

(No. 102.)



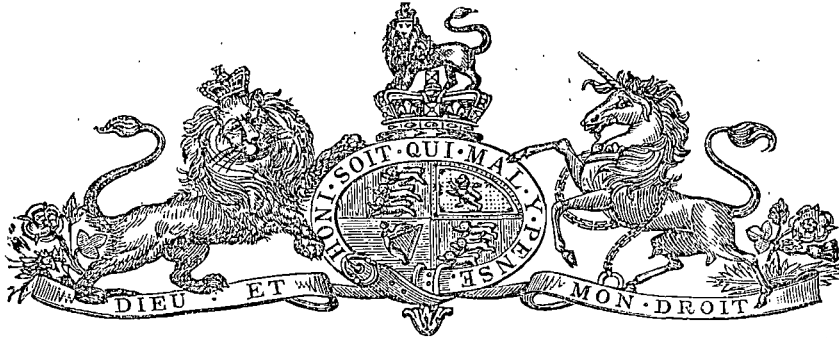
1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

INTERCOLONIAL FREE TRADE:
CORRESPONDENCE.

Return to an Order of the Legislative Council. (Mr. Fysh.)

Ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed.



TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 12th February, 1892.

CAN you ascertain for me the number of bales of Tasmanian Hops sent into South Australia from Victoria for each of the last five years?

PREMIER.

The Hon. the Premier, Melbourne, Victoria.

(JAS. ANDREW, Secretary to Premier.)

Premier's Department, Melbourne, 18th February, 1892.

SIR,

IN reply to your telegram of the 12th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of a Return furnished by the Customs Department showing the quantity of Australasian Hops (other than Victorian) exported from Melbourne to South Australia, and of Tasmanian Hops transhipped to South Australia during the past five years.

The Secretary for Trade and Customs, in forwarding this Return, explains that, as regards exports, Tasmanian Hops cannot be separated from "Australasian (other than Victorian) Hops."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

WILLIAM SHIELDS.

The Hon. the Premier, Hobart.

VICTORIA.

RETURN showing the Quantity of Australasian Hops (other than Victorian) exported from the Port of Melbourne to South Australia, also Hops from Tasmania transhipped to South Australia, during the Years 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, and 1891.

	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.	1891.
Exports	lbs. 82,513	lbs. 33,903	lbs. 32,045	lbs. 33,207	lbs. 25,803
Transhipments	13,860	59,000	113,448	79,912	128,162
TOTAL	96,373	92,903	145,493	113,119	153,965

Our records of Exports do not differentiate between Tasmanian and other Australasian Hops, except Victorian.

H. N. P. WOLLASTON, Secretary for Trade and Customs.

Department of Trade and Customs,
Melbourne, 15th February, 1892.

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Premier's Department, Melbourne, 4th March, 1892.

SIR,

A LETTER has been received by this Government from Mr. Fergus Scott, Official Agent for Victoria at the Tasmanian Exhibition, in which he communicates information to the effect that negotiations were in progress between South Australia and your Colony with a view to a reciprocal arrangement for the introduction respectively of Tasmanian hops and South Australian wines at differential rates of duty; and the writer suggests that a similar arrangement might perhaps be made, with mutual advantage, in regard to Tasmanian timber and Victorian wines.

The Honorable Mr. Turner, Commissioner of Trade and Customs, has requested me to take the preliminary step of enquiring whether, if this Government should be disposed to favour such an arrangement, you would be prepared to meet the Government of this Colony in the matter, and if so to what extent?

I beg now therefore to invite an expression of the views of your Government with regard to it.

I have, &c.

WM. SHIELS.

The Hon. the Premier, Hobart.

Premier's Office, Tasmania, 16th March, 1892.

SIR,

IN reference to your letter of the 4th instant, suggesting an arrangement in regard to differential duties in Victoria and Tasmania on Tasmanian timber and Victorian wines respectively, I have the honor to inform you that it is my intention to visit Melbourne in the course of a few weeks, when I shall be glad to confer with you on this subject.

