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AUSTRALIA.—CANADA.

CORRESPONDENCE

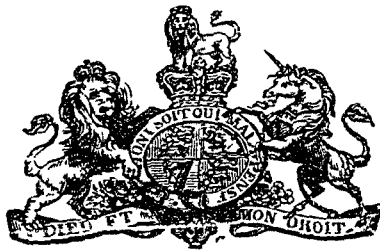
RESPECTING

OFFERS BY THE COLONIES

OF

TROOPS FOR SERVICE IN THE
SOUDAN.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty,
March 1885



LONDON.

PRINTED BY EYRE AND SPOTTISWOODE.

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1885.

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**CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING THE OFFERS OF
COLONIAL TROOPS FOR SERVICE IN THE SOUDAN.**

No. 1.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL the MOST HON. THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.C.M.G.,
to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G. (Received December 8, 1884)

Government House, Ottawa,
November 25, 1884.

MY LORD,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from Major-General J. W. Laurie, late colonel in the Militia of Canada, and Deputy Adjutant General, Military District No. 11, British Columbia, in which that officer expresses his desire for military employment in connexion with any Canadian Force which may be organised for Imperial service, and his readiness, if necessary, to organise such a force himself.

Your Lordship will observe that Major-General Laurie's application for active service is made irrespective of the military rank which he now enjoys.

I have acknowledged receipt of General Laurie's letter, and told him that his application should be noted. I think it, however, desirable to communicate it to your Lordship, in case you should think proper to transmit it to the War Department.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

(Signed) LANSDOWNE.

Enclosure in No. 1.

MAJOR-GENERAL LAURIE to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Oakfield, Nova Scotia,
November 19, 1884.

DEAR LORD LANSDOWNE,

WHEN it was arranged to send the Voyageurs to Egypt I saw Sir John Macdonald in reference to my being sent in charge of them, and he promised to speak to you on my behalf; but as Lord Melgund afterwards told me that a selection of the commander had been made, there was then no opening for me, unless an increase in the strength had warranted a change of arrangements. However, I heard from Sir John that he had written to you, asking that you would kindly bear me in mind if any opportunity occurred of utilising my services; and he advised me to write to you on the same subject.

Having served over 20 years with the Canadian Militia, I should naturally be more than anxious to be associated with a Canadian Force on any expedition in which they might take part.

In 1877 H.R.H. the Commander-in-Chief conveyed to me the thanks of the Secretary of State for War for my proposal to raise a regiment here for active service in Turkey; and I am still prepared, at the shortest notice, to undertake such duty, entirely irrespective of the army rank which I have since attained, and which I am willing to waive for the chance of seeing active service.

May I ask you to consider me available for any service connected with soldiering; and may I express a hope that, should any opportunity occur of employing me in association with Canadians I may not be passed over.

With apologies for troubling you,

I remain, &c.,
(Signed) J. WIMBURN LAURIE.

No. 2.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

War Office, December 24, 1884.

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, transmitting a copy of a despatch from the Governor-General of Canada, enclosing an application* from Major-General J. W. Laurie for employment with any Canadian Force that may be organised for Imperial purposes, and in reply I am to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that the Marquis of Hartington is not aware of any intention to organise such a force.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) H. G. DEEDES.

No. 3.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to GOVERNOR-GENERAL the MOST
HON. THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.C.M.G.

MY LORD,

Downing Street, January 1, 1885.

I COMMUNICATED to the Secretary of State for War a copy of your Despatch of the 25th of November last,† with the letter which accompanied it from Major-General Laurie addressed to your Lordship, expressing his desire for military employment in connexion with any Canadian Force which might be organised for Imperial service, and I transmit to you herewith a copy of a letter‡ which has been received from the War Office in regard to this application.

The Marquis of Lansdowne.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 4.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL the MOST HON. THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.C.M.G.,
to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Ottawa, February 7, 1885.—General Laurie urgently renews his offer to raise Canadian Corps for service in Egypt.

No. 5.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 7, 1885.

WITH reference to your letter of the 24th of December last,‡ I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Hartington, a copy of a telegram§ from the Governor-General of Canada relating to the offer of General Laurie to raise a Canadian Corps for service in Egypt.

The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

* Enclosure in No. 1.

† No. 1.

‡ No. 2.

§ No. 4.

No. 6.

The HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA to COLONIAL OFFICE

10, Victoria Chambers, Victoria Street, S.W.,

February 9, 1885.

SIR, I HAVE the honour to transmit, for the information of the Earl of Derby, a copy of a telegram received from Colonel Arthur Williams, M.P., of Port Hope, Canada, commanding the 46th "East Durham" (Ontario) battalion of infantry, placing his services and those of his regiment at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government for immediate foreign service.

In requesting that Lord Derby will be so good as to bring the matter before the Secretary of State for War, I venture to hope that his Lordship will be able to strongly recommend the acceptance of the offer.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) CHARLES TUPPER,
High Commissioner.

Enclosure in No. 6.

