

1853.



VICTORIA.



COLONIAL AGENT GENERAL.



LAI'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, 22<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER, 1853.



By Authority:

JOHN FERRES, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, MELBOURNE.



## SUPPLEMENTARY CORRESPONDENCE

*In continuation of the Documents accompanying Message No. 17, of 6th September, 1853.*

Extract from letter from the Colonial Secretary to the Colonial Agent General, dated 25th September, 1851.

In forwarding you this draft, His Excellency Lieutenant Governor La Trobe has desired me to convey to you his wish that with respect to this, as to all other remittances made to you from this Colony, you will have the goodness to forward to me, as soon as possible after the termination of each quarter, an account current of your receipts and disbursements during the past quarter, shewing the balance made up to the last day thereof, and accompanied with receipts for all sums disbursed, with the invoices of all stores purchased, and specifying all remittances received, separately and severally naming the purpose for which each remittance has been made to you; and also with respect to disbursements, against which remittance each disbursement has been made. This arrangement is requested in order that the Colonial Treasurer may be able to adjust the several advances which have been made to him, at as short a period as possible, a measure which you must be aware is highly essential.

I have, &c.,  
W. LONSDALE.

(Signed)

Edward Barnard, Esq.,  
Colonial Agent General.

[COPY.]

VICTORIA.

No. 166.

EXECUTIVE.

Melbourne, 30th November, 1852.

SIR,

I feel it necessary for me to request your assistance, and so far as it can be extended, to a more rapid compliance with requisitions sent from this Colony, particularly for police equipments, &c. I would attribute blame or neglect to no one without due enquiry, but I can only state the fact, that it is now twelve months since a first requisition for arms, police clothing, &c., was duly forwarded to the Colonial Agent General from the office of the Colonial Secretary in my Despatch of the 20th November, 1851, No. 50, and no intimation whatever has been yet received respecting these supplies.

2. At this very hour, when circumstances for the first time since the gold discovery favor the engagement of a sufficient number of police, a very large proportion are rendered unavailable for active duty, from the want of a supply of arms and accoutrements, which no outlay and no exertion can secure in this and the neighbouring Colonies

I have the honor, &c.,  
C. J. LA TROBE.

(Signed)

The Right Honorable  
Sir J. Pakington, Bart.,  
&c., &c., &c.

[COPY.]

No. 51.

Downing-street, 21st April, 1853.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge your Despatch No. 166, of the 30th November last, on the subject of delays in compliance with requisitions sent from the Colony for articles required for the public use, and I enclose for your information the answer which I have received by the Agent General, Mr. Barnard, from the Board of Ordnance, on the subject of the particular instance (that of the requisition for police clothing) on which your Despatch is founded.

2. I cannot say that the explanation which this answer affords, appears to me, or is likely to appear to yourself, very satisfactory. But in reply to the general observations of your Despatch, I would remark, that as the Agent General acts under the direct control and orders of the local authorities and is furnished with local funds, it is partly in the power of those authorities themselves to ensure despatch, by directing the manner in which the requisitions shall be acted on. The public departments in this country are indeed ready to lend their assistance as they have hitherto done, in securing a proper supply of the articles wanted for Colonial purposes. But their ordinary mode of proceeding is by contract, which, while it secures economy, is liable as has proved in the present case, to occasional and unforeseen delays. It appears to me, therefore, that

1st Requisition,  
19th November,  
1852.

Supplementary  
Schedule of  
Stores required  
11th December  
1851.

20th April.

it would be the best course for the local Government, in cases where expedition is of greater consequence than that the business should be done at the least cost, to give the Agent General express authority to depart from the ordinary course, and obtain the articles as in his own judgment he may think best calculated to secure the object, with as much regard to economy as is consistent therewith; leaving ordinary requisitions, where there is no such immediate urgency, to be acted on in the usual manner.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

NEWCASTLE.

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

[COPY.]

5, Cannon-row, 7th April, 1853.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd inst., on the subject of the delay in sending out stores for the service of the Colony of Victoria.

In reply, I have the honor to acquaint you, for the information of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, that the stores in question were ordered by me of the Ordnance Department on the 29th April, 1852, with a request that they might be supplied with the least possible delay. Having received a letter from the Colonial Secretary of Victoria on this subject, I think I cannot do better than send a copy of my reply, which will put His Grace in possession of the causes of the delay complained of on this occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDWARD BARNARD.

