

(No. 22.)



1860.

T A S M A N I A.

DEFENCES OF TASMANIA.

Despatches (No. 27, of 26 October, 1859, with an Enclosure ; No. 32, of 11 November, 1859) from His Grace the Duke of Newcastle.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed, 16 August, 1860.



(No. 27.)

Downing-street, 26th October, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE received your Despatch, No. 62, of the 12th July last, enclosing a Report from the Commanding Royal Engineer on the state of the Defences of Tasmania, and requesting that arrangements may be made for sending out at least one Company of the Royal Artillery for the service of working the Batteries.

I regret the necessity for any further delay in dealing with this application; but, before offering any suggestion upon it to the Secretary of State for War, I think it desirable to bring the question again under the consideration of your Government in the point of view in which it appears to me properly to stand.

You are, no doubt, aware of the general principle which has for some time past been adopted by Her Majesty's Government as that on which the expense incurred for Military defence might be fairly arranged as between this Country and the various Australian Colonies. It is fully explained in a Despatch, of which I enclose a copy, which was addressed to the Governor of New South Wales on the 11th March, 1858; and a similar instruction was, at the same time, addressed to the Governor of Victoria.

The principle had, as you will perceive, been laid down in an instruction from Lord Grey to the Governor of New South Wales in the year 1849, but had never been practically carried out until it was applied to the two Colonies referred to by the enclosed Despatch. You will perceive the intentions of the Government explained in the following words:—

“The force to be maintained by this Country in the Australian Colonies should be that which may be reasonably required for defence against possible aggression; and (to adopt Lord Grey's words) ‘If a greater amount of force is required, the Local Legislature should make provision for the pay and allowances of an additional number of Her Majesty's regular Army.’ That is to say, the Imperial Government is prepared to execute the duty allotted to it of preserving distant Possessions against Foreign enemies; while, if troops are required by any Colony beyond the amount necessary for this purpose, they will readily assist to the best of their ability in furnishing those troops, if they can be spared, and provided the Colony will pay for them.”

Under that arrangement the British Government provide the Regimental pay for four Companies in each of those two Colonies, while from the Colonial Treasury provision is made for the lodging of all the troops, and for such Colonial allowances as, from the high rate of provisions, &c. it is necessary to grant in addition to the Regimental Pay; the Colonies also paying the whole charge of any additional amount of force which may be required for the internal security of the Colony.

The measure thus applied to New South Wales and Victoria has as yet had no application to the Colony of Tasmania, from the circumstance that the presence of Convicts rendered necessary the maintenance of a considerable force for purposes exclusively Imperial.

Your present application for a detachment of Artillery is not founded on any plea of the insufficiency of the Military Force in the Colony for such purposes, nor on any immediate apprehension of hostile invasion. In New South Wales a Company of Royal Artillery is maintained for the service of the Batteries wholly at the expense of the Colony; while in

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Victoria a local Corps of Artillery is in the course of formation, for the efficient establishment of which a given number of trained Artillerymen have been applied for to be maintained at the charge of the Colony.

It appears to me that, under the circumstances which I have stated, if any force of Artillery is still desired by the Government of Tasmania, it should be maintained exclusively at the expense of the Colony. It will therefore rest with the Local Government to consider the question in that light; and I am the more desirous of so bringing it under their consideration, because, as the remains of the Convict Establishment gradually becomes extinct, it will devolve on the Colony to take such measures as may be necessary for providing, under ordinary circumstances, for its own protection.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,
NEWCASTLE.

Governor SIR H. E. F. YOUNG, C. B.

[Enclosure.]

Lord STANLEY to Governor Sir W. DENISON.

(No. 6.)

Downing-street, 11th March, 1858.

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge your Despatch, No. 127, of the 14th August, 1856, forwarding copy of proceedings of yourself and Council with reference to the general question of the defence of the town and harbour of Sydney. In the same Despatch you lay before Her Majesty's Government certain proposals as to the manner in which the pay and maintenance of the Troops required for their defence should be henceforth provided.

2. I find that Her Majesty's former advisers had given to those proposals their fullest attention; and the delay in answering your Despatch has arisen only out of the importance and extent of the subject, involving as it does the general principles which must regulate the Military relations between the United Kingdom and the Colonies under free institutions.