CABLEGRAM from Colonel ARTHUR WILLIAMS to Sir CHARLES TUPPER.

Ottawa, February 7, 1885.

Have offered my services with regiment for immediate foreign service, as earnest Canadian loyalty. Militia authorities here approve. Please press acceptance by Home authorities.

No. 7.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL THE MOST HON. THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.C.M.G.,
to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G. (Received February 10, 1885.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Applications coming in offering to raise troops for active service in Egypt. Please inform me whether War Department is likely to accept such offers.

No. 8.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to GOVERNOR-GENERAL the MOST
HON. THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.C.M.G.

TELEGRAPHIC.

February 10, 1885.—General Laurie and Colonel Williams' proposals* to enrol and command regiments Canadian Volunteers. Before further considering these offers Her Majesty's Government wish to know whether they are sanctioned and recommended by Dominion Government; and if it should be possible to accept one only and not both, which should have preference.

* See Nos. 1 and 6.

No. 9.

GOVERNOR the RIGHT HON. LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, G.C.B. (NEW SOUTH WALES) to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G.
(Received February 12, 1885.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Sutton Forest, February 12, 1885.—This Government offers Her Majesty's Government two batteries field artillery with one battalion of infantry to be transported by Orient steamer, and undertakes to land force at Suakim within 30 days after embarkation. I strongly urge that it may be accepted. Refusal will be deeply felt in the Colony. Difference between Colonial pay is the only difficulty.

No. 10.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL the MOST HON. THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.C.M.G.,
to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G.
(Received .)

TELEGRAPHIC.

February 12, 1885—Government ready to sanction recruiting by Canada for service in Egypt or elsewhere. Force should be specially enrolled from different parts of local battalions under Imperial Army Discipline Act Laurie preferable to Williams. I would suggest brigade of three battalions (five hundred), each from marine provinces, Old Canada and North-West. Laurie might command brigade and Williams one battalion Melgund would like to serve as brigade-major; entire cost would fall on Imperial Exchequer.

No. 11.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES to COLONIAL OFFICE.

5, Westminster Chambers,
Westminster, S.W.,
February 12, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information, a copy of a telegram I have received this morning, offering to Her Majesty's Government for service in the Soudan two batteries of field artillery with ten 16-pounder guns properly horsed, and an effective disciplined battalion of infantry, 500 strong, and undertaking to land the force at Suakim within 30 days from embarkation.

I beg leave to ask you to move the Earl of Derby to be so good as to immediately cause this offer to be submitted to Her Majesty's Government, and to furnish me with a reply, so that I may at once communicate the same to my Government.

The Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) SAUL SAMUEL.

Enclosure in No. 11.

Copy of telegram received by the AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES on the 12th February 1885 from the GOVERNMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES, dated Sydney, 12th February instant.

To "Samuel, London."

"This Government offers to Her Majesty's Government two batteries of our permanent field artillery with ten 16-pounder guns properly horsed; also an effective

and disciplined battalion of infantry, 500 strong; the artillery will be under command of Colonel Roberts, R.A., the whole force under command of Colonel Richardson. Commandant can undertake to land force at Suakim within 30 days from embarkation, reply at once.

“WILLIAM BEDE DALLEY,
Secretary.”

No. 12.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR, Downing Street, February 12, 1885.
WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 7th instant,* relating to the offer of General Laurie to raise a Canadian Corps for service in Egypt, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Marquis of Hartington, a copy of a letter † from the High Commissioner for Canada, enclosing a copy of a telegram from Colonel Arthur Williams, M.P., of Port Hope, Canada, commanding the 46th East Durham (Ontario) Battalion of Infantry, placing his services and those of his regiment at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government.

I am also to enclose copies of a telegraphic correspondence ‡ which has passed between the Secretary of State and the Governor-General of Canada upon the subject of these offers, and I am to request that the attention of the Marquis of Hartington may be drawn to the telegram from the Governor-General of this day's date, and to the suggestions contained therein.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.
The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

No. 13.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES to COLONIAL OFFICE

5, Westminster Chambers,
Westminster, S.W.,
February 13, 1885.

SIR, REFERRING to my letter of yesterday,§ in which I enclosed a copy of a telegram I had received from my Government, offering to Her Majesty's Government two batteries of artillery and five hundred (500) infantry for service in the Soudan, I have the honour to transmit, for Lord Derby's information, a further message in relation to the proposition of my Government, in which it is stated that they will defray all expenses in connexion with their offer.

May I ask you to be so good as to cause this further message to be made known to Her Majesty's Government immediately.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SAUL SAMUEL.
The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

Enclosure in No. 13.

Copy of Telegram received by the AGENT-GENERAL FOR New South Wales on the 13th February 1885, from the GOVERNMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES, dated Sydney, 13th February instant.

To “Samuel, London.”

“Re military assistance referring to telegram this morning you will understand that this Government defrays all expenses.

WILLIAM BEDE DALLEY,
Secretary.”

* No 5.

† No. 6.

‡ No. 7, 8, and 10.