H. Merivale, Esq.,  
&c., &c., &c.

5, Cannon-row, 4th April, 1853.

SIR,

I have the honor in reply to your letter of the 17th November, last, to acquaint you for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that the stores referred to in your letters of the 19th November and 11th December, 1851, were shipped as follows, viz. :—

Scales, &c., per *Sydney*, (steamer), 29th July, 1852.

Ditto per *Cleopatra*, (steamer), 30th August, 1852.

Stationery, per *Blackwall*, 6th August, 1852.

In regard to the Ordnance stores, I have to enclose a copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Board, explaining the cause of the delay which occurred in forwarding the articles supplied by that department.

I beg to add, that I ordered the whole of the articles immediately they were authorised, and have used every exertion to get them shipped as soon as possible.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

EDWARD BARNARD.

W. Lonsdale, Esq.,  
Victoria.

Office of Ordnance, 30th March, 1853.

SIR,

Having submitted to the Board of Ordnance your Letter of the 21st instant, complaining of the delay in sending out stores to the settlement of Victoria, and requesting an explanation as to the cause of it.

I have received the Board's commands to apprize you, that the delay was caused by the necessity of obtaining the greater portion of the stores alluded to, consisting of clothing, saddlery, &c., by *contract*, and the subsequent failure of the contractors either to fulfil their engagements within the time specified, or to supply the articles of proper quality.

As soon as a sufficient quantity was ready for shipment, the *Aden* was appointed to receive 20 tons, which were immediately embarked and the vessel despatched on the 11th December, 1852, and a further quantity of 39½ tons were despatched in the *Stata* in January last.

It will be seen that as fast as these stores could be got ready, they were shipped for their destination, and what have just been received from the contractor, viz. :—200 suits of clothing for the City Police, which are now under inspection, together with a large supply of slop clothing to complete the order, will also be sent out as soon as a vessel can be obtained for their conveyance.

The Board desire me to state further, that every exertion will be used to despatch the articles included in the requisition of the 2nd February last.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

G. BUTLER.

E. Barnard, Esq.,  
&c., &c., &c.

No. 60.

Melbourne, 17th March, 1853.

SIR,

I am constrained to refer to my Despatch of the 30th November, 1852, No. 166, pointing out the inconvenience which has resulted from the apparent neglect of the requisitions forwarded from this Colony, for the supplies shewn by the whole tenor of my Despatches at that time to be of the most urgent necessity.

2. I would more especially refer to those for the police arms and equipment, the first of which was forwarded from this office to the Colonial Agent General's address in my Despatch No. 50, of the 20th November, 1851, and is adverted to in the enclosed communication from the Colonial Storekeeper, to which I would invite attention, and the second on the 11th of December following, direct to the Colonial Agent General, with ample funds to meet whatever expenses might be incurred.

3. Under the pressing circumstances detailed it was confidently hoped that every exertion would be made to comply with them without delay, and with diligence it certainly might be supposed that ten months at the outside might have sufficed to place the Colony in possession of them. At this date, full fifteen months have elapsed, and while a statement has been received, shewing a very large balance to the credit of the Colony in the hands of the Colonial Agent General, not one word has been received by any branch of the Colonial Government respecting these supplies, nor any explanation of the cause of the delay.

4. The gravity of the inconvenience and embarrassment to which the public service is, and has been exposed in consequence, must plead my excuse in again requesting that the attention of Her Majesty's Government may be drawn to the subject.

I have, &amp;c.

(Signed)

C. J. LA TROBE.

The Right Honorable  
Sir J. Pakington, Bart.

Downing-street, 18th August, 1853.

SIR,

With reference to your Despatch, No. 60, of the 17th March last, recurring to the subject of the inconvenience which had resulted from the delay in complying with requisitions from the Colony; I enclose for your information the copy of a correspondence which has passed between this Department and the Colonial Agent on the subject.

I have, &amp;c.,

(Signed)

NEWCASTLE.

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

Downing-street, 19th July, 1853.

