

1851.

VICTORIA.

EMIGRATION.

Laid upon THE COUNCIL TABLE, by the COLONIAL SECRETARY, by command of HIS EXCELLENCY, THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, and ordered by THE COUNCIL to be printed, 13th November, 1851.

COPIES OF DESPACHES AND DOCUMENTS RELATIVE TO EMIGRATION TO THIS COLONY, FOR THE YEAR, 1852.

[COPY, No. 15.]

Downing-street,  
3rd July, 1851.

SIR,

I transmit for your information and guidance, the copy of a Letter from the Land and Emigration Commissioners relative to the mode of keeping the accounts of the New South Wales and Victoria Land Funds, and suggesting that the accounts for the two Colonies which have hitherto been considered as forming one undivided Fund, should henceforth be kept separate. 12th June, 1851.

I have apprised the Commissioners of my concurrence in this arrangement, and have authorized them to carry the measure into effect.

I have, &c., &c., &c.  
(Signed,) GREY.

Lieutenant Governor La Trobe,  
&c., &c., &c.

[COPY.]

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,  
12th June, 1851.

SIR,

With reference to our report of the 17th Ultimo on the subject of the recent Remittances made to us from New South Wales on account of Emigration, we have the honor to state, that it has appeared to us necessary to reconsider the mode of keeping the accounts of the Sydney and Port Phillip Land Funds which have hitherto been treated as forming one undivided Fund.

2. Earl Grey is aware that the monthly remittances which we receive for general Emigration purposes (apart from the Land and Emigration Deposits), are furnished in equal proportions from the Sydney and Port Phillip Land Funds, and we have endeavoured to send out Emigrants in the same proportion.

The only exception to this Rule has arisen out of the application under your Letter of the 31st December, 1847, of a portion of the sum of £30,000 granted by Parliament for 1849, amounting to £23,850 to the service of the Sydney District exclusively.

3. On examining the state of the case as regards the number of Emigrants sent out to the Sydney and Port Phillip Districts respectively—the former including those sent to Moreton Bay—the latter those sent to Twofold Bay, we find that up to the close of the present month, we shall have despatched about 27,600 statute adults since the re-opening of Emigration in the Autumn of 1847, namely:

To Sydney District, rather more than.....	14,900
To Port Phillip about .....	12,700
	27,600

These numbers would shew an excess sent to the Sydney District of about 2,200 statute adults; but the funds derived from the Parliamentary Vote already alluded to, would, we estimate, be equivalent to the cost of very nearly that number, so that in point of fact, it may fairly be assumed that with the despatch of the ships Earl Grey and Statesman, both to sail this month, the former for Sydney, the latter for Port Phillip, the two Districts will have received an equal share of the Emigration, of which the expense has been defrayed out of the Funds remitted to us from the two Districts in common.

4. Under these circumstances, we propose on the 1st of next month, to open separate accounts for the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, and retaining in the original account a sufficient sum to meet all outstanding liabilities for the ships despatched up to the close of this

month, to transfer the remainder of the general balance now in our hands to the two new accounts in equal shares, and to charge to each in future, the expense of the vessels despatched to it. This will enable us to carry to the credit of each of these now distinct Colonies, the Land and Immigration Deposits properly belonging to them—an object which although hitherto of trifling importance, has now become very material from the large amount in course of remittance from Port Phillip.

All remittances for General Immigration, will of course be also carried at once to the several accounts according to the circumstances of the case.

5. Should Earl Grey see no objection to the proposed separation in our accounts of the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, we would suggest that it might be desirable that it should be notified to the Governors of these colonies for their information.

(Signed,) We have, &c., &c., &c.  
THOS. MURDOCH,  
FREDERICK ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,  
&c., &c., &c.

[COPY, No. 13.]

Downing-street,  
19th June, 1851.

SIR

23rd May, 1851.

The rate of emigration to New South Wales having been sufficiently increased to admit of directing some vessels to other places than the Chief Town, I enclose for your information the Copy of a Report from the Emigration Commissioners, suggesting that, in conformity with the wish expressed in a letter from you to the Government at Sydney, dated 28th August 1849, a ship should be sent direct to Portland in the course of next month, I have authorized the Commissioners to adopt that course.

I have,  
(Signed,) &c., &c., &c.  
GREY.

Lieutenant Governor La Trobe,  
&c., &c., &c.

[COPY.]

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,  
23rd May, 1851.

