

1877.

VICTORIA.

DESPATCHES FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES RESPECTING THE MISSION OF HIS EXCELLENCY COLONEL SIR W. F. DRUMMOND JERVOIS, R.E., K.C.M.G., C.B., ASSISTED BY LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. H. SCRATCHLEY, R.E.; UNDERTAKEN AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

I.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of Victoria.

Victoria.—No. 23.

SIR,

Downing street, 27th February 1877.

You will have already learned by my telegram, dated the 20th instant, that Governor Sir W. Jervois, R.E., K.C.M.G., C.B., assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel Scratchley, R.E., will shortly proceed to Australia to advise the Colonial Government upon works of defence, in compliance with the application which I received by telegraph.

2. After further consideration, and after receiving the despatches in which the name of Sir W. Jervois was specially mentioned as acceptable to the colonies, I succeeded in arranging that he should be employed on this service in lieu of Colonel Laffan, R.E., who will be appointed to the Government of Bermuda. It is a cause of pleasure to me, and I am sure will be very satisfactory to your Government, that I have been able to arrange that you should have the benefit of Sir W. Jervois's great experience.

3. Sir W. Jervois will leave Singapore for Sydney on the 2nd of April, and Colonel Scratchley will proceed from this country by the mail steamer, of the 8th of March.

4. I enclose, for the information of your Government, copies of the instructions which I have given to Sir W. Jervois and, to Colonel Scratchley, and as the period of Sir W. Jervois's stay in Australia is necessarily limited, I shall be glad if your Government will at once endeavor to arrange with him as to his proceedings, in order that no time may be lost by him in fulfilling the objects of his mission.

Enclosures I. and II., 27th and 26th February 1877.

5. You will see that Sir W. Jervois has been instructed to guide himself, so far as may be in his power, by the views and wishes of the Governments of the different colonies which are desirous of availing themselves of his services.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

CARNARVON.

Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G.C.M.G., &c., &c., &c.

[Enclosure No. I.]

The Earl of Carnarvon to Col. Sir W. Jervois, R.E., K.C.M.G., C.B.

(Copy.)

SIR,

Downing street, 27th February 1877.

You have already been informed by my telegram of the 20th instant that Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley, R.E., will leave this country on the 8th of March for Sydney, to act as your assistant in connection with your mission to Australia to advise on defensive works. He has been instructed to place himself under your orders, and to be in Sydney to await your arrival.

2. The Governors of the colonies named in the margin, to the defences of which your attention will be given, have been informed that the period of your stay in Australia is necessarily limited, and they have been requested to concert with you at once as to your proceedings, in order that no time may be lost by you in fulfilling the object of your mission. You will of course be guided, so far as may be in your power, by the views and wishes which may be expressed to you by the respective Governors of these colonies on the part of their Governments, and I cannot doubt that you will co-operate cordially with them in the execution of the work you have undertaken.

New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia.

3. With these observations, I think it desirable to leave entirely to your discretion the manner in which you should employ the brief time at your disposal. In the event of your desiring that Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley should, after your departure, complete the details of any work which you may have thought it advisable to postpone, you will instruct him accordingly.

No. 44.

4. The Governments of these colonies have acquiesced in my proposal that you shall receive remuneration for your services at the rate of £1,500 a year, besides expenses.

27th Feb. 1877.
26th Feb. 1877.

5. I enclose copies of a despatch addressed to the Governors of the Australian Colonies, and of a letter, which has been written by my direction, to Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley, R.E.

I have, &c.,
(Signed)

CARNARVON.

Col. Sir W. Jervois, R.E., K.C.M.G., C.B.,
Care of Sir Hercules Robinson, G.C.M.G.
Sydney, New South Wales.

[Enclosure No. II.]

The Colonial Office to Colonel Scratchley, R.E.

(Copy.)

SIR,

Downing street, 26th February 1877.

I am directed by the Earl of Carnarvon to inform you that, having been selected to assist Sir W. Jervois, R.E., K.C.M.G., in advising the Australian Colonies on works of defence, your services have been placed by the War Department at the disposal of this office.

His Lordship would be glad if you would make arrangements for leaving England for Australia by the mail steamer of the 8th of March. It will be desirable that you should proceed from Melbourne to Sydney without delay, in order to be there before the arrival of Sir W. Jervois, who leaves Singapore for Sydney on the 2nd April, and to whom you will report yourself in order to receive instructions as to your future proceedings in connection with his mission.

You will of course understand that, beyond acquiring information, you should take no action and will express no opinions before Sir W. Jervois' arrival as to the object for which you are sent, it being of great importance that he should decide in the first instance the whole course of the proceedings.

You will receive remuneration for your services at the rate of £1,000 a year, as recommended by the Secretary of State for War.

An allowance will also be made for your travelling and living expenses.

I am, &c.,

(Signed)

R. H. MEADE.

Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley, R.E.

II.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies to the Governor of Victoria.

Victoria.—No. 43.

SIR,

Downing street, 15th April 1877.

Enclosure.—27th
March 1877.

With reference to my despatch (No. 41) of the 29th ultimo,* I have the honor to transmit to you, for your information, a copy of a letter which has been received from the War Office, in reply to the one which I caused to be addressed to that department, in respect of the continued employment of Lieutenant-Colonel Scratchley, R.E., in Victoria after the completion of the service on which he has proceeded to Australia.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

CARNARVON.

Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c.

* Stating that Lt.-Col. Scratchley, R.E., had left England for Australia.

[Enclosure.]

The War Office to the Colonial Office.

(Copy.)

SIR,

Pall Mall, 27th March 1877.

I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, and to acquaint you in reply, for the information of the Earl of Carnarvon, that he has no objection to the continued employment of Lieut.-Colonel Scratchley, Royal Engineers, in organizing a scheme of defence and in constructing the necessary works in Victoria after he shall have assisted Sir William Jervois in reporting upon the Defences of the Australian Colonies generally.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

J. C. VIVIAN.

P.S.—This department will be happy to assist the Agent-General of Victoria in procuring submarine defences for the harbor of Melbourne.

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By Authority: JOHN FERRES, Government Printer, Melbourne.