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1879.

T A S M A N I A.

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

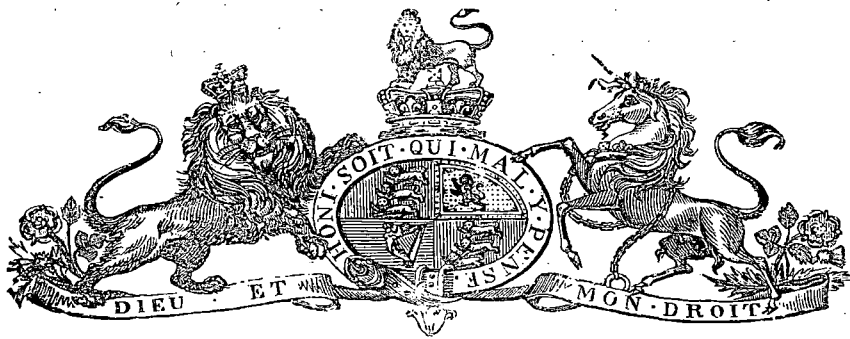
E D D Y S T O N E L I G H T - H O U S E :

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Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, October 9, 1879.

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Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 25th November, 1875.

SIR,

At the instance of my colleague, the Honorable the Commissioner of Trade and Customs, I have the honor to forward to you the accompanying copy of a letter from Captain Stanley, R.N., Admiralty Surveyor.

I am requested to remind you that the subject of placing a Light upon Eddystone Point was fully discussed at the Conference of the principal officers of the Marine Departments of the Australasian Colonies in January and February, 1873, and to ask that you will be so good as to refer to paragraphs 6 and 10 and to the last clause of the Report.

I have, &c.

JOHN S. MACPHERSON.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

(Copy.)

Marine Survey Office, Melbourne, 17th November, 1875.

SIR,

THE Tasmanian Government had it in contemplation to erect a Light-house near or on Eddystone Point, but it was thought advisable to delay its erection until the survey of the vicinity had been made.

The recent discovery of a rock of 10 feet, reported to you in my late letter, makes a Light-house still more necessary; and I have come to the conclusion that a light, cut off in the direction of and so as to clear the George Rocks, (which would at the same time clear the newly found rock,) is much needed.

A Light-house upon George Rocks would in one respect be better than one upon Eddystone Point,—it would be nearer the newly found danger, but it would not be so immediately at the turn of the coast as upon Eddystone Point.

In going northward a light upon Eddystone Point would answer as well as one upon the George Rocks, as a good departure would be obtained only 10 miles from the danger, and a ship would derive further assistance from the cutting of the light.

Going southward (a departure having been obtained from Swan Island Light-house) a certainty of having passed the rock, even if the light were obscured, would be obtained by going well to the eastward before altering course to the southward.

On the whole I consider Eddystone Point the place for a Light-house, and I think that even if a Light-house were to be erected upon the George Rocks it would not do away entirely with the necessity for one upon Eddystone Point, while on the other hand a light upon Eddystone Point will in all probability obviate the necessity for one upon the George Rocks.

If any more rocks are discovered in the same locality a Light-house upon Eddystone Point would be still more useful.

I have the honor to request you will be good enough to forward this communication to the Tasmanian Government, with the published Notice to Mariners herein enclosed.

I have, &c.

H. J. STANLEY, *Staff Commander in charge of Survey.*

The Hon. the Commissioner of Trade and Customs.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.—SUNKEN ROCK IN BANKS'S STRAIT.

THE accompanying Notice to Mariners is published for general information.

(Signed) ROBERT S. ANDERSON, *Commissioner of Trade and Customs.*

Department of Trade and Customs, Melbourne, 15th November, 1875.

A ROCK, with only 10 feet of water on it, has been discovered by Her Majesty's surveying steamer *Victoria* off the Black Reef, from which it lies E. by S. $\frac{1}{2}$ S. three miles.

For the guidance of mariners it may be stated that the rock will take the place of a "14 fathoms" upon the Admiralty Charts of Banks's and Bass's Straits, marked as "breaking heavily in southerly gales." As this rock is at the turning point in Banks's Straits its position is one of great danger.

(Signed) H. J. STANLEY, *Staff Commander in charge of Survey.*

THE Notice enclosed published in the *Gazette* of 7th December, 1875.

