



ANNO QUINQUAGESIMO ET QUINQUAGESIMO
PRIMO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ.

A.D. 1887.

No. 412.

An Act to provide for the Payment by South Australia of Part of the Cost of the Establishment and Maintenance of an Additional Naval Force in Australasian Waters.

[Assented to, December 9th, 1887.]

WHEREAS the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the Governments of Her Majesty's colonies of New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, New Zealand, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia, having recognised the necessity for increasing the Naval Force for the protection of the Floating Trade in Australasian waters at their joint charge, have concluded, subject to the ratification and approval of the Parliaments of the said several colonies, an agreement for the establishment and maintenance of an additional Naval Force for that purpose, which agreement is set forth in the Schedule to this Act: And whereas, in order to give effect to the said agreement, it is desirable to ratify the same and to make provision for the payment by the colony of South Australia of that colony's share of the cost of such additional force—Be it therefore Enacted by the Governor of the Province of South Australia, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly of this province, in the present Parliament assembled, as follows:

Preamble.

1. This Act may be cited as "The Australasian Naval Force Act, 1887." Short title.

2. The agreement set forth in the Schedule hereto is hereby ratified and approved, subject nevertheless to its ratification and approval Ratification of agreement.

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approval by the Parliaments of the other Australasian Colonies whose Governments are parties to the said agreement.

Appropriation of annual contribution for ten years.

3. In each of the ten years during which the said agreement shall be in force there shall be issued and applied out of the General Revenue of the province, for the purposes of the said agreement, a sum bearing the same proportion to the total amount payable under Article VII. of the said agreement as the population of South Australia in each of such years respectively bears to the total population of the Australasian Colonies whose Governments are parties to the said agreement, and the said sum is hereby specially appropriated accordingly.

Mode of estimating population.

4. For the purposes of the last preceding section the population of each of the said colonies shall in each year be deemed to be such as is certified by the Registrar-General or other officer of such colony charged with the duty of compiling statistics, or giving such certificate, to have been the population of such colony as on the thirty-first day of December next preceding. Until any such certificate is given the population last certified by him shall be deemed to continue to be the population, subject nevertheless to an adjustment of the contributions when a fresh certificate is made.

Treasurer to pay contribution as directed by Governor.

5. The Treasurer shall issue and pay the amount of such contribution to such person and in such manner as the Governor by any warrant under his hand shall direct.

Treasurer to be allowed credit for contribution.

6. The Treasurer shall in his accounts, from time to time, be allowed credit for any sum or sums of money paid by him in pursuance of any such warrant or order, and the receipt or receipts of the person to whom the same shall be so paid shall be a full and valid discharge to him in passing his accounts for any such sum or sums as shall be therein mentioned, and he shall receive credit for the same accordingly.

Boundary of Australian Station.

7. The Australian Station referred to in Article IV. of the agreement is bounded—

North—On the north from the meridian of 95° east, by the parallel of the 10th degree of south latitude to 130° degrees east longitude; thence northward on that meridian to the parallel of 2° degrees north latitude; and thence on that parallel to the meridian of 136° east longitude; thence north to 12° north latitude and along that parallel to 160° west longitude.

West—On the west by the meridian of 95° east longitude.

South—On the south by the Antarctic Circle.

East—On the east by the meridian of 160° of west longitude.

In the name and on behalf of Her Majesty, I hereby assent to this Bill.

WM. C. F. ROBINSON, Governor.

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THE SCHEDULE.

AGREEMENT AS TO ADDITIONAL FORCE TO BE EMPLOYED FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE FLOATING TRADE IN AUSTRALASIAN WATERS.

The Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c., and the Governments of Her Majesty's colonies of New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, New Zealand, Victoria, Queensland, and Western Australia, having recognised the necessity of increasing the Naval Force for the protection of the floating trade in Australasian waters at their joint charge, have resolved to conclude for this purpose an agreement as follows :—

ARTICLE I.

There shall be established a force of sea-going ships of war, hereinafter referred to as "these vessels," to be provided, equipped, manned, and maintained at the joint cost of Imperial and Colonial funds. Force.

ARTICLE II.

These vessels shall be placed in every respect on the same status as Her Majesty's ships of war, whether in commission or not. Status.

