

(No. 123.)



1883.

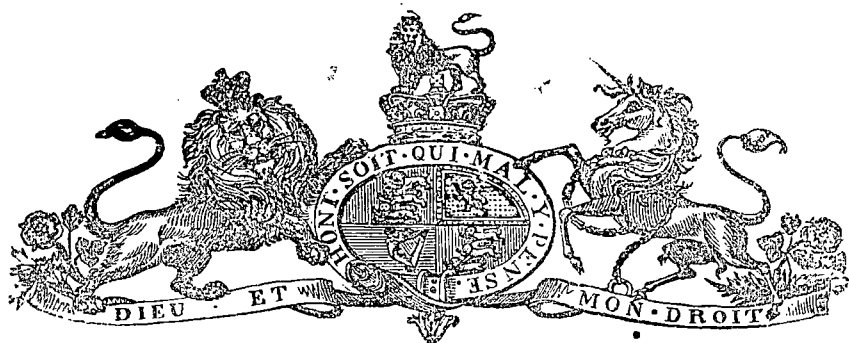
T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

**SUBMARINE CABLE AND INTERCOLONIAL
POSTAL SUBSIDY AND POSTAGE TO
GREAT BRITAIN :**

MEMORANDUM OF ARRANGEMENTS WITH VICTORIA.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
October 25, 1883.



MEMORANDUM.

TASMANIA AND VICTORIA—CABLE SUBSIDY £4200 A YEAR.

At interviews held on the 17th and 18th instant, between the Honorable the Postmaster-General (Mr. Berry) and the Honorable the Treasurer of Tasmania (Mr. Dodds), the latter requested that the Government of Victoria would consent to pay a portion of the subsidy—£4200 per annum—hitherto paid by Tasmania alone, for telegraphic communication by submarine cable between the two Colonies.

Mr. Dodds asked that Victoria should contribute one third of the above subsidy: but it was pointed out that if Tasmania paid her share of the subsidy to the Eastern Extension Telegraph Company for the duplicate cable, Port Darwin to Singapore, (calculated at £1832), the charge against Victoria would be £800 less than at present.

It was, however, shown that the telegraph revenue derived by Victoria on messages to and from Tasmania amounted in 1882 to nearly £1200,—or £950 if the £250 paid towards maintenance of the Station at Flinders be deducted.

It was ultimately arranged, with a view to secure to the large and growing mercantile interests in both Colonies the advantage of a further reduction in the cable rates (including those on press messages), that, upon a reduction taking place to the extent of at least Sixpence upon each message, the Victorian Government should, if found necessary, be charged with the first loss consequent upon such reduction to the amount of £1000 per annum, and the half of any further loss beyond that sum. The Government of Tasmania to make the necessary negotiations with the Cable Company.

INTERCOLONIAL POSTAL SUBSIDY.

The Treasurer of Tasmania also requested that Victoria should contribute towards the contract for conveyance of Mails between Melbourne and Launceston by the Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company. The amount of the Contract was stated to be £4000 per annum, and the term of the contract had about five years to run.

It appeared that the Company was bound under its contract to convey not only the English Mails, but all Intercolonial Mails between the two Colonies, without charge.

It was therefore arranged that, upon Mr. Dodds formally notifying the above provision in the contract, the sum of £1000 per annum should be paid over to the Government of Tasmania.

POSTAL COMMUNICATION WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

It was likewise agreed that, in consideration of Victoria reducing the transit rate on mails sent by her contract steamers between Melbourne and Ceylon,—

- On Letters, from 1s. 7d. to 1s. 4d. per oz. ;
- On Packets, from 1s. 6d. to 1s. per lb. ;
- Newspapers, 6d. per lb., to remain as at present ;—

Tasmania should reduce the rate collected on letters sent by above route from 8d. to 6d. per half-ounce, and forward all correspondence by the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company's line, except such as might be specially endorsed for transmission by some other means; this arrangement being the same as that agreed to with South Australia.