

VICTORIA.

ESTIMATES. — 1853.

Ordered by the Council to be Printed, 3rd November, 1852.

C. J. LA TROBE,
Lieutenant Governor.

Message No. 34.

The Lieutenant Governor transmits to the Legislative Council Estimates of the Ways and Means, and of the probable Expenditure of the Colonial Government of Victoria, for the year 1853.

2. The preparation of these Estimates, which would according to ordinary usage have been laid before the Council in the early part of the Session, was, in the first instance, of necessity, delayed until the final adoption of the Tariff Bill. Within a few days after that measure received the sanction of the Legislature, the receipt of the important Despatch from the Secretary of State, under date 2nd June, 1852, placed upon an entirely new footing the Financial powers of the Council, and the ability of the Executive to meet their wishes. It is with sincere satisfaction that the Lieutenant Governor again congratulates the Council upon the removal of the main obstacle which has been hitherto interposed to prevent the hearty co-operation of the Executive and Legislative departments of the Government, and that he expresses his conviction that their harmony will, henceforward, be productive of great advantage both to the Public Service and to the general welfare of the Colony.

3. The Estimates for 1853 cannot on this occasion be accompanied, in the usual manner, by a detailed Statement of the additional provision which will be required during the present year. The reasons for this omission will be found in another part of this Message.

4. The Lieutenant Governor would first direct attention to the Estimated Ways and Means of 1853. It will be seen that the total amount of these is £1,733,600; and that the chief items comprised in this sum are,

Customs	£434,800	0	0
Postage	17,900	0	0
Pilotage, Licenses, Fees, Fines, and Miscellaneous Receipts	37,900	0	0
Gold Licenses and Leases	505,000	0	0
Escort and Treasury Fees	63,000	0	0
Export Duty on Gold	375,000	0	0
Transfer from the Territorial Revenue	300,000	0	0

5. The probable Revenue arising from Duties on Imports has been calculated from a consideration of the increased consumption of Foreign Goods which may be anticipated to arise from the vast Immigration now setting in, due regard being had to the working of the New Tariff. Upon the assumption that one hundred thousand souls will be added to the population of Victoria before the close of 1853, it may be anticipated that the amount of Imports during that year, compared with those introduced in 1852, will be in the proportion of at least 4 to 3. Taking the Revenue which would have been raised under the New Tariff upon the actual quantity of duty-paying articles entered at the Custom House during the first six months of this year as £153,483, and allowing an increase of 12.5 per cent. for the remaining six months, the Estimate cannot be considered extravagant.

6. The operations of the Post Office have steadily increased during the present year. If no check to this progressive movement occurs, the number of letters passing through the Post will, in 1853, be not less than one million and a half, and the probable amount of Postage £17,900. The receipts for 1851 having been only £8676 7s. 3d., this great improvement, notwithstanding the exemption of newspapers from payment, cannot but be satisfactory to the country.

7. The amount paid into the Treasury for Pilotage during the first six months of this year was £1566 4s. 9d., and in consequence of the great increase in the number of vessels which are expected to visit the different Ports of the Colony in 1853, the Revenue under this head will probably reach £4000. A moderate increase under the heads "Auction Duty," "Licenses," and "Fees of Office," has been allowed; and for obvious reasons no diminution in the amount of "Fines and Forfeitures" is to be anticipated.

8. To the probable proceeds of Licenses to dig for Gold has been added the Revenue which is expected to accrue from Leases of Auriferous Lands under the terms of the Notice of 20th October last. The probable number of Licenses to be issued in each month has been set down at 27,500, being about the average of the months of August and September last.

9. The Fees for the Escort of Gold from the workings to Melbourne and Geelong are not intended to produce a Revenue, beyond the cost of carriage, and of the necessary Police protection on the road. The proposed reorganization of this service will be explained to the House at the proper time.

10. The expediency of levying a duty, on all gold intended for export from the Colony, having been affirmed by the Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor has proposed a rate of duty which, while it offers little or no encouragement to contraband traffic, will produce the very lowest revenue consistent, in his opinion, with the requirements of the Colony. It will be for the Council, after an examination of the Estimates of Expenditure now laid before them, to decide whether the basis upon which his opinion was founded, is correct.