§ No 11.

No. 14.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR VICTORIA to COLONIAL OFFICE.

8, Victoria Chambers, Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W.,

February 13, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for the information of the Earl of Derby, copy of a telegraphic despatch which I have this moment received from the Honourable the Premier of Victoria, offering the assistance of the Colony to England in the Egyptian campaign

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT MURRAY SMITH.

Enclosure in No. 14.

TELEGRAM.

Melbourne, February 13, 1885, 4.20 p.m.

“If England values assistance of Colonies in Egyptian campaign, assure Imperial Government that Victoria is ready to do her part as integral portion of empire.”

JAMES SERVICE,
Sorrento, Victoria.

No. 15.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 13, 1885.

WITH reference to your letter of the 9th inst.,* respecting an offer made by Col. Williams to place himself and his regiment at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government for foreign service, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you for your information a copy of a telegram† received from the Governor-General of Canada, in reply to one from his Lordship inquiring the views of the Dominion Government upon the subject of this application.

The High Commissioner for Canada.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 16.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 13, 1885.

WITH reference to the letter of this day's date‡ relating to offers from Canada for raising regiments for service with the Imperial Forces, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Marquis of Hartington, a copy of a telegram§ received from the Governor of New South Wales, and copy of a letter|| from the Agent-General for that Colony, enclosing a telegram received by him, containing, on the part of the Government of that Colony, an offer of two batteries of field artillery, fully equipped, and of one battalion of infantry.

* No. 6.

† No. 10.

‡ No. 12.

§ No. 9.

|| No. 11.

In transmitting for the consideration of Lord Hartington this fresh proof of the excellent and loyal spirit which animates Her Majesty's Colonial subjects, I am to request that Lord Derby may be informed of the answer which should be returned to the Government of New South Wales.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

P.S.—Since this letter was written Lord Derby has received a further communication* from Sir Saul Samuel intimating that the Government of New South Wales offers to defray all expenses connected with the troops offered by them.

No. 17.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR, Central Department, War Office, February 14, 1885.

In reply to your letter of the 13th instant,† relative to the offer of the Government of New South Wales of two batteries of field artillery and a battalion of infantry for service in the Soudan, I am directed to acquaint you that the Marquis of Hartington considers that this offer should be accepted with much satisfaction, but that it should be understood that the force must be placed absolutely under the orders of the General Officer Commanding as to the duties on which it will be employed.

He is advised that the force of artillery proposed is more than could be usefully employed, and suggests therefore that it should be limited to one battery.

The transport conveying the force should call at Aden for orders.

Lord Hartington is further of opinion that the Government of New South Wales should be confidentially informed that the plans of the General Officer Commanding are not fully formed, and should not be published, but that they may probably involve placing the troops in summer quarters after a short campaign from Suakim; also that the main operations against Khartoum may have to be deferred until the autumn.

If, with this knowledge, the Colonial Government would prefer the immediate despatch of the contingent, Her Majesty's Government would not desire to delay it.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

No. 18.

THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to GOVERNOR THE RIGHT HON.
LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, G.C.B. (NEW SOUTH WALES).

TELEGRAPHIC.

14th February 1885.—Yours 12th.‡ Her Majesty's Government accept offer with much satisfaction, but artillery force being too large for employment, will require only one battery.

Force will be absolutely under orders of General Commanding as to duties for which employed. Transport should call for orders at Aden.

Plans General not fully formed, must not be published, but may involve placing troops summer quarters after short campaign Suakim. Main operations against Khartoum may be deferred till autumn. If with this knowledge Colonial Government prefer immediate despatch force, no desire here to delay it.

* No. 13.

† No. 16.

‡ No. 9.

No. 19.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 14, 1885.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Hartington, a copy of a letter* from the Agent-General for Victoria, enclosing a telegram from the Premier of the Colony, offering assistance in the Egyptian campaign.

Lord Derby proposes, with the concurrence of Lord Hartington, to inform Mr. Murray Smith that Her Majesty's Government thank the Colonial Government for this offer of assistance, and are confident that should occasion arise the Colony of Victoria would be among the foremost in rendering effective service, but that the arrangements for the present campaign have now been made.

The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 20.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 14, 1885.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 12th and 13th instant,† offering to Her Majesty's Government, on behalf of the Government of New South Wales, two batteries of artillery and 500 infantry for service in the Soudan, free of expense to this country.

His Lordship has communicated this offer to the Secretary of State for War, and has pleasure in informing you that Her Majesty's Government accept it with much satisfaction. As, however, the proposed force of artillery is greater than could be employed, it will only be possible to accept the services of one battery.

It will, of course, be understood that the force must be placed absolutely under the orders of the General Commanding as to the duties on which it will be employed, and it is desired that the transport should call at Aden for orders.

I am to add, in confidence, that the plans of the General in Command, though they are not fully formed, and should not be made public, may probably involve placing the troops in summer quarters after a short campaign from Suakin; and that the main operations against Khartoum may have to be deferred till autumn.