SIR,

19th Nov., 1851.  
238.

On the 12th of June last, you communicated to us the copy of a Despatch from the Governor of New South Wales, from the enclosures to which it appeared that in the opinion of the authorities at Melbourne, and of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, Emigrant ships should occasionally be sent direct to Portland Bay in the District of Port Phillip. It is stated in a Letter from Mr. Blair, the Police Magistrate at Portland, that although five vessels have been stranded during his nine years residence at Portland, and the Bay is sometimes rough during the months of November and December, yet it is perfectly sheltered from the winds which prevail during the other ten months of the year, and therefore safe during that period.

2.—At the time your letter reached us, only one ship in two months was proceeding to Port Phillip, and it appeared scarcely proper to divert any ships from Melbourne and Geelong.

Now, however, that the rate of Emigration is increased, it becomes necessary to consider the desire of the New South Wales authorities respecting Portland. We accordingly procured a report from Lieutenant Lean, of which we annex a copy.

This report, in the main, corroborates the statements of Mr. Blair, and from it we conclude that a well found ship sent out to Portland at a proper season of the year, would, probably, not be subject to any addition to the usual rate of Insurance for Australia. It would seem to follow that no risk to the Emigrants, and we should hope, little addition to the rate of freight, would result from adopting the recommendation of the Authorities.

3.—Under these circumstances, we should propose, with Lord Grey's permission, to take up a ship to leave England for Portland early in July, so as to arrive in the Colony before the end of October, when, according to Mr. Blair, the unsafe season begins. As this period is now very near, we should venture at once to advertise for this ship, but shall not take it up unless we receive permission from Lord Grey.

(Signed) We have &c.,  
T. W. C. MURDOCH,  
FREDERIC ROGERS,

Herman Merivale, Esq.,  
&c., &c., &c.

[COPY.]

Government Emigration Office,  
London, 12th May, 1851.

SIR.

I believe you are aware that many circumstances have prevented my reporting upon the purport of your Letter, respecting the anchorage in Portland Bay, New South Wales, and

whether any increase of Insurance was required by Underwriters in ships proceeding to that place. Having had my attention again called to this subject, I have made the requisite enquiries; and have learnt from various quarters the following results:—

1. The Bay is open to Winds from N. E. to S. W.  
 2. The prevailing Winds in Summer, *i. e.*, from October to May, are from the Southward and Eastward which blow *direct* into the Bay, which causes heavy sea and *surf* on the beach; but ships with a large scope of cable can ride out any gale by reason of the outset and back-swell from the shore, enabling them to ride comparatively easy, close in.

3. During the Winter months from the beginning of May to October, which is considered the *safest* period of the year, the prevailing Winds are from N. W. to S. W., off the land, and consequently the desirable season for the arrival of Emigrants and their disembarkation in safety and comfort; but I find that ships touch there at *all periods of the year*, and I am informed with regard to Insurance, that formerly before the place was better known, a Premium varying from One to Two per cent. was an additional charge upon the usual Insurance to Australia; but *that* at present depends upon circumstances, according to the season of the year—the character of the ship—the Captain—the duration of her stay—the competition at Lloyds, &c.

I understand that there is a Jetty built at the bottom of the Bay for the accomodation of Passengers, Goods, Cattle, &c.

I have, &c., &c.,  
 (Signed) JAMES S. LEAN.

S. Walcott, Esq.,  
 &c., &c., &c.

[COPY, No. 7.]

Downing-street,  
 18th March, 1851.

SIR,

I enclose copies of two Reports from the Emigration Commissioners, from which you will learn what is the present state of information in this country upon the amount of funds available for Emigration to New South Wales, and I also enclose a Copy of a Despatch which I have addressed to Sir Charles Fitz Roy on the subject.

2. You will perceive that for the present, three Emigrant ships a month will be sent out, of which the destination will be alternately to the districts of Sydney and Port Phillip. As it would have been almost impossible to make arrangements for wholly dividing the service before it can be known when the actual separation between the Colonies will take effect, you will see that I have requested Sir Charles Fitz Roy to make all the required remittances from Sydney, until the completion of the present outlay of One hundred thousand pounds, and I have to instruct you, if the Colonies should in the mean time be separated, to transfer to Sydney upon receiving Sir Charles Fitz Roy's claim for the purpose, one moiety of the Remittances which he may have made on the present account. The Emigration Commissioners will afterwards account to each Colony for its own moiety of these Remittances.

