

Executive Council

Monday 13th March 1854

Present—all the Members

The Council met pursuant to summons
The minutes of the last preceding meeting were read and confirmed.

The Governor then said, Gentlemen it has hitherto been a source of great satisfaction to me in administering the affairs of this Colony for nearly six years that no crime has been committed of a capital nature. You are all now however well aware that a murder of a savage and premeditated kind has lately been committed, and the murderer has been convicted and is now lying under sentence of death. It is my painful duty under these circumstances to request your advice as to whether you are of opinion that the law should take its course or if any of you should know of mitigating circumstances which would justify me in pardoning or commuting the sentence of this unhappy man. I have now to lay before you the report of the presiding judge upon the trial of the murderer (Hilario Cordova),

Mr Montagu to the
Governor 11th March
1854

Sir

"I have the honor to report to you that Hilario Cordova was yesterday convicted before the Magistrates Court of the murder of Jean Cousteau upon which conviction sentence of death was passed upon him

"I enclose for Your Excellency's information the evidence taken upon the trial

I have &c
(signed) A Montagu

and I propose that the evidence be now read

(the evidence taken at the trial in the Magistrates Court was then read)

The Governor then continued - I have now to call on you Mr Montagu as presiding judge on the trial to say whether in your opinion, any feature in this deplorable case would justify any remission in the sentence that has been passed on this man.

Mr Montagu - There was not the slightest doubt about his guilt in the minds of any of the Magistrates present on the Bench and I have not the least doubt upon the evidence, I regret therefore to say that as Chairman of the Court I see no reason to justify me in recommending Your Excellency to interfere with the course of the Law.

The Governor then called on Mr Longden to give his opinion on the course the Law should take -

Mr Longden. - There being no doubt as to the man's guilt in my mind I cannot recommend Your Excellency to interfere with the course of the Law. The atrocity of the crime and the premeditation of the prisoner are too clearly shown by the evidence to afford any ground for commutation nor can I think that the execution could have other than a good effect in deterring the number of Spaniards that are here from their ready practice of using their knives.

Mr Montagu - In consequence of the smallness of this Settlement I feel that the horrors of an execution will painfully enter into every man's domestic circle; notwithstanding I most deeply regret that I do not see any sufficient reason to justify me in recommending Your Excellency to mitigate the sentence.

Mr Hamblin - I regret to say that I am compelled to concur in the opinion formed by the other Members of this Council, that I cannot recommend Your Excellency to forego the sentence that has been passed on the Prisoner.

The Governor - Gentlemen I have to thank you for your advice and I will take the whole of this lamentable case into my most serious consideration and will report to the Magistrates Court my decision.

The Council then adjourned sine die

W. Kenna
Clerk to the Council

810

Executive Council

Thursday 8th June 1864

Present, —

His Excellency Governor Rennie
The Hon^{ble} M. J. Hamblin &
The Hon^{ble} J. A. Longden

The Council met pursuant to summons
The minutes of the last preceding meeting were read and confirmed. —

The Governor then said; — "Gentlemen, I have
to request your advice on the subject of a document
which I now hold in my hands, it being the resignation
by Mr Montagu of the Offices of Stipendiary Magistrate,
Justice of the Peace, Chairman of the Magistrates Court,
Chairman of the Police Court, Coroner and Member of
the Executive Council and should wish to know whether
you think it advisable that I should accept his resignation.

Mr Longden. — "I do advise Your Excellency
to accept the simple resignation Mr Montagu has tendered."

Mr Hamblin. — "I concur in the advice given by
Mr Longden."

The Governor. — "I shall consider the question
and communicate my decision to Mr Montagu."

The Council then adjourned sine die

J. A. Rennie
Clerk to the Council

Executive Council.

Thursday - 1st. November 1855.

Present,
All the members.

The Council met pursuant to summons.
The minutes of the last preceding meeting were read and confirmed.

