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B

**LETTER
BOOK**

3

**CONFIDENTIAL
DESPATCHES &
CIRCULARS TO
SECRETARY OF
STATE FROM
GOVERNOR
17 May 1893 to
31 December
1906**

30

making enquiry into the alleged
maltreatment of Terra de Negro
Indians and that such investigation
was not yet completed.

The Rt Hon:
J. Chamberlain
MP
Downing Street

I have, &c.
Signed, Roger Thelk Goldworthy
Governor

W. Grey Wilson assumed Government 20 Oct:

41

1st November 1897

Cyphers

Sir,

The only cypher which I found upon
assuming this Govt: was the one known as
"K" issued last year for communicating
upon naval matters with Her M^y ships

I have occupied some time in
searching the unindexed book of con disp
received from 1869 in order to trace
whether cypher and decypher A or their
predecessors were ever issued to this
Colony but I cannot find that they
have been received.

Your secret cir disp of the 27 of Mar
last appears to assume that there is
a copy of cypher A in this Colony
and Lord Derby's conf: cir disps of the 6th
of January and 20th of October 1883
indicate that the C. O believed the Govt:
to be in a position to communicate
with

with the Secy of state in cypher--

Cypher A was issued to Saint Helena & I cannot but think that it must have been by an oversight that no copy was sent to the Governor of the Falklands

Be this as it may I take this early opportunity of informing you that I have no means of communicating with you in cypher--

R. T. Houbt
J. Chamberlain

I have etc
W. Grey Wilson

Confidential

WORKS

21st December 1897

Sir,

The Public works Dept is almost a fable. We have a Foreign sailor who does a little carpentering of the very roughest description for a wage of 9/6 a day—

2. Mason work is put out to tender but there is only one man who can be called a mason, & practically he takes work upon his own terms which vary from about 25/- for rough work to £2 a day in cases where he can have no opposition.

Drink is a prominent curse of the country & the few workmen who have from time to time been brought out here from this & other causes not

not been a success

3. After conversation with Colonel Lewis R.E. & reading his report to the Admiralty I was prepared to find the public works question a difficult one but I hardly expected to find things as bad as they are. We urgently need further cottage accommodation but as matters stand it would be ruinous to undertake the construction. The cottages we have are the old marine barracks.

(no longer used)
the mag's house
at Fox Bay

With the exception of the drill shed no buildings have been erected for years and the wretched badly connected sheds that do duty for public offices entail a wholly disproportionate annual charge for their upkeep—

4. I will not now enter upon this ~~subject~~ as it will form the subject of an open despatch at an early date but in order to lay the foundation of a satisfactory public works dept in this colony mechanics must be imported. —

5. The risk to the Government of undertaking this through the Crown agents is far too great, & failure would I feel sure result from promiscuous selections

6. I would propose that an attempt be made to open negotiations with the Salvation Army with a view to their social wing undertaking the service (the wing is also pledged to teetotalism for 5 years at £400 to £500 a year

and

and limited house accommodation to be increased later on --

- 7 I enclose a memo as to the nature of the contract ~~and~~ I would suggest, but the work will be so general & yet so varied that it is not possible to give any very full details.
- 8 In case inquiries should be made as to what prospects there would be for a branch of the religious side of the army I may mention that there are at present in Stanley no less than 2 clergymen, 2 Priests, & one Baptist minister.
9. Should you entertain any doubt as to the capacity of the Salvation Army to undertake and to perform satisfactorily the suggested service I beg that you will refer to Lord Lock upon their social work in South Africa and although I have never spoken to him upon the subject I entertain no doubt as to his reply being satisfactory from what I know of that work. —
- 10 By your despatch No: 54 of the 20th of Nov: the appointment of an overseer at £200 a year with quarters & fuel is approved. This officer the Administrator proposed to import and I am of opinion that one of the quartette proposed would probably be found to be a satisfactory working foreman.

11. The amount provided in the Estimates and the actual amount expended during the six years 1891 to 1896 was as follows: -

Provided £7151	Expended £13,431
annual average £1192	" £2,238

Provided for 1897 £970 Expended to 30 Nov £2004
 " " 1898 £900

12. The provision for 1898 is wholly inadequate. Work is waiting upon all sides: The carts lie rotting in the weather: so much of the sea wall as is built, is rough built & requires pointing. There is no plant for the prisoners to work with. The Police station was burnt down & must be replaced.

13. The Public works Dept cannot adequately be controlled by the C.O. & if I ask for a free hand I am quite content to be judged by results. —
 I have. W. Grey Wilson

note.
 from or all of these
 conditions may have
 to be varied in the
 negotiations —

Memorandum.

The Salvation army to establish in Stanley the I.I. a branch of their social wing consisting of two skilled carpenters & 2 skilled masons to work at their trades wholly for Government and to carry out every description of work directed by the Governor for a term of 5 years

To train such apprentices as Government may desire. —

One or other of the masons should be able to dress quoins & build in stone rubble work, and concrete.

To build in brick work of all sorts chimneys, arches, etc.

It would be of advantage if one had some knowledge of subaqueous work but this is not essential. —

Both carpenters should be good at roof work, & house carpentering generally.

One of the Quarletts to act as working foreman if required. —

One of the carpenters must be capable of fixing telegraph wires, but no knowledge of electricity is essential, although it would be advantageous.

Note.

The telephone to the lighthouse has been useless ever since it was erected, save for a fortnight owing to the breaking of the wire.

In consideration of these services Govt
to pay an annual sum of £4 00 to £5 00
& to provide a house of 5 rooms of the
following sizes 16' x 15'-6", 16' x 11'-6",
18' x 19', 15'-6" x 7'-8", 13' x 14' & further
similar accommodation so soon as it
can be erected.

To allow the carpenters to work for one month (say) in making furniture tables, etc etc for use of the party, & to provide wood. -

Mechanics to furnish their own ^{personal} tools
Govt to supply all machines & large tools

Govt to supply peat or 12 tons of coal annually for the party.

The average working day to consist of 9 hours, but longer in summer than in winter. -

The climate of the I is bleak & the men sent out should be in robust health.

Either party to have have to terminate the agreement by giving six months notice, & if Govt terminates it without good cause a sum of £120 (being one 2^d class and three 3^d class passages out & home) shall be paid by Government.

Government to pay each man £1 a week during voyage out. -

W. Grey Wilson

sent home in "Ramses" 24th Dec

Rec by C. O.

1st Feb.

Ans " C. O.

12th "

End of 1897

+ must be brought
out with them

Local hours
9-50 in summer
9 - winter

1898.

1st January 1898Secret

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit the annual return of naval & military resources of this colony for 1897

R^E Honble

I have etc

J. Chamberlain M.P.

W. Grey Wilson

Confidential12th January 1898

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit a copy of the minutes of the Executive Council for the half year ending on the 31st ultimo.

The R^E Honourable

I have

J. Chamberlain M.P.

W. Grey Wilson

Re by C. O. 21 Feb.

Confidential17th Feb: 1898

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No 16 of this date I beg to inform you that Captain W. Burns, 10 Queen's Square, South side Glasgow, represents the underwriters to whom the "Glengowan" now belongs

2. If my proposal to construct a rock dam is approved I would suggest that negotiations should be opened ^{with} him by the C.A.s. It should be a condition that the Col. Govt will only purchase if it is found possible to raise the "Glengowan" & place

"Pier"

her in position

3. — I would ask that drawings showing cross sections of the vessel may be obtained from her builders.