T. D. CHAPMAN.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 7th January, 1876.

SIR,

As you are in possession of a copy of the Report made by the Conference of Representatives of Marine Departments of the Australian Colonies, held in Sydney during the months of September and October, 1873, you are aware of the recommendations made by the Conference for the erection of new lights on the coasts of Australasia; and in the conversations I have had with you on several occasions in reference to the proposed new light on the Eddystone Point, I informed you that the Executive Government of this Colony were fully alive to the importance of giving effect to the recommendations of the Conference as early as practicable; you will also no doubt remember when the Members of the Victorian Government were over here in the early part of last year the question of erecting a new Light-house on the Eddystone Point was discussed, and it was then decided to let the matter stand over until Captain Stanley, who was engaged in making a survey of Bass's Straits, was able to report on the best site for erecting the proposed light.

I have now the honor of forwarding for your perusal a copy of a letter recently received from the Chief Secretary of Victoria, transmitting a copy of a letter from Captain Stanley dated 17th November last, reporting the discovery of a dangerous sunken rock about half-way between the Eddystone Point and Swan Island with only ten feet of water on it.

You will observe that Captain Stanley considers Eddystone Point the best site for the proposed new light. I have, therefore, to request that you will be good enough to call the early attention of your Board to the recommendations of the Conference that a new light should be erected on the Eddystone Point, and I do so with the confident assurance that your Board fully recognise the necessity of having this new light erected as early as practicable.

The responsibility of erecting the Light-house, and maintaining the same, will of course fall on your Board; but I avail myself of this opportunity to assure you that this Government will render every assistance in their power to enable your Marine Board to erect and complete the work as early as possible.

I assume, as a matter of course, that the cost of erecting the light and maintaining the same will be defrayed by the Colonies interested, in the same manner as the lights on Swan Island and Goose Island are now maintained; but, before your Board involves itself in any expenditure on account of this new light, it will be necessary to obtain the assent of the Government of Victoria to such an arrangement.

Trusting your Board will give the subject their early attention,

I have, &c.

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

Rear-Admiral BARNARD, R.N., Master Warden, Hobart Town.

Marine Board Office, Hobart Town, 20th January, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst. on the subject of erecting a Light-house at Eddystone Point, which I laid before the Hobart Town Marine Board for consideration on the 11th inst.

Before coming to a decision the Board deemed it expedient, in accordance with "The Marine Board Act," 22nd December, 1857, to confer with the Launceston Board, the erection of the proposed Light-house coming under the 78th Article of that Act.

The cause of delay in not transmitting to you the desire of this Board to carry out the wish of the Government in its erection, arises from not yet having received the consent of the Launceston Board, which, on receipt, I will lose no time in embodying in a letter.

I have, &c.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

EDWD. K. BARNARD, *Master Warden.*

Marine Board Office, Hobart Town, 22nd January, 1876.

SIR,

ON the 20th inst. I had the honor of informing you that the Hobart Town Marine Board had considered it expedient, in accordance with "The Marine Board Act," 22nd December, 1857, to confer with the Launceston Board on the subject of erecting a new Light-house at Eddystone Point, before replying to your communication on the subject of the 7th of January, 1876.

I have now the honor of informing you that I have received a communication from the Master Warden of the Launceston Marine Board, in which he informs me "that he is authorised by the several members to say that they agree with the Hobart Town Board that it is desirable to have a new Light-house erected at Eddystone Point as early as practicable."

I have, therefore, now to inform you that the Hobart Town Marine Board are fully alive and concur in the views of the Executive Government of this Colony as to the importance of giving effect to the recommendations of the Sydney Conference as early as practicable, and accept the responsibility of erecting and maintaining the same, but solicit the assistance of the Government to enable them to undertake the work.

With this view I would beg to suggest that the assent of the other contributing Colonies to its erection and maintenance be obtained before any expenditure be incurred; and that it would greatly assist the Marine Board if the nature and cost of the buildings the Government of Victoria have undertaken to erect at Netherby Point, King Island, can be ascertained for their guidance.

It will also be desirable that a competent person should ascertain the nature of the foundation at the site selected by Staff Commander Stanley, and if suitable stone can be procured at the place for building.