I anticipate leaving for Victoria about the end of April, but will inform you of the exact date as soon as possible.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

The Hon. the Premier of Victoria.

Chamber of Commerce, Launceston, 18th March, 1892.

SIR,

HEREWITH I have the honor to forward you copy of the following resolution passed at the meeting of our Chamber on the 2nd instant:—"That this Chamber learns with much satisfaction that the Hon. the Premier proposes to visit South Australia to interview the Government there in reference to the reduction or remission of duty on Colonial Wines, and cordially supports the proposal, and trusts that he will be successful in his mission."

I have, &c.

F. LITTLER, *Secretary.*

The Hon. the Premier, Hobart.

Premier's Department, Melbourne, 24th March, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, informing me that you purpose visiting Melbourne about the end of April, and will take the opportunity of conferring with me in regard to differential duties in Tasmania and Victoria.

I shall be very glad to see you in regard to this matter.

I have, &c.

WM. SHIELS.

The Hon. the Premier, Hobart.

Latrobe Chamber of Commerce, Latrobe, 6th May, 1892.

DEAR SIR,

THIS Chamber learns with satisfaction of your proposal to visit South Australia with a view to securing a reduction or remission of duty on colonial wines, and concurs with the Resolution of the Launceston Chamber:—

“That this Chamber learns with much satisfaction that the Hon. the Premier proposes to visit South Australia to interview the Government there in reference to the reduction or remission of duty on Colonial Wines, and cordially supports the proposal, and trusts that he will be successful in his mission.”

I am, Sir,

Yours obediently,

W. A. WHITAKER, *Secretary L.C.C.*

The Hon. the Premier, Hobart.

TELEGRAM.

Adelaide, 6th June, 1892.

CONFIDENTIAL.—We are prepared to advise Parliament to conclude a reciprocal Customs agreement with Tasmania for five years from first July next in terms of your admitting our wines duty free, and we extending similar treatment to your timber of all kinds—logs, sawn, split, shingles and palings; otherwise terms to be as in draft agreement submitted by you. Please reply immediately.

T. PLAYFORD.

The Hon. the Premier.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 7th June, 1892.

MY proposal is open to modifications, but I submit that the restriction of agreement to two products is not of sufficient importance for legislation.

P. O. FYSH.

(JAS. ANDREW, *Secretary to Premier.*)

The Hon. the Prime Minister, Adelaide, South Australia.

TELEGRAM.

Adelaide, 13th June, 1892.

Re reciprocity.—We regard our proposal as a commencement of a system which may subsequently be considerably extended. We should therefore be very sorry if a beginning is not made in the mode we suggest.

T. PLAYFORD.

The Hon. the Prime Minister.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 14th June, 1892.

YOUR railway rates on timber by weight bars the way of Tasmanian timber northward. Can you make railway rates on timber measurement?

P. O. FYSH.

The Hon. the Prime Minister, Adelaide, South Australia.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 24th June, 1892.

KINDLY favour me with your views regarding proposals for interchange free of duty of certain products with respect to which messages have recently passed between these Governments.

P. O. FYSH, *Premier.*

(JAS. ANDREW, *Secretary to Premier.*)

The Hon. the Prime Minister, Adelaide, South Australia.

TELEGRAM.

Adelaide, 27th June, 1892.

Re proposed reciprocity.—We are prepared to go as far as suggested in telegram of sixth instant, but as to anything more shall need some proposal from you, as no records exist of any negotiations on the subject.

F. W. HOLDER.

The Hon. the Premier.

Premier's Office, Tasmania, 9th July, 1892.

Sir,

In reference to your telegram of the 27th ultimo, stating that no records exist of the recent negotiations between this Government and your predecessors in office, I have the honor to inform you that my views in regard to what might be embodied in a proposal for reciprocal action with respect to Customs Duties between South Australia and Tasmania were embodied in a Memorandum to the former Government of your Colony, of which I now enclose a copy.