These will be of great value. —

4 — I would also ask that the Lords of the Admiralty may be invited to authorize commodore Norcock to render me any assistance in his power in raising & removing the "Glengowan". any expenses incurred in the operation being borne by the Colonial Government. — all that I think will be necessary to float her will be a few small patches put on by the diver

5. — It may be of interest to point out that Colonel Lewis R.E. in his report under the head of "Ordnance Point-Fort" says "The road could be
" carried across the entrance
" to the careenage (sic) on a
" rock dam which would not
" be difficult to construct". —

6 — The suggested road would go right across the harbour at a narrow point at the East end, & its extreme length would be about 300', but I may be mistaken in assuming that Colonel Lewis contemplated a rough stone dam rather than a built one

I have

W. Gray Wilson

Sent to C.O 25 Feb: Rec April 1st

page 22
Col Lewis' report

Confidential

Public Works

53
7412th March. 1898

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Conf: despatch of the 12 of Feb upon the subject of Public works.

2. The stores requisitioned are required to avoid local purchases and should be sent out whether we have an efficient public works or continue the present expensive mode.

3. As an illustration of the cost of local work I may mention that yesterday a tender for repairs to a chimney of one of our wooden cottages was made of £10 the work in my opinion being worth about 15/-

4. If the question of Public buildings (to which I refer in my despatch No 22 of this date) is eliminated, my opinion is unchanged that we should endeavour to secure an honest public works dept entirely free from local ties and of sufficient strength to be able to resist the pressure that local largeness, inefficiency & I believe dishonesty will attempt to apply. We should endeavour to show that the combination of rectitude hard work and happiness is not impossible, - & we should endeavour to lighten the rising generation through the apprentices, and to induce such an appreciation of the dignity of labour and the benefits of honesty as to benefit the whole community.

5. This is a lofty ideal but in connection with it there is a sufficiency of profitable work to fully employ the staff I have applied for.

R^d H~~Joseph Chamberlain M.P.~~

I have

W. Grey Wilson

14th March.

6. - With reference to paragraph 16 of my despatch N^o 22 I would mention that during my recent tour I saw at Kippel a large iron building (so constructed as to be easily removable) which would make an admirable school.

7. — We may be able to secure this building when the mission is abandoned — a course now determined on —

I am in communication with the Bishop upon this subject and will address you again when I have ascertained the price that will be asked for the building.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

Recy C.O. April 29

R^d Hon Joseph Chamberlain14th March 1898

Sir,

With reference to my dispatch N^o 29 of this date & the local mail steamer it appears to me very possible that an English Co might in the altering conditions of trade be presently prepared to undertake the mail service to this colony.

Local Mail Steamer

2. Without knowing the views of the Admiralty as to making this port a naval station - it is not possible to form any very adequate estimate of the situation
3. This year the Pacific Co are running 5 homeward bound steamers via this Colony, and whether we have a contract or not homeward bound steamers will always call here for coal or live sheep. Outward calls will never be remunerative and can only be secured in conjunction with other work.
4. — I have drawn up a hypothetical tim table showing an excellent fortnightly service, requiring only three outward calls, 9 homeward, and an intermediate boat running between these Islands and Punta Arenas, connecting with the Pacific boat there. —
5. — It is anomalous that a British Colony should subsidize a German line. It is startling that that Co paid dividends last year very little lower than the P. & O. and if it is possible to effect a contract with a British line it would be politic, — even if it entailed a slight contribution from Imperial funds.
6. — In view of the great importance of the subject and of the extreme difficulty of dealing with it at this distance I recommend that Mr Craigie-Hallatt should go home

13% P & N.

12% Kosmos

to interview the Directors of some of the possibly available Co's & generally to see whether a British contract would be possible upon lines acceptable to H.M. Govt & this Colony —

7. — I regret that when I was at home I had not sufficient information to enable me to enter upon this inquiry

by C. O.
29 April

RT-Honourable

I have

Joseph Chamberlain M.P. W. Grey-Wilson

8th August 1898.

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch W^o 15 of the 18th of April with reference to Mr Craigie Halkett.

2 May I venture to suggest that as Mr Craigie Halkett administered the Government of this Colony during more than half of the Diamond Jubilee year. (from April 17 to Oct 20)

Her Majesty may be graciously pleased to sanction his receiving the Jubilee Medal.

I have

W. Grey-Wilson

to C. O. 12 Aug.

9th August 1898

Sir,

I have the honour to ack the receipt of your desp W^o 16 of the 23^d of April with reference to Mr L. A. Jameson's application for an appointment

L. A. Jameson.

in the Colonial Medical service
 2. Mr Jameson might fill satisfactorily
 a position under an efficient chief,
 but I should hesitate to recommend
 him for an independent app't.
 I have
 W. Grey Wilson

See also
 21 March 1890
 L.S. 1244

South Georgia
 "coal"

In Des N° 25
 of 3 March 93
 Exposé des
 motifs speaks
 of coal in
 Shetland Isles.

82 13th October 1898
 Sir,

The very pessimistic views with reference
 to ^{the value of} South Georgia to which the Lords of
 the Admiralty gave expression in their
 letter to the C.O. of the 21st Jan 1893
 which formed an enclosure to Lord
 Ripon's despatch N° 25 of the 3^d March
 1893 cause me to hesitate in again
 raising the question. -

2. The fact however that the Argentine
 Government are offering a very
 substantial reward for the dis-covery of
 coal and that England's claim to South
 Georgia has never been adequately
 substantiated have satisfied me that
 I should submit for your consideration
 information that has reached me
 as to the existence of coal on that
 Island.

3. The enclosed affidavit made by
 Captain West is clear & precise &

although it is at first difficult to understand why the information it contains should (if true) not have been generally known years ago — I am not upon that account disposed to regard it as unreliable.

4. South Georgia has for years been the happy hunting ground of various American seal poachers & it is not I believe open to doubt that they have reaped very rich harvests. —

5. The discovery of coal there would without doubt have seriously affected sealing operations and if coal exists it seems probable that information was intentionally suppressed.

6. Capt West was 3^d mate of the Francis Allen — and he states that later — he visited South Georgia as chief mate of the Sarah Hunt and again obtained coal.

8. This information would appear to me to justify the dispatch of a man of War to verify facts or dissipate illusions.

I have
W. G. W.

copy of affidavit overleaf.
W. G. W.

Affidavit

I Frederick Melville West make oath and say that I know South Georgia well having stayed there for many months. at the north west of the Island in Possession Bay and on the side of the hill about 500 yards from the shore is a coal seam from which I have obtained coal which was taken on board the Francis Allen and used for steam purposes. The coal is fairly good.

f.d. F. M. West

Sworn to before me this 13th day of ^{month of} October 1898 at Government House Stanley

W. Grey Wilson

Note Captain West says Possession Bay is a good harbour and capable of taking the largest ships. The land is high and the country fertile (!!! W. & W) In Possession Bay at at landing place are a number of try pots, a cutter housed in, & a shanty.

The coal outcrops, and extends as far as Cumberland Bay on the S.E. of the Island. —

Enclosure in conf: of 13 Oct see p 65
[B30,67B]



I Frederick Melville West-
make oath and say that
I know South Georgia well
having stayed there for
many months. at the
North West of the Island
in Possession Bay and on
the side of the hill about 500
yards from the shore is
a coal seam from which
I have obtained coal which
was taken on board the
Francis Allen and used for
steam purposes. The coal
is fairly good.

F. M. West

sworn to before me this 13th
day of October 1898 at Govt-
House Stanley W. Gray Wilson

Turn over

Possession Bay on NW of Island

Possession Bay is a good harbour & capable of taking the largest ship the land is high - & the country fertile In P. Bay & at landing place are a number of trading posts, a cutter house & a shanty.

The coal outcrops - & extends as far as Cumberland Bay on the S.E. of the Island.

Incl. in Capt. Despatch of 24 Feb. 1896.

[B30; 67C]

Confidential.

Stanley
Falkland Islands
Feb 21st 1896

Sir,

In accordance with the instructions
Y. E. gave me personally this morning
I have the honour to furnish you with
the following information, the most
complete that I am in a position to
give, as regards the wish of the sheep
farmers that I should be allowed to
proceed to England re the frozen meat
industry.