I have, &c.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

EDWD. K. BARNARD, *Master Warden.*

Marine Board Office, Hobart Town, 15th February, 1876.

SIR,

WITH reference to my letter of the 22nd January, reporting that the Hobart Town Marine Board accept the responsibility of erecting and maintaining the proposed Light-house at Eddystone Point, it is suggested that as Staff Commander Stanley is still employed in the survey of the proposed site, that he be requested to fix the exact spot, to ascertain the height of the base above the sea level, and to state if, in his opinion, the material on the spot is adapted for building the tower.

I am, &c.

EDWD. K. BARNARD, *Master Warden.*

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Tasmania,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 22nd April, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward copy of a letter received from the Master Warden of the Hobart Town Marine Board, under date the 15th February last, suggesting that Staff Commander Stanley be requested to fix the exact spot for the proposed Light-house at Eddystone Point, to ascertain the height of the base above the sea level, and to report whether in his opinion the material in the immediate neighbourhood is adapted for building the tower.

I shall feel obliged if you would communicate the wishes of the Marine Board to Captain Stanley, and express the hope of this Government that he will be good enough to undertake the duty as suggested in the Master Warden's letter.

I have, &c.

A. KENNERLEY,

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

For the Colonial Secretary, absent.

Victoria,

Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 19th May, 1876.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 22nd April last, asking that Staff Commander Stanley might be requested to fix the exact spot for the proposed Light-house at Eddystone Point, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report (22nd April, 1876,) which has been received from Captain Stanley on the subject, together with its accompanying enclosure.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

JOHN S. MACPHERSON.

H.M.C.S. "Victoria," Banks' Strait, 9th May, 1876.

SIR,

In accordance with the request contained in your letter of the 3rd instant, I have visited Eddystone Point and marked a spot as a site for the Light-house there (by digging in several poles and leaving them erect).

The spot chosen has been fixed upon on account of the foundation, and not because no other spot in the vicinity would have suited; the point is so prominent that any part of it, if good as regards foundation, would answer as a site.

As regards material for the construction of the Light-house, the geological formation is, of course, granite, a specimen of which is enclosed, and, if it can be worked, there is no lack of the material.

The site marked is 51 feet above high water; the highest part of Eddystone Point is only 79 feet.

I have no doubt the Inspector-General of Public Works will be able to furnish information as to the quality of the stone from the enclosed specimen.

I have, &c.

H. J. STANLEY, *Admiralty Surveyor.*

The Hon. the Commissioner of Trade and Customs.

Marine Board Office, Hobart Town, 23rd May, 1876.

SIR,

I BEG to submit the copy of a letter addressed to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary on the 22nd of January last in connection with the erection of a Light-house at Eddystone Point.

The discovery of a very dangerous rock in that vicinity renders it a question of great importance, and as no reply has yet been received to the suggestion made by this Board, "That the assent of the contributing colonies should be obtained before any expenditure was incurred," that you will take the necessary steps in the matter.

I have, &c.

EDW. K. BARNARD, *Master Warden.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

*Tasmania,
Colonial Treasury, 23rd May, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to transmit herewith copy of a letter from the Master Warden at this port respecting the Light-house service, which was inadvertently omitted to be forwarded at the date it was written. May I ask your early attention to the subject on account of its urgent nature?

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

F. M. INNES.

No. 1680.

*Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 26th June, 1876.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that your letter of the 23rd of May last, asking for the decision of the Government of Victoria on the proposal to establish a light on Eddystone Point, has been under consideration; and in reply to state that this Government is prepared, generally, to bear its due contribution, in proportion to tonnage, of the cost both of erecting and of subsequently maintaining a Light-house there, if the proposal is approved by the other colonies interested in its establishment. On which subject, as well as on the question of cost and other details, I presume this Government will be advised at an early date.

I have, &c.

JOHN S. MACPHERSON.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

FORWARDED to the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
30 June, 1876.

Tasmania,
Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 7th March, 1878.

SIR,

IN compliance with the request made by the deputation which I had the honor to receive yesterday, urging the importance of the erection of a Light-house at Eddystone Point, Tasmania, upon the favourable consideration of the Government, I beg to transmit herewith a copy of Commander Stanley's report of the 9th May, 1876, pointing out the most suitable site, the nature of the foundation, and the elevation of the spot chosen.

