

VAN DIEMEN'S
LAND.

Mr. Secretary
Stanley to Lieut.-
governor Arthur.

The complaints which you have made respecting the conduct of the discharged soldiers who have been allowed to commute their pensions, are not, I am concerned to say, limited to those who have proceeded to Van Diemen's Land, similar representations having been received from every other quarter where they have established themselves. The system of commuting the pensions of such persons has been discontinued; and it will be my endeavour, as far as it may be possible, to prevent any soldier who may be still in the receipt of their pensions from participating in any facilities which may be afforded to any other description of emigrants to enable them to defray their expenses to the colony, with the exception only of those whose habits of industry and sobriety can be safely depended upon.

General Bourke has adverted to the difficulty of obtaining a valid obligation from the parties to whom the advance of 20 £ is made, for the payment of that sum; the master of the ship in which the emigrants may have obtained their passages not always producing them before the proper officer after their arrival in the colony, and the emigrants themselves refusing to enter into a new security.

With the view of obviating this difficulty and of meeting the suggestions of the Collector of Internal Revenue of New South Wales on this point, (an extract of whose letter I enclose,) proper steps will be taken for the future for securing the evidence of the master and mate of the ship by which the emigrants may embark, or, in case the master should be owner of the vessel, of the mate and the surgeon, as witnesses to the handwriting of the party by whom the promissory notes for the repayment of the advance may have been signed; and care will be taken, at the same time, to explain to the owner or master of such vessel, that he will not be entitled to receive any portion of the sum which may be due on behalf of the emigrants whom he may take out to the colony, until he shall have produced the parties before the officer who may be appointed by the colonial government for the purpose, and gone through all the forms which may be deemed necessary for rendering the promissory notes available in the colony; and in order that no obstacles may be opposed to this arrangement, on the part of the emigrant, it is proposed that he should not be allowed permanently to quit the vessel, or to have his baggage delivered to him, (if his detention on board should prove, as it probably may, inconvenient to the ship,) until the preliminary step before-mentioned shall have been undertaken. On the other hand, you will of course appoint to this especial duty some officer of your government who may, in addition to his other employment, be capable of attending to it, and who should be made responsible for the accuracy with which it may be performed.

With respect to the change proposed in your despatch of the 28th June 1832, in the case of female emigrants, from bounty to loan, I have, in addition to the observations upon that subject contained in Lord Goderich's despatch of the 23d March, to express some doubts as to the practicability of adopting your suggestions upon that point; not, however, from any apprehension that the females, on arriving in the colony, would have any difficulty in repaying, from the profits of their labour, the sums so advanced, as from the difficulty which would result, were the alteration adopted, of inducing them, in the first instance, to consent to leave this country upon such terms. The suggestion, however, is one worthy of consideration; and if I should find that the success which has attended those females who have already proceeded to the colony shall induce a considerable number of others to follow the same course, the opportunity will not be lost of giving the colony the full benefit of any arrangement of that nature which it may be possible to effect.

Lieut.-governor Arthur,
&c. &c. &c.

I have, &c.
(signed) E. G. Stanley.

(Enclosure.)

Extract from a LETTER of the Collector of Internal Revenue in *New South Wales*, from a DESPATCH of Major-general *Bourke's* to Viscount *Goderich*, dated Sydney, 24 September 1832.

WITH respect to the promissory notes which have been taken from the parties to whom advances have been made, in security for their repayment, I beg leave to remark on the inefficiency of these instruments, in their present state, for the purpose intended; as, having no means of proving the handwriting of the parties, it would be to no purpose my attempting any legal compulsory measures against them, if they refuse their voluntary acknowledgment.

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Major-gen. Bourke.
24 Sept. 1832.

Vide Sessional
Paper, 141, April
1833.

Ibid.