

respecting an indemnification arrangement for war losses, on the understanding that the arrangement shall be adhered to by all the Australian Colonies, and that any contribution under it shall be reckoned on the basis of population.

Will you be good enough to inform this Government, as soon as possible, what decision has been, or is likely to be, come to by the other colonies in this matter?

I have, &c.,  
MALCOLM FRASER.

### No. 18.

The PREMIER to the PREMIER of Tasmania.

SIR,— Premier's Office, Wellington, 4th December, 1885.  
Referring to my letter of the 4th September last on the subject of the defence of King No. 13. George's Sound, I have now the honour to inform you that this Government has reluctantly arrived at the conclusion that it is unable to express an opinion until Parliament has been consulted. The reason why Parliament was not consulted during the recent session was because we had not, neither have we yet, received replies from all the various Australian Colonies with whom we had communicated, but I trust we shall be in a position to submit the matter to Parliament at its next session.

I have, &c.,  
ROBERT STOUT.

The Hon. the Premier of Tasmania, Hobart.

### No. 19.

The PREMIER to the PREMIER, Tasmania.

SIR,— Premier's Office, Wellington, 4th December, 1885.  
Referring to my letter of the 4th September last on the subject of the amenability of No. 12. colonial forces, when serving with Imperial troops, to Imperial military laws, I have now the honour to inform you that, with the exception of your letter of the 27th August and one from the Nos. 9, 10, 11. Premiers of Victoria and Queensland, I am still without replies from the other Australian Colonies with which I had communicated. This Government has, however, come to the conclusion that it is desirable an Imperial Act should be passed the provisions of which could be adopted by the several colonies.

I have, &c.,  
ROBERT STOUT.

The Hon. the Premier of Tasmania, Hobart.

### No. 20.

The PREMIER to the PREMIER, New South Wales.

SIR,— Premier's Office, Wellington, 7th December, 1885.  
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 19,009, of the 14th No. 17. ultimo, enclosing two printed copies of correspondence with the Australian Governments, regarding the desirableness of combined action in the event of war, for which be good enough to accept my thanks.

I have, &c.,  
ROBERT STOUT.

The Hon. the Premier of New South Wales, Sydney.

### No. 21.

The PREMIER, Tasmania, to the PREMIER, New Zealand.

SIR,— Premier's Office, Hobart, 24th December, 1885.  
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant with No. 19. reference to the amenability of colonial forces, when serving with Imperial troops, to Imperial military law, and expressing the views of your Government with regard to an Imperial measure dealing with this subject.

I have, &c.,  
ADYE DOUGLAS.

The Hon. the Premier of New Zealand, Wellington.

### No. 22.

The PREMIER, Tasmania, to the PREMIER, New Zealand.

SIR,— Premier's Office, Hobart, 24th December, 1885.  
I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 4th instant with No. 18. reference to the defence of King George's Sound, and stating that your Government are unable to express an opinion on the subject until the question has been submitted to the Legislature of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,  
ADYE DOUGLAS.

The Hon. the Premier of New Zealand, Wellington.

### No. 23.

The PREMIER, New South Wales, to the PREMIER, New Zealand.

SIR,— Colonial Secretary's Office, Sydney, 28th January, 1886.  
Referring to my predecessor's letter of the 14th of November last, transmitting copies of No. 17. replies received to the circular letter of the 6th May last, regarding the desirableness of combined