

1853.

VICTORIA.

L I G H T H O U S E S .

CORRESPONDENCE RELATIVE TO THE LIGHTHOUSE ON KENT'S GROUP.

*L A I D* upon THE COUNCIL TABLE by THE COLONIAL SECRETARY, by Command of HIS EXCELLENCY THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR, and ordered by THE COUNCIL to be printed, 1ST NOVEMBER, 1853.

SCHEDULE.

- No. 1.—The Colonial Secretary of Van Diemen's Land, to the Colonial Secretary of Victoria.—1st November, 1852.  
„ 2.—The Colonial Secretary of Victoria, to the Colonial Secretary of Van Diemen's Land.—18th November, 1852.  
„ 3.—The Colonial Secretary of Van Diemen's Land, to the Colonial Secretary of Victoria.—24th November, 1852.  
„ 4.—The same, to the same.—13th July, 1853.  
„ 5.—The Colonial Secretary of Victoria, to the Colonial Secretary of Van Diemen's Land.—27th October, 1853.  
„ 6.—The Colonial Secretary of Victoria, to the Colonial Secretary of New South Wales.—18th November, 1852.  
„ 7.—The Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary of Victoria.—2nd September, 1853.  
„ 8.—Message of the Governor General, to the Legislative Council, New South Wales.—31st August, 1853.  
„ 9.—The Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, to the Colonial Secretary of Victoria.—30th September, 1853.  
„ 10.—Address of the Legislative Council of New South Wales.—30th September, 1853.

*Correspondence with the Government of Van Diemen's Land, relative to the Lighthouse on Kent's Group.*

[No. 1.]

Van Diemen's Land,  
Colonial Secretary's Office,  
1st November, 1852.

SIR,

I am desired by His Excellency Sir William Denison, to request that you will call the attention of His Excellency Lieutenant Governor La Trobe, to the circumstances under which the expense of maintaining the Lighthouse on Kent's Group, is cast wholly upon this Government.

In the year 1846 an arrangement was made with the Government of New South Wales, whereby that Government engaged to provide the lantern, and light apparatus, this Government undertaking to build the lighthouse, and maintain the light—This last the Government of Van Diemen's Land has continued to do.

But since that period the trade and relative circumstances of the several Colonies have materially altered, and we now find ourselves paying the cost of maintaining a light, from which we derive the smallest advantage; whereas, New South Wales and Victoria, to the shipping and trade of both of which that light is especially serviceable, pay nothing.

I am therefore desired to suggest the propriety of a new arrangement, on the basis of each of the three Governments contributing one-third of the cost, which at present may be estimated at £650 per annum; but may be liable to some increase from the increasing cost of the necessaries of life, of the wages of the men, and the increased cost of transport.

Should His Excellency be disposed to entertain this proposal, more accurate details will be furnished.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) H. S. CHAPMAN.

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Melbourne, Victoria.

A.—No. 30.

929

[No. 2.]

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Melbourne, 18th November, 1852.

SIR,

In reply to your letter of the 1st instant, containing a suggestion of Lieutenant Governor Sir William Denison, as to the propriety of newly arranging the system by which the lighthouse on Kent's Group is at present maintained; I have the honor to inform you that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, with the advice of His Executive Council, has deemed it expedient to direct that a communication on the subject should be addressed to the Government of New South Wales, since that Government was primarily concerned in establishing the existing arrangement.

2. As soon as their views on the matter may have been ascertained, a further communication will be addressed for the information of His Excellency Sir William Denison.

3. In your letter you stated that the yearly cost was estimated at £650; perhaps you would have the goodness to inform me whether that sum includes the entire expense, or is merely the proportion to which each of the three Governments would be liable, in the event of the adoption of the proposed system.

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

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Van Diemen's Land.

[No. 3.]

Van Diemen's Land,  
Colonial Secretary's Office,  
24th November, 1852.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, and with reference to the last paragraph thereof, I am directed by Lieutenant Governor Sir William Denison, to inform you, that the sum of six hundred and fifty pounds is, as near as can be stated, the whole cost of the Kent's Group lighthouse establishment; but which may be considerably enhanced from the increased cost, not only of provisions and stores, &c., but of transport.

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

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Melbourne, Victoria.

[No. 4.]

Van Diemen's Land  
Colonial Secretary's Office,  
13th July, 1853.

SIR,

With reference to your communication No. 52. | 8145, of the 18th November last, and to my reply No. 7791, of the same month, I am directed by Lieutenant Governor Sir Wm. Denison, to request that you will inform me if the Government of Victoria have arrived at any decision, on the proposition that the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, and Van Diemen's Land, should each contribute one-third of the expense of maintaining the lighthouse on Kent's Group.

As the Legislative Council is now sitting, Sir William Denison is desirous of being furnished with this information, at as early a period as possible.

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

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Melbourne, Victoria.

