

1887.
NEW ZEALAND.

NAVAL DEFENCE OF THE COLONY ETC.

(CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO).

[In continuation of A.-6, 1887.]

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

No. 1.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

CONFERENCE: Final proposals Imperial Government naval defence announced to-day. Firstly, they cannot waive 5 per cent. construction. Secondly, they assume extra cost war footing, and only ask colonies contribute peace footing. Thirdly, therefore total contribution is £125,000 round numbers, being £30,000, 5 per cent., and £90,000 maintenance. Thus colonies' liability definite and final, instead fluctuating. Fourthly, fleet remains one undivided entity, but exceptional position New Zealand recognized, and your two ships granted. They will be stationed, and only removed emergency. Sydney, Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania supported us generous language. Fifthly, delegates replied promising telegraph proposals immediately, and ask for instruction. Sixthly, proposals made that Board of Trade be requested arbitrate upon question apportionment between colonies upon basis population, trade, shipping combined. Seventhly, Imperial Government cannot go further. Lastly, Fitzherbert myself strongly advise you accept proposals. Conference resumes question defence Monday.

18th April, 1887.

F. D. BELL.

No. 2.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

DEFENCE: Subject approval of Parliament agree proposals providing two vessels stationed here. All colonies, including Fiji Perth, joining, and not responsible for withdrawals. We strongly urge High Commissioner Pacific should be Governor New Zealand, as best administered from here.

22nd April, 1887.

ROBERT STOUT.

No. 3.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the PREMIER.

CONFERENCE: Imperial Government recognize that any colonial assent now is subject adoption respective Parliaments. Secondly, understand condition respecting withdrawal means that each colony only answerable its own quota throughout ten years. Thirdly, is Fiji joining imperative, because I think unlikely? Fourthly, Imperial assistance Canada cable extremely unlikely at present. Lastly, Hebrides, Samoa, Tonga next Tuesday, presence Lord Salisbury.

22nd April, 1887.

F. D. BELL.

No. 4.

The PREMIER to the AGENT-GENERAL.

Fiji not imperative.

26th April, 1887.

ROBERT STOUT.

[Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation, nil; printing (1,350 copies), 12s.]

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1887.