ARTICLE III.

The officers and men of such of these vessels as are in commission shall be changed triennially, and of those in reserve as may be considered advisable. Change of crews.

ARTICLE IV.

These vessels shall be under the sole control and orders of the Naval Commander-in-Chief for the time being appointed to command Her Majesty's ships and vessels on the Australian Station. Control.

These vessels shall be retained within the limits of the Australian Station, as defined in the Standing Orders of the Naval Commander-in-Chief, and in times of peace or war shall be employed within such limits in the same way as are Her Majesty's ships of war, or employed beyond those limits only with the consent of the Colonial Governments. Limit of employment.

ARTICLE V.

Notwithstanding the establishment of this joint naval force, no reduction is to take place in the normal strength of Her Majesty's naval force employed on the Australian Station, exclusive of surveying vessels. No reduction of Imperial squadron.

ARTICLE VI.

These vessels shall consist of five fast cruisers and two torpedo gunboats, as represented by the *Archer* (improved type) and *Rattlesnake* classes in Her Majesty's navy. Of the above, three cruisers and one gunboat to be kept always in commission, the remainder being held in reserve, in Australasian ports, ready for commission whenever occasion arises. Number of vessels.

ARTICLE VII.

1. The first cost of these vessels shall be paid out of Imperial funds, and the vessels fully equipped, manned, and sent to Australia. Cost.

2. The colonies shall pay the Imperial Government interest at 5 per cent. on the first and prime cost of these vessels, such payment not to exceed the annual sum of £35,000. Interest on first cost.

3. The colonies shall, in addition, bear the actual charges for maintaining from year to year the three fast cruisers and one torpedo gunboat, which are to be kept in commission in time of peace, and also of the three other vessels, which are to remain in reserve, including the liability on account of retired pay to officers, pensions to men, and the charge for relief of crews : provided always that the claim made by the Imperial

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Imperial Government under this head does not exceed the annual payment of £91,000.

Cost of maintenance in war.

4. In time of emergency or actual war the cost of commissioning and maintaining the three vessels kept in reserve during peace shall be borne by the Imperial Government.

ARTICLE VIII.

Replacement of vessels if lost.

In the event of any of these vessels being lost they shall be replaced at the cost of the Imperial Government.

ARTICLE IX.

Terms of agreement.

1. This agreement shall be considered to become actually binding between the Imperial and the several Colonial Governments named in the first clause so soon as the Colonial Legislatures shall have passed special appropriations for the terms hereinafter mentioned, to which Acts this Agreement shall be attached as a First Schedule.

Period.

2. The Agreement shall be for a period of ten years, and only terminate if and provided notice has been given two years previously; viz., at the end of the eighth year, or at the end of any subsequent year, and then two years after such date.

Vessels to be property of Admiralty.

3. On the termination of the Agreement, these vessels to remain the property of the Imperial Government.

ARTICLE X.

Date of first payment.

1. The payments named in Article VII. shall be considered as payments in advance, and shall first become due and payable on the dates on which the several vessels are put in commission; and the period of ten years referred to in Article IX. is to be calculated from the date of the first vessel being put in commission.

Date of Agreement to commence.

Mode of payment.

2. The share of these payments due from each colony shall be paid annually in London by the Agents-General and the Crown Agents respectively to such account as the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty may direct.

Closing of accounts.

3. The accounts of these vessels shall be closed each year on the 31st March, and the difference between expenditure and £91,000 per annum for maintenance adjusted in subsequent annual payments, should the actual expenditure prove less than that sum.

ARTICLE XI.

Local defence forces.

Nothing in this Agreement shall affect the purely local naval defence forces which have been, or may be, established in the several colonies for harbor and coast defence. Such local forces in each colony to be paid for entirely by that colony, and to be solely under its control.

ARTICLE XII.

Vessels to be stationed in New Zealand waters.

In time of peace two ships, either of the normal Imperial squadron or of these vessels, shall be stationed in New Zealand waters as their head-quarters. Should, however, such emergency arise as may, in the opinion of the Naval Commander-in-Chief, render it necessary to remove either or both of such ships, he shall inform the Governor of the reasons for such temporary removal.