[No. 5.]

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Melbourne, 27th October, 1853.

SIR,

Referring to my letter of the 25th July, No. 8516, in reply to yours of the 13th idem, respecting the proposition of the Government of Van Diemen's Land on the subject of the lighthouse on Kent's Group, I have the honor to acquaint you that a communication has been

received from the Government of New South Wales, assenting to the arrangement proposed in your letter of the 1st November, 1852, No. 7791, for the maintenance of the light on Kent's Group; and stating that provisions will be made accordingly for their share of the expenditure, to be paid from the 1st January, 1854, and I am further directed to inform you, that a sum of three hundred pounds has been placed on the Estimates for 1854, of this Colony, for the like purpose.

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

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Van Diemen's Land.

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[No. 6.]

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Melbourne, 18th November, 1852.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor has received a communication from the Government of Van Diemen's Land, stating that in the year 1846 a lighthouse was erected on the Kent's Group of Rocks, by a mutual arrangement between the Government of that Colony and of New South Wales; one of the terms of the agreement being, that the future cost of maintaining it should be paid by the former.

2. They have hitherto continued to do so, but now it is affirmed that the adjacent Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria derive greater advantages from this lighthouse than Van Diemen's Land; and in consequence a proposition has been made, that the annual expense should be borne for the future by each of the Colonies in equal proportions.

3. His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor therefore requests you would have the goodness to obtain the views of His Excellency the Governor General on this subject, previously to his giving a final answer to the Government of Van Diemen's Land.

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

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
New South Wales.

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[No. 7.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.

53. | 7186. No. 53. | 64.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Sydney, 2nd September, 1853.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th ultimo, No. 9108 requesting with reference to a former one, to be apprised of the views of the Governor General, on the subject of the participation by the Colonies of New South Wales and Victoria, in the expense of maintaining the lighthouse on Kent's Group.

2. Considering that the proposition made by the Government of Van Diemen's Land, that the expense should in future be divided amongst the three Colonies in equal proportions, is a reasonable one, the Governor General has recommended it to the favorable consideration of the Legislative Council, in a message of which I transmit a copy; and I am directed by His Excellency to state for the information of His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, that a further communication will be made to the Government of Victoria, as soon as a decision is given on the subject by the Council.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) E. DEAS THOMSON.

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Victoria.

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[No. 8.]

CHARLES A. FITZ ROY,  
Governor General.

Message, No. 38.

The Governor General transmits to the Legislative Council, a copy of a communication from the Honorable the Colonial Secretary of Van Diemen's Land,\* inviting attention to the circumstances under which the expense of maintaining the lighthouse on Kent's Group, is cast wholly upon that Colony.

\*A verbatim copy of No. 1, given above.

2. The lighthouse in question was erected, and has been since maintained at the cost of the Government of Van Diemen's Land, this Colony having provided the lantern and light apparatus. But for the reason alleged in this letter, the proposition that the expense should in future be divided amongst the Colonies of New South Wales, Victoria, and Van Diemen's Land, in equal proportions appears to be a reasonable one, and His Excellency therefore recommends it to the favorable consideration of the Council.

Government House,  
Sydney, 31st August, 1853.

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[No. 9.]

NEW SOUTH WALES.

No. 53 | 71.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Sydney, 30th September, 1853.

SIR,

With reference to my letter of the 2nd instant, respecting the division of the expenses of maintaining the lighthouse at Kent's Group, between the Colonies of New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and Victoria, I am directed by His Excellency the Governor General to transmit to you a copy of an Address from the Legislative Council, assenting to this arrangement; and to inform you that provision will be made accordingly for the share of this Expenditure to be paid by this Colony, from the 1st January, 1854.

I have, &c.,  
(Signed) E. DEAS THOMSON.

The Honorable  
The Colonial Secretary,  
Victoria.

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[No. 10.]

*Enclosure in letter of Colonial Secretary of New South Wales, to Colonial Secretary of Van Diemen's Land, dated 30th September, 1853.*

To His Excellency SIR CHARLES AUGUSTUS FITZ ROY, Knight Companion of the Royal Hanoverian Guelphic Order, Governor General of all Her Majesty's Australian Possessions, and Captain General and Governor in Chief of the Territory of New South Wales and its Dependencies, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c., &c.

May it please Your Excellency—

We, Her Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Members of the Legislative Council of New South Wales, in Council assembled, beg respectfully to communicate to Your Excellency the following resolutions adopted this day by the Council:—

(1) That this House having taken into consideration the Message of His Excellency the Governor General, No. 38, dated 31st August, ultimo—Resolves: That it is expedient to adopt the recommendation therein contained.

(2) That the foregoing Resolutions be communicated by Address to His Excellency the Governor General.

(Signed) CHARLES NICHOLSON.  
Speaker.

Legislative Council Chambers,  
Sydney, 7th September, 1853.