SIR,

With reference to my letter of the 20th April, and to previous correspondence, respecting delay in the compliance with requisitions sent from Victoria for articles wanted for the public use, I am directed by the Duke of Newcastle to transmit to you the copy of a further Despatch from Lieutenant Governor La Trobe, recurring to the subject, and enclosing a list of stores and supplies, for which the usual demands had long since been made from the Colony, but which at the date of the Lieutenant Governor's Despatch had not been received, and I am to desire that you will furnish me for His Grace's information with an immediate report on the subject.

I am, &amp;c.,

(Signed)

H. MERIVALE.

E. Barnard, Esq.

5, Cannon-row, 8th August, 1853.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th ult., transmitting a further Despatch from the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, relative to the great delay in the supply of stores required for the service of that Colony; and in reply, I beg to enclose a statement of the progress made with the several orders specified by the Colonial Storekeeper.

I beg also to transmit the copy of a letter from the Secretary to the Board of Ordnance on this subject, by which it appears that none of the articles required by my letter of the 2nd February last, have as yet been shipped, although Mr. Butler stated in his letter of the 30th of March, (a copy of which was forwarded to you in my letter of the 7th April last,) "that every exertion would be used to despatch the articles."

It therefore appears that the Board of Ordnance with *every exertion* cannot make a shipment in the space of six months, and as the delay is likely to occasion so much inconvenience, I would beg to suggest the propriety of my being authorised for the future to provide similar articles from private tradesmen, from whom they could I have no doubt be obtained on equally favorable terms.

I have, &amp;c.,

(Signed)

EDWARD BARNARD.

H. Merivale, Esq.  
&c., &c., &c.  
A.—No. 35, b.

Colonial Agent  
General to Co-  
lonial Secretary  
of Victoria,  
12th October,  
1852.  
Balance £10,485  
18s. 5d.

Colonial Office to  
Agent, 8th Au-  
gust, 1853.  
Agent, 8th Au-  
gust, 1853.  
Colonial Office to  
Agent, 18th Au-  
gust.

No. 60. 17th  
March, 1853.

## RETURN OF REQUISITIONS FOR STORES TRANSMITTED TO ENGLAND.

27th October, 1851.

No. 1.  
Stationery.  
Hardware.  
Saddlery.  
Arms, ammunition, and accoutrements.  
Oil and paint.  
Clothing.  
Scales and Weights.

No. 1.  
The stationery and scales and weights have been received in the Colony. The other articles were provided by the Ordnance. They were all shipped by the 31st May, 1853, thirteen months after the order had been received.

27th October, 1851.

No. 2.  
Boxes, chimney glasses, and lamps, for Cape  
Otway Light-house

No. 2.  
These stores were shipped on the 21st December, 1852, per *Aden*

27th October, 1851.

No. 3.  
Surveying and drawing instruments.

No. 3.  
These instruments have been received in the Colony.

31st August, 1852.

No. 4.  
Hardware.  
Clothing.  
Stationery.  
Paper.  
Arms, ammunition, &c., &c.  
Saddlery.  
Printing Types.

No. 4.  
Shipments have been made of portions of these stores, viz.:—Type, instruments, scales, and brooms, and part of six iron houses, on the 10th May last, per *Mercia*; six iron houses in the *New Orleans*, on the 30th May, part of six iron houses by the *Nimrod*, on the 2nd June, one hundred and seventy cases of stationery, per *Sussex*, on 2nd June, and fifty-seven tents per *Leichardt*, on 4th July. Twelve more iron houses are now ready for shipment, as well as a further supply of tents. The other articles were ordered of the Ordnance 2nd February, 1853, but no shipment had been made up to the 1st August.

[Copy.]

Office of Ordnance, 1st August 1853.

SIR,

Having laid before the Board of Ordnance your letter of the 26th ultimo, requesting to be informed whether certain stores ordered for the Government of Victoria have been shipped to the Colony, I am directed by the Board to acquaint you that the stores alluded to in your letter of the 29th April, 1852, have all been shipped, the last being on the 31st May last, per the *Lochnagar*, and the whole of these shipments have been communicated to you to enable you to effect insurances thereon.

