

VICTORIA.

ACT OF COUNCIL—ROYAL ASSENT.

*Ordered by the Council to be printed, 3rd April, 1854.*CHAS. HOTHAM,
*Lieutenant Governor.**Message No. 58.*

The Lieutenant Governor transmits, for the information of the Legislative Council, the copy of a Despatch (with its enclosure) dated 23rd December, 1854, No. 48, from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, wherein is notified Her Majesty's approval and allowance of the Act of Council of this Colony, passed in the seventeenth year of Her Majesty's Reign, intituled, "*An Act to amend the Law relating to the Post Office.*"

*Government Offices,
Melbourne, 3rd April, 1855.*

The Right Honorable the Secretary of State to His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor on the subject of the Postage Act.

No. 48.

Downing-street, 23rd December, 1854.

SIR,

With reference to my Despatch of the 4th ultimo (No. 36), I have to acquaint you that I have submitted to the Queen the Act of the Legislature of Victoria, No. 30, of 1854, "*to amend the law relating to the Post Office,*" and that Her Majesty has been pleased to approve and allow the same. You will communicate Her Majesty's decision to the inhabitants of the Colony of Victoria by a proclamation to be published in the usual and most authentic manner. In the Duke of Newcastle's Despatch (No. 19 a), of the 2nd May last, in reply to your predecessor's Despatch (No. 200), of the 30th December, 1853, you were informed by His Grace that after perusing the terms of the Address to the Queen from the Legislative Council, which was enclosed by Mr. La Trobe, he considered that the Legislature of Victoria fully acquiesced in the measures proposed by the Home Government for the establishment of an uniform sixpenny rate of postage on letters between this country and the Colony. I now enclose, for your information, the copy of a letter from the Assistant Secretary to the Board of Treasury, with copy of one from the department of the Postmaster General, to whom the Act, No. 30, was referred, and I trust that you may have made the necessary arrangements for carrying into effect the reduced rate, as well as for collecting the Imperial postage on unpaid letters, and that no difficulty will occur on the arrival of the first mail dispatched from England under the new regulations.

(Signed)

I have, &c.,
G. GREY.Lieutenant Governor Sir C. Hotham,
Victoria.*[Enclosure in foregoing Letter.]*Treasury Chambers,
11th December, 1854.

SIR,

I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to transmit to you copy of a letter from the Postmaster General, dated 30th ultimo, together with an Act passed by the Legislature of Victoria, intituled, "*An Act to amend the Law relating to the Post Office,*" and I am to request that you will state to Secretary Sir George Grey that my Lords see no objection to the Act receiving the necessary confirmation of Her Majesty. I am further to state with reference to the latter part of this letter, that my Lords trust that satisfactory arrangements have been made by the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria for carrying into effect the reduced rate of postage between the United Kingdom and that Colony.

(Signed)

I have, &c.,
C. E. TREVELYAN.Herman Merivale, Esq.,
&c., &c., &c.

B.—No. 58.

To the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

MY LORDS,

I have the honor to transmit to your Lordships the copy of a letter from the Colonial Office, dated the 6th instant, accompanied by the copy of an Act passed by the Legislature of Victoria, intituled, "*An Act to amend the Law relating to the Post Office,*" together with an extract of so much of the Lieutenant Governor's Despatch as relates to it; and I request that you will be pleased to cause this Act to be returned to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, informing him that I see no objection to its being submitted for the Royal allowance.

2. With respect to that part of the Lieutenant Governor's Despatch in which it is stated that the proposition contained in the Circular from the Colonial Office of the 5th April, 1853, on the subject of a low uniform rate of postage, did not meet the approval of the Council, I must inform your Lordships that in April last I received from the Colonial Office the copy of a Despatch from Lieutenant Governor La Trobe, enclosing an Address to Her Majesty from the Legislative Council of Victoria, expressing their strong desire for a general system of frequent, regular, and cheap postal communication, but that having some doubt whether I should be justified in considering this Despatch and accompanying Address in the light of an acquiescence in the proposal made to the Colony for the establishment of an uniform sixpenny rate of postage for Colonial letters, I referred the question to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and received a reply, dated 3rd May last, stating that the Duke of Newcastle assumed that the Authorities in Victoria were ready to acquiesce in the proposal made to them by the Home Government, and that His Grace would inform the Lieutenant Governor that such was his view of the subject. A copy of this Correspondence I enclose for the information of your Lordships.

3. Adopting the Duke of Newcastle's interpretation of the wishes of the Government of Victoria, I caused a Treasury Warrant to be prepared for extending the sixpenny rate of postage to Victoria amongst other colonies, and this Warrant having been duly signed on the 21st June last, the reduction was carried into effect on the 1st ultimo, and is now in operation.

4. I trust that on the receipt of the communication which the Duke of Newcastle announced his intention of addressing to the Lieutenant Governor of Victoria, in May last, arrangements were made in the Colony for carrying into effect the reduced rate, as well as for collecting the Imperial postage on unpaid letters, and that no difficulty will occur on the arrival of the first mail dispatched from England under the new regulations.

(Signed)

I have, &c,
CANNING.

General Post Office,
30th November, 1854.