So far as I can gather the movement
originated as soon as they were aware
that no freezing steamer would be sent
to the Colony this year as has been
usual. This of course cuts them off
from the most lucrative outlet for
the disposal of their surplus stock.

His Excellency Sir Roger Goldworthy K. C. D.
Etc & Etc.

If they are not able to send home frozen mutton, they are compelled to toil down their sheep for tallow, the value of which barely covers the attendant expense.

This tends to overstocking - for some farmers rather than go to the trouble of toiling down, would be inclined to keep the sheep on the ground for another year, and get another clip of wool from them which deteriorates the stock, and overstocks the ground. Another very strong reason is that they are not satisfied with the prices offered by the freezing firms this season viz: - $4/6 + 5/6$ per sheep.

yet in spite of their having accepted these prices and guaranteed a sufficient number of sheep, they had the further disappointment, that a steamer will not be sent.

They are aware that these prices are lower than in almost any part of the

world, and are not by any means commensurate with the prices obtained in London for the mutton. I know my self that similar sheep are selling in N. Z. today from 13/- to 16/- per head. I know also that hitherto the farmers have not through ignorance made the most of their produce, as the by-products from offal has been thrown into the sea, whereas in N. Z. these realize sufficient to pay the butchers.

The sheep farmers are naturally anxious to obtain the best value for their produce and especially to guard against a repetition of this year's failure. They have therefore approached Y. C. to allow me as a disinterested party to make inquiries in England to ascertain the best methods of disposing of their surplus stock to the best advantage, either as frozen mutton or live sheep.

as y. E. is well aware I have had a long personal experience of the frozen mutton trade and am competent to give full information to any would be purchasers as to the quality of mutton. I feel convinced that supported by my position as Chief Inspector of Stock and by the authorities at home I should be able to pave the way for arrangements being made for the disposal of some 25 to 30 thousand sheep per annum at prices considerably in advance of those hitherto obtained by farmers here.

The farmers say that by co-operating together through the medium of some one quite disinterested and at the same time competent to give information to buyers, they may be able to secure the fullest advantages for their produce which they would not get if they were

dependent upon one single firm or company which would have a monopoly. If G. E. feels disposed to recommend that the farmers should be allowed to have my services in this matter, my scheme would be simply to find a market for their sheep as I could testify to the quality & weight of the mutton & it would then be for them to make their own arrangements for the conveyance of the meat to England. This would obviate the formation of a Company as each farmer would receive for himself the proceeds of his own produce without the intervention of the middleman. Should I be sent home I should be glad to be able to guarantee to purchasers that mutton will

not be below a certain standard
passed by a Government Inspector

I have the honour to be Sir

Your obedient Servant

John V. Snowal

Chief Inspector of Stock.

2 November 1898

Sir,

R.R. Bruce

Referring to my despatch N^o 74 of this date I would recommend Mr R. R. Bruce of Saint Helena for the financial appt in the Falkland Islands - in the event of Mr Hills promotion.

Mr Bruce is a very efficient officer

I have

The Right Honourable

W. Grey Wilson

Joseph Chamberlain M. P.

By Tams 4th Nov

Rec by C. O. 12 Dec

7th Nov: 1898

Sir,

Customs Officer
Police Inspector

With reference to my despatch N^o 75 of this date I recommend that Mr W. Madden who was with me for some years as Guardian of the Zulus - & is at present in the Natal Mounted Police should be offered the appt. of Inspector of Police, which I think he would accept.

2. Mr Madden although a man of limited ability has many of the qualities essential for such an appointment. He is thoroughly straight absolutely reliable very temperate & a good rider

3. Perhaps the Agent General for Natal could give Mr Madden's address but should

address

2 Compton Terrace
Meades
Eastbourne

he be unable to do so a letter addressed
c/o Rockfield House, Murrey, Frome
would I think find him if he has
not left England--

Recd by C.O. 27 Dec

I have etc
W. Grey Wilson

Confidential

17 December 98

Hospital

Sir,

In connection with my despatch W-85
of this date I beg leave to state that I have
very good reasons for believing that the
Admiralty are willing to cooperate
with the Col: Government in
maintaining a Hospital upon some
such lines as I have suggested.

2. If the Salvation Army would furnish
a married chemist it would I believe
afford the best prospect of rendering
the experiment a success.

I have
W. Grey Wilson

The Right Honble
Joseph Chamberlain M. P.
~ ~ ~

Confidential

70

2^d January 1899

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit a copy of the minutes of the Executive Council for the half year ending on the 31st of December.

The Right Honourable
J. Chamberlain M. P.

I have
W. Grey Wilson

14th January 1899

Sir,

It seems probable that six months leave will be granted to either Mr Craigie Halkett, whose health is not good, or to Mr Hill to date from April 1st this year

as it will not be possible for me to carry on the extensive reforms in the land, died, marriage and other records which I have in hand with a reduced staff. I would urge that an officer should be sent out from home on a six months agreement at £400 per annum.

If an officer could be spared from the C. O. it would in my opinion be of great advantage to the Col Service - but if, as I fear, that is not possible I would suggest the name of Mr J. Reeves Lord an applicant for colonial employment whose name is I believe noted at.

Leave;
ant: want.

address
Oxford & Cambridge Club
Post Mall
S. W.

at the C.O. Mr Lord retired from the covenanted Indian civil service on account of health, & is a young man

should have been granted I will transmit a telegram in the following words in the hope that you will permit arrangements to be made to send someone out immediately —

Tel Rec by C.O.
17 Feb

Dazederyes

Highlander

Refer to my Conf: despatch

14 Jan:

I have
W. Grey Wilson

The Right Honourable
Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

Rec by C.O. 15 Jan: By H.M.S. "Swallow" 15 Jan: 5 P.M.

28th January 1899

Compulsory purchase
of land for
naval station

Sir,

75.

Colonel Lewis' scheme for the defence of the naval station at Stanley assumes the possession by the Government of suburban land now owned by the Falkland Island company

2. The land at present reserved for naval purposes (see enclosed tracing of Harbour) should be 169 acres and is 145 acres only.

3. The naval reserve is entirely shut off from any other land

consists of
13 suburban
lots N^o 27 to 39

Page 50
memo of lots
sold & unsold

? 272. 3. 14 72
A R. P. 1. 27

by a rocky paddock of 271. 1. 27
facing Government House and the
naval anchorage.

4. The paddock in question consists
of 13 suburban lots for which the
Government have received £638. 17. 9

There are at present no buildings
of any description on it and it is
used only, to depasture a few sheep

5. Apart from the Defence question
in my opinion it is essential that this
land should be resumed by Govt-
if the Admiralty are to escape very
serious inconvenience - not the
least of which might be the erection
of Public houses upon the present
frontier of the naval reserve. -

6 The time has probably not arrived
when it is possible to determine the
exact extent of land that may be re-
quired for the naval station, but
as the land to the west of the F. J. Coey
paddock is unlet Crown land the
acquisition of that paddock will leave
the question of the naval frontier
for adjustment in the future upon
whatever lines experience may demand

7. I am informed by the Commodore
that a Royal and a Civil Engineer
will arrive here in March in
connection

connection with the naval station
 as it is impossible to foretell how far
 the knowledge that operations are about
 to commence may stimulate the F.I.C.
 to develop this property with a view
 of enhancing its value or strengthening
 their tenure; delay may be costly.

sellum form

draft ordinance

8. I transmit a blank Crown
 Grant which indicates the terms
 upon which the land is held:

I also transmit for your consideration
 the draft of an ordinance to
 provide for the compulsory acqui-
 sition by Government of land
 required for public purposes. -

9. Eliminating the "betterment" which
 the naval station will undoubtedly con-
 fer upon the land I suggest should
 be acquired, I am of opinion
 that the sum paid for the 271
 acres (£638. 17. 9.) represents more
 than the present value.