3. In any Emigration which may be undertaken after the Colonies are divided, the service will of course be conducted quite separately for each. I shall therefore be desirous to receive from you at an early opportunity, an estimate of the probable amount of the Revenue applicable to Emigration to Victoria for the year 1852, and a Report of the number of Emigrants whose introduction you would recommend, as well as a statement of any outstanding amount of debt chargeable on the Land Revenues of that Colony.

Upon the principles to be borne in mind in respect to any such Debt, I have to refer you to my Despatch to Sir Charles Fitz Roy.

I have, &c., &c., &c.,  
 (Signed) GREY

Lieutenant Governor La Trobe,  
 &c., &c., &c.

[COPY.]

*Enclosure, No. 1.*  
 Colonial Land and Emigration Office,  
 6th February, 1851.

SIR,

We beg to acknowledge your Letter of the 30th ultimo, enclosing two Despatches from the Governor of New South Wales, by which we are informed that he has remitted to us three sums of Twelve thousand pounds, Four thousand pounds, and Twelve thousand pounds respectively.

2. The two first of these complete the amount of Three hundred thousand pounds, directed by Lord Grey to be remitted for meeting the expenses of the Emigration Service. The remaining sum of Twelve thousand pounds, is the first of a series of monthly instalments of the same amount, by which the Governor in his Despatch of 29th October, 1849, signified his intention to remit an additional or further sum of One hundred thousand pounds, which he expresses to be for the Emigration Service of 1850.

3. Having previously received notice from the Colony of these remittances, we had as mentioned in our Report of 10th January already been engaged in ascertaining our Financial position, and we have the honor to lay the result before Lord Grey.

4. Owing to the large amount of deposits which we have received in this country, the assistance which has been given to Emigration from Imperial Funds, and the reduced rate at

6th February,  
 1851.  
 28th February,  
 1851.  
 No. 23, March  
 18th.

which Emigration has proceeded since the receipt of Lord Grey's instructions, conveyed in Mr. Elliot's letter of 31st July last, the sum of Three hundred thousand pounds, which Sir Charles Fitz Roy appears to have supposed was exhausted, or nearly so, by the Emigration of 1849, has in fact nearly sufficed to cover the whole of the liabilities accruing on the Emigration up to the close of 1850. Our outstanding liabilities on account of that Emigration, as nearly as we can estimate them, are at present Twenty-nine thousand pounds, and the residue of the Three hundred thousand pounds which is applicable to meet them is Twenty-two thousand pounds, leaving no more than Seven thousand pounds chargeable against the fourth sum of One hundred thousand pounds, which the Governor proposes to remit. It follows that if he fulfils his intention we shall have received in the course of the next eight or nine months, that is to say before the end of October next, an amount of about Ninety-three thousand pounds, available exclusively to the Emigration of this year, which would arrive more rapidly than we could spend it even by despatching four ships a month, commencing with the first of April next and paying the first moiety in England, and would nearly suffice to meet all the liabilities accruing from the Emigration of 1851, even if increased to that rate from the 1st of April.

5. This, however, is not likely to be the case, for Lord Grey having by his Despatch of 4th August, 1850, informed the Governor that the rate of Emigration would be reduced from that time to one ship a month, it is highly improbable that the Governor would continue his remittances after the receipt of that Despatch, as he could not fail to perceive that the only result of so doing would be to accumulate money in the country which would not be wanted, and which therefore could only be invested in securities which would pay the Colony three per cent., while the Colony would be paying five per cent. interest on its Debentures.

We should think it probable therefore that these monthly remittances of Twelve thousand pounds would not be continued beyond the receipt of Lord Grey's despatch; but as that despatch would not reach the Colony before the end of November, while the first remittance was paid into the Commissariat Chest on the 15th August, we should calculate that at least four remittances would be paid in the Colony, amounting in all to Forty-eight thousand pounds, which would reach us before the end of April, and of which Forty-one thousand pounds would be applicable to the Emigration of this year. This sum then is the least which we can receive, and this would enable us to despatch fourteen ships, besides the three which will have been despatched in the first three months of the year.

6. It appears clear therefore, that we are in a position to accelerate the emigration to some extent. The degree to which it should be accelerated, appears to depend on two points: First, What money will or may be at the command of this Board to meet liabilities incurred in this country. Secondly, What is the ability of the Land Revenue to furnish those Funds.