The Governor addressed the Council as follows:
"Gentlemen, I have no doubt you are aware
that Her Majesty has been pleased to ap-
point Captain Moore of the Royal Navy
to be my successor in the government of
this Colony, and that our intelligence bears
daily to expect his Excellency."

It was my desire to remain here until
the arrival of Captain Moore, and I should do
so at any sacrifice to my own convenience
were I cognizant of any circumstance
which might make my absence injurious
to the Public Service. I will, therefore, briefly
state to you the general position of affairs, and
request the favour of your views as to the ex-
ecution of the course I propose to take."

"More than six months of the current fi-
nancial year have elapsed and I am
happy to find that the expenditure on the
various branches of the Public Service is con-
siderably below what I calculated on for
that portion of the year - nor do I see any
prospect of the estimated colonial revenue
falling short of the expectations I formed.
The proved efficiency of the Laws, the

"tranquil state of the Colony and the
"steady remunerative employment for
"all the industrious classes, who, although
"at enhanced prices, enjoy abundance
"of every necessary, and many of the lux-
"uries of life seem to leave no cause of
"anxiety which it is in my power to foresee.
"It is, therefore, my intention to proceed to
"England in the Java now preparing
"to sail. -

"My term of office having been
"already much extended by H. M.'s Govern^t
"and the uncertainty of finding suit-
"able accommodation for a family on
"board of Ships homeward-bound render
"it desirable that I should avail myself
"of the present occasion whilst the im-
"possibility of finding a furnished house
"to inhabit after the arrival of my Successor
"adds to the difficulties to be experienced
"were I to remain in the colony.

"It will be Mr Longden's duty in con-
"formity with the provisions of the Royal
"Charter, as senior Magistrate, to admini-
"ster the Government until the
"arrival of Captain Moore, and I
"feel assured that whatever may be
"necessary to be done in the interval
"he will perform satisfactorily.

"If notwithstanding what I have
"said you know of any reasons which
"in your opinion would render my
"quitting the colony inexpedient, I request
"the favor of your stating them to me, as-
"suring you that I will give them my
"unbiased consideration". -

Mr. Hamblin said he concurred in
the

the remarks which the Governor had made as to the state of the colony, and was not aware of any reason that could be offered against the Governor's departure.

Mr Longden said that he could not see that any inconvenience would arise from the Governor availing himself of the present opportunity to return to England - the financial position of the colony being, as His Excellency had pointed out so favourable and Captain Moore himself being almost home expected.

The Governor then added: "In taking leave of you after more than four years intercourse I beg to express my appreciation of the cordial assistance and you have given me on every occasion during my administration and it is peculiarly gratifying to me to think that I cannot recollect of a single question I have submitted to you for your advice on which there has been any important difference of opinion between us."

The Council then adjourned sine die. —

W. M. Munnie
Clerk to the Council

Sent home by
the Java on the 4th of
November 1855

Executive Council

Wednesday — 19th March 1856

Present:—

His Excellency the Governor
The Honorable W. J. Hamblin
The Honorable J. R. Longden

The Council met pursuant to summons
The Minutes of the last preceding meeting were read and confirmed.

Despatches from
Lord John Russell
to the Governor

His Excellency the Governor then read to the Council a letter ^{from Lord John Russell to himself dated 12th July 1855 and its two Enclosures dated respectively 11th May 1855 and 25th of June 1855 on the subject of the Fisheries off the coasts of the Falkland Islands:—} He then stated—"Gentlemen you have heard the principal points involved in those letters and I wish therefore to have your opinion upon the question of "What is the best mode of dealing with the Fisheries around the coasts of the Falkland Islands?"