It however seems equitable that
 some compensation should be
 paid for disturbance & I would
 therefore suggest that an offer
 of a sum of £1000 should be made
 to the company in London for the
 land in question.

10. In the event of the F.I.C. accepting
 the sum offered, which seems probable

I should still advise the passing of a compulsory purchase of land ordinance because it is always less difficult to deal with such questions upon purely abstract principles than when there is a possibility of personal interests and personal injuries disturbing temperate discussion. -

11. I have discussed this matter with Commodore Norcock and our views entirely harmonise

The Right Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain M. P. W. Grey Wilson

By H. M. S. Basilisk Jan 29th Rec by C.O. 27 Feb:

53
84

11th February 1899

Sir,

Workmen

I have read my despatch (confidential) of the 21st Dec 1897 to Mr Messervy and he agrees with the recommendation I made therein. -

I shall be glad to learn whether any steps are being taken to test the practicability of my suggestions.

The Right Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain M. P. W. Grey Wilson

Rec by C.O. 15 March

Secret

17th February 99

Cypher.

Sir,

I have the honour to ack the receipt, this day, of the amended distribution list of cypher A transmitted in your secret cir despatch of the 23^d Dec:

I have destroyed, as directed, the list attached to Sir Henry Holland's con cir despatch of the 9th of May 1887

The Right Honourable
Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

I have
W. Grey Wilson

Rec by C. D 25 March

Secret18th February 99

Sir,

I beg to report that your secret despatch of 11th of January contained no enclosure

I have

The Honourable
Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

W. Grey Wilson

com: purchase
of Land.

"Enclosures" book

71

30th ~~Jan~~ 1899

Sir,

I have the honour to ack the receipt of your Conf: letter of this date covering two copies of your despatch to the Admiralty of the 25th inst: with reference to the Naval Reserve

My opinions upon this subject entirely harmonise with yours & I have submitted for Mr Chamberlain's consideration my

recommendations in regard thereto
(see desps Gov to S of S. Conf: 28 Jan: -)

Should the admiralty adopt your
views I trust the S of S for the colonies
will instruct me to take the necessary
steps at an early date. -

~~Comm Done~~

~~Joseph Chamberlain~~

I have

W. Grey Wilson

Secret

Naval & Military
Resources.

3 March 1899

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit
the annual return of Naval & Military
resources of this Colony for 1898.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

The R^t Honorable

Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

Rec'd C. O. April 1st

Rec'd C. O. 24 April

15 March 1899.

Expionage

Sir,

In your Conf: Sir despatch of the
24 Dec: 1898 my attention is specially
invited to the Col: Defence Committee's
recommendation that the Harbour
Regulations may proscribe

(a.) The use of search lights, without
permission by Foreign Men of War

(b.) The surveying of the shore line by boats

2. I venture to inquire whether these very
desirable provisions would not have
increased weight if inserted in the Expionage
ordinance submitted in my desps N^o 22 of even date.

R^t Honorable

Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

arms &
guns

10 April 1899

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your secret despatch of the 18 of Oct last with reference to the defence of this Colony.

2. The efforts to improve the strength and efficiency of the Volunteer corps have hitherto met with poor results

3. The Manager of the Falklands Islands Co who is the large employer of labour in Stanley is openly hostile to the movement - and although my Govt has not finally abandoned all hope of obtaining a more satisfactory and adequate Volunteer force than at present obtains the opinion is gaining strength that it may be necessary to submit for your consideration proposals for a compulsory militia tempered with the alternative of a monetary contribution.

4. The suggested substitution of modern small arms (preferably magazine) for the Martini-Henry rifles lent to the Colony in 1891 has caused great satisfaction. Uniform ammunition for the regular garrison and auxiliaries will greatly strengthen any defensive operations.

5. The 2.5 in R.M.L. guns now offered are much better adapted for transport over the soft ground in the environs of this

Town, and to the present effective strength of the corps than the much heavier 9 pounders.

6. — It is not thought advisable that any pack equipment should in the first instance, be supplied with the two guns.

7. — I trust it may be possible to send out the guns & rifles before the 1st of October at which date the weather should admit of outdoor military operations.

8. I would suggest that the two 9 pounders should not be removed from the colony until it be decided whether they can be utilized, with advantage as guns of position.

The Right Hon^{ble}
Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

I have
W. Grey Wilson

By H. M. I. Flora April 17 Recd C.O. May 16th

Dr Hamilton

30
93

29th April 1899.

Sir,

In reply to your confidential dispatch of the 9th of January inquiring "how far Dr Hamilton is now acceptable to the people of Stanley" I have the honour to inform you that while Dr Hamilton exhibits extraordinary apathy as to his professional duties, and wholly fails adequately to apply

his remarkable ability to useful purposes, his great social popularity does not appear to have in any way diminished. -

2. If the hospital scheme suggested in my despatch W^o 85 of the 17th of December is adopted I am of opinion that it will make; or break, Dr Hamilton

The Rt Honble

Joseph Chamberlain M. P.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

By "Larvina" May 19th Rec by P.O. June 21st

9 August 1899

Ans. 23rd Sept. 1899

Governor
short leave

Sir,

May I invite you to consider the possibility of permitting the Gov: of this Colony to pay visits of short duration to the Republics of Chile, Argentina and Uruguay - without vacating his command - upon terms similar to those upon which the Gov: of Natal is allowed to visit Cape Colony and the Transvaal. -

2. An opportunity for such visits in a man of War sometimes presents itself but circumstances render it quite impossible to obtain your sanction. -

3. No expense would be entailed upon the Colony

4. I think that the Officer Adm^r the Govt: would be likely to obtain much useful information of value to the Colony by such visits, — but no place except Buenos Ayres offers any inducement to undertake the voyage at the cost of vacating the command. —

5 In my opinion it would be of advantage that the Col: Secy should hold a commission as Dep for the Governor for use upon those occasions and also when the Gov: is absent from Stanley on tour within the Colony, which may entail an absolute swifance from Head Quarters for 3 weeks at a time.

6. The Col: Secy of the Gold Coast in 1884 held such a commission

I have

The Right Honourable W. Grey Wilson
Joseph Chamberlain M. P.
" " " "

By NEKO Aug 10th

30th Dec: 1899

Cypher K

Sir,

I have the honour to ack the rec of your secret Cir dup of the 21 Nov enclosing a revised list of the holders of cypher K and a list of errata in that cypher.

2. I beg to report that the distribution list inclosed in your dup of the 21 Sept 1898 has been destroyed and the errata in the cypher corrected.

3. Although no mention is made in your dup under reply or in the distribution list which accompanied it, I assume that the second paragraph of your sec: Cir dup of the 17 Nov: 98 exhibits the existing naval distribution of cypher K.

R.^d Honourable
Joseph Chamberlain.
M. P.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

Secret
Cyphers

Sir,

87

1 January 1900.

In compliance with the direction contained in your secret circular dup of the 8 of April last I have the honour to report that cyphers & decipher A and K are in my possession and that they are kept in a safe in my office

W. Grey Wilson

Ex Council
minutes

82
4th January 1900

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit
a copy of the minutes of the Ex Council
for the half year ending on Dec 31st.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

16 January 1900

Sir,

87
I have the honour to transmit in
duplicate, the return of naval and
military resources of this colony
for the year ended on the 31st of
Dec: 1899.

I have

R.^t Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

W. Grey Wilson

21st March 1900

65

Sir,

see also p. 15-16
see despatch N^o 28 of this date

I have the honour to report that
I did not feel justified in submitting
observations in supplement of my conf
desp of the 13th Oct 1898 as requested
in your confidential desp of the 3rd Dec:
1898 as circumstances occurred
subsequent to my former conf
desp which compelled me to regard
Captain

S. Georgia

Captain West as having no great capacity for vivacity.

