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1882.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

AUSTRALIAN AND TASMANIAN INTER-
COLONIAL WEATHER TELEGRAM
AND FORECAST SYSTEM.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
July 12, 1882.



AUSTRALIAN AND TASMANIAN INTERCOLONIAL WEATHER
TELEGRAM AND FORECAST SYSTEM.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 21st July, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your predecessor's letter of the 11th instant, with reference to the establishment of an Australian Intercolonial Weather Telegram and Forecast System, and seeking, at the instance of the Chairman of the Intercolonial Meteorological Conference, the co-operation of this Government.

In reply, I desire to assure you that the Government will be prepared to consider any proposals that may be transmitted to promote the objects in view, and, in order to facilitate the necessary arrangements, I would suggest that Mr. Ellery should place himself in communication with me on the subject.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,
WILLIAM MOORE.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

Observatory, Melbourne, 9th August, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Honorable the Chief Secretary of Victoria has forwarded me your letter of 21st July with a request that I place myself in communication with you on the subject of the Intercolonial Weather Telegraphy and Forecast System.

In April last a Conference of several of the Colonial Meteorologists met in Melbourne, and a copy of the report of their proceedings is forwarded to you by this mail.

The assistance now desired from Tasmania is to obtain daily weather telegrams from coastal points both in the North and South of the Island, so as to afford information of the state of the Barometer, direction and force of wind, and general state of the weather at 9 each morning, and also at 3 P.M. in the case of the approach or passage of violent storms.

The two positions most suited would be, say, at Low Heads, near George Town, and some place as far south of Hobart as possible. As regards Low Heads, I have already obtained the assistance of Mr. Warren, the Superintendent of the Tasmanian Cable, and having supplied him with the requisite instruments, he has sent us weather telegrams daily for some time past.

The South, however, is by far the most important aspect for weather telegram purposes, and it would therefore be best if the whole of the information could be furnished from the most southern point connected with Hobart by telegraph, because Hobart itself is sheltered by mountains, and the wind would seldom blow true there; as, however, there might be some difficulty as regards instrumental observation at such a station, it would be desirable to obtain direction and force of wind and state of sea from the southern point, and the height of Barometer and other data from Hobart.

As regards transmission of the telegrams, it is hoped your Government will post them free over the land lines. The cost of cable transmission will be borne entirely by the colonies receiving the telegrams, and unless your Colony desires to receive weather telegrams from the other colonies in return (in which case she would pay a fair proportion), the whole cost will be met by Victoria, New South Wales, and South Australia. The Cable Companies have made very substantial concessions

in their tariff for weather telegrams, by which the cost is considerably reduced. To economise time and trouble on the telegraph lines, a Weather Telegraph Cypher Code is in use among the Colonies now co-operating, and it is recommended to be used should your Colony join in the scheme.

The exact information required would be the height of Barometer, temperature of air, direction and force of wind, state of weather, and also state of sea in the open at nine o'clock each morning, and sometimes at 3 P.M., to be sent by telegraph to Melbourne as soon after nine as possible. The Sunday Observations to be sent with the Monday ones. The instruments necessary are a Standard or Board of Trade Barometer, a Maximum and Minimum Thermometer, a Wet and Dry Bulb Thermometer, and a Rain Gauge, the total cost of which should not exceed £10 or £12. A Thermometer shed would be necessary, and would cost perhaps about £5. As the co-operation of Tasmania will be of the greatest importance in advancing our knowledge of the movement and behaviour of storms and of meteorology generally in this part of the world, I beg to express the hope that your Government will afford the required co-operation. I shall have great pleasure in giving any further information on the subject and any practical assistance you may require in carrying out the necessary arrangements.

I have, &c.,

ROBT. L. J. ELLERY, *Government Astronomer.*

To the Hon. WM. MOORE,
Colonial Secretary, Hobart.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 7th September, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th ultimo relating to the subject of Intercolonial Weather Telegraphy.

I have delayed replying till I had the opportunity of ascertaining the opinion of Mr. Thomas Stephens upon certain questions which arose when considering your communication.

I now desire to assure you that this Government are desirous to aid the proposed interchange of Daily Weather Telegrams with the Australian Colonies, and will pass free of charge over the land lines of telegraph all messages of the nature described in your letter as soon as a station or stations may be decided upon and the necessary arrangements made.

