distribution in this Colony,—namely, £20,000,—and in reply I have to inform you that I believe the coin has arrived at Melbourne, and that it will shortly be received here.

I have, &c.

C. J. BARCLAY, *Manager.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 1st September, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th ultimo, drawing my attention to a paragraph in the *Mercury* of that date in reference to the importation of new silver coin at Melbourne, and in reply I have to state that I am advised that the Banks in this Colony have reason to believe that coin to the value of £20,000 ordered by them for distribution here has arrived in Victoria, in which case it will be brought into circulation without delay.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

The Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Hobart Town.