2. With reference to my despatch N^o 28 of this date and the question of British sovereignty over South Georgia I would call attention to Lord Ripon's despatches N^o 25 of 3 March and Conf: of the 15 Nov: 1893. -

3. I believe Señor Salcedo's sanguine as to the discovery of gold in South Georgia.

4. Captain Buddington who arrived here recently from S.G. in the Rosa Baker informs me that the information furnished by the Admiralty in the "South America Pilot" regarding South Georgia is altogether too gloomy & that he found Cumberland bay which is stated to be unsafe on account of drifting ice a perfectly secure, well sheltered large harbour entirely free from dangerous ice.

Captain B. lay in Cumberland bay for a month.

R^g Honble

I have
Joseph Chamberlain & P. W. Grey Wilson

espionage

Sir,

8 May 1900

In my confidential despatch of the 15th March 1899 I inquired whether the restrictions suggested by the Colonial Defence Committee as to the survey of the shore line by boats and the use of search lights by Foreign men of war might not be included in the espionage ordinance.

As I have not received a reply to my despatch I conclude that my proposal was not deemed satisfactory and I now propose to insert these restrictions in the Harbour Regulations which are being framed.

I have

The Right Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain M.P. W. Grey Wilson

Recd by C.O. July 8thWorkmen
Labour

74

16 June 1900

Sir

In reply to your confidential despatch of the 15 May asking what prospect there is of obtaining the labour required by the Admiralty "masons, carpenters, smiths, and labourers" I have this day telegraphed "No hope"

2. The Colonial Engineer informs me

me that he has had to convert one of the carters into a so called carpenter - the only mason is constantly drunk - one blacksmith may be available - but he is a poor workman and his charges are prohibitive. a few very indifferent labourers may be obtainable.

3. I will cause a notice to be posted that the Admiralty works at Navy Point - will be reopened about the end of August.

The Right Honourable Joseph Chamberlain M.P. W. Grey Wilson
I have
Rec'd by C.O. 24 July 1900

6th 0-October 1900

Sir

Annual Returns

I beg that a further supply of the "Secret" "annual return of naval & military resources of colonies" forms may be sent to me, the previous supply being exhausted.

R^t Hon^{ble}

Joseph Chamberlain

I have

W. Grey Wilson

To C.O. 6-Oct 18th -

Warlike stores

86

Confidential.

MAINLAND ISLANDS.

No. 1. C

404/00

Government House,

Stanley, 1st January, 1901.

✓ 106

WAR
Stores

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Circular despatch of the 16th of October with reference to the exportation of Warlike stores.

2. The existing Ordinance No. 8 of 1889 of which I transmit two copies as desired is not regarded as sufficiently elastic and I have the honour to submit for your consideration the draft of a revised Ordinance the schedule to which would enumerate the articles specified in the enclosures to your despatch under reply.

3. The Ordinance provides that the Proclamation may add indefinitely to the list of articles specified in the schedule.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient, humble servant,

W. Grey Wilson

Governor.

Recd by C.O. 4 Feb.

The Right Honourable,
Joseph Chamberlain, M.P.
&c, &c, &c,

N^o 8 of 1889
2 copies
Draft.

87

N^o 2. C

cyphers

~~81~~
922^d January 1901

Sir,

In compliance with the directions contained in your secret circular despatch of the 8th of April 1899 I have the honour to report that cyphers & decyphers A and K are in my possession and that they are kept in a safe in my office

I have

The R^t Hon^{ble}

Joseph Chamberlain

W. Grey Wilson

N^o 3. CN^o 2 Military resources.~~82~~
92

7 January 1901

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your conf: circular despatch of the 20th of October transmitting revised forms for the annual return of Naval & Military resources of this Colony.

I now beg to transmit a return, on the revised form, for the year 1900, and complying with your instructions would ask that 16 sets of the form A to F may be forwarded to complete the stock for the next five years.

R^t Hon^{ble}

Joseph Chamberlain

I have

W. Grey Wilson

10 copies rec: Jan 1901

16
26.

asked for

Recy C.O. & Jds.

1901. 4 copies

to 1906

a pair
22
= 44 copies

Total

8th January 1901

Sir,

self.
leave

I would ask permission to take six months leave from about May - if I find I can get away. At present I am unable to say whether this is possible.

Mr Messervy's engagement terminates on the 10th of April by which time it was contemplated that the new wing of Government House would be completed.

In the latest of his many forecasts he estimates that the masonry will be completed by that time, but I am quite unable to share his expectations.

The bricks for the building have yet to be made and only ^{one} of the three costly experiments has yielded anything approaching satisfactory results & then only to the extent of about 2000 of the 60,000, or 70,000 required.

I am unable to recommend that Mr Messervy's engagement should be extended, but if the new wing of Govt has not even reached the stage of a roofless shell I fear I must remain to make what I can of it - unless you desire that Mr Messervy should complete the work.

I shall take over the work with extreme reluctance as I am satisfied that under existing arrangements it will be impossible to complete the work for the ~~same~~ estimated sum of 2500

Joseph Chamberlain

I have
W. G. Wilson

21 June 1901

Mr Packe
asks to be Treasurer

Sir

I have the honour to transmit a copy of an application from Mr Vere Packe for the appt of Treasurer vacated by Mr C.W. Hill on appt to the Gold Coast.

2. During the past 18 months Mr P. has three times, at very short notice come to the rescue of the Govt as acting T first when Mr Wingfield was recalled by telegram second when Mr Hill went on leave and lastly when Mr Appleyard left suddenly.

3. on three occasions amounting in all to over 12 months, he has faithfully & most creditably discharged the duties of Treasurer and the numerous appointments allied thereto.

4. The large ship Buns leased from the crown by the late Captain R.C. Packe passed with his estate to his nephew Mr Vere Packe and from the management of these and other incidental undertakings Mr P. proposes intently to turn himself if appointed Treasurer of the Colony

5. Mr P. is thoroughly qualified for the appointment & I should welcome his advent to the civil service with great pleasure

Joseph Chamberlain

W. Grey Wilson

22^d July 1901Land
acquisition

Sir,

I have the honour to ack the rec of your Conf
dup of the 8th of June enclosing the draft of a Bill
to provide for the acquisition of land required
for public purposes.

2. I submit that the following reasons render
it essential that the Gov: sh^d possess the power to
acquire land for Colonial public poss.

(a) The Crown land near the town of Stanley
from which the public obtain their
peat is rapidly approaching exhaustion
and the adjacent bogs are on private
land.

(b) almost any scheme for supplying
water to Stanley must involve works
on land at present in private hands.

(c) Wireless telegraphy to which I have
invited your attention in my despatch
No 61 of the 18 of July will probably
require the acquisition of land in
several parts of the colony.

3. I therefore submit that to the definition of
"Public purpose" in clause 2 these words
should be added "and any purpose
"which the Governor in Council resolves
"it is in the interest or for the benefit of
"the Public or the colony"

4 In sub-section 2 of cl 3 I suggest that
after the word "plan" the words "if any"
be added. at present hardly any
land is surveyed - the chart of record

being more or less relied on, and it wd frequently be impossible to secure a survey of the land.

5. I am of opinion that the mere fact of giving summary power to acquire land will as a rule render it unnecessary to employ compulsion but if the exercise of that power is to ~~otherwise~~ involve serious initial expenditure much of its force and moral effect will be lost. —

I have

The R^t Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

W. G. W.

88

10 Dec: 1901

Leave

Gov. Grey Wilson

Sir

With reference to your Conf. dep of the 20 of Feb: I beg to be allowed to take six months leave of absence as soon as circumstances will permit of my departure from the Colony.