Mr Longden answered:—"I am of opinion that the Fisheries on the coasts of the Falkland Islands are not sufficiently valuable to yield any considerable revenue or to induce the Government to maintain a man of war constantly cruising here for their adequate protection nor to risk the embroilment which might ensue with Foreigners. — The latter question is perhaps the most important, and I wish only in passing to remark that the expediency of enforcing the Queen's undoubted rights of sovereignty by an armed force appears to me a very different question from a mere assertion of those rights in civil intercourse with Foreigners. — I have already said that I do not think any considerable Revenue can be raised and I am of opinion that no special licenses for specified districts should be issued, because the Government have no power to restrain the licensees from fishing any other districts and constant quarrels might be engendered thereby; but at the same time I think

that no boat should be allowed to depart on a cruise for procuring oil or without a license. These licenses should be granted to any applicants in proportion to the capacity of the boat or vessel at a fixed rate not exceeding three per cent on the estimated value of the cargo, the license to be paid before starting and without reference to the actual produce of the cruise. - The license is I think as much required for Police as Revenue purposes and if an Ordinance were to be drawn up embodying the above views I should suggest a clause rendering the boat or cargo (in default of other security) liable for any damages or illegal acts, as killing battle or that might be committed by any of the crew during the cruise. - I do not think such regulations and small license fee as above suggested would interfere with the trade - while it would if continued for two or three years afford the Government a surer means than they now have of estimating the annual produce from the Fisheries.

Mr. Hamblin stated "I have not been able to devote so much of my time to the consideration of this subject as Mr. Longden and I can only say that I completely coincide in the opinions expressed by that Gentleman."

As. 3. The Governor then stated that he should like to consult the Council on the subject of a report that he had heard from Mr. Havers viz that a vessel was fitting out in the River Plate to come down here for the purpose of trading in rabbits skins, goose feathers or and the preserving of their flesh and he should like to know how far this scheme might interfere with the interests of the colony and whether it might not affect the people of the Settlement injuriously by depriving them of a portion of their food - also if allowed, under what restrictions? and the right, how to be paid for? -

Mr. Hamblin stated "Provided these parties are kept at a sufficient distance from Stanley I cannot see that any great injury would be inflicted at the same time I think it necessary that a certain license should be paid by them for the ground over which they hunt. - The other means of collecting a tax on them viz by paying

"so much for each skin I think would be very difficult to collect."

Mr Longden stated "although if these parties come here merely for the purpose of carrying off the produce of the Islands without forming any establishments it would undoubtedly be injurious, still I am of opinion that if they could be induced to form an establishment and carry on a trade I think, on the contrary it might perhaps be beneficial to the colony. With respect to paying for the land I think that perhaps the existing laws with regard to occupation of waste lands might be applied to their case."

The Governor then put this question; "How far from Stanley could such a trade be carried on, without damage to the interests of the Settlement?" and then proposed 40 miles.

This proposition was concurred in by both Mr Hamblin and Mr Longden.

His Excellency next stated "I have to lay before you an application from Mr Longden for leave to proceed to England on urgent private affairs. (These letters are to be found in Guard Book of Miscellaneous letters to the Governor Vol. 6 and are dated respectively 25th January 1854, 23rd January 1856 and 17th March 1856) Is it advisable to grant that application?"

Mr Hamblin said "I do most certainly recommend Your Excellency to grant it, more particularly as Mr Longden has been so long in the colony and during that time performed his duties so satisfactorily."

Mr Longden stated "I trust that my long service and the peculiar circumstance of my arriving here so young will justify my request."

The Governor then stated that he had great pleasure in granting the leave; and the necessary documents were signed accordingly. - The leave to commence on the 25th day of March 1856 and to terminate on the 22nd day of March 1857.

The Council then adjourned sine die

W. Munnie
Clerk to the Executive Council

25th Jan 4 January 1854

Executive Council

Monday 31st March 1856

Present

H. E. the Governor
The Hon^{ble} Thomas Warwick Brooke
The Hon^{ble} H. J. Hamblin

The Council met pursuant to summons

2 —

The minutes of the last preceding meeting were read and confirmed

1. —

Mr Thomas Warwick Brooke was sworn in and took his seat as a Member of the Executive Council

The Council then adjourned sine die

W. M. Munnice

Clerk to the Executive Council

Sent home up to this date
by "Victoria" on 22nd April 1856

Copy of Commission appointing Thomas Warwick
Brooke Esquire to be a member of the Executive
Council. 31st March 1856.