11. In addition to the ways and means already detailed, the sum of £300,000 is proposed to be transferred from the Territorial to the General Revenue during the year 1853. The Lieutenant Governor is empowered by the terms of Sir John Pakington's Despatch of the 2nd June last, to make, with the advice of his Executive Council, provision from the unappropriated moiety of the former fund for such extraordinary services as may be rendered urgent by the present crisis. But rather than retain in his own hands the responsibility of appropriating so great an amount to the general uses of the Colony, he has resolved to place at the unfettered disposal of the Council the largest sum which in his opinion the primary and other charges upon the Land Fund will prudently allow. And he confidently anticipates that the liberality and judgment with which the Legislature will meet him, will justify the change which he has made with respect to the temporary administration of so large a portion of this revenue.

12. Adverting now to the Estimates of Expenditure, it will be observed that the rates and services proposed for 1853, are not contrasted, in the manner anticipated in the 15th paragraph of the Financial minute, dated the 1st November, 1851, with those of former years. It will be evident that from the totally altered state of the Colony, no benefit could arise from this comparison in the present instance. The arrangement of the Estimate has also been in some respects varied from that previously adopted; and the Lieutenant Governor would particularly mention the classification of the departments named in the Schedule to the Constitutional Act among the other Civil Establishments. It will be seen that, by the presentation of the Estimates for these departments in complete detail, the Council will have, as far as can be, all the advantages of an exclusive control over the appropriation required for these services.

13. The unprecedented rise which has taken place in wages and prices of every description, and the greatly increased duties in, and responsibilities of, each department of the service, have necessitated a corresponding augmentation in the salaries of Public Officers of all classes. The Lieutenant Governor has used every endeavour equitably to adjust these salaries, with due regard to the importance and duties of each office and the necessary expenses incurred by the holders. But he considers it only just to remark, that the salaries which he has named are the very lowest at which, in his opinion, efficient Public servants can be obtained.

14. In remarking upon the detailed estimates, the Lieutenant Governor does not propose on the present occasion, to adopt the plan hitherto pursued, of noticing every alteration or new arrangement submitted for the approval of the Council. From the great changes which the necessities of the times have compelled him to effect in every branch of the service, such a minute examination would have extended this message to an inconvenient length; and it is therefore intended to allude only to the leading features of the proposed appropriation; leaving to the proper Officers the duty of giving to the Council, when the Estimates are under scrutiny, the fullest possible explanation.

EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENTS.

15. It will be seen that it is proposed to establish Sub-Treasuries at Geelong and Portland; an arrangement which will be calculated to expedite the financial business of the Government in the Western Districts.

The salary of the Speaker of the Legislative Council has been set down at a sum more in accordance with the dignity and importance of his office, than that proposed in the Session of 1851; and the Lieutenant Governor wishes it to be understood, that in respect to any further addition to that salary, he is disposed to yield prompt attention to such suggestions as the Council may think fit to make.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

16. This estimate comprises a large additional provision, rendered necessary by the passing of the Acts establishing General and Quarter Sessions and County Courts, 16 Victoria, Nos. 3 and 11; and the Lieutenant Governor anticipates that the ready administration of Justice will be greatly facilitated by the establishment of these Courts.

CUSTOMS.

17. This service is now for the first time brought under the control of the Council. The number of officers proposed in this estimate will, it is anticipated, suffice for the collection at the ports of the proposed export duty on gold.

POST OFFICE.

18. It has not been found possible, nor under existing circumstances could it be deemed necessary, to make the Post Office a self-supporting establishment; but considering that the carriage of newspapers occasions a great, if not the greater, part of the expense of this

department, the probable revenue collected in 1853, will be found to bear as favourable a comparison with the expenditure, as it has heretofore done. The amount set down for the conveyance of mails in the interior will provide for a more frequent communication between Melbourne and the Gold Fields, should the Council consider such a course advisable.

COMMISSIONERS FOR THE GOLD FIELDS.

19. The constant changes which have been experienced since the first discovery of Gold, both in the yield of the principal fields and the extent of population employed in mining, have rendered it absolutely impossible to arrive at a satisfactory estimate, either of the number of officers whom it may be necessary to appoint to the superintendence of the workings, or of the expenses which the Government may be compelled to incur in this service. But while there is every probability that a larger staff may be found to be necessary for the thorough supervision and protection of the miners, the Lieutenant Governor has no intention of filling up even the number of appointments stated in the estimate, until the exigencies of the service require him to do so.

DEPARTMENTS OF PORTS AND HARBOURS.