I have

R^t Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

W. Grey Wilson

Secret

87

101

92 14

1 January 1902

Sir,

Cyphers

In compliance with the directions contained in your secret circular disp. of the 8 of April 1899 I have the honour to report that cyphers and decyphers A & K are in my possession and that they are kept in a safe in my office.

The R^t Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

Secret

87

101

8th January 1902

Sir,

WAR.
Resources

I have the honour to transmit in triplicate the Annual Return of Military and Naval Resources of this Colony for the year 1901, & to report that all blank copies of previous issues of this Return have been destroyed as directed.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

The Right Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

Recd by C.O. 4th Feb.

2^d April 1902

Honours

Recd. C.O.
7 May '02all'd. Conf.
28 June '02

Sir,

I have the honour to ack the receipt of your conf: cir disp: of the 17th with reference to the selection of persons to be included in the List of Honours on the occasion of the coronation.

I am unable to submit any recommendation in respect of services rendered to the Colony but I venture to express a hope that Mr Hart Bunnett's long service in Cyprus may secure your consideration

The Right Honourable

Joseph Chamberlain. M.P. W. Grey Wilson

Dr Keay

Recd. ackn
C.O. Conf.
29 May '02all'd. by Conf.
29 July '02
desp.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch N^o 38 of this date, I recommend that Dr Keay the assistant Col: Surgeon on the W. F. (upon whom I reported in my despatch N^o 10 of the 26th of Jan: 1901) should be offered the appointment of Col: Surgeon when Dr Hamilton retires.

If a new asst Col: Surg for the W. F. be appointed he should arrive here

$$\frac{18}{98}$$
17th April 1902

in March 1903 so as to allow of my granting Dr Keay six months leave of absence.

The salary of £50 a year which Dr Keay receives as Health Officer should not I submit be continued to his successor.

This allowance was sanctioned in your despatch N^o 63 of the 24 Nov: 1896.

Particulars of the office of asst: col: surgeon will be found in Falkland despatch N^o 118 of 1893

I have

W. Gray Wilson

Dr Keay suspended
see p 115

Secret

Volunteer
ammunition

Sir

98

5 July 1902

1. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Secret Despatches of 12 and 22 February and 19 May on the subject of the supply of ammunition to the Falkland Islands Volunteers.

2. I am directed to return to the Ordnance Department, the 100 M.H. Rifles and side arms which were sent to the Colony in 1892, but before returning them to expend the M.H. ammunition in possession of the Colony in marksmanship practice and field firing exercises.

Steps are being taken to collect the Rifles which are in some cases in remote parts of the "Camp", and the Sergeant Instructor will overhaul and repair them. But as regard the ammunition, of which we have some 15000 rounds on charge, the Volunteers express a disinclination to use it. They have now become accustomed to the new M. L. E. Rifles and have been using ammunition purchased last year from H. M. S. Horn and H. M. S. Cambrian. They can of course be ordered to use it, but it would take a very long time to expend so large a quantity, and the date of return of the Rifles would be indefinitely postponed. In these circumstances, I ask for instructions as to what should be done with the M. L. E. ammunition.

3. I desire, on behalf of the Corps, to express our thanks for the consideration shown by the War Office in supplying the new Rifles and ammunition. They are much appreciated by the men, and ^{whose} their shooting, already good, is likely to improve with the new weapon.

The Rt. Hon.

J. Chamberlain M.P.

I have &c
(Signed) W. Hart Dene
Administration

ConfidentialWireless telegraphy.
Sir.

107

18 Aug 1902

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Circular of 26 June enquiring whether this Government possesses a monopoly extending to communication by "wireless telegraphy" between the Colony and places outside the Colony.

2. Beyond the Public Land Ordinance No. 1 of 1902, I can discover no local Ordinance affecting this matter, and I should imagine, therefore, that whatever monopoly is possessed by His Majesty's Government extends to this Colony, but this is a legal point on which I am hardly qualified to speak.

3. I should however point out that Lloyd's have already been informed that this Government would afford them any aid it could with reference to their proposal to establish aethereal signalling with the mainland (vide Governor Grey-Wilson's Despatch No. 61 of 18 July 1901). This proposal is in abeyance - see your Confidential despatches of 18 Feb. and 8 Mar. 1902.

I have to

(Signed) W. Hart Bennett

Administrator

The Rt. Hon.

J. Chamberlain M.P.

Secret.
Volunteers
Ammunition

16 Sept. 1902

Sir.

With further reference to your Secret Despatch of 19 May, I have the honour to enquire whether the understanding on which the free issue of small arm ammunition to this Colony has been authorized extends to the ammunition required for the two 2.5 R.M.L. guns which have been supplied by the War Office on loan.

2. I enclose a Return which has been prepared by the O.C. Volunteers showing the amounts received, expended and required annually, from which it will be seen, that, if the estimate of annual requirements is correct, the Colony will become involved in an expenditure of some £160 a year, exclusive of freight and other charges - that is, if the supply is not to be kept up free of charge. In that event, it would probably be desirable to curtail the expenditure or to obtain cheaper shells for practice - such as those described in the Priced Vocabulary of Stores as "Shells R.M.L. filled common 2.5 inch with gas checks" 3/6 each.

3. But I venture to hope that, in the financial circumstances of this Colony, the War Office will see their way to supply the reasonable annual require-

ments of the Volunteers free of charge.
I have etc

(signed) W. Hart Bennett

Administrator

The Right Honorable
J. Chamberlain M.P.

Secret.

Volunteer
M.H. Rifles

C.S.
112/01

94

14 Oct. 1902

Sir.

With reference to my Secret Despatch of the 5th of July, I have the honour to report that the M.H. Rifles, as described in the list enclosed, are being returned by this mail to the Principal Ordnance Officer, Weedon

I have to
(signed) W. Hart Bennett

Administrator

The Right Honorable
J. Chamberlain M.P.

Confidential

Dr. Keay accepts
Col. Surgeon.
C.S.

02

93

115

14 Oct. 1902

Sir

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential Despatch of the 29th July approving of the proposals contained in Governor Frey-Holson's Despatch of the 17th of April last respecting the Medical Appointments in the Falkland Islands.

2. Dr.

2. Dr. Melville Keay accepts with thanks the post of Colonial Surgeon on the retirement of the present holder in October next, provided that he is granted six months leave next March.

I have to
(Signed) W. Hart Bennett
Administrator

The Right Honourable
J. Chamberlain M.P.

Confidential

1st December 1902

W. H. Bennett
leave

Sir,

Mr Hart Bennett, the Colonial Secy is anxious to obtain leave in March next, and although he will then not have been quite two and a half years in the Colony I am willing to endeavour to meet his wishes in view of the small amount of leave he took during his long service in Cyprus.

Before dealing finally with his application I lay the matter before you — for — if action with reference to your conf: despatch of the 6th of Oct: in regard to the transfer of Mr Thompson (Treasurer) is likely to be taken before Sept or if there is any prospect of my being released before the completion of my term of Oct next. I shall not be able to let Mr Bennett go. —

Perhaps you may desire to give me some instructions. -

I have

The Right Honourable

W. Grey Wilson

Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

Sent 10th Dec:

Secret

30th Nov: 1902

15,000 rounds

M. Henry ammunition Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch Secret of the 19th of Sept requesting me to afford the 15,000 rounds of Martini Henry ammunition etc field firing parades.

I beg to report that on my return to the colony I found that the M. H. rifles had been sent home as reported in Administrator's despatch Secret of the 14th Oct. As it is now impossible to carry out your suggestion I will endeavour to obtain transport to England for the ammunition. The mail steamer however will not carry it. -

I have

Right Honourable

W. Grey Wilson

Joseph Chamberlain

M.P.

Secret.