Whereas Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen
Victoria by Her Letters Patent, under the Great
Seal of Great Britain and Ireland bearing
date at Westminster the 23rd day of June in the
Year of Our Lord 1843. and in the Seventh Year
of the Reign of Her said Majesty, did by
said Letters Patent, authorize His Excellency
The Governor and Commander in Chief of the
Falkland Islands and their Dependencies to
Summon and appoint such persons as are
therein and in Her Majesty's Instructions
under Her Signet and Sign Manual described to
form an Executive Council, and by any Instrument
to be made and issued in Her Majesty's name
and under the Public Seal of said Settlements and
their Dependencies to constitute and appoint
certain persons being within the same to be
members of the said Executive Council.

Now I the said Governor and Commander in
Chief do hereby in Her Majesty's name in
pursuance and exercise of the power aforesaid
constitute and appoint you Thomas Warwick
Brooke Esquire to be a member of the Executive
Council of the Falkland Islands and
their Dependencies.

Given under my hand and Sealed
with the Public Seal of the said
Falkland Islands at Government
House, Stanley, this thirty first day
of March, One thousand eight hundred
and fifty six.

Signed L. L. Moore
Gov.

Copy of Commission appointing Thomas Havers
Esquire to be a Member of the Executive
Council. 20th June 1856.

Whereas Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen
Victoria by Her Letters Patent, under the Great
Seal of Great Britain and Ireland, bearing
date at Westminster the 23rd day of June in the
Year of Our Lord 1843, and in the Seventh
Year of the Reign of Her said Majesty, did
by said Letters Patent authorize His Excellency
The Governor and Commander in Chief of the
Falkland Islands and their Dependencies to
summon and appoint such persons as are
therein, and in Her Majesty's Instructions
under Her Signet and Sign Manual describes
to form an Executive Council and by any
instrument to be made and issued in Her
Majesty's name and under the Public Seal
of said Settlements and their Dependencies
to constitute and appoint certain persons
being within the same to be members of
the said Executive Council.

Now the said Governor and Commander in
Chief do hereby in Her Majesty's name in
pursuance and exercise of the power afore-
said constitute and appoint you Thomas
Havers Esquire to be a member of the Executive
Council of the Falkland Islands and
their Dependencies.

Given under my hand and Sealed
with the Public Seal of the said
Falkland Islands at Government
House, Stanley this twentieth day
of June One thousand eight hundred
and fifty six

Signed J. R. Mone.
Govr.

Executive Council

Tuesday 24th June 1856

Present: -

H. E. Governor Moore

The Honble J. W. Brooke

" " A. J. Hamblin

" " J. Havers

The Council met pursuant to summons: -

The Minutes of the last preceding Meeting were read and confirmed. -

Mr Longden's resignation to the following effect was then read: - Sir or our wise letter to Gov. Mo

His Excellency the Governor stated that Mr Longden's resignation

The Honorable A. J. Hamblin requested H. E. the Governor to allow the few remarks he wished to make on this subject to be entered in the Minutes of Council. - Granted. - He then said "I must say that the step Your Excellency has taken has greatly surprised me. - When Mr Longden left the Colony he placed in my hands the letter which has just been read in order to prevent any inconvenience, should another seat become temporarily vacant in this Council. - Mr Brooke's arrival however made the Council complete without the presence of Mr Longden, two Members besides Your Excellency being sufficient to do so, and Mr Longden intending fully to return to this Colony was naturally most anxious to retain his seat. -"

Here His Excellency stated that it was not consistent with the duties he had to perform to hear any thing further on this subject. -

The Governor then proposed that Mr Havers should take his seat as a Member of the Council and Mr Havers was sworn in accordingly. -

His

26th March 1856

should have been read at the Council held on the 31st March last, having received his resignation the day after he quitted this Port which he accepted at the time. -

3rd July 1856

[Signature]

His Excellency then stated. "Gentlemen I have called you together this day to consult you on the subject of the Enrolled Pensioners. - These men have been here nearly seven years and as there is some Land which they will be entitled to on completion of seven years service I should wish to have your opinion as to the precise date of their time being exp. - I see from papers in my Office that Captain Reid was ordered to turn over his Papers to Sergeant Major Felton - I should like you therefore to consult these documents and as the men consider their time will expire very shortly I should like your opinion as to when I ought to issue the brown grants."