If with this knowledge the Colonial Government prefer to despatch the contingent immediately, there is no desire on the part of Her Majesty's Government to delay its departure.

Lord Derby has addressed a telegram to this effect to the Governor of New South Wales.

The Agent-General for
New South Wales.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 21.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

War Office, February 16, 1885.

I HAVE laid before the Secretary of State for War your letters of the 9th and 13th instant,‡ and in reply I am directed by the Marquis of Hartington to inform you that he highly appreciates the feeling which has prompted the Government of the Dominion of Canada to offer facilities for raising a force for Imperial service at this juncture of affairs, but that the time which must necessarily elapse before such a force could be raised, organised, and equipped, renders it undesirable to take advantage of the offer at the present time.

* No. 14.

† Nos. 11 and 13.

‡ Nos. 5 and 16.

The offer of the Government of New South Wales, which has been accepted by Her Majesty's Government, was to provide an organised force fully equipped and ready for immediate service, and the Government of the Dominion will, no doubt, fully appreciate the difference between the two offers as regards the use which could be made of them by Her Majesty's Government, and will not, Lord Hartington feels sure, consider that in declining their patriotic offer for the present, any undue preference has been given to the Colony of New South Wales.

It is anticipated that the force already under orders will be sufficient for the military operations which are to be immediately undertaken, but if it should appear that they are likely to be extended and prolonged until next autumn, Lord Hartington would gladly take into consideration the proposals which have been made by the Government of the Dominion of Canada.

In the meantime Lord Hartington would be glad to be more fully informed of the general scope and character of these proposals, including the rates of pay and other conditions of service suggested.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

No. 22.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES to COLONIAL OFFICE.

5, Westminster Chambers, Westminster, S.W.,
February 16, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your information and that of the Secretary of State for War, a copy of a telegram which I have this morning received from my Government, asking certain questions with regard to the ammunition, forage stores, &c. required by the artillery and infantry about to proceed from Sydney for service in the Soudan.

You will notice that the telegram embraces some matters about which I have no need to trouble the War Department, but I should be glad if you would ask the Earl of Derby to be so good as to cause the telegram to be laid before the Secretary of State for War, in order that I may, at the earliest possible moment, be furnished with information to enable me to reply to the questions relating to his Department.

As in all probability I shall be receiving messages regarding this matter which may require instant attention, I take leave to ask that if the Secretary of State for the Colonies sees no objection, I may, upon such occasions as require it, communicate direct with the War Department.

The Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) SAUL SAMUEL.

Enclosure in No. 22.

Telegram received by the AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, on the 16th February 1885, from the GOVERNMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES, dated Sydney, 16th February instant.

To "Samuel, London."

"We hope our force will embark on Tuesday third March. We propose sending ammunition, stores of all kinds, and forage for six months. Ascertain and inform at once whether Imperial military authorities will take charge, for distribution, of two last, and undertake the payment of force, to be recouped by Colony, and will they find regimental transport during operations. Send to Suakim a thousand suits of clothing, with weather leggings for service in the field, of artillery and infantry. Of the great coats already ordered in London send a thousand to Suakim. Great enthusiasm here, and munificent contributions to Patriotic Fund flowing in. Reply at once.

"WILLIAM BEDE DALLEY."

No. 23.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Office of Agent-General for South Australia,
8, Victoria Chambers, Westminster,
London, S.W., February 16, 1885.

SIR.

I HAVE the honour to transmit copy of a telegram received this day from the Government of South Australia, offering to send, free of expense to the Imperial Government, 250 infantry, with the proper number of officers, for service in the Soudan.

May I request that you will be so good as to bring this matter under the consideration of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies as soon as possible; and I should feel much obliged by receiving an early reply, in order that I may telegraph the same to the Colonial Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ARTHUR BLYTH,
Agent-General.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

 Enclosure in No. 23.

Telegram received by the AGENT-GENERAL FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA from the GOVERNMENT
AT ADELAIDE, dated the 16th February 1885, 5.10 p.m.

Please intimate to the Imperial Government that South Australia offers, at her own expense, to supply 250 infantry, with officers, for service in the Soudan.

 No. 24.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 16, 1885.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant,* respecting the offer of the New South Wales Government to place troops at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government for service in the Soudan; and I am to state that the Governor of the Colony and the Agent-General have been informed accordingly.

A copy of the telegram† sent to Lord A. Loftus is enclosed.

The Under-Secretary of State,
War Office.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

 No. 25.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES to COLONIAL OFFICE

5, Westminster Chambers, Westminster, S.W.,
February 17, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Bramston's confidential letter of the 14th instant,‡ in which you are good enough to inform me that Her Majesty's Government accepts with much satisfaction the offer of my Government to send to Suakin artillery and 500 infantry for service in the Soudan.

* No 17

† No 18.

‡ No. 20.

I observe that as the force of artillery offered is greater than can be employed, it will only be possible to accept the services of *one* battery, and that the force despatched must be absolutely under the orders of the General Commanding as to the duties on which it will be employed.