3. Her Majesty's Government assume, on the authority of your experience, that your observations respecting the obstacles which at present oppose the formation of a Militia force for the defence of the Colony are well founded. This being the case, the principle laid down by Lord Grey in his Despatch to Sir Charles Fitzroy, of the 21st November, 1849, appears to them the sound one. The force to be maintained by this country in the Australian Colonies should be that which may be reasonably required for defence against possible aggression; and (to adopt Lord Grey's words,) "if a greater amount of force is required, the local Legislature should make provision for the pay and allowances of an additional number of Her Majesty's regular Army." That is to say, the Imperial Government is prepared to execute the duty allotted to it of preserving distant Possessions against Foreign enemies; while, if Troops are required by any Colony beyond the amount necessary for this purpose, they will readily assist to the best of their ability in furnishing those Troops if they can be spared, and provided the Colony will pay for them.

4. Your proposal is, that the pay and allowances of the Troops should be halved between the Mother-country and the Colony. This proposal, taken as a method whereby the principle above stated may be carried in a broad and general way into execution, has the great merit of simplicity, and being calculated to dispense with minute changes of plan, and to obviate disputes. But it would seem difficult to adopt this rule, unless your own further proposal were incorporated with it,—that the Colony should possess, through the vote of its Legislature, the responsibility of determining the amount of force which should be maintained in it, whether in peace or in war. Her Majesty's Government do not, as at present advised, see in what manner this suggestion could be adopted, without compromising that independent action of the Central authority of the Empire. The Executive in this country, having full information as to its available force, and as to the different calls on that force in the various portions of the Empire, can alone be in a position to decide what force is required, and what force can be spared, for purposes of defence against Foreign aggression on each particular point. If every Colony were to assert a voice in this matter, as on your proposal it would have to do, I do not see in what manner the general defensive arrangements of the Empire could be conducted.

5. Her Majesty's former advisers, therefore, came to the opinion (from which, so far as I have yet been able to consider the subject, I see no reason to dissent) that, for the present, it was better not to alter the existing system, whatever might be the temporary inconveniences to which the necessity of varying arrangements from time to time might lead. Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that

this country should continue to maintain the force at present maintained by it in Sydney; namely, the four Companies of Infantry. They have no objection to the Colony's retaining at present the additional two Companies of Infantry, and the two of Artillery, if the Colony is prepared to pay for them as hitherto. They count on the liberality of the Colony for continuance of those extra allowances to all the eight Companies to which the comparative dearth of the Colony has given rise, and concerning which, indeed, no question is raised in your Despatch.

6. Farther, they concur in your view that the expense of the construction and maintenance of Military works and buildings should be defrayed by the Colony; and consequently that the buildings, such as barracks, stores, magazines, &c., should be transferred to the Colonial Government. The Officer in command of the Forces will be placed in communication with yourself, in order to the execution of this portion of the arrangement.

7. With regard to that portion of your Despatch which relates to the Naval defences of the Colony, I cannot do better than communicate to you a letter addressed to this Department by order of the Lords of the Admiralty, in January, 1857, in which the whole subject is fully discussed. Her Majesty's Government are generally prepared to adopt the views of their Lordships, and hope that you may be able, with the advice of your Council, to arrive at some practicable conclusion which may be in accordance with these views.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STANLEY.

Governor SIR W. DENISON, K. C. B.

(No. 32.)

Downing-street, 11th November, 1859.

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch, No. 69, of the 8th of August last, forwarding, with reference to the application contained in your Despatch, No. 62, of the 12th July last, the copy of a letter addressed by Colonel Broughton to the Inspector-General of Fortifications in this Country on the general state of the defences of Tasmania, and stating his opinion that, in the event of war being declared, it would be necessary that two Companies of Artillery should be sent to the Colony to man the Batteries. Colonel Broughton also points to the expediency of a Company of Engineers being likewise sent out to the Colony.

Upon this subject it is only necessary that I should refer you to my Despatch, No. 27, of the 26th ultimo, in which the general principle adopted by Her Majesty's Government in respect of the payment of the expenses connected with the Military defence of the Australian Colonies was fully explained for your guidance.

I have caused a copy of your present Despatch, with its enclosure, to be forwarded to the War Office for the information of Mr. Secretary Herbert.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,
NEWCASTLE.

Governor SIR H. E. F. YOUNG, C.B.