Naval &
Military
Return $\frac{92}{114}$ 27th February 1903

Sir

I have the honour to transmit to you the Annual Return of Military and Naval Resources of this colony for the year 1902

I have

W. Grey Wilson

Secret
Cyphers $\frac{92}{113}$

28 February 1903

Sir

In compliance with the direction contained in your secret cipher of the 8 of April 1899 I have the honour to report that cyphers and decyphers A & K are in my possession and that they are kept in a safe in my office

I have

W. Grey Wilson

72/03

102

Confidential
coal

Sir,

105

23^d March 1903

One of the Farmers who has been prospecting for many years past, entertain the belief, for which there appears some justification that he has located a small coal seam and enquires whether the Government will reward the discoverer of coal.

2. I am not prepared to recommend that mere discovery should be rewarded but I suggest that the Government should offer to secure, to the finder of any coal, payment during a period of ten years of say 20% of the net profits derived from any coal mined. Such period of ten years to commence from the date when the first 100 tons of coal has been worked. — The Government to have the right after payment of the percentage on 3 years working of commencing at any time such 20% for a sum of £2000.

3 These conditions would be embodied in any mining lease granted by the Govt. —

4. The terms I suggest, or such others as you may approve, would be

be submitted to the Legislative
Council for ratification.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

Dr Keay

Private

93
115

25 May 1903

Dear Dr Keay

Rumours from more than
one source have reached me lately
that you have not lately been as
steady as you should be. I think it
my duty and best for you to let you
know that I have heard this.

If there be any truth in these
things I can only say that I very
fully appreciate the terrible trial
that nine years banishment in
West Falkland has been and that
I entertain a very sincere hope
that the change to Stanley and
the comparative rest to mind
and body which that change
will afford will enable you to
cast completely away any evil
influence that may have assailed
you, and resume your former
active healthy devotion to duty
& your profession. I must
add that if you have not full

confidence in being able to do this it would be very much better that you should not return. -

Temptation may be greater in this colony than in most others, but the disastrous consequences of yielding to it are not less terrible on that account. -

Believe me
Your very sincere well wisher

W. Grey Wilson

Melville Kray Esquire
45 Keshmorth Rd.
43 Dublin

Confidential

Thompson's
Bond

16th May 1903

Sir,

I have the honour to ack the receipt of your conf: disp of the 27 of March calling my attention to Mr W. A. Thompson's failure to pay, on the proper date, the premium due to the Quarante Society on his bond.

Mr Thompson's
Bond

2. On the 10th of March last the Col: Secy forwarded to the C. A. a Bill of Exchange for £3. 15. 0 and explained that the notice had not arrived in time to enable payment of the amount due to be made on the proper date.

I have directed Mr T to make arrangements for securing payment in future on the proper date

I have
W. Grey Wilson

1. 865.

Private.

Conf: Book page 104

Dromin Lodge.

Ballybunion

C Kerry.

Aug 12th 1903.



Dear Sir,

I have to thank you
for your letter & regret that
I was away from 43 Kentdown
Park on its arrival or it should
have been answered sooner.

I trust, Sir, that you
will not heed any rumours

Such as you mention, & that
you will have no fear about
myself whatsoever in regard
to the strictest attention to
my duties. I will give me
the greatest satisfaction to
show those who would try to
injure me that I am not as
they would like to see me.

It is impossible to exist
for nine years amongst an

isolated community without
making one or two enemies, at
least, & that, I know I have
& I have already been warned
against them & informed that
I must be on my guard.

What they have against me
I do not know except that I
hold a few professional secrets
which they would not care
to be published. —

I am taking out a post-graduate course about the end of the month and hope to get away in the October Mail.

I have been attending the Bath Hospitals on several occasions & saw great & wonderful changes.

Thanking you for your very kind letter I remain,
very truly yours
McNeill Keay.

105
FALKLAND ISLANDS.

No.

Confidential.

72/03

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,

STANLEY, ¹⁷ JULY, 1905.

102
Coal

Sir,

With reference to your confidential despatch of the 30th of April I have the honour to inform you that I submitted to the Legislative Council a resolution in the terms you directed, whereupon Mr. Harding urged that the quantity of coal to be banked (1000 tons) is far too much, representing quite three years local consumption and moved an amendment that when 100 tons of coal has been banked the discoverer shall receive a reward of not more than £200 and in addition one shilling per ton from the royalty charged by the Government; such one shilling per ton to be paid on the coal raised during a period of five years, or on the first 10,000 tons.-

I undertook to submit this amendment for your consideration and to defer further action upon the resolution until I have received your reply.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient

humble servant.

W. Gray Wilson

Governor.

The Right Honourable,

Joseph Chamberlain M.P.

&c., &c., &c.,

Conf:

86
10818th of Sept-1903Warlike stores
Draft O.

Sir

I have the honour to ack the receipt of your Conf: despatch of the 2^d of Feb: last transmitting for my guidance a copy of the New Zealand Exportation of arms act, 1901

2 The New Zealand act provides for the protection of the Empire and her allies but I would ask you to consider whether it is not possible that it may be deemed desirable to issue a Proclamation under the proposed ordinance in the event of ~~the probable outbreak~~ of hostilities or of the probable outbreak of hostilities between our neighbours the South American Republics.

3. I venture therefore to suggest that it would extend the usefulness of the O if all the words in Sec: 2 (2) after "expedient" were struck out. I would also suggest that the following clause be added viz:
 "If any goods so prohibited shall be found on board any vessel, or be exported, or brought to any place to be shipped for exportation from the Colony or for transport coastwise, or be removed or waterborne to be so exported or carried, all such

"such articles shall be forfeited and the
 "master of the vessel, the Exporter, or his
 "Agent, or the shipper of any such articles
 "shall be liable to a penalty of one hundred
 pounds and the master of the vessel
 shall on conviction be liable to the
 further punishment of imprisonment
 with or without hard labour for
 any period not exceeding six
 months.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

96

123/03

28th October 1903

Wireless
 Telegraphy

Sir

I have the honour to ack the receipt
 of your Conf: Cir despatch of the 23^d
 of July last with reference to wireless
 telegraphy and beg that reference may
 be made to my despatch N^o 89 of this
 date transmitting an ordinance dealing
 with the subject. —

I have

The Right Honourable
 Joseph Chamberlain M P.

W. G. W.

Rec: 8th Dec: 1903

Conf.

108

27th November
1903

Short Rifle Sir,

In reply to Mr Chamberlains cir
drip of the 28th of July I have the
honour to inform you that it does
not appear necessary at present to
place any order for the new
"short" pattern of rifle

I have

R^t Hon^{ble}

Alfred Lyttelton M.P.

W. Gray Wilson

C.S. 404/00

28 Nov: 1903

106
115

Warlike stores Sir,

In reply to your Conf: drip
of the 14th of October I have the
honour to report that your
Conf: drip of the 2 of Feb with
reference to the exportation
of warlike material was answered
by my despatch Conf of the
18th of Sept.

I have

W. Gray Wilson

R^t Hon^{ble}

Alfred Lyttelton

24th Dec

Mr Halkett

Sir,

I have the honour to ack the receipt of your Conf: dup of the 3^d of Nov: and to transmit to you Mr Halkett's explanation as to Mr A. Henderson's claim which has now been adjusted

I have

W. Grey-Wilson

The Right Honourable

alfred Lyttelton M.P.

~ ~ ~

th

26th Dec: 1903Mr Thompson's Sir,
complaintsans by Conf: 12th Feb: 1904

I have the honour to ack the receipt of your conf: dup of the 12th of Nov: with reference to Mr Thompson's complaints, and by that reference may be made to my despatch N^o 104 of this date.

2. The difficulty between Mr Thompson and Mr Halkett, is, to a great extent, a personal one and while I declined to move upon a vague general complaint, without a great deal more evidence than appeared available, that Mr H was not an efficient Treasury Clerk I informed Mr T that if he would make

make formal charges I would deal with them in Ex Council.