7. The first question does not present any difficulty. We have already said, that before the end of April we are likely to be in possession of Forty-one thousand pounds applicable to the Emigration of this year. We estimate that this sum (with the contributions received from the Emigrants,) will suffice to defray all the liabilities which would become payable in this country up to November next inclusive, supposing that we were to proceed on the principle of despatching three ships a month, and paying the first Moieties in England. Those liabilities roughly taken would be as follows, (exclusive of what would be defrayed by Emigrants' contributions.)

The full expenses of three ships despatched in January, February, and March, and three ships in April at £2400 a ship.....	£14,400
First Moieties of twenty-one ships despatched betwen May and November inclusive (seven months,) at the rate of £1000 a ship.....	21,000
Office Expenses, (say) .....	1,600
	£37,000

8. But before the end of November, there will be ample time to obtain from the Governor further instalments of the One hundred thousand pounds, which he has expressed himself ready to remit.

9. It is obvious that as far as the funds in this country are concerned, the rate of Emigration might be still further increased, if it were thought proper to discontinue the plan (which on receiving these large remittances we have at once resumed,) of paying first moieties in this country.

10. Next, as to the resources available in the colony for this Emigration.

On this point we are of course compelled to speak with considerable hesitation. The following statement will supply such particulars as are within our knowledge. We learn from Sir Charles Fitz Roy's despatch of 12th March, 1850, that on the 31st December, 1849, there was a balance in hand on account of the Territorial Revenue of One hundred and eight thousand, seven hundred and sixty-five pounds four shillings and one penny.

By the enclosures to Sir Charles Fitz Roy's despatch of 29th October, 1849, we learn that the Auditor General estimated the portion of the Territorial Revenue applicable to Emigration in the year One thousand eight hundred and fifty at Sixty-seven thousand five hundred pounds, and in default of any other information, we shall assume for the purpose of the present estimate, that the balance so applicable in One thousand eight hundred and fifty-one may be of the same amount.

11. On the other hand, the sum already remitted to this country on account of the first Three hundred thousand pounds required for Emigration, amounted on the same 31st December to Two hundred and twelve thousand pounds, leaving Eighty-eight thousand pounds still to be remitted. The following Table therefore would exhibit the state of the Colonial funds, as they might be supposed to stand at the end of the present year, supposing that the Governor were now instructed to pay into the Commissariat Chest during the present year, the whole of the fourth One hundred thousand pounds originally proposed by him.

ASSETS.		EXPENDITURE ON EMIGRATION.	
	£		£
Balance in hand, 31st December, 1849 .....	108,765	Remitted subsequent to December 31st, 1849, on account of £300,000 required for Emigration.....	88,000
Land Revenue applicable to Emigration in 1850 .....	67,500	Further Sum of .....	100,000
Ditto, 1851 .....	67,500	Expenditure in Colony, say .....	20,000
	<u>£243,765</u>		<u>£208,000</u>

Total Receipts ..... £243,765  
Deduct Expenditure..... £208,000

Balance ..... £35,765

12. But this Balance would be charged with a debt of Seventy-five thousand pounds, being the amount of the now outstanding debentures, and the incidental expenses of ten or twelve ships despatched from this Country in the latter part of 1851, but not arriving till 1852, might amount to Two or Three thousands more.

13. It would result (neglecting this latter sum) that if the Governor were to proceed in remitting the One hundred thousand pounds in the manner originally proposed by him, the Colonial Land Revenue might be expected at the end of 1851 to show a balance of (say) Thirty-five thousand pounds subject to a debt of Seventy-five thousand pounds, and the remittances thus made to us would have furnished us with the means of carrying on the Emigration at the rate of something less than four ships a month (paying first moieties in England) during the last nine months of this year.

The same result would of course follow if the Governor after discontinuing his remittances were directed by Lord Grey to resume them, except that it might be necessary to some extent to abandon the prepayment of first moieties, and on the other hand that the later remittances from the Colony, instead of being made during the winter of 1850-51, would be made a few months later—thus it might be, avoiding the necessity of increasing the Colonial Debt.