Sergeant Major Felton was here called in and produced such papers as he had on the subject. The certificates of Transfers of Pension were minutely examined by all the members of the Council -

Mr. Samblin then rose and stated that "As the certificates of transfers appeared to be made at different dates he thought it would be better to have one uniform time for the expiration of the men's service and he therefore thought it advisable that it should date from the day of embarkation for these Islands."

Mr. Havers said "It is my opinion that the commencement of the service of these men ought to be taken from the date of their transfers and it hardly appears to me that Your Excellency has any option in the matter" and I further believe that every man would be absolutely entitled to receive his brown Grant at the expiry of seven years from that date."

Mr. Brooke rose and made a motion to the effect, That the dates of the discharge of the Enrolled Pensioners should be taken as seven years from the date of their transfers - agreed to by the whole Council

His Excellency then stated that the next subject he wished to bring under the consideration of the Council was the subject of the Permanent Guard and how far those men's services would be affected by the expiration of their term of original Enrolment. He added "These men receive at

present

"present £300 per annum from the War Office (which I should
 "be sorry to see lost to the colony) and a colonial pay of
 "£142. - This latter sum I might apply to the support of
 "two constables. -

Mr. Havers said "I think that constables are
 "hardly sufficient for our protection in case of mutinous crews
 "and for the securing of riotous men when there were many
 "ships in the Harbour and I cannot think that it can be
 "the intention of the Home Government to leave these Islands
 "entirely without military protection. - With regard to
 "the preference of the Guard over constables I should say
 "from my own experience that they have always shown
 "themselves far more efficient night watchmen than any
 "constables. -

Mr. Hamblin said that he thought it probable
 at the expiration of the seven years service of these men
 the War Department would no longer consider them as
 soldiers and would discontinue their military pay
 and that if the Guard were still retained the ex-
 pense might have to be defrayed by the colony

Mr. Brooke said "I consider that the Guard
 "can have nothing at all to do with the Enrolment of
 "the Pensioners and that the Memorandum which was
 "issued for the Pensioners guidance merely refers to an
 "enrolment for seven years and could not affect in
 "any way the Guard and I think that all the men
 "even after the expiry of their seven years service must
 "still be looked upon as military men. -

Mr. Havers said that so long as men received
 pay from the War Office they were subject to the
 Mutiny Act.

Despatches from Governor Rennie to the Duke
 of Newcastle "Military" No 2 of 14th June 1854 and Sir
 George Grey to Governor Rennie No 7 of 14th October 1854
 were here read

His Excellency the Governor said that he con-
 curred in the opinions of Mr. Brooke and Mr. Havers and
 thought the Guard quite necessary in order to keep up the
 respectability of the place

His Excellency the Governor then stated that he should be glad also to have the opinions of his Council on another point. It was on the expediency of forming a convict establishment in these Islands. He said that at present there was a great want of labour and it was very high and further added "I believe if we had the advantage of convict labour our lands might be made productive, roads might be made into the interior and a considerable quantity of garden produce annually raised - I should likewise wish to bring to your notice the present state of the Government constructions and with the small Estimate I cannot do all that is requisite to them without some such assistance as convict labour. - My opinion is that a line of battle ship should be moved off the Port and a large number of convicts hulked on board".

Mr. Hamblin stated that this was a subject which had already been much discussed and as it was one of great importance he thought it would be well to have a little time for consideration.

