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TASMANIA.

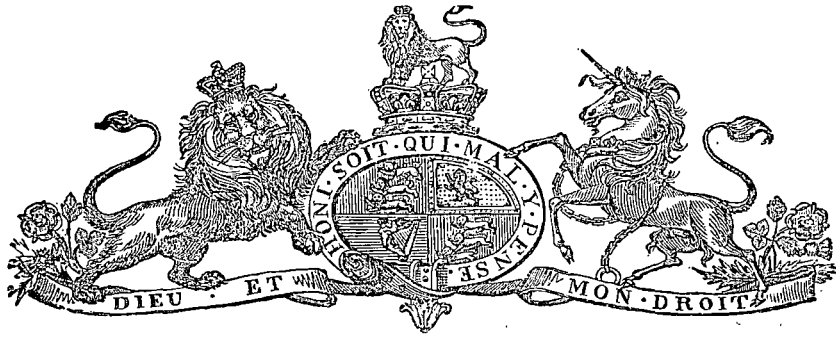
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**UNIFORM TARIFF.**

**CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
GOVERNMENT.**

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Presented by Mr. Chapman, and ordered by the House to be printed,  
19 September, 1862.



## SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 19th March, 1862.

SIR,

1. I HAVE the honor, by desire of His Excellency Sir Dominic Daly, to request that you will call the attention of the Government of Tasmania to the fact, that the existence of different Tariffs in adjoining Colonies, and the systematic treatment of each Colony by its neighbour as though it were a Foreign State, are gradually creating, and must continue to excite, feelings between the inhabitants of the several Colonies scarcely in accordance with the unity of their origin; and which may eventually render impossible that Federation which all look forward to as ultimately desirable, but which cannot, in all probability, be effected until the means of intercommunication are much improved.

2. Meanwhile, however, it appears to this Government that much may be done towards creating a more cordial feeling, and preparing the way for a future Federal union.

3. As one step towards attaining this desirable end, this Government intend seeking Legislative authority to receive, free of duty, all articles *bonâ fide* the produce of any *other* Australian Colony which is willing, on the same terms, to receive the produce of *this*; and they trust that the Government of Tasmania will consider it desirable to adopt the same policy with reference to South Australia and the other Colonies.

4. This Government would, at the same time, bring under your notice the desirableness of steps being taken in order to place the Tariffs in this and the adjacent Colonies on a uniform basis. So long as they remain essentially different, it will be impossible for the Colony with the higher Tariff to prevent the introduction of goods that have paid duty under a lower one, unless a large and costly Revenue Service be maintained.

5. It was this consideration that, two years ago, mainly induced the Parliament of this Province to repeal the then existing *Ad Valorem* Duties. Since then, if I am not misinformed as to the state of public feeling elsewhere, the necessity for a greater Customs Revenue seems to have been felt in all the Australian Colonies; and it appears likely that a similar reason to that which principally led to the abolition of *Ad Valorem* Duties here is now operating in other Colonies to prevent their imposition.

6. Under these circumstances, it seems desirable that steps should be taken to ascertain whether it be not possible for the several Australian Colonies to agree upon a uniform Tariff. The necessity for this will be more apparent when I state that the natural adaptedness of this Colony to the culture of the vine, and the extent to which this interest is being developed, are facts hurrying us towards free distillation, the restrictions upon which cannot be—and this Government would be extremely sorry to see—much longer continued.

7. I need scarcely observe that free distillation in South Australia, with high duties on spirits in adjacent Colonies, would at once necessitate upon their Governments the establishment along our frontier of a costly and extensive Revenue Service.

8. It is, therefore, the more important that the question of uniform Tariffs should be speedily considered; and, with this end, this Government would propose that the Treasurers of the several Colonies, or some other person possessing the confidence of the respective Governments, should meet in Melbourne, in order to discuss how far united action in this respect is attainable.

9. I am aware that no mutual agreement can be permanently binding upon the different Legislatures; but I can scarcely doubt that identity of interest would lead to the general and continued maintenance of any such arrangement if once adopted.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

G. M. WATERHOUSE, *Chief Secretary*.

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.*

FORWARDED to the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.  
31 *March*, 1862.

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### TASMANIA.

*Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 15th April, 1862.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 19th ultimo, calling the attention of the Government of Tasmania to the differences of Tariff among the Australian Colonies, and the desirability of placing their Tariffs on a uniform basis, &c.; and in which you suggest that the question should be speedily considered by the Treasurers of the several Colonies, or some other person possessing the confidence of the respective Governments, at a meeting to be held at Melbourne for the purpose.

In reply, I beg to state that, although the situation of this Colony makes uniformity of Tariff on the part of this with the other Australian Colonies of less importance to it, or them, than uniformity among those Colonies themselves; still, the Government of Tasmania recognises the desirability of the object contemplated by the proposed Conference, and will despatch a Representative to meet the Australian Delegates, should the time fixed for meeting be a convenient one; with reference to which I have to acquaint you that the Tasmanian Parliament is likely to assemble by the latter part of June, or early in July, when the Tariff question, in all probability, will principally engage its attention.

I have, &c.,

FRED. M. INNES.

*The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Adelaide.*

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### SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

*Chief Secretary's Office, Adelaide, 5th August, 1862.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor, by desire of His Excellency Sir Dominic Daly, to inform you, in reply to your letter of 15th April last, recognising, on behalf of the Government of Tasmania, the desirableness of the proposed Conference on the question of a uniform Tariff for the Australian Colonies, that the 15th October next has been fixed upon as the day of meeting of Delegates at Melbourne; and that the following gentlemen have been appointed to represent South Australia at the Conference; viz.—

The Honorable the Treasurer, A. Blyth, Esq., M.P.  
The Honorable Henry Ayers, M.L.C.; and  
Lavington Glyde, Esq., M.P.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

G. M. WATERHOUSE, *Chief Secretary*.

*The Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.*

FORWARDED to the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.  
16 *August*, 1862.