I have, &c.

B. STAFFORD BIRD,
for the Premier, absent.

The Hon. the Premier of South Australia.

THE PREMIER TO THE PREMIER OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

MEMORANDUM.

MR. FYSH has the honor to submit the following for the consideration of the Honorable the Premier of South Australia with the purpose of securing the interchange between Tasmania and South Australia of the products named in the Schedule free from every restriction of the Customs at any of the Ports of the Colony of Tasmania and of the Province of South Australia. This Agreement to remain binding upon both Governments for a period of Three years, and it is agreed that during such period alterations of tariff in either Tasmania or South Australia shall not annul this Agreement.

Each Government undertakes to introduce for the consideration of its Legislature such legislation as will give due effect hereto, and the Act shall name the date from which this Agreement is to take effect.

South Australia on its part and the Government of Tasmania on its part contract not to make favourable terms with any other Governments for the interchange of the products named herein; but nothing herein is to restrict the right of each of the contracting parties to conclude with other Governments favourable terms for the interchange of the said products for products other than those interchanged by this Agreement; that is to say, South Australia reserves a right to exchange wheat, flour, and wines with any Colony outside this Agreement on terms more favourable than the tariff for any of the products of any such Colony; and Tasmania in like manner reserves a right to exchange oats, potatoes, hops, timber (sawn, split, shingles, and palings); it is also agreed that before any of these products shall be allowed to pass free of duty, satisfactory evidence shall be produced to the Collector of Customs at the port of entry, in accordance with the Orders to be made by the Governor in Council in that behalf, that the products are *bona fide* the products of South Australia or Tasmania, as the case may be.

P. O. FYSH.

May, 1892.

SCHEDULE.

Tasmania.	South Australia.
Oats. Potatoes. Hops. Timber (sawn, split, shingles, palings.)	Wheat and Flour. Wines.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 20th July, 1892.

SHALL be glad to have early expression of your views with regard to reciprocal Customs proposals, including differential railway rates on Tasmanian timber:

P. O. FYSH, *Premier.*
(JAS. ANDREW, *Secretary to Premier.*)

The Hon. the Premier, Adelaide, South Australia.

TELEGRAM.

Adelaide, 23rd July, 1892.

IN reply to yours of 20th instant, we cannot see our way to do more than take timber free in exchange for wine, wheat, and flour. We cannot accede to the request to alter the railway rates for timber at present.

F. W. HOLDER.

The Hon. the Premier, Tasmania.

Hobart, 25th July, 1892.

VERY much regret your intention to depart from the proposal of your predecessor respecting reciprocity of trade. Your new proposal cannot be considered.

P. O. FYSH, *Premier.*

The Hon. the Prime Minister, Adelaide, South Australia.

TELEGRAM.

Adelaide, 26th July, 1892.

WHEAT and flour being in your first proposal were inserted by oversight in my last telegram. I do not desire to depart from proposals adopted by last Government, and am willing to endorse telegram of June 6th of this year.

F. W. HOLDER.

The Hon. the Premier.

Hobart, 27th July, 1892.

MINISTERS will submit a proposal for the consideration of Parliament for the free exchange of South Australian wines for Tasmanian timber.

P. O. FYSH, *Premier.*
(JAS. ANDREW, *Secretary to Premier.*)

*The Hon. the Prime Minister, Adelaide,
South Australia.*

Premier's Office, Tasmania, 14th September, 1892.

SIR,

REFERRING to the telegrams and correspondence which have passed between South Australia and Tasmania with respect to the free interchange of wines and timber, I have the honor to inform you that the subject will have early consideration by the Government, and the result shall be communicated to you with as little delay as possible.

I have, &c.

HENRY DOBSON.

The Hon. the Premier of South Australia.