14. It is of course obvious that if only three ships a month are despatched, this would be a saving of nine ships, i. e. of (9 x 2400) Twenty-one thousand six hundred pounds. This saving would raise the Balance in hand at the end of 1851 to Fifty-seven thousand three hundred and sixty-five pounds. If only Two ships were despatched the saving which would then be Forty-three thousand two hundred pounds, would raise the Balance in hand to Seventy-eight thousand nine hundred and sixty-five pounds; being rather more than the amount of Debt, which Debt under the terms under which it was contracted the Government is entitled to pay off at par three years after it was contracted, viz.—in the year 1852.

15. Which rate of Emigration should be adopted, appears to depend entirely upon the Amount of Debt which Earl Grey considers may properly be left outstanding on the Security of the Land Revenue, and on the degree of reliance to be placed on that Revenue for yielding Sixty-seven thousand pounds a year, applicable for Immigration purposes during the years 1850 and 1851. In 1849, the Amount so applicable appears by the Enclosures to Sir Charles Fitz Roy's Despatch of 12th March, 1850, to have been as much as One hundred and three thousand three hundred and seventy-eight pounds, Two shillings; and the Receipts for the first half-year of 1850, did not appear to be on the decrease. On the other hand Sir Charles Fitz Roy in his Despatch of 29th October, 1849, considered that owing to the proposed division of the Colony, the expenses for carrying into effect the Squatting Order in Council, and the intended application of part of the Land Fund for the purposes of the District Councils, it was difficult to predict what portion of it would be available for Emigration. We may also observe that after the division of the Colony, it seems probable that Port Phillip will possess a larger Land Revenue, and therefore be able to support a larger Immigration than the Sydney District; and that it appears very probable that an increased rate of Emigration may have the effect of decreasing the proportion of Funds raised in England, by compelling us to reduce the rate of the Emigrants' contributions.

16. When Lord Grey shall have determined at what rate Emigration should proceed, it may be desirable that we should submit to His Lordship a statement of the periods at which we should require Remittances from the Colony; and that the Governor should be directed to furnish a clear statement to His Lordship, with regard to the means at his disposal for carrying on the Emigration during the year 1852.

We have, &c., &c.,

(Signed)

T. W. C. MURDOCH,  
FREDERIC ROGERS,

Herman Merivale, Esq.,  
&c., &c., &c.

Sir C. Fitz Roy  
to Earl Grey No.  
114, 4th January,  
1849, Enclosure  
2

Enclosure No. 1  
to this Report.

P.S.—With reference to our Report of the 10th January last, we append a Tabular statement containing a Conspectus of the mode in which the Funds already placed at our disposal for Emigration to New South Wales have been expended.

TABLE EXHIBITING THE AMOUNT APPLICABLE TO EMIGRATION OF THE LAND REVENUE OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES, DURING THE YEAR 1849.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
General Receipts, on Territorial Revenue .....	155,684	15	7			
Clergy and School Fund .....	5,663	6	8			
	<hr/>			161,348	2	3
CHARGES.						
Survey, &c .....	41,769	5	8			
Aborigines .....	4,848	12	1			
Miscellaneous .....	7,648	9	3			
Advances, &c. ....	4,203	13	3			
	<hr/>					
Total, Charges .....				57,970	0	3
Remainder Applicable to Emigration Service	£103,378	2	0			

*Enclosure, 2.*

NEW SOUTH WALES, EMIGRATION.

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE ON ACCOUNT OF THE EMIGRATION TO NEW SOUTH WALES, CARRIED ON BETWEEN THE END OF 1847 (WHEN EMIGRATION WAS RESUMED) AND THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1850.

RECEIPTS.	£	£
From Parliamentary Funds .....	23,850	
„ Colonial Remittances .....	300,000	
„ Emigrants' Contributions.....	45,400	
„ Miscellaneous, including Profits on Investments	2,000	
	<hr/>	371,250
EXPENDITURE.		
Cost of 4 Ships in 1847 .....	10,700	
„ 49 „ 1848 .....	149,600	
„ 54 „ 1849 .....	165,900	
„ 17 „ 1850 (say) .....	45,800	
Add for Miscellaneous Expenses from 1847 to } 31st December, 1850, including proportion } say of extra expense of Commissioner's Office }	6,100	
	<hr/>	378,100
Excess of Expenditure (say) .....		£7,000

[COPY.]

*Enclosure No. 2.*

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,  
28th February, 1851.

SIR,

We beg to acknowledge your letter of the 23rd instant, authorising us to send three ships a month to New South Wales, and desiring us to furnish Lord Grey with a statement of the periods at which we should require remittances from the Colony, and of their amounts, in order that the necessary instructions may be addressed to the Governor.