20. In consequence of the danger which has been found to attend vessels entering the Heads without pilots, it is intended to station two pilot schooners at a short distance outside, and to employ first class pilots in bringing vessels to the light ship ; for this, provision is proposed in the Estimate.

The frequent communication with the Heads which will be rendered necessary by the establishment there of a Sanatory Station, and the conveyance of public officers and of stores to the outports, should be provided for ; and it is proposed to appropriate sums sufficient to purchase and keep in commission a Government steam vessel ; which if the Council think fit, can be procured from England without delay.

POLICE, GAOL, AND PENAL.

21. In forming this Estimate the Lieutenant Governor has availed himself of many valuable suggestions contained in the printed Report of the Select Committee of Council on Police. He is sensible that the amount he asks the Council to appropriate for this service may appear to be enormous ; but he feels assured they will concur with him in the conviction that the protection of life and property, and the prevention of the increase of crime with which we are threatened, cannot be secured at too great a cost.

In consequence of the difficulty which has been experienced in securing the attendance of second Magistrates at the Police Benches of the interior, it is proposed to appoint the Commissioners of Crown Lands District Magistrates, who should periodically attend each Bench in their respective Districts. On this account, and in consideration of the transfer which it is proposed to make from the Land Fund, the Salaries of these Officers will be borne upon the General Revenue.

The Water Police has been reorganized in accordance with the expressed wishes of the Council, and placed under the control of an Officer, unconnected with the Harbour Master's department. An Inspector and ten men will be stationed at Point Henry to protect the increasing commerce of Geelong.

MILITARY.

22. The Council having in an early part of this Session addressed the Lieutenant Governor to take the necessary steps for the retention in the Colony of the whole Military Force then on the voyage from England, it is unnecessary to dwell upon the necessity of the provision for the four companies which have since arrived.

It will be seen that in addition to the pay to which, according to the regulations of the service, these Officers and men are entitled, it is proposed to give to the Lieutenant Colonel a Colonial allowance of 15s., and to the other Officers an allowance of 7s. 6d. each per diem ; and to double the pay of the Non-Commissioned Officers and privates. According to this scheme no deduction will be made for rations. It is also proposed to give to the Assistant Commissary General and to the Officers and men comprising the Guard stationed at Melbourne, the same Colonial allowance which the Forces wholly maintained at the expense of the Colony will receive.

It is proposed to secure, if practicable, the services of One hundred and fifty Pensioners from Van Diemen's Land during 1853. The engagements of the men now serving terminate on the 31st January next, and with a view of marking the general sense of their efficiency, it is intended to remit to all those who may adhere to their agreement the regulation stoppage of 3½d. per diem which has been hitherto made in their pay.

PUBLIC WORKS.

24. The Amount which is proposed to be expended upon Roads and Bridges, may appear, at first sight, unnecessarily large ; but viewing the immense traffic upon the Main Lines of Road in the Country, and the comparatively small sum hitherto appropriated for their formation, and maintenance, it is considered that, provided the supply of labor continues to be abundant, and its price bears a reasonable proportion to that of the necessaries of life, £300,000 may be judiciously invested in these undertakings.

25. The want of direct communication, between Melbourne and Hobson's Bay, has been repeatedly urged upon the Lieutenant Governor, and if no steps should be taken to carry out this object by private enterprise, the Government will undertake the Expenditure of the sum of

£30,000, now proposed upon the Estimates for 1853, for this service, under such arrangements as the Council may see fit to recommend. The removal of the obstructions to the free navigation of Corio Harbour, and that of the Bar at the mouth of the Moyne, are also proposed to be commenced.

26. Among the Public Buildings which will soon be urgently required, and for the erection which, in 1853, some provision is proposed to be made, are a Government House, Legislative Council Chambers, and Public Offices, in Melbourne. The necessity for the other Public Buildings, proposed to be erected, or enlarged, in 1853, will be explained to the Council at the appropriate time.

STORE AND TRANSPORT.

27. The creation of a New Department, which in the absence of an appropriate designation, has been styled that of the Colonial Barrack Master, has been called for by the great extension of the Public Service. It will be the duty of this Officer to take charge of, and be responsible for, all Stores and Furniture obtained for issue to the Military, Police, and Civil departments of the Government.

