

Captain Bagot, stating some of the difficulties and delays that have occurred in respect to freights, which have been so great, that you will perceive by Nos. 6 and 7, that he even contemplated leaving his business and the supervision of the mines, to endeavour, by visiting all the neighbouring colonial ports, to arrange for the shipment of his ores to England.

There is also one other point to which we would draw your Lordship's attention; viz., that the want and high rate of freights at Adelaide, has already had the effect of drawing the attention of the colonists in South Australia, to the smelting of their copper and other ores in the colony; if this should be carried out, there can be no question but that the great interests and vast capitals involved in the copper smelting trade at Swansea would materially suffer, and at the same time, we much doubt if the colonists would be materially benefited, as from the imperfect mode of smelting, a considerable loss of metal would occur, the sure result of parties attempting to carry out an operation in which they have not had that experience which time and practice alone can give, and thus we anticipate from the high rates of freights, that a great loss will in all probability accrue both to the owners of the mines in South Australia, and to the smelting interests in this country, without any concurrent advantage to any one, not even to the British shipowner, who if the smelting is carried out at Adelaide, will probably, as heretofore, be compelled to take in ballast as dead weight for their wool ships.

The object that we seek by this appeal to your Lordship is, that in the first instance, all foreign vessels taking out mining emigrants to South Australia, shall be placed on the footing of British vessels in respect to any mineral produce they may import direct from Adelaide to any port in Great Britain.

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Enclosure in No. 9.

EXTRACTS from Capt. Bagot's Letters.

Incl. in No. 9.

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No. 1.

Adelaide, 31 March 1845.

THERE is a great want of shipping here at present, to carry away a large quantity of produce of one kind or another, ore, wheat, bark, gum, &c.

No. 2.

Adelaide, 20 May 1845.

We have 150 tons of ore at the port, and as much more ready to go there, and all of it of a high quality, so that I am now certain we shall much exceed our calculations for the year's work; we greatly want vessels to take it away; in fact everything serves to confirm the opinions I hold about smelting here. I have written to Mr. Dutton, to recommend his visiting the German smelters in the Hartz, where smelting is brought to great perfection, and from whence he will not find any difficulty in procuring persons quite equal to carry on the operations here. I believe they work entirely with wood fuel, which will render them still more fitted for us.

No. 3.

Adelaide, 24 June 1845.

The Kapunda goes on favourably; all we want is shipping to take away the ores, of which we have now 500 tons, and may reckon on as much more by the wool season.

No. 4.

Adelaide, 1 July 1845.

Our piles of ore are rapidly increasing, and no prospect of getting it to market. This is really a matter of serious import to us, and troubles me not a little.

No. 5.

Adelaide, 6 January 1846.

We are on the look out for more freights, by which to ship at least 400 tons more ore from the Kapunda. The Mining Association have given 4*l.* 10*s.* per ton to an old brig, the "Amelia."

No. 6.

Adelaide, 28 January 1846.

I have not yet succeeded in procuring freight for the remainder of our ore, of which we have more than 300 tons at the port, and the rest in progress to it.

The time is arrived when we must expect to pay full freights upon ore, and I think it may be advisable to make terms in England with vessels coming out either with emigrants or goods. The "Amelia" has 4*l.* 10*s.* for 200 tons to Swansea, and the "Malcolm," that came here with sugar from Bahia, and gone on to Sydney, is engaged to return and take ore to Swansea. I have been planning an excursion to the other colonies, with the view, among other things, to try and establish the sending of ores to them for shipment home; but I have hitherto been prevented by other matters, and I doubt now whether I