With regard to the expense, the Government are prepared to recommend a vote to Parliament for the maintenance of the requisite stations and the purchase of the necessary instruments. The only difficulty is in connection with the cable charges; for unless Tasmania is to receive in return weather telegrams from the colonies on the mainland, she is practically in a position to derive no benefit from her outlay; while those colonies have only to pay the cost of the single Tasmanian cablegram (all telegraphic intercommunication being free over Government lines), this Colony would be charged with the cable messages from each of the continental colonies, which, I fear, would involve an annual outlay greater than the Government would be justified in recommending to the Legislature.

Perhaps you could favour me with an estimate of what the annual cost would approximately amount to as chargeable against Tasmania upon the basis proposed in your letter, namely, that "the cost of cable transmission will be borne entirely by the colonies receiving the telegrams."

As there is at present no system, nor any station established for recording Meteorological Observations of any kind, it is difficult to enter into the details of the service proposed to be rendered by Tasmania; and Mr. Stephens' suggestion, in which I entirely concur, is, that if you could make it convenient it would be most desirable that you should visit Hobart as, he understood, you originally contemplated.

If you see your way to come over to Tasmania the Government will be glad to consider your recommendations, and render every assistance which may be within their power to promote the objects in view.

I have, &c.

R. L. J. ELLERY, *Esq., Government Astronomer,*
Observatory, Melbourne.

WM. MOORE.

Observatory, Melbourne, 7th October, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of 7th September on the subject of the co-operation of Tasmania in the Intercolonial Weather Telegram system. I thought it desirable to consult with another Member of the late Conference on one or two matters in your letter, and hence the delay in my reply, for which I beg to offer my apology.

I have to thank your Government for their cordial reception of the proposition, and for their promised aid in the undertaking. With regard to the paragraph in your letter referring to cable charges, &c., I would propose that a synoptical telegram should be sent to you from Melbourne every morning, this telegram to be in cypher, as is adopted in exchanging with New Zealand. This telegram would furnish the Hobart public with the chief characteristics of the weather and state of sea prevailing on the coasts of Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and New Zealand, as well as the state of the weather in the inland districts of Australia (see form of telegram attached). A portion only of such information might be considered sufficient, and the cable cost would be proportionately reduced. At all events your Colony would be supplied with all or any part of such weather news daily, free of any charges beyond that of the Tasmanian cable. The total cost of the Tasmanian weather exchange may be fairly divided among the participating colonies, which would reduce the annual cost to Tasmania; and there need be only one account kept with the cable company for telegrams both ways. I estimate from eight to fifteen code words a day, according to the extent of the information required, would be sufficient. This, at the half cable rates, would vary from 2s. to 5s. per day. From Tasmania the cost to us would be about 4s. per day; say total cost of Tasmanian weather exchange 10s. per day; and if this be divided among the five co-operating colonies, it would come lightly upon each.

If in this view of the matter your Government agree to co-operate in the system, I will endeavour to make an early visit to Hobart to assist in final arrangements.

I have, &c.

ROBT. L. J. ELLERY, *Government Astronomer.*

To the Colonial Secretary of Tasmania, Hobart.

The form of such synoptical telegrams would be somewhat after this fashion:—

Western Australia.—Strong westerly gales with heavy sea at Perth and Albany; barometer falling; weather threatening. *South Australia.*—Moderate north winds, smooth sea, and slight rain along the S.W. coast. *Victoria.*—Fine weather, light winds, and smooth sea. *Straits.*—Light winds with moderate sea off Promontory. *East Coast, New South Wales.*—Strong S.E. winds with heavy sea off Sydney and Newcastle; rain along coast, extending inland; rising barometer. *Prospective in Straits.*—Increasing westerly winds and high sea.

Such a message in cypher would cost about 4s.

FORWARDED to the Hon. the Premier. As this matter has been in suspense for some time, the Colonial Secretary would be glad to receive the Premier's decision on the proposal, which is one he thinks it desirable should be carried out.

The Hon. the Premier.

WM. MOORE.
13th Oct. '81.

PERUSED and returned, in order that the proposed arrangements may be completed as soon as Mr. Ellery pays his contemplated visit to Tasmania.

