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

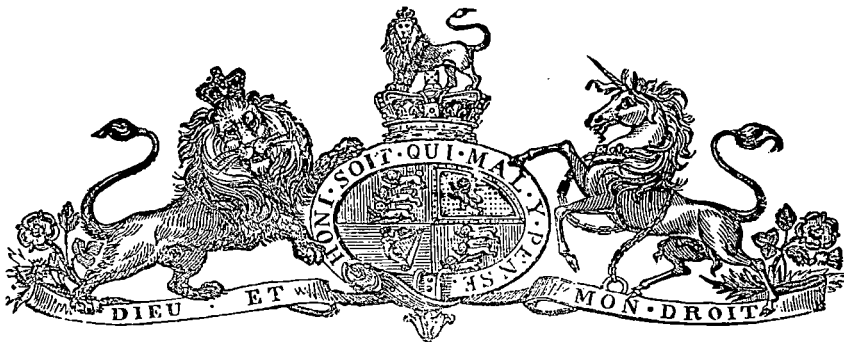
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ADMIRALTY SURVEY OF BANKS'S STRAITS.

CORRESPONDENCE.

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 8, 1874.



SIR,

*Victoria,  
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 26th March, 1874.*

AT the conclusion of the late Conference of Marine Officers in Sydney the question of obtaining an accurate survey of Banks' Straits was raised; and it was understood that Mr. Maxwell, the representative of Tasmania, would bring the matter under the notice of your Government. At the same time a copy was given to Mr. Maxwell of an extract from a letter from the Hydrographer to the Admiralty, addressed to the Admiralty Surveyor now stationed in Victoria, stating that the Imperial Authorities would continue their contribution to the cost of the Marine Survey if it were decided by the Colonial Governments concerned to have the work effected.

Not being aware what your Government has decided to do, I have the honor to ask your early consideration of the matter. I may state that the Government of Victoria is quite willing to participate in defraying the expenditure that will be incurred in effecting the survey; and it would seem advisable not to lose the opportunity of making use of Captain Stanley's services.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary of Tasmania,  
Hobart Town.*

J. G. FRANCIS.

SIR,

*Tasmania,  
Colonial Secretary's Office, 22nd April 1874.*

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ultimo upon the subject of obtaining an accurate survey of Banks' Straits.

This Government, having in view the importance to the Marine and Commercial interests of the Australasian Colonies of securing a correct survey of these Straits and the adjoining coasts, is prepared to co-operate with the Government of Victoria in availing itself of the valuable services of Captain Stanley; and upon the understanding that the Imperial Authorities will continue their contributions of one-half the total cost, will be prepared to pay one-half of the remaining moiety.

I should be glad to receive an approximate estimate of the total cost of the survey, so as to enable the Government to inform Parliament upon its meeting the probable extent of our liability for this service.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.*

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

SIR,

*Victoria,  
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 12th June, 1874.*

IN continuation of the correspondence upon the subject of surveying Banks' Straits, I have the honor to inform you, in reply to your letter of 22nd April, that Captain Stanley reports that it will occupy him the greater part of two seasons to survey "Banks' Straits and the adjoining Coasts." He understands that the expression "Banks' Straits and the adjoining Coasts," as specified in the letter under acknowledgment, comprises the space within the limits of  $40^{\circ} 10'$  and  $40^{\circ} 59'$  south latitude, and  $147^{\circ} 46'$  and  $148^{\circ} 33'$  east longitude, or from Strzelecki Peaks on Flinder's Island to Eddystone Point on the Mainland. Within these limits there are, he believes, about 240 miles of coast line; and he adds, that the whole of the numerous bays used as anchorages will require most careful and close sounding.

The cost of this to the Colonial Governments will be at least £6000,—exclusive of the Admiralty contribution, at the rate of £2500 per annum,—and the survey would occupy upwards of a season and a half.

On reference to the chart of these Straits, it will be observed that this survey will not include the greater part of Flinders' Island, or the other islands of Bass's Straits. Captain Stanley, however, further estimates the cost of completing these to be £4000, if proceeded with simultaneously with the above-mentioned survey, and will in this way cost less money: this additional survey would not be concluded until more than another season had elapsed. It would not be safe, under these circumstances, to estimate the period for completing the survey of the whole coast and islands above specified at less than three seasons, commencing, say, from 1st July next, and ending 30th June, 1877,—the rate of expenditure being £4000 per annum for three years from the local governments.

It would appear, from your despatch, that the Tasmanian Government would be willing to defray a moiety, and would therefore have to contribute £2000 per annum for three years from 1st July next.

I would suggest that, as the other Australian Governments are interested, they should be asked to share in the remaining moiety, in which this Government would join, on the basis of tonnage, similar to the arrangements for the contribution to the maintenance of the lighthouses in these parts. It is to be understood, however, that the Victorian Government would lend H. M. C. S. *Victoria* for the use of the Admiralty Surveyor, as hitherto.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

J. G. FRANCIS, *Chief Secretary.*

*The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town,  
Tasmania.*

*Tasmania,*

*Colonial Secretary's Office, 24th August, 1874.*

SIR,

WITH reference to previous correspondence respecting the proposed Admiralty Survey of Banks' Straits by Captain Stanley and his staff of Surveyors, I have the honor of informing you that this Government is willing to agree to the suggestion made by Captain Stanley, that a survey of Banks' Straits and the adjoining coasts shall be understood to comprise the space within the limits of 40° 10', and 40° 59' south latitude, and 147° 46', and 148° 33' east longitude, or from Strzelecki's Peaks on Flinder's Island to Eddystone Point on the east coast of Tasmania; and I would suggest that it should also embrace Waterhouse Island and the neighbouring coast of Tasmania as far west as Croppie's Point, a short distance to the westward of Waterhouse Island. I take note that the cost of this survey to the Colonial Governments will be at least Six thousand Pounds, towards which this Government will be called upon to contribute one moiety, say Three thousand Pounds or thereabouts, your Government paying the other moiety of Three thousand Pounds or thereabouts.

With regard to the proposal made for extending the survey to the northern side of Flinder's Island, and the other islands in Bass's Straits, this Government is not prepared to undertake the payment of any portion of that work, as the shipping trade of this Colony is but little interested in such a survey. As, however, it would be very desirable that the survey should be effected by Captain Stanley and his staff, I venture to suggest that your Government might fairly ask the Government of New South Wales, to cooperate with your Government in having that portion of the survey effected.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.*