2. We have the honor to enclose the required statement shewing the payments which we shall probably be required to make in each month on account of this year's Emigration, on the supposition that we continue to despatch three ships a month until the end of this year.

It will be seen that the total expense of this year's Emigration will be Seventy-five thousand pounds, which together with Seven thousand pounds required on account of last year's Emigration will exhaust Eighty-two thousand pounds out of the fourth sum of One hundred thousand pounds which the Governor is now in the course of remitting.

3. It will be for the Colonial Government to determine the particular periods at which the necessary remittances shall be made, as well as the mode in which they shall be apportioned between New South Wales and Victoria.

We have, &c.,

(Signed)

T. W. C. MURDOCH.  
FREDERICK ROGERS.

Herman Merivale, Esq.,  
&c., &c., &c.

[COPY.]

STATEMENT—Showing the amounts to be provided by the Colony of New South Wales, to meet the cost of Emigration to that Colony in 1851 only, and the dates at which such amounts will be required in England.

NOTE.—This Memorandum is framed on the following assumptions:—

1. That the cost of passage money will be on the average Two thousand five hundred pounds per ship.

2. That the contributions from Emigrants will realize on an average Five hundred pounds per ship, which will defray all the incidental expenses of the Emigration except about Two thousand five hundred pounds, for the payment of which within the year 1851, provision is made in the subjoined Estimate.

3. That seven months will intervene between the despatch of each vessel and the presentation of the arrival Certificate in England.

1851, January	...No ship despatched.			Nil.	
February	...One ship despatched, whole passage payable on receipt of Certificate of Landing.....			Nil.	
March	.....On account of first moiety of passage money of one ship, and other expenses.....			£1,500	
April	.....Ditto	ditto	3 ships	4,000	
May	.....Ditto	ditto	3 ships	4,000	
June	.....Ditto	ditto	3 ships	4,000	
July	.....Ditto	ditto	3 ships	4,000	
August	.....Ditto	ditto	3 ships	4,000	
September	} On account of whole passage of 1 ship despatched in February.....	ditto	3 ships	4,000	
				2,500	
				6,500	
October	} On account of 1st moiety of passage money of 3 ships	On	2nd	1	2,500
					5,250
November	} On account of 1st moiety of passage money of 3 ships	On	2nd	3	3,750
					7,750
December	} On account of 1st moiety of passage money of 3 ships	On	2nd	3	3,750
					7,750
1852, January	...On account of 2nd moiety of 3 ships			3,750	
February	...On	ditto	ditto	3,750	
March	.....On	ditto	ditto	3,750	
April	.....On	ditto	ditto	3,750	
May	.....On	ditto	ditto	3,750	
June	.....On	ditto	ditto	3,750	
July	.....On	ditto	ditto	3,750	
				£75,000	

NOTE—After deducting from the first instalment of Twelve thousand pounds received in January, 1851, on account of the fourth One hundred thousand pounds provided by the Colony, the sum of Seven thousand pounds required to cover all claims on account of 1851, there remained available for the foregoing expenses, and actually in hand in January, 1851, Five thousand pounds. The second instalment received in February raised that sum to Seventeen thousand pounds.

If the Colonial remittances have continued at the rate of Twelve thousand pounds a month to the extent of the whole One hundred thousand pounds, it will be seen that the Commissioners will have in hand, at the close of 1851, a balance of Eighteen thousand pounds available for the Emigration of 1852. But if the monthly remittances shall have stopped short of Eighty-two thousand pounds, it will at once be ascertainable in the Colony, upon these data, (and reckoning about five months as the period which will elapse between the payment of the money into the Commissariat Chest in the Colony and its receipt by the Commissioners in this country,) how far the remittances which may have been made up to the receipt there of this Estimate, will have defrayed the liabilities accruing in England.

Enclosure, No. 3.

[COPY.]  
No. 23.

Downing Street,  
18th March, 1851.

SIR,

With reference to your Despatches No. 136 of the 19th of July, and 159 of the 19th of August last, reporting further remittances from the Colony for the service of Emigration, I enclose for your information and guidance the Copy of Two Reports from the Emigration Commissioners, presenting a full view of the present state of their Accounts for this service.