The specimen of stone referred to is also forwarded herewith.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN.

The Master Warden, Marine Board, Hobart Town.

Marine Board Office, Hobart Town, 12th March, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor of acknowledging your letter of the 7th inst., enclosing for the information of the Marine Board Staff Commander Stanley's report of the site selected by him for the Eddystone Point Light-house, dated May 9th, 1876.

The site selected is 51 feet above high-water mark, but Staff Commander Stanley remarks that the point is so prominent that any part of it (if good as regards the foundation) would answer; that the highest part is 79 feet.

The Board under these circumstances are of opinion that this difference in the height of a foundation from 51 to 79 feet is of great consideration, and would at the higher elevation make a great reduction in the cost of erection, and that it is very desirable before taking further steps to obtain more information; I am therefore requested to solicit the services of the Government Engineer-in-Chief, James Fincham, Esq., to proceed to Eddystone Point as early as may be convenient to obtain all necessary information as to the site, foundation at the greater elevation, and all things necessary for the preparation of detailed plans, sections, and specifications, for the approval by the Governor in Council.

In the event of the Government assenting to this request I have to state that arrangements will be made by the Marine Board for conveyance; and, if desirable, they will appoint a practical Light-house superintendent of long experience to proceed with the Engineer-in-Chief, to give any information he may require as to buildings and all other matters necessary for a first-class Light-house establishment.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

EDWD. K. BARNARD, *Master Warden.*

FORWARDED to the Honorable the Minister of Lands for perusal, in order that he may state whether it is probable the services of the Engineer-in-Chief could be made available at any early date for the purposes indicated in the Master Warden's letter.

W. R. GIBLIN.
12 3. 78.

THE Engineer-in-Chief is now on the North West Coast. Immediately upon his return I will ascertain whether and at what time his services can be placed at the disposal of the Marine Board for the purpose indicated.

NICHOLAS J. BROWN.
15. 3. 78.

THE Master Warden of the Marine Board, Hobart Town, has waited upon the Colonial Treasurer to enquire when it is likely the Engineer-in-Chief will be able to visit the site of the proposed light. Will the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works enable the Colonial Treasurer to reply.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*
8. 4. 78.

THE Engineer-in-Chief will not be at liberty to proceed to Eddystone Point before the middle of May. The exact date at which he will be able to go will be communicated to the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer within one week from this date.

NICHOLAS J. BROWN.
11. 4. 78.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

MASTER Warden advised accordingly.

12. 4. 78.

Marine Board Office, Hobart Town, 23rd April, 1878.

SIR,

REFERRING to correspondence that has already taken place in connection to the erection of a Light-house at Eddystone Point, I beg to suggest that it would be of great advantage to the Hobart Town Marine Board if, before steps are taken to prepare plans, specifications, and obtain estimates for the buildings, the cost of the Light-house to be erected at Currie Harbour, King's Island, which it is understood is of iron and has been obtained from England by the Victorian Government, could be ascertained, which would probably lead to great economy. Also, if the Marine Board can now be informed, before incurring any expenditure, if the assent of the other contributing colonies has been obtained for its erection and maintenance.

I have, &c.

EDWD. K. BARNARD, *Master Warden.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

Colonial Treasury, 25th April, 1878.

THE Colonial Treasurer has the honor to forward herewith an extract from a letter received from the Master Warden of the Hobart Town Marine Board, dated 23rd instant, in which the Master Warden suggests that certain information be obtained from the Government of Victoria respecting the cost of the light in course of erection by that Government at Currie Harbour, King's Island, with a view to enable the Hobart Town Marine Board to obtain a correct estimate of the probable cost of erecting the proposed light at Eddystone Point, Tasmania. Will the Hon. the Colonial Secretary be good enough to address the Government of Victoria and request that the information sought by the Hobart Town Marine Board may be supplied as convenient.

W. R. GIBLIN.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 29th May, 1878.

MEMORANDUM.

THE enclosed copy of a communication (22nd May, 1878,) from the Honorable the Chief Secretary of Victoria, received this day, affords the information asked for in the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer's memorandum of the 25th April last, respecting the cost of erecting the light at Currie Harbour, King's Island.