The necessity for organizing a service for the Transport of Stores and Provisions to the Gold Fields and the localities in the interior, where a Police or other force is stationed, has been urged upon the Government, and will call for the consideration of the Council.

EDUCATION.

28. A Select Committee having been appointed to consider and report upon the system of Primary Education which should obtain in this Colony, the Lieutenant Governor has refrained from doing more than place upon the Estimates the sum of £40,000 for the establishment and support of Schools; leaving the Council to decide under what regulations this fund should be administered, or in what manner it should be divided. A further sum of £10,000 is proposed to be set apart for the establishment of the University of Melbourne; and if the Council agrees with the Lieutenant Governor in thinking the early initiation of this Institution desirable, he invites them without delay to consider the principles upon which it should be founded.

MEDICAL.

29. The medical and general superintendence of the Insane at the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum are proposed to be combined in one Officer. In respect to this Institution, the Lieutenant Governor will be very happy to give due attention to any suggestions emanating from the Select Committee appointed by the Council to enquire into, and report upon, the subject.

ECCLIASTICAL.

30. The congregation at the Gold Fields of large numbers of persons of all classes and characters, and the circumstance of their being beyond the reach of the ordinary ministrations of Religion, determined the Government in the early part of the present year to appropriate a portion of the Gold Revenue to the payment of Stipends, under certain conditions, to a limited number of Ministers of the four assisted denominations. Provision is proposed to be made in the present Estimate for the continuance of this aid in the ensuing year. It is proposed also to appropriate a like sum for Stipends to Gaelic Chaplains.

MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

31. It has been considered desirable to establish a General Registry for the Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, and of Deeds, and for the compilation of general Statistics. The Registrar-General will be appointed also Chief Marriage Registrar, under the new Marriage Act, shortly to be submitted to the Council.

SCIENTIFIC.

32. The correspondence relative to the employment of Mr. Swainson, and the appointment of a Mineralogist has been laid before the Legislative Council.

Speedy communication between Melbourne and the Heads, to the advantages of which it is unnecessary now to refer, is proposed to be effected by a line of Electric Telegraph *via* Geelong. If the Council consent to the appropriation of a sufficient sum for this purpose it is intended to send to England for the necessary material without delay.

33. The total proposed appropriation for the several Services detailed in the Estimates, being	£1,749,042	9s.	7d.
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And the amount of anticipated Revenue as has been already stated	£1,733,600	0s.	0d.
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The excess of Expenditure over Income during the year 1853, will be	£15,442	9s.	7d.
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It remains therefore to consider the probable position of the Revenue on the 31st December, 1852.

34. The Lieutenant Governor has determined to avail himself in the fullest degree of the powers given to him by Sir John Pakington's Despatch of the 2nd of June last, and therefore proposes to place at the disposal of the Council the whole proceeds of the Revenue arising from the discovery of Gold, since the 1st October, 1851; and debit the General Revenue with the entire expense directly or indirectly incurred in connection therewith. According to this arrangement,

and in consideration of the large transfer which he contemplates making from the Land Fund, all expenses in the first instance defrayed from the Crown Revenue during the present year, beyond the services named in the Imperial Acts, will be submitted to the Legislative Council. It is also intended that the rates of salary exceeding £250 per annum which may now be determined by the Council for 1853, should date back from the 1st May last, since which time the extravagant price of necessaries has been most severely felt, and from which the junior clerks and subordinate servants of the Government who receive fixed annual salaries have already been paid their increase. As soon, therefore, as the financial arrangements for the year have been discussed and decided upon by the Legislative Council, and the rates of salary determined, the Lieutenant Governor will transmit a Supplementary Estimate of the additional provision necessarily required for the year 1852.

35. Upon the assumption however that the general features of the scheme now submitted, will be adopted by the Council, the available balance of the general revenue upon the 1st October last will have amounted to about £154,000, and as in consequence of the public works now in progress, the general expenses of the Government during the last quarter of the year, are not likely to fall short of the revenue, the balance at the close of the year may be reckoned at the above named sum. Deducting from this surplus the anticipated deficit upon the year 1853, the sum of £138,557 10s. 5d. is the estimated balance of the general revenue on the 31st December, 1853.

36. With the Supplementary Estimate for 1852, the Lieutenant Governor will transmit for the information of the Legislative Council, a statement shewing the probable amount and appropriation of the Land Fund for the present and ensuing years respectively.

Government Offices,

Melbourne, 3rd November, 1852.