W. R. GIBLIN.
24. 10. 81.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 26th October, 1881.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th instant on the subject of Intercolonial Weather Telegrams, and, in reply, to inform you that the Government are desirous to co-operate in establishing the system you recommend, and will be glad to afford you every assistance in their power upon the occasion of your contemplated visit to make the final arrangements.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

R. L. J. ELLERY, *Esq., Government Astronomer,*
Observatory, Melbourne.

Observatory, Melbourne, 12th December, 1881.

SIR,

REFERRING to your letter of the 26th October, I beg to inform you that the Hon. the Chief Secretary has approved of my visiting Hobart, in accordance with your suggestion, for the purpose of making arrangements for the exchange of Weather Telegrams between Tasmania and other

Australian Colonies. I hoped to have been able to make my visit before this, but pressure of work renders it difficult for me to get over till after the new year. I have now the honor to enquire how soon after January 1 it would be convenient to you that I should come over.

I have, &c.

ROBT. L. J. ELLERY.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 19th December, 1881.

SIR,

IN reply to the enquiry contained in your letter of the 12th instant, I have the honor to inform you that I shall be happy to see you in Hobart at any time that may suit your convenience after the 1st proximo.

I have, &c.

W. R. GIBLIN, *for Colonial Secretary, absent.*

R. L. J. ELLERY, *Esquire, Observatory, Melbourne.*

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 30th January, 1882.

SUBMITTED,

"As a case of emergency,"

THAT the sum of Twenty Pounds be paid to Commander John Shortt, R.N., to enable him to proceed to Victoria and place himself in communication with Mr. Ellery, the Government Astronomer, with the view of acquiring full and detailed information respecting the system to be adopted for the institution and maintenance of a continuous series of Meteorological Observations in this Colony, and the interchange of daily Weather Telegraphic Reports with Victoria and the other Australian Colonies.

To be provided for upon a Supplementary Estimate.

WM. MOORE.

THE Governor in Council approves.

E. C. NOWELL.
30. 1. 82.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 28th January, 1882.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to request that you will be good enough to proceed to Melbourne by an early opportunity and place yourself in communication with Mr. Ellery, the Government Astronomer of Victoria, with the view of acquiring full and detailed information respecting the system to be adopted for the institution and maintenance of a continuous series of Meteorological Observations in this Colony, and the interchange of daily Weather Telegraphic Reports with Victoria and the other Australian Colonies.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

Commander JOHN SHORTT, R.N., Hobart.

Observatory, Melbourne, 18th February, 1882.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that Commander Shortt leaves here this morning to return to Hobart. He has attended at the Observatory very assiduously since his arrival on the first of the month. During his stay he has practised the methods of meteorological observing, registering, and codifying adopted at this Observatory, as well as received some preliminary training in the use of the Transit instrument for obtaining true time. I have supplied him with drawings, forms, tables, instructions, &c. necessary for establishing Meteorological Observations in Tasmania. I have also informed him of the cost of the requisite instruments, books, &c., and that I will undertake to obtain such as may be required directly I receive your authority. I need scarcely say I shall always be ready and glad to assist your Government and your Officer in these matters as far as possible.

In conclusion, I beg to express my entire satisfaction at the close and earnest attention Commander Shortt has given to the object of his mission, and my confidence in his ability to carry out the duty you have placed in his hands.

I have, &c.

ROBT. L. J. ELLERY, *G.A.*

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart, 23rd February, 1882.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, handed to me by Commander Shortt. I am much gratified to learn that Commander Shortt has been enabled during his brief stay in Melbourne to acquire so much useful information connected with Meteorological Observations, and I desire to convey to you the cordial thanks of this Government for the assistance you have already rendered him, and for the offer of your friendly services in the future in the cause of Meteorology.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

ROBT. L. J. ELLERY, *Esquire, Government Astronomer,
Observatory, Melbourne.*

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Treasury, Hobart, 25th April, 1882.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS.

THE Colonial Treasurer submits and recommends that Commander J. Shortt, R.N., be appointed Meteorological Observer at Hobart from the 1st of February last, at a salary of £100 per annum, and that the sum of £50 be provided to meet unforeseen and miscellaneous expenses in connection with the work. The same to be provided on Supplementary Estimates as a case of emergency.