I have telegraphed your reply to my Government.

The Under-Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SAUL SAMUEL.

No. 26.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 17, 1885.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to inform you that a copy of your letter of yesterday's date,* and its enclosure, relating to the New South Wales contingent for service in the Soudan has been forwarded to the War Office with a request that an answer may be sent to you direct, and with a suggestion that you should communicate direct with that Department on any similar points of detail.

I am to add, however, that Lord Derby will be glad to be favoured with any information of interest as to the further arrangements in connexion with this force.

The Agent General for
New South Wales.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 27.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR VICTORIA to COLONIAL OFFICE

8, Victoria Chambers, Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W.,

SIR,

February 17, 1885.

WITH reference to my letter to you of the 13th instant,† respecting the offer of my Government to render England assistance in the Egyptian campaign, I have the honour to enclose, for the information of the Earl of Derby, copy of a further telegram which I have just received from the Honourable the Premier on the subject.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ROBT. MURRAY SMITH.

Enclosure in No. 27.

TELEGRAM.

“ Victoria willing send 600 or 700 men fully equipped, consisting of naval brigade and mounted infantry. Federal action for formation of Australasian contingent has been suggested, and correspondence on this head is now passing between Colonies. Reply promptly views Imperial Government.

* No. 22.

† No. 14.

No. 28.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR QUEENSLAND to COLONIAL OFFICE

Queensland Government Office,
1, Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street,
London, S.W., February 17, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour, by direction, to state, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that the Agent-General has received the following telegram from his Government:—

“Men wishing to volunteer for Soudan offer services Colonial Government. Inquire and state by telegraph whether assistance from Colonial corps is desired by Her Majesty’s Government,”

and I have to request that the decision of Her Majesty’s Government may be communicated to the Agent-General as soon as possible to enable him to telegraph to the Colony.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) CHAS. S. DICKEN,
Secretary.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies,
Downing Street.

No. 29.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

February 17, 1885.

WITH reference to the letter from this office of 14th instant* regarding the offer of the New South Wales Government to send troops for service in the Soudan, I am directed by the Secretary of State for War to acquaint you, for the information of the Earl of Derby, that Lord Wolseley has telegraphed that he is “proud to have the honour of commanding Australian troops in the field.”

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

No. 30.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES to COLONIAL OFFICE.

5, Westminster Chambers, Westminster, S.W.,
February 17, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this day’s date,† and to express my thanks that you have arranged for the War Office to forward their answer to my inquiries of yesterday direct to me.

I note also that it is suggested that I should in like manner communicate direct with that Department on any similar points of detail relating to the contingent about to proceed from Sydney for service in the Soudan.

In obedience to the expressed wish of the Earl of Derby, as communicated to me in your letter under acknowledgment, I shall have great pleasure in acquainting his Lordship, from time to time, with any information of interest as to the further arrangements in connexion with this force. I therefore take this opportunity to transmit herein for his Lordship’s information copies of two telegrams that I have this day received from my Government, one of which I forward direct to the War Office.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) SAUL SAMUEL.

The Under Secretary of State
for the Colonies.

Enclosure 1. in No. 30.

Sydney, February 17, 1885.

“Inform War Office that we shall require no reserved stores; that we are providing spare parts and material of repairs; that we are sending 300 rounds per gun and 500 rounds per rifle; battery of six guns, 212 men, 522 infantry, and 200 horses. Contingent leaves 3rd March.”

Enclosure 2. in No. 30.

Sydney, February 17, 1885.

“Munificent contributions from colonists in favour of Patriotic Fund daily being made. Numbers of wealthy colonists offer 1,000*l.* a year while Colonial Contingent is engaged.”

No. 31.

WAR OFFICE to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR,

War Office, February 17, 1885.

HAVING laid before the Secretary of State for War your letter of the 14th instant,* enclosing copy of a telegram from the Premier of Victoria, offering assistance in the Egyptian campaign, I am directed to acquaint you that Lord Hartington concurs in the answer which the Earl of Derby proposes to convey through the Agent-General of that Colony.

Lord Hartington thinks, however, that it would be as well to point out to Mr. Murray Smith the distinction between the offer of his Government and that of the New South Wales Government which has been accepted.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) RALPH THOMPSON.

No. 32.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 17, 1885.

WITH reference to your letter of the 14th, and to the reply from this Department of the 16th instant,† respecting the despatch of a contingent from New South Wales to Suakin, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, to be laid before the Marquis of Hartington, a copy of a letter‡ from the Agent-General for the Colony enclosing a telegram from the Acting Premier on the subject.

Lord Derby would be glad if the Marquis of Hartington would cause a reply to the inquiries made in that telegram to be addressed direct to Sir Saul Samuel, who will be informed accordingly and requested to communicate direct with the War Office on any similar points of detail that may arise.

The Under Secretary of State,
War Office.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No. 33.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Office of Agent-General for South Australia,
8, Victoria Chambers, Westminster,
London, S.W., February 18, 1885.

