

(No. 51.)



1863.

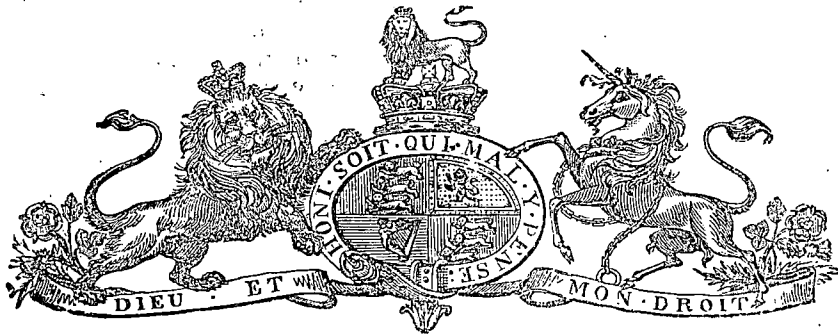
T A S M A N I A.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

**COST OF SUPERINTENDENCE OF PRISONERS,
&c.**

DESPATCH FROM SECRETARY OF STATE, No. 16, OF
10 APRIL, 1862.

*Return to an Address to His Excellency the Governor dated August 21, 1863.
(Mr. Innes.)*

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
August 28, 1863.



TASMANIA.

No. 16.

Downing-street, 10th April, 1862.

SIR,

I HAVE received your predecessor's Despatch, No. 93, of the 22nd of October last, accompanied by Estimates of the Expenditure of the Convict Establishment for the year ending the 31st March, 1863.

I enclose, for your information and guidance, a copy of a letter on the subject, by which you will perceive that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury have objected to some of the items in the Estimates prepared in the Colony, and have made reductions, which will diminish the Vote to be proposed to Parliament from £37,619 to £34,000.

I enclose a copy of the Estimate in the shape in which it will be submitted to Parliament.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

NEWCASTLE.

Governor GORE BROWNE, C.B.

MR. PEEL to SIR F. ROGERS.

(Copy.)

Treasury Chambers, 31st March, 1862.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 11th instant, enclosing the Estimate received from the Governor of Tasmania, of the sum required to defray the expense of the Convict Establishment in that Colony for the year ending 31st March, 1863, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to acquaint you, for the information of the Duke of Newcastle, that the Estimate in question, including Stores to the value of £2000 from England, amounts to £51,211, from which has to be deducted £13,592 payable by the Local Government for its Prisoners at Port Arthur, leaving £37,619 as the amount to be voted by Parliament.

In this sum of £37,619 is included the whole cost of the Male Prisoners' Establishment at Hobart Town, and of the Female Factory; viz.,—£4165, excepting only the Rations and Clothing of their Colonial Inmates, which are provided for separately. In the former of these Establishments 90 out of the 140 Inmates are Colonial, and in the latter 99 out of 147. This being the distribution of the numbers, the Comptroller-General submits that the Colonial Government ought to pay a proportional part of the expenses of discipline, and of the other charges, which are now defrayed exclusively by the Imperial Government; and he calculates the amount which, according to this view, belongs to the Colony at £2675 for the two Establishments.

My Lords entirely agree with that Officer in his remarks upon this subject, and must decline any longer to relieve the Colony from its fair share of these expenses; and they are further of opinion that, as there are under 100 persons, reckoning the Inmates of both Establishments, who are chargeable to Imperial Funds, some means should be found of disposing of them in such a way as to render it unnecessary that those Establishments should be longer maintained.

For the present their Lordships have only deducted from the total Estimate the amount which the Colony should be required to provide; viz.,—£2675.

My Lords observe that the Comptroller-General thinks that a saving might be effected under the head of "Engineers and Ordnance," where there is an item of £1093 for Works and Repairs of the Female Factory, and Male Prisoners' Establishment, of which £393 is for an Engineer. My Lords do not doubt that this saving may be effected, and they have therefore deducted £325 under this head.

Provision has been made in the Estimate sent home from the Colony for an increase of £1000 in the payment to the Colony for Children in the Queen's Orphan Schools, and of £500 for Lunatics; but, as my Lords are of opinion that the item on account of New Works and Buildings in these payments should be reduced, they have taken a less sum, under the head of Sundries, on that account than has been put down by Comptroller-General.

The Vote to be submitted to Parliament will be £34,000 instead of £37,619.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) F. PEEL.

Sir F. ROGERS, *Bart.*