J. S. DODDS, *Colonial Treasurer.*

THE Governor in Council approves.

E. C. NOWELL.
25. 4. 82.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 132.

Treasury, Hobart, 1st May, 1882.

THE Governor in Council has been pleased to appoint Commander J. Shortt, R.N., to be Meteorological Observer for the Colony of Tasmania.

By His Excellency's Command,

J. S. DODDS.

MEMO.

Treasury, Hobart, 4th May, 1882.

THE Colonial Treasurer will be glad to know when the premises in the Military Barracks, Hobart, now in the occupation of Mr. W. J. J. Reynolds, will be vacated and available for the purposes of the Meteorological Observer. It is very desirable that Mr. Reynolds should understand that the quarters are required at the earliest possible date.

J. S. DODDS, *Colonial Treasurer.*

The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works, Hobart.

Mr. Reynolds received six months' notice as required by lease, which terminates 30th June next.

The Hon. the Treasurer.

C. O'REILLY.
9. 5. 82.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<i>Brought forward</i> .....	..			55	0	0
Six Stations recommended, And two extra for West Coast, as proposed by myself:—						
Instruments for same	60	0	0			
Thermometer Sheds, erection of	60	0	0			
Wind Vanes	16	0	0			
Incidental expenses	14	0	0			
				150	0	0
Books and unforeseen expenses .....	..			35	0	0
TOTAL.....	..			£240	0	0

Estimated annual cost of Meteorological Stations.

	£	s.	d.
Salary of Meteorological Observer	100	0	0
Allowance to eight Observers, at £10 each	80	0	0
Stationery	20	0	0
Submarine Cable (about).....	50	0	0
Incidental expenses.....	50	0	0
Total annual cost, say .....	..	
			£300 0 0

With the aid of instruments lent by Mr. Ellery I was enabled, on the 30th of March last, to open a station at Southport, and complete arrangements for taking the necessary Observations thereat from the 1st April. This station is one of considerable importance to the weather system, and I am glad to be able to report that the telegraphist at Southport has undertaken the duty with readiness and an evident desire to conduct the work efficiently.

The Hobart Observations have been recorded since the 6th of April last, and from the 1st of June the Low Heads Station will furnish daily reports, Mr. Warren, the Manager of the Submarine Cable, having acceded to my request for assistance from his staff.

The interchange of Weather Telegrams with the Observatory, Melbourne, commenced on the first of April last; and now the various Telegraph Stations in this Colony exhibit a daily report for the information of the public, in the following form:—

INTERCOLONIAL WEATHER REPORT.

188

PREVAILING WEATHER ON COAST OF—

	<i>Bar.</i>	<i>Wind.</i>	<i>Weather.</i>
Western Australia			
South Australia			
Victoria			
New South Wales and Queensland			
New Zealand.....			
Tasmania			

Until such time as the whole of the stations are in working order, the full benefit of the system will not be felt; and therefore I trust that Parliament will be asked at an early date to provide the requisite funds to enable me to carry out the wishes of the Government and establish the stations required to complete the chain of Observations considered necessary.

Mr. Ellery has taken very great interest in the success of the work to be carried out by this Colony as a contribution to the general system, and has furnished Code Books for use between Victoria and Tasmania, as also between the local stations, which books will greatly facilitate the work of the Department, and enable me to supply much useful information at a nominal cost.

I have, &c.

J. SHORTT.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

26th June, 1882.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that, with a view to the efficient working of your Department, the Government have decided to place at your disposal, temporarily, the quarters in the Military Barracks, Hobart, until recently in the occupation of the Commandant of the Volunteer Force, Lieutenant-Colonel Angelo, and have requested the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works to allow an Officer of his Department to attend at the premises referred to, for the purpose of going over them with you and arranging as to any repairs that may be found necessary to fit the quarters for immediate occupation.

I have to request that you will confer with the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works, and appoint a convenient time to inspect the premises.

I have, &c.

J. S. DODDS, *Colonial Treasurer.*

Captain J. SHORTT, *R.N.,*
Meteorological Observer, Hobart.

26th June, 1882.

SIR,

THE Government having decided to place the late Commandant's quarters in the Military Barracks, Hobart, at the disposal of the Meteorological Observer, will the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works be good enough to direct an Officer of his Department to go over the premises with Captain Shortt, with a view to necessary repairs being effected as soon as possible?