2. Under the circumstances shewn in these Reports, I have authorized the Commissioners to send out Emigrant Vessels at the rate of Three in the Month; despatching them alternately to the District of Sydney and of Port Phillip. From the data supplied in the second of the Commissioners' Reports, you will be able to calculate the remittances which they will still require, from the

6th February.  
28th February.



date of your receiving this Despatch, in order to defray the Expenses of this service. In order to prevent any confusion or disappointment, it will be best that you should continue until the completion of the Expenditure of the Fourth amount of One hundred thousand pounds now commenced, to send home the whole Remittances wanted for meeting the current demands, but the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria will be instructed by the present opportunity, that if the Separation of the Colonies should in the meantime have been effected, he should forthwith transfer to Sydney, on receiving your claim for the purpose, one-half of the Amount of Remittances made subsequently to the period of Separation; and should continue to do so until the present outlay of One hundred thousand pounds be completed. The Emigration Commissioners will afterwards account to each Colony for the moiety contributed by it, which moiety will of course be wholly applicable to the service of the Colony by which it is paid.

3. While this arrangement is made as to the particular Emigration already agreed upon before the final Separation of the Two Colonies, any future services of the same kind, will be settled and conducted quite distinctly for each.

4. You will have the goodness to send me at the earliest convenient opportunity after the receipt of this Despatch, an Estimate of the amount that may be expected to be available for Emigration, from New South Wales, after the Separation of Victoria, in the year One thousand eight hundred and fifty-two; as well as of the number of people whom it will be desirable to despatch in that year; and I shall also wish to receive from you an exact statement of the amount of the outstanding Debt, and of the measure contemplated for its gradual extinction.

5. On this last subject I may explain, that the amount with which authority was given for charging the Crown Revenues of the Sydney and Port Phillip Districts combined, not having been more than One hundred thousand pounds, the debt for Sydney ought at no one time to exceed Fifty thousand pounds, and that provision should be made for liquidating it at no distant period.

6. It is material here to observe, that with respect to loans contracted for Immigration, it makes much difference whether they are charged on the general or on the local revenue. If the Legislature had thought fit that a debt not to be repaid for several years, should be incurred for this purpose on the general revenue, I should have thought such a measure unobjectionable, because I believe that an increase of the number of the Inhabitants of the Colony by Emigration would have occasioned such an increase in the amount of the general Revenue derived from Duties on consumption, as fully to meet the interest of the debt so created. On the other hand the effect of borrowing money on the security of the Land Revenue, for the purpose of meeting a scarcity of labor by Immigration, is merely to obtain immediate relief at the expense of future difficulty, since, whatever land is afterwards sold so as to pay the debt, a new demand for labour must be created, while the funds which should have been available to supply that demand by Immigration have been anticipated. I have therefore considered it desirable that the part of the Land Revenue which is applicable to Immigration, should, except under special circumstances, be appropriated to that object, only as it is realized and not by anticipation.

7. In 1847, however, Emigration had long been interrupted for want of funds, the demand for labour was consequently very great, and it was desirable that a very considerable number of Emigrants should be sent as soon as possible to the Colony. There were at the same time from circumstances connected with the internal condition of this Country, facilities for obtaining Emigrants of the most eligible description, which were not likely to continue when the want of employment which had been created by temporary causes should have passed away. For these reasons, notwithstanding the strong objection which I entertain to the policy of anticipating the Land Revenue and borrowing money upon its security, instead of applying only its actual proceeds to Emigration, I considered it expedient to sanction your proposal for the issue of debentures to the amount of One hundred thousand pounds, for the purpose of carrying on Emigration upon as large a scale as possible, at so favourable a season for it.

The result of these measures has fully answered my expectations—Emigrants of the class most useful to the Colony were obtained in large numbers, with a facility which has already greatly diminished, and an increased supply of labour was thus afforded to the Colony, which has given a great stimulus to its production, just when the revival of commerce in this Country has created a better demand for the Colonial staples. The improvement of the Land Revenue has also made good your calculations, and has prevented any inconvenience from being felt from the debt which was incurred.

But though the policy which was thus adopted on special and temporary grounds has been attended with such striking success, this success ought not to be regarded as affording any encouragement for the neglect of the rules of prudence, which require that the Land Revenue should not be burdened with permanent debt; and I consider it as highly expedient that no fresh debt should be incurred, and that the expenditure for Emigration should be confined within the amount which can be provided for from the current receipts of the year.

I have, &c., &c., &c.,  
(Signed)

GREY.

Governor Sir C. A. Fitz Roy.