3. Mr H. is young and ~~may~~ is on that account entitled to some indulgence ~~that~~ cannot be afforded to him hereafter and although some of the cases cited by Mr T. show great carelessness - they do not show more - and have in my opinion been adequately dealt with by reprimand —

4. When the C.O. invited (by telegram) an expression of my opinion as to the transfer of Mr H from the Col: Secy's office to the Treasury - I reported, after consultation with the Treasurer that we would under the circumstances do what we ~~could~~ with him.

He is a good typist & a quick writer. but has little capacity for financial work, his strong points being riding and shooting, and although he might have got on with previous Treasurers he is certainly not suited to serve under Mr Thompson who has always put every possible obstacle in the way of the performance of the duties of clerk of the Councils, Registrar Supreme Court, shipping master, Reports to Lloyd's & despatch copying - duties which do not fall under the Treasurers control

control. - These combinations are not ideal, and can only work when there is great give and take.

5. Mr T. suks to throw all detail and a quite undesirable amount of responsibility upon the clerk and combines with extreme conceit an overbearing & bullying manner to subordinates.

6. Mr Harding has more than once informed me that he finds it impossible to have any dealings with Mr T. and difficult to compel his clerks to carry out necessary work at the Treasury in consequence of the outrageous manner in which each in turn has been treated. and even Mr H. Bennett who is largely possessed of good temper & tact cannot for weeks at a time maintain speaking relations with Mr T.

7. Mr T. is a smart, though at times inaccurate in detail, accurate and has done very good Customs work. as chief clerk in a large colony he might do well. ~~As~~ ^{As} head of a Dept he is impossible.

This part
amended
see
page 117
W. M.

8. With reference to para 7 of my public despatch I would call attention to Mr T. statement that he has found it impossible to continue the Intimates books on the same lines and that he had rewritten them up roughly.

Should you desire an illustration of what Mr T. calls reform - then books - the old and the new can without inconvenience be sent home for examination by one of the financial experts of the C.O.

9. I venture to remind you that Mr Chamberlain in a Conf: despatch of the 6th of Oct 1902 stated that he would bear in mind my opinion as to the desirability of transferring Mr T. to some other colony, if an opportunity occurs

I have

W. Grey Wilson

The Right Honourable
Alfred Lyttelton M. P.

M. C. S. - M. P. 23/02 . 15 April 1902
Mr T. suggests that Miss R. Lehmann⁺
shall be appointed acting clerk!

+ now Mrs T.

W. G. W.

2. 8. M. P.
198/03
para 8 of
intimates A

I wrote this
when we have
with reference
to Mr T. &
marriage
W. G. W.

101

1 January 1904

cyphers

Sir,

In compliance with the instructions given in your secret Cir disp of the 8th of April 1899 I have the honour to report that cyphers and decyphers A and K are in my possession and are kept in a safe in my office. -

I have

W. Grey Wilson

Right-Honourable

Alfred Lyttelton M.P.

Ans by Conf: 29 Feb:

9th January 1904Rec by Feb: 15th

Gov: leave

Sir,

With reference to Mr Chamberlain's Conf: disp: of the 23^d Sept 1899, I beg to be allowed, now that I have completed six years service in this colony and the matter has consequently lost its personal aspect, to again raise the question of short leave. -

2. When the Governor goes on leave the C. S. does much of the Governor's work and draws half his salary, when the Col. Secy goes on leave the Gov: does much of his work

and I suggest that a suitable "consideration" for that work would be permission to take six weeks leave without vacating the administration of the Government.

3. The isolation of this colony and its distance from England render it difficult to obtain leave permission for a predetermined date, but perhaps leave might be granted for a specific year and taken at any time suitable during the year. British Honduras makes statutory provision for such leave but I do not know whether this is deemed necessary in respect of this colony.

I have

Right Honourable

W. Grey Wilson

Alfred Lyttelton, M.P.

101

23^d January 1904

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit to you the annual Return of Military and Naval Resources of this Colony for the year 1903

I have

W. G. W.

War
Resources

in triplicate

10829th January 1904

Warlike stores Sir,

I have the honour to ack: the receipt of your Conf: despatch of the 17th of Nov: 1903 and beg that reference may be made to my desps: N^o 10 of this date transmitting an ordinance relating to the export of warlike stores.

I have

The Right Honourable
 Alfred Lyttelton M. P.

W. Grey Wilson

9314th March 1904

Dr Keay
 suspended.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch N^o 25 of this date I would add that last year when Dr Keay was on leave rumours reached me, — which no one appeared willing to substantiate, — that Dr Keay had more than once, on the West Falkland, been intemperate.

see p 103

2. I wrote to him & informed him that these rumours had reached me and while recognizing the terrible trial of nine years banishment in the West Falkland, (without leave) and admitting that temptation might be greater in this colony than in most others — I pointed out that

that the disastrous consequences of yielding to it were not less terrible on than account and that unless he had full confidence in being able to resume his former active & healthy devotion to duty & his profession it would be much better that he should not return to the Colony.

3. I need hardly say that when I wrote my Conf: despatch of the 17th of April 1902 (see p 93) recommending that Dr Keay should succeed Dr Hamilton, I had not heard anything against Dr Keay. On the contrary I had received from several sources accounts of his quite unusual devotion, as a nurse as well as a doctor, among the working classes. —

4. — The evidence of Dr Keay's unselfish devotion to his work is wide and strong & it may be that this fact and his personal popularity led to the regrettable suppression, — in regard to Government — of all information as to his weakness.

5- The very excellent work that Dr Keay has done will I hope justify the substitution of resignation for dismissal. I have

R^r Hambro

afford Lytton m. P.

W. Grey Wilson

Conf.

14 April 1904

Sir,

In reply to your Conf. Cir. disp. of 12 March I have the honour to report that the two copies of the "Boats" Signal Book Vocabulary therein enclosed will be placed in the custody of the Govt & Col: Secy: respectively.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

11th April 1904

Sir,

Upon the return of Mr Hart Bennett to the Colony, I discussed with him my Conf: disp. of the 26 of Dec 1903 and I would ask that the final part of para 6 of that despatch may be altered to read

- "and were Mr Hart Bennett who is
- "largely possessed of ~~the~~ good temper: but
- "finds it difficult to maintain more
- "than official relations with Mr Thompson

2. I greatly regret that I should in any measure have availed the case against Mr Thompson.

I have

W. Grey Wilson

Confidential.

C.S.
217
01

118

18 July 1904

Sir.

1 I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Confidential despatch of 10th June and to express regret that para. 3 of Mr Chamberlain's Confidential Circular of 25th August 1903 has remained unanswered.

2 The Government has no objection to the proposal that the Crown Agents be allowed to exceed the price specified in Indents, when necessary, without prior reference here and consider that 25% will be a suitable margin of excess.

I have +
(Signed) ~~W. Grey~~
W. Hart-Barnett
Actg. Secy.

The Right Hon.
Alfred Lyttelton, M.P.

Recd by CO
22 Aug. 04
W.S.A.

Confidential

C.S.
14
04

19 July 1904

Sir.

With ref. to your Confidential despatch of 4 Dec 1903. I have the honour to transmit to you a report on the Talk. - Land, Land Volunteers for the year ended 30 June 1904.

2. The annual report of the British Honduras Volunteer referred to in para 3. of the Remarks by the Colonial Defence Committee dated 12th Nov. 1903. No 330 R

do not appear to have been received
and I should be glad to be furnished
with a copy.

3. The instruction given by
Sergeant Major Watt continues to
be most satisfactory

The Right Hon.
Alfred Lyttelton M.P.

(Signed) I. Lane &
W. Hart Bennett
Actg Secy.

Recd by C.O. 22 Aug. 04.