

PAPERS IN REFERENCE TO THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR GOLD FIELDS (PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT), CORRESPONDING DIRECT WITH WARDENS OF GOLD FIELDS.

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No. 1.

The SUPERINTENDENT of AUCKLAND to the Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,—

Superintendent's Office,

Auckland, 19th June, 1872.

My attention has just been called to the fact that the Under-Secretary for Gold Fields has been ordering reports, returns, &c., to a very considerable extent, to be made direct to him by the officers on the Gold Fields. Permit me to direct your attention to the inconvenience which arises from this course. I order a report from one officer; a similar report is ordered, without my knowledge, from another officer, involving double labour. Masses of returns are ordered, which interfere materially with the performance of their duties by officers already fully employed; and returns could be obtained by me through officers whose duties would not be interfered with. Other inconveniences will, no doubt, suggest themselves to your own mind. I would, therefore, respectfully request that all instructions to Gold Fields officers be sent through me, so long as I have the honor to hold the delegated powers of administration of Gold Fields.

I have, &c.,

T. B. GILLIES,

Superintendent.

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No. 2.

The Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY to the SUPERINTENDENT of AUCKLAND.

SIR,—

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Wellington, 8th July, 1872.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Honor's letter, of the 19th ultimo, calling attention to the inconvenience which may arise from the supply by Wardens of Gold Fields, of returns direct to the Under-Secretary for Public Works in Gold Fields; and, in reply, to state that it has always been usual in case of information required respecting the Gold Fields by the Houses of Assembly, for the Government, through an Under-Secretary, to give instructions direct to the Wardens to supply it. This course has been followed in the instance to which you have referred, and whilst I regret any inconvenience which it may have occasionally caused, I believe that the general result has been to obviate the delay and misapprehension which commonly attend the demand and supply through circuitous channels of statistical information.

Upon enquiry I learn that the only return which may be considered at all laborious, is the list of mining Companies, and this return was required by a Circular to Wardens, dated so far back as 15th February, 1870, to be furnished in obedience to an order of the House of Representatives. I am not aware that any return called for had been previously furnished to your Honor, or to the Provincial Council; but, if so, it would be easy for the Warden to send a copy thereof, if printed, and if not printed to ask, if necessary, authority to engage clerical aid for copying it. I shall be ready, however, if you wish it, whenever a Warden is called on to furnish any special return, to inform you of the fact.

I have, &c.,

W. GISBORNE.

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No. 3.

DEPUTY-SUPERINTENDENT of AUCKLAND to Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY.

SIR,—

Superintendent's Office,

Auckland, 25th July, 1872.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 219, dated the 8th instant, relative to the order and supply of Gold Fields returns.

I have, &c.,

JOSEPH MAY,

Deputy-Superintendent.