WM. MOORE.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

30th May, 1878.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 23rd ult., requesting that certain information might be obtained from the Government of Victoria respecting the cost of the light in course of erection at Currie Harbour, King's Island, I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter received from Victoria supplying the information required.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

The Master Warden, Marine Board, Hobart Town.

*Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 31st October, 1878.*

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th instant, No. 571, relative to the erection and maintenance of a Light-house on Eddystone Point, I have the honor to enclose a copy of a communication (June 26th, 1876, No. 1680,) addressed to you from this office in the year 1876.

This Government is still prepared to co-operate in the manner therein indicated, and would be glad to learn if the views of the other Colonies interested in the proposed work have been ascertained.

I have, &c.

GRAHAM BERRY.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

(Copy.)

Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 26th June, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that your letter of 23rd of May last, asking for the decision of the Government of Victoria on the proposal to establish a light on Eddystone Point has been under consideration; and in reply to state that this Government is prepared generally to bear its due contribution, in proportion to tonnage, of the cost both of erecting and of subsequently maintaining a Light-house there, if the proposal is approved by the other Colonies interested in its establishment. On which subject, as well as on the question of cost and other details, I presume this Government will be advised at an early date.

I have, &c.

JOHN MACPHERSON.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

FORWARDED for the information of the Hon. the Colonial Treasurer. The reply from the Government of New South Wales is also forwarded.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY,
21st Nov., 1878.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, New South Wales, 15th November, 1878.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 8th of last month, enquiring whether the Government of New South Wales would assent to the erection and maintenance of a Light-house at Eddystone Point, on the north-eastern coast of Tasmania, on the principle on which certain ocean lights are now maintained, I have the honor to inform you that this Government, having taken the sense of the Marine Board on the subject, does not feel at liberty to accede to your proposal.

I have, &c.

M. C. FITZPATRICK.

The Honorable the Colonial Secretary of Tasmania.

FORWARDED for the information of the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
21 Nov., 1878.

10th December, 1878.

MEMO.

WITH reference to the letter from the Chief Secretary of Victoria, dated 31st October last, desiring to be informed whether the views of the other Colonies interested in the construction of a Light-house at Eddystone have been ascertained, the Colonial Treasurer has the honor to request that the Honorable the Colonial Secretary will be good enough to intimate to the Government of Victoria that the only other Colony interested—New South Wales—has been addressed on the subject, and declined to entertain the proposal made to share in the cost of erection and future maintenance of the Light in question.

W. R. GIBLIN, *Colonial Treasurer.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 11th December, 1878.

SIR,

REFERRING to your letter of the 31st October last, desiring to be informed whether the views of the other Colonies interested in the construction of a Light-house at Eddystone Point have been ascertained, I have the honor to inform you that the only other Colony interested—New South Wales—has been addressed on the subject, and declined to entertain the proposal made to share in the cost of erection and future maintenance of the Light-house in question.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

The Honorable the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

Marine Board Office, Hobart Town, 7th January, 1879.

SIR,

REFERRING to my letter of 7th October, 1878, I again solicit attention to the matter of the erection of a Light-house at Eddystone Point, and request I may be informed, for the information of the Marine Board, if any steps have been taken since that date for obtaining the concurrence of the Australian Colonies whose shipping interest will be equally benefited as that of Tasmania by its erection.

Any correspondence that has taken place the Board will be glad to receive as early as possible, that the matter may be proceeded with without further delay.

I have, &c.

EDWD. K. BARNARD, *Master Warden.*

The Honorable the Colonial Treasurer.

Tasmania,
Colonial Treasury, Hobart Town, 7th January, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th inst., soliciting information respecting the erection of a Light-house at Eddystone Point, on the coast of this Colony.

The only information I am able to afford on the subject is that the Government of Victoria has expressed its willingness to co-operate with the Colonies interested in the erection and maintenance of the Light referred to in the same way as other ocean lights. The Government of New South Wales, the only other Colony interested, has been applied to, and has declined to entertain the proposal.

I have, &c.

D. LEWIS.

The Master Warden, Marine Board, Hobart Town.

Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 7th January, 1879.