SIR,

REFERRING to my letter addressed to you on the 16th instant,§ covering copy of a telegram from the Government of South Australia, offering to supply 250 infantry for service in the Soudan, I now have the honour to transmit copy of a further telegram, of

* No 19.

† Nos. 17 and 24.

‡ No. 22.

§ No. 23.

this day's date, intimating that if the Imperial Government should accept this offer, South Australia would endeavour to act in concert with the other Colonies with the view to the formation of an Australian Contingent.

May I ask you to be so good as to lay this communication before the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies for consideration in connexion with the letter above referred to.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ARTHUR BLYTH,
Agent-General.

The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Enclosure in No. 33.

Telegram received by the AGENT-GENERAL FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA from the GOVERNMENT AT ADELAIDE, dated February 18, 1885, 11.45 a.m.

Should our offer relative Soudan be accepted we shall endeavour to act in concert with other Colonies with view to foimation Australian Contingent. Please inform authorities.

No. 34

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to the GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF CANADA and the GOVERNORS OF NEW SOUTH WALES, VICTORIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, AND QUEENSLAND.

TELEGRAPHIC.

February 19, 1885.—The Queen begs me to express Her warm and grateful feelings to the Colonies for their proffered aid, which is most satisfactory.

No. 35.

The RIGHT HON THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to GOVERNOR-GENERAL the MOST HON. THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.C.M.G.

TELEGRAPHIC.

February 19, 1885.—Her Majesty's Government highly appreciate patriotic offer by Dominion Government with respect to force foreign service, but length of time before they could be embarked for active service is obstacle to immediate availing of it. New South Wales offer was fully armed and equipped force to sail immediately, and Dominion Government will appreciate difference as regards use to which they could be put. Force under orders is considered sufficient at present, but if operations prolonged till autumn Her Majesty's Government would gladly take into consideration offer. Meanwhile would be glad to know more fully character of proposals, including pay and other conditions service.

No. 36.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES to COLONIAL OFFICE.

5, Westminster Chambers, Westminster, S.W.,

MY LORD,

February 19, 1885.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a copy of a telegram that I have this morning received from my Government, expressing the grateful thanks of the Colonists of New South Wales for Her Majesty's gracious message, which you were good enough to hand to me yesterday.

I shall be glad if your Lordship will be pleased to cause this message to be laid before the Queen.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SAUL SAMUEL.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

Enclosure in No. 36.

Telegram received by the AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES, on the 19th February 1885, from the GOVERNMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES, dated Sydney, 19th February instant.

To "SAMUEL, London

"Colonists deeply grateful for Her Majesty's sentiments towards the Colonies.

"WILLIAM BEDE DALLEY,
"Acting Colonial Secretary."

No. 37.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 19, 1885.

WITH reference to the letter from this Department of the 17th instant,* and to previous correspondence respecting the offer of the New South Wales Government to send a force for service in the Soudan, I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you a copy of a letter† from the War Office announcing the receipt of a telegram from Lord Wolseley.

I am, &c.,
The Agent-General for New South Wales (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

No 38.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 19, 1885.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to acquaint you that by the Queen's command His Lordship has addressed the following telegram to the Governor-General of Canada:—

"The Queen begs me to express her warm and grateful feelings to the Colonies for their proffered aid, which is most satisfactory."

I am, &c.,
The High Commissioner for Canada. (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.

* No 26.

† No. 29.

No. 39.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 20, 1885.

THE Earl of Derby caused to be submitted to the Secretary of State for War a copy of your letter of the 9th instant,* respecting an offer by Col. Williams to place himself and his regiment at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government for foreign service.

The enclosed copy of a letter,† which has been received from the War Office in reply, will place you in possession of the reasons for which the military authorities, while warmly appreciating the patriotic spirit of the Dominion Government and people, have for the moment been unable to avail themselves of this offer and others of a similar character which have been made by Canadian officers.

I am to enclose a copy of a telegram,‡ in which the purport of the War Office letter has been communicated to the Governor-General

I am, &c.,
The High Commissioner for Canada (Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.

No. 40.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to GOVERNOR SIR W. C. F. ROBINSON, K.C.M.G. (SOUTH AUSTRALIA).

TELEGRAPHIC.

February 20, 1885.—Transmit following telegram to Governors —

Her Majesty's Government highly appreciate patriotic offers South Australia, Victoria, Queensland, with respect to force foreign service, but length of time before they could be embarked for active service is obstacle to immediate availing of it. Offer by New South Wales was fully armed and equipped force to sail forthwith, and other Governments will appreciate difference as regards immediate use. Force under orders is considered sufficient at present, but if operations prolonged till autumn Her Majesty's Government would gladly take into consideration offer.

No. 41.

COLONIAL OFFICE to WAR OFFICE.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 20, 1885.