This proposition was generally concurred in and the Council adjourned until Thursday the 3rd of July

WM Munnice
Clerk to the Council

Executive Council

Thursday 3rd July 1856

Present: -

H. E. Governor Moore

The Honble J. W. Brooke

The Honble Thos. Havers

The Council met pursuant to adjournment

H. E. The Governor read a letter from Mr. Hamblin stating his inability to attend the Council this day. -

The Minutes of the last preceding meeting were read, amended and confirmed. -

H. E. The Governor then stated that he should wish to have the advice of his Council on the subject adjourned from the last sitting. -

Mr. Brooke said "Your Excellency has asked my opinion on the subject of the expediency of introducing convicts into these Islands. - It is a subject of great magnitude and although a delay of one week has been granted it is very difficult for any person whose residence in these Islands has been so short as mine to give you all the assistance I should wish. - It may be laid down however as an axiom that no new Settlement can be established on a secure footing without a basis of agriculture. We see depression at present around us and it is necessary to consider what means can best be employed to give to the Colony a new impulse. - This I feel sure can never be done until some pursuits more steady than those produced by the occasional visits of Shipping are introduced. With respect to Agriculture I do not mean the mere raising of cattle, I mean rather the cultivation of the soil, the first and main object is the formation of enclosures - That is the great question and it has always been the great difficulty in starting a

"new Settlement. - The principal part of the complaints I have heard
 "here have been from persons complaining of trespasses of cattle and
 "horses in their gardens. - Considering the great difficulty and enormous
 "cost of enclosures I do not think that they could be undertaken
 "by private people at any price that could possibly be remunerative.
 "I think the only way of testing the capabilities of the soil would
 "be by large enclosures. This would have to be done by some assist-
 "ance from without. Your Excellency has mentioned one means
 "viz convicts I am not prepared to say whether that is the only
 "or best means of effecting this object but I have no doubt that
 "it would be one means. - This question of Enclosures lies at the
 "root of all agriculture. - The Grants of Land to be made to the
 "Enrolled Pensioners of Ten Acres each in their present state are
 "utterly worthless. It is to be supposed that the Home Government
 "considered it a fair remuneration for seven years service to
 "put men on such Land. - I do not see that by any process
 "except such as enclosing their Lands they could be treated as
 "where it was intended they should be. - The enclosing could only be done by some
 "such means as Your Excellency has indicated. - Shipping would
 "also then be better provided for."

Mr. Havers said "Your Excellency The Gentleman
 "who has just spoken has in many respects so fully expounded
 "my ideas that I may limit myself to saying that the im-
 "portance of Enclosures cannot be exaggerated, and that the
 "want of them has produced the most lamentable results in
 "South America. - Should this Colony advance as I am sure
 "is the wish of H. M.'s Gov^t I think it probable that a sufficiency
 "of food would hardly be found in these Islands unless some
 "great change were made. - The breeding of Stock depends much
 "on the separation of animals and on artificial food. In the
 "present state of this Colony I have no hesitation in saying
 "that no private person can carry on cultivation without
 "incurring loss. - We have no wood and labour is very high princi-
 "pally on account of the uncertain demand for it. I believe
 "the cost of bringing Land into cultivation is three times the pe-
 "rcentage of the Land itself. - It must be evident to Your Excellency
 "that it is impossible to place any reliance on the exertions of in-
 "dividuals. - Independently of Enclosures, we want a large system
 "of