SIR,

ADVERTING to the correspondence which has passed with reference to the erection and maintenance of a Light-house on Eddystone Point, and in reply to your letter of the 11th ultimo, notifying that the Government of New South Wales had declined to entertain the proposal to share in the cost of erection and maintenance of such a light, I have the honor to inform you that the Government of this Colony is still willing to pay its proportion, as originally intimated, leaving it to Tasmania to arrange for the payment of the balance of the expense.

I have, &c.

BRYAN O'LOGHLEN.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 18th January, 1879.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant, in which you inform me that the Government of Victoria is willing to pay its proportion, as originally intimated, of the cost of erecting and maintaining the Light on Eddystone Point, notwithstanding that the Government of New South Wales had declined to entertain the proposal that it should share in the expense, "leaving it to Tasmania to arrange for the payment of the balance of the expense."

I presume that the intention is to divide rateably the cost of erection and maintenance of the said Light between the Colonies of Victoria and Tasmania; but, to prevent the possibility of any future misunderstanding, I am induced to ask if this presumption is the correct one, as Tasmania would not be prepared to enter into the arrangement if it is intended that this Government should bear the proportion of the expense which, according to the principle adopted at the Intercolonial Conference held in Sydney in 1873, would equitably fall on the Government of New South Wales.

I have, &c.

WILLIAM LODGE CROWTHER,
(For the Col. Secretary, absent.)

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

*Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 6th March, 1879.*

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of 18th January I have the honor to inform you that this Government cannot undertake to bear any larger proportion of the cost of the Eddystone Point Light than it originally agreed to undertake when the project was first discussed. It will faithfully carry out the agreement arrived at on that occasion, but it cannot see any valid reason why it should be called on to make up a deficiency arising out of the action of another Government.

I have, &c.

BRYAN O'LOGHLEN

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

FORWARDED to the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer with former correspondence.

WILLIAM LODGE^K. CROWTHEY
(For the Col. Secretary, absent.)
11. 3. 79.

Marine Board Office, Hobart Town, 2nd April, 1879.

SIR,

THE correspondence which has taken place between the Government of this Colony and that of Victoria, relating to the cost of erection and maintenance of the Light at Eddystone Point, which you have forwarded with a Memorandum (26 March, 1879), suggesting the work should be suspended until the matter be explained, was read at the Board Meeting of the 28th ultimo.

I am requested to express regret that a question should have arisen to delay this important work, the necessity of which was strongly urged on the Board by the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, by letter dated 7th January, 1876, in which he pointed out that the cost of erecting and maintaining the Light at Eddystone Point would be defrayed by the Colonies interested, in the same manner as Swan Island and Goose Island Lights, and that it would be necessary to obtain the assent of the Government of Victoria to such an arrangement.

The letter from the Honorable the Colonial Secretary of this Colony dated 11th December, 1878, in reply to the communication from the Chief Secretary of Victoria of the 31st October, 1878, refers to New South Wales as "the only other Colony interested" which has "declined to entertain the proposal made to share in the cost of erection and future maintenance of the Light in question.

In the proceedings at the Conference held at Sydney in 1873, where the project was first proposed, it was resolved—"That the Lights recommended to be erected on Cape Hamlin (near Cape Leeuwin) in Western Australia, and on Eddystone Point, Tasmania, should be considered to be Lights maintained especially for the use of vessels of another Colony." The question of erection and maintenance to be left to the decision of the Colonies interested.

At the Conference in 1873 it was resolved that the Light-houses at Swan Island and at Goose Island should be maintained by the Colonies of Victoria and Tasmania alone. There can be no question that it was understood that the Eddystone Light-house should be classed as one of the same group, and be erected and maintained by the same two Colonies, as pointed out by the Honorable the Colonial Secretary's letter of 7th January, 1876, previously referred to.

New South Wales was not asked or expected by the Conference to contribute in any way to the Eddystone Light-house. The Board therefore considers that a grave oversight has been made in introducing New South Wales into the question at all.

Had the Board been made aware at the proper time that any doubt or misunderstanding had arisen as to the contribution to be paid by Victoria, the Consolidated Board would not have been called together to take steps for the erection of the Light-house until this question had been set at rest.

Beyond having instructed Mr. J. C. Climie, C.E., to examine and report upon the stone at the proposed site of the Light-house, no further action will be taken pending the receipt of your further communication.

I have, &c.

EDWD. K. BARNARD, *Master Warden.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.