I AM directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you, for communication to the Marquis of Hartington, a copy of a letter§ from the Agent-General for Victoria, enclosing a telegram from the Colonial Government, in which they offer to send 600 or 700 men, consisting of a naval brigade and mounted infantry, for service in the Soudan

I am also to enclose copies of two letters|| from the Agent-General for South Australia, enclosing telegrams from the Colonial Government, in which they offer to send, free of expense to Her Majesty's Government, 250 infantry, with the proper number of officers, and to act in concert with the other Colonies.

A copy is also enclosed of a letter¶ from the Agent-General for Queensland, stating that volunteers are offering their services in that Colony, and asking if assistance is required.

In accordance with an expression of the Marquis of Hartington's wishes, received informally yesterday afternoon, Lord Derby has addressed to the Governors of the above-mentioned Australian Colonies a telegram (of which I am to enclose a copy**) in similar terms to those used in the reply to the Canadian offers.

I am, &c.,
The Under Secretary of State, (Signed) JOHN BRAMSTON.
War Office.

§ No 27 * No 6 † No. 21. ‡ No 35.
|| Nos 23 and 33 ¶ No. 28 ** No. 34.

No. 42.

COLONIAL OFFICE to the AGENTS-GENERAL FOR VICTORIA,
SOUTH AUSTRALIA, and QUEENSLAND.

SIR, Downing Street, February 20, 1885.
 WITH reference to (your letters of the 13th and 17th instant*), (your letters of the 16th and 18th instant†), (your letter of the 17th instant‡), I am directed by the Earl of Derby to transmit to you a copy of a telegram§ which has been sent to the Governors of the Australian Colonies which have offered troops for service in the Soudam.
 I am, &c.,
 (Signed) ROBERT G. W. HERBERT.
 The Agents-General for
 Victoria, South Australia,
 and Queensland.

No. 43.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR VICTORIA to COLONIAL OFFICE.

SIR, 8, Victoria Chambers, Victoria Street,
 Westminster, S.W., February 21, 1885.
 I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, transmitting copy of a telegram§ addressed to the Governors of the Australian Colonies which have offered troops for service in the Soudan, and to state that I communicated the same to my Government by the mail of yesterday.
 I have, &c.,
 (Signed) ROBT. MURRAY SMITH.
 The Under Secretary of State,
 Colonial Office.

No. 44.

REUTER'S TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY to COLONIAL OFFICE.

Sydney, February 21, 1885.—The Patriotic Fund for the equipment of a New South Wales contingent for service in the Soudan now amounts to 15,000*l.* The preparations for the departure of the contingent are nearly completed.

The popular enthusiasm continues unabated, and the day of embarkation will be observed as a public holiday.

No. 45.

GOVERNOR the RIGHT HON. LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, G.C.B. (NEW SOUTH WALES), to the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G.
 (Received February 23, 1885.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

23rd February. The Queen's Message has been received here with grateful enthusiasm and feelings of heartfelt loyalty and affection to Her Majesty's person and throne.

* Nos 14 and 27.

† Nos. 23 and 33.

‡ No. 28

§ No. 34.

No. 46.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to GOVERNOR-GENERAL the
MOST HON. THE MARQUIS OF LANSDOWNE, G.C.M.G.

MY LORD,

Downing Street, February 24, 1885.

ON the 19th instant* I briefly acknowledged by telegraph the offers made by Canadian officers, with the sanction of the Dominion Government, to supply troops for military service in Egypt, and I have now great pleasure in assuring you that the Queen was much gratified by these loyal proposals, and has commanded me to express Her Majesty's high appreciation of the patriotic spirit by which they were prompted.

Her Majesty's Government are well aware that a contingent specially enrolled from the various local battalions of the Dominion, and commanded by such officers as Major-General Laurie and Colonel Williams, will, should circumstances admit of its employment in the present operations, form a very valuable addition to the forces under Lord Wolseley's command; and although they are not in a position to give directions for its immediate enrolment, they will inform you as soon as possible whether it will be in their power to avail themselves of a Canadian brigade at a later period of the year.

I am well aware that although Canada has fortunately had no occasion, and is not likely to have occasion, owing to the friendly feelings of its great neighbour and its distance from the complications of the Old World, to use its military resources, a powerful force could rapidly be raised in the various Provinces of the Dominion, and would be cheerfully placed at the disposal of the Queen for service beyond the sea in any exigency. Many thousands of these men have been well drilled, and excellent provision has been made for the education of their officers, and Her Majesty's Government are sensible that the spirited offers which have caused so much pleasure to this country represent but a small fraction of the assistance which would be readily tendered by the people of Canada if the necessity for it should arise.

The Marquis of Lansdowne.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 47.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to GOVERNOR the RIGHT HON.
LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, G.C.B. (NEW SOUTH WALES.)

MY LORD,

Downing Street, February 24, 1885.

WITH reference to the telegraphic communications which have passed between us respecting the offer of the Government of New South Wales to supply, for service in the Soudan, batteries of permanent field artillery and a battalion of infantry, all fully equipped and provisioned for immediate employment, it is my pleasing duty to convey to you a renewed assurance of the great satisfaction with which the Queen received the intelligence of this loyal offer. Her Majesty was very deeply gratified by the prompt and spontaneous action of the Colony, and it has given me sincere pleasure to find that, as the contingent is fully prepared and will sail in a few days, it has been possible to employ it in the more immediate military operations.