"of drainage. - With respect to convict labour I would look
 "more especially to the confines of Stanley, I would allude with
 "my colleague to the Pensioners Ten here allotments and
 "feel sure that it can never have been intended by H. M.'s
 "Government that they should have land which cannot be
 "useful without some artificial assistance. - With respect
 "to our present supply of labour it is so uncertain and the
 "demand so occasional that it has risen to a price so great
 "that it will eventually drive away even the small quantity
 "of Shipping which have hitherto frequented our Ports. We are at
 "present under a great depression and many persons leaving
 "which I think clearly shows that agriculture cannot be
 "carried on with remuneration. - We have around us land
 "as bad as any in the Island with scarcely any drains
 "and only one road, there is likewise no water supply and
 "many seasons we suffer severely. - I think it would be quite
 "possible to combine drainage and a Reservoir in one scheme.
 "The Government Farm has a wall around it but there is no
 "enclosure to prevent the cattle coming in to the Settlement. The
 "enclosure of the Settlement I think is necessary to prevent cattle
 "coming in and destroying the garden crops. There is another
 "means of livelihood here viz sealing and boating generally, but
 "boats are very scarce and there is neither a boat harbour
 "nor jetty sufficiently long to enable boats of any size to
 "discharge their cargoes. - Moreover the Government has reserved
 "to itself all the land along the shore which alone would be sufficient
 "to prevent individuals embarking in such schemes. - As far as I
 "can see the only means of accomplishing these objects would be
 "convict labour for I do not think H. M.'s Govt would be in-
 "clined to vote such sums of money as would be necessary to
 "dispay these expenses by free labour. Whether H. M.'s Govt may
 "be inclined to send convicts here or not I am not prepared to
 "say but I can remember during Lord Aberdeen's Ministry when
 "he said he would not allow transportation to be continued
 "to several colonies he especially excluded the Falkland Islands.
 "Should the difficulties that have arisen from penal servitude
 "be so great as to render it expedient to re-open the question
 "of transportation, the Falkland Islands might perhaps be again
 "considered.

Confidentially

beneficially suggested for such an object. - With respect to what is to be done with the convicts after their sentences have expired, I think it probable that very many of them would amalgamate with the population here which would necessarily be much increased, some would go to South America, and of this I am confident that very few would ever return to the Mother Country. I think that 1000 convicts might be beneficially employed and would be a great inducement to capitalists to remain and even for new ones to come. - I therefore in reply to Your Excellency's wish will conclude by saying that I believe convict labour is the best means of rendering this place self supporting and a sure means of making it assume its natural importance as a Maritime Station."

The Council then adjourned sine die

W. M. Annis
Clerk to the Executive Council

Sent to news
by "Victoria" on the
20th July 1856

Executive Council

Saturday 12th July 1856

Present: -

W. E. Governor Moore
The Honble J. W. Brooke
The Honble R. J. Hamblin
The Honble Tho: Havers

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last preceding meeting were read and confirmed. -

The Council then adjourned sine die

W. A. Annis
Clerk to the Executive Council

Executive Council

Monday - 13th July 1857

Present: -

H. E. Governor Moore

The Honble J. W. Brooke

The Honble G. J. Hamblin

The Honble J. R. Longden

The Council met pursuant to summons.

The Minutes of the last preceding meeting were read and confirmed.

His Excellency the Governor laid before the Council an application from Mr. Dennis the Government clerk for leave of absence to proceed to England on urgent private affairs. The letter was then read (for a copy see Miscellaneous letters to the Governor Vol III) and H. E. stated at the same time that he felt much pleasure in being able to state that Mr. Dennis's conduct had been very satisfactory during Mr. Longden's absence and that this together with his length of service would incline him to view favorably the application. -

The other Members were all of the same opinion, Mr. Longden remarking that in his opinion Mr. Dennis's service in a colony so small as this entitled him to ask for the indulgence and he believed that no officer could continue for many years consecutively to perform his duties ^{here} without the risk of serious detriment to his vigour of mind. -

Leave granted. -

His Excellency then said that he should wish to submit to the Council on a future day the question of the high prices and scarcity of provisions that generally prevail in the colony. That this subject was likely to be of still greater importance when the population was greatly increased by the arrival of a garrison company with wives and families and that it would then be absolutely necessary that some provision should be made for rations from England. -

Mr. Longden said that in his opinion it was most essential that a reserve of stores should at all times be kept for at least six or eight months in the Government Store-house to prevent the possibility

possibility of the colony suffering from a deprivation of many of the necessities of life such for instance as Flour, Sugar, Tea on which would be entailed by any accident to or delay in the arrival of the vessel upon which we depend. -

The Council then adjourned sine die. - The Governor at the same time requested the Members to give their best attention to the subject under consideration. -

Wm. Pennie
 Clerk to the Executive Council