I have, &c.

J. S. DODDS, *Colonial Treasurer.*

The Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works.

190, *Macquarie-street, Hobart, 28th June, 1882.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your communication under date 26th instant, informing me that, with a view to the efficient working of my department, the Government have decided to place at my disposal, temporarily, the quarters in the Military Barracks until recently in the occupation of the Commandant of the Volunteer Forces, and requesting me to confer with the Honorable the Minister of Lands and Works and appoint a convenient time to inspect the place.

In accordance with your request I will at once place myself in communication with the Minister of Lands and Works. At the same time I think it right and my duty to state for your information, that it will be impossible for me efficiently to discharge the duties of my office if I am to occupy the premises named, the site selected by Mr. R. J. Ellery being the only site at the Barracks adapted for the purpose of Meteorological Observations.

I have, &c.

J. SHORTT, *Government Meteorologist.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

190, *Macquarie-street, Hobart, 29th June, 1882.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to report that, as desired by your letter under date 26th instant, I proceeded to the Barracks this day, with an Officer of the Lands and Works Department, to inspect the premises belonging to the house lately in the occupation of the Commandant of the Volunteer Force.

I have examined the grounds attached proposed to be handed over to me for meteorological purposes, and beg to say that I find the same altogether unsuited for this object; and I must again reiterate, that it will be impossible for me efficiently to discharge the duties of my office if I am to occupy the premises named.

I must further state that I have examined the site selected by Mr. R. J. Ellery on his late visit to this Colony, and find it the only site at the Barracks adapted for the purpose of Meteorological Observations. It is a situation unrivalled for the purpose.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

J. SHORTT, *Government Meteorologist.*

FORWARDED to the Honorable the Premier for his information, and with a request that he will be good enough to consider whether it is possible to make any arrangement by which the premises said to be the most suitable can be obtained at once for Meteorological purposes.

J. S. DODDS,
30 June, 1882.

THE matter is entirely in the hands of the Hon. Treasurer and Colonial Secretary. I am informed by the latter that the "unrivalled" site within referred to is quite available to Captain Shortt, and that the quarters temporarily placed at his disposal are superior to those on the other side of the square; which last can, however, I am informed, be procured if the Treasurer requires them.

W. R. GIBLIN,
1 July, 1882.

CORRESPONDENCE from the Lands and Works as to Mr. Reynolds' occupancy.

To WALTER JAMES JONES REYNOLDS, of Hobart, in Tasmania, Gentleman.

PURSUANT to the conditions of the lease bearing date the Nineteenth day of December, One thousand eight hundred and seventy-eight, made between the Director of Public Works for Tasmania of the one part, and you the said Walter James Jones Reynolds of the other part, I do hereby give you notice to quit and deliver up to me or to the Director of Public Works for the time being on the first day of July next the peaceable possession of all that parcel of land held by you situate in Hobart aforesaid and containing by admeasurement one acre two roods and eighteen perches or thereabouts, and being bounded on the south east by land granted to Gamaliel Butler, on the north east by Hampden-road, on the north west by land reserved, and on the south west by Lot 11 now or formerly leased to the Rev. W. J. Dunne, together with the dwelling-house and all buildings erected thereon and with the appurtenances thereto, which you now hold under or rent of me as Director of Public Works as aforesaid under the conditions of the said lease.

Dated this 31st day of December, 1881.

(Signed) C. O'REILLY, *Minister of Lands and Works,
and Director of Public Works.*

Lands and Works Office, Hobart, 30th June, 1882.

MEMO.

MR. Reynolds is informed that the Government is willing to allow him to remain temporarily in the premises now occupied by him at the Barracks should he desire to do so, on condition that Mr. Reynolds agrees to give up possession of the said premises immediately they are required by the Government, and further agrees to pay the rent and comply with the other conditions of present lease so far as applicable to this temporary occupancy.

The term of this temporary occupancy cannot on any account extend beyond 1st December next, when possession must be given up; but the premises may be required sooner, and in that case Mr. Reynolds must be prepared to vacate.

Mr. Reynolds' consent to these terms is required to be endorsed hereon.

(Signed) C. O'REILLY, *Minister of Lands and Works.*