The progress which has been made by New South Wales in common with the other Australasian Colonies during recent years in organising the local defensive forces has been great and praiseworthy; but I could hardly have anticipated that your Government would be in a position to supply immediately, and with complete efficiency, an important contingent fully prepared for foreign service in a distant country.

Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much pleasure that the generous desire of your Government that the New South Wales contingent should be placed at the disposal of the Queen without any cost to the people of this country has been warmly supported by most liberal private donations; and that large sums, amounting to many thousands of pounds, have already been contributed by gentlemen in the Colony to defray the expenses of the force.

Lord Augustus Loftus.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) DERBY.

No. 48.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to the GOVERNORS of VICTORIA, QUEENSLAND, and SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

SIR,

Downing Street, February 24, 1885.

I HAD the honour to address you by telegraph on the 20th instant,* in reply to the offer of the Government of (Victoria), (Queensland), (South Australia), to supply [a naval brigade and†] troops for service in the Soudan, and I have now much pleasure in requesting that you will communicate to your Ministers this fuller expression of the satisfaction and gratitude with which the Queen received the announcement of the generous and patriotic desire of the Colony under your Government to furnish a contingent to Her army.

It would have afforded Her Majesty's Government much gratification if they had been in a position to avail themselves at once of the generous proposals of Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland; but in these cases, as in that of Canada, the probability that the military operations now in progress may be suspended during the hotter months of the summer, has precluded the immediate employment of any force not actually prepared and equipped like that tendered by New South Wales. They will, however, consider carefully and without delay what arrangements may best be made for employing an Australian force at a later period of the year; and I am glad to understand that the question of uniting the colonial contingents into one Australian brigade is being considered.

This is by no means the first occasion on which the Australian Colonies have assisted this country by very liberal contributions, but the desire and the power to offer effective military help in a campaign at a great distance from their shores, of which they have now given such satisfactory proof, marks a distinct and important advance in their political growth.

You are already aware that this fresh evidence of the increasing sympathy and affection of the Australian Colonies for the Mother Country has been received throughout Great Britain with deep emotion and gratification, and it may be confidently hoped that the union which is based upon such sentiments of mutual regard must be close and enduring.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) DERBY.

The Governors of Victoria, Queensland,
and South Australia.

No. 49.

The HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA to COLONIAL OFFICE.

9, Victoria Chambers, London, S.W.,

February 24, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant,‡ respecting an offer by Colonel Williams and other Canadian officers to place themselves and regiments at the disposal of Her Majesty's Government for foreign service.

I am obliged to the Earl of Derby for making me acquainted with the correspondence which has taken place between the Colonial Office and the War Office on the subject, and with the reasons which have prevented Her Majesty's Government availing themselves of the offers for the moment.

Copies of the letters will be transmitted to the Canadian Government, and I venture to think that the gratifying expressions contained in the correspondence will be appreciated in the Dominion.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) CHARLES TUPPER.

The Under Secretary of State for
the Colonies.

* No. 34.

† To Victoria only.

‡ No. 39.

No. 50.

The AGENT-GENERAL FOR NEW SOUTH WALES to COLONIAL OFFICE.

5, Westminster Chambers,
Westminster, S.W.,

February 24, 1885.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Bramston's letter of the 19th instant,* having reference to the offer of the New South Wales Government to send a force for service in the Soudan, in which you are good enough to forward a copy of a letter from the War Office, wherein the Earl of Derby is informed that Lord Wolseley had telegraphed to the Secretary of State for War, saying that "He is proud to have the honour of commanding Australian troops in the field." This information I duly transmitted, by telegraph, to my Government.

The Under Secretary of State,
Colonial Office.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) SAUL SAMUEL.

No. 51.

The RIGHT HON. LORD AUGUSTUS LOFTUS, G.C.B. (NEW SOUTH WALES), to
the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G. (Received March 3, 1885.)

TELEGRAPHIC.

Contingent of 800 men, 224 horses, embarked to-day for Suakin. Departure greeted enthusiastically. Hope to reach Suakin in 30 days.

No. 52.

The RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DERBY, K.G., to SIR W. C. F. ROBINSON,
K.C.M G (SOUTH AUSTRALIA).

TELEGRAPHIC.

4th March 1885—Her Majesty's Government are carefully considering patriotic offer of troops. While disposal of further contingents during summer heat in Soudan would be most difficult to arrange, if Colony, either independently or acting jointly with others, can dispatch force in August to arrive in Egypt in September, Her Majesty's Government will most gladly receive it. Desirable know early probable number, description, and previous training of force, also whether advisable to supply from home any officers and non-commissioned officers experienced in field. Important, if possible, each Colonial contingent should drill together during month or more before embarking. Early answer valuable. Send copy Governor of Victoria, Governor of Queensland.

* No. 37.