With regard to the stores asked for by your letter of the 2nd February last, none have yet been forwarded to Victoria. Thirty tons of the stores are now in progress of shipment by the *Henry Gillespie*, and the Admiralty have been requested to provide conveyance for sixty additional tons, which will include a supply of a portion of the bedding due; the remaining quantities of those articles not having been received from the contractors, neither has the clothing for the police; nor that designated as slop clothing, with the exception of straw hats and boots, which will likewise be shipped in the *Henry Gillespie*.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

G. BUTLER.

E. Barnard, Esq.

Downing-street, 18th August, 1853.

SIR,

I have received and laid before the Duke of Newcastle, your letter of the 8th instant, respecting the delay complained of by the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, in the supply and shipment of stores to the Colony; and with reference to your suggestion, that authority should be given to you to provide the articles required from private tradesmen, I am to enclose for your information and guidance the copy of a Despatch which was addressed to Lieutenant Governor La Trobe, on the subject of the delays in question.

I am, &amp;c.

(Signed)

T. F. ELLIOTT.

Edward Barnard, Esq.

[COPY.]  
VICTORIA.

No. 109.

EXECUTIVE.

Melbourne, 15th July, 1853.

MY LORD DUKE,

I find myself called upon to ask your Grace's good offices in securing to the Colony some more satisfactory mode of transacting business with the Colonial Agent General's Office, than that which has been in practice hitherto.

2. The enclosed copies of previous correspondence will shew that as early as September 1851, that is immediately after the separation of this Colony from New South Wales, the Auditor General suggested that the Colonial Agent General should receive instructions to transmit to the Colony in due course, vouchers in support of the accounts of his receipts and expenditure on behalf of the Colony. These instructions were conveyed to the Colonial Agent General by a Despatch addressed to him by the Colonial Secretary in the same month. To this no answer whatever has been received, and although accounts have been rendered by the Colonial Agent General of purchases made on behalf of the Colony, extending over the whole of 1852, the course recommended has not been followed.

See Auditor General to Colonial Secretary, 20th September, 1851.

Colonial Secretary to Colonial Agent General, 25th September 1853.

3. I have had in more than one previous Despatch addressed to your Grace's predecessors, to remark upon the embarrassment resulting from the tardy manner in which to all appearance the requisitions for supplies of the most urgent character have been attended to, and on the absence of all information as to the cause of the delay; and I cannot say, that my acquaintance with the general correspondence with regard to these requisitions is such as to enable me to satisfy the public mind that the present arrangement is a desirable one, and free from all just exception or even abuse.

4. At the period of the separation of the Colony from New South Wales, there appeared no reason why the arrangement under which the home supplies had been secured for the Older Province, should not be taken advantage of in the case of Victoria, and what then appeared to be a proportionate amount of salary was offered to the Colonial Agent General for the duty to be undertaken. As circumstances have turned out however, there can be no question but that the amount as then determined, one hundred pounds, since increased to two hundred pounds, is quite incommensurate with the amount of responsibility and labor which have been imposed upon him; and I am quite sure, that were I to be in a position to offer full information to the Legislative Council, there would be every disposition to make him an adequate provision. But before I can do this satisfactorily, it must be fully understood, whether or not the Colonial Agent General derives any personal interest, direct or indirect from his employment of the large sums placed in his hands, until actually absorbed by payments on account of the Colonial supplies by per centage or purchases made in consequence of private understanding or arrangement with contractors, or in any other manner whatever. Nothing of this kind is shewn on the face of the accounts.

5. To the enclosed copies of previous correspondence, I append an account completed in the Audit Office of the sums remitted to, and disbursed by, the Colonial Agent General to the end of the year 1852, with extracts from a communication from the Auditor General, to which I would draw your Grace's attention.

I have the honor, &c.

(Signed)

C. J. LA TROBE.

His Grace

The Duke of Newcastle,  
&c., &c., &c.

Office of Civil Commissariat,  
Melbourne, 18th October, 1853.

SIR,

With reference to my letter No. A. 53. | 180, dated 18th instant, I would beg respectfully to submit for the consideration of His Excellency, that as complaints have been made that many of the articles purchased in and forwarded from England for the Government of this Colony have been of very inferior quality, the Government should adopt the plan of forwarding their indents through respectable mercantile firms, to be executed for a per centage upon original and genuine invoices, the amount to be paid in this Colony upon the receipt of the goods, the quality and description being approved as in accordance with the contract.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

LESLEY C. MOODY,  
Civil Commissary General.

The Honorable

The Colonial Secretary.