

Duplicate

No.168

Executive

*Van Diemen's Land,
Government House,
25th July 1850*

My Lord,

1. In my Despatch of the 8th of January, 1850, I transmitted copy of a correspondence which had taken place between The Comptroller General and myself as to the expediency of inducing Passholders to remain in one service by allowing a diminution of the periods for which they are required to serve for a Ticket-of-Leave proportionate to the length of their continuous service.

2. Since writing that Despatch, the breaking up of the Establishment on board the "Anson" and the sanction which Your Lordship had given for the distribution of the Female Convicts into private service immediately on their arrival have brought the subject of the Regulations under which Female Passholders were allowed to enter service prominently under notice; and considering that no step could be more likely to lead to the reformation of the women than one which would give them settled habits, and allow that favorable relation to arise between master and servant which length of service is almost certain to produce, I have proposed that every engagement should be for twelve months, terminable during that period by the employer as heretofore, but terminable only by my authority on the part of the Passholder should any sufficient cause be shown; and that for every year of continuous service a deduction from the period for which they would otherwise be required to serve for a Ticket-of-Leave should be made in accordance with the following scale which was submitted in my Despatch of the 8th of January:-

| <i>Period of Service</i> | <i>Deduction</i> |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>1 year</i> | <i>2 months</i> |
| <i>1 year & 6 months</i> | <i>3 months & 2 weeks</i> |
| <i>2 years</i> | <i>5 months & 2 weeks</i> |
| <i>2 years & 6 months</i> | <i>8 months</i> |
| <i>3 years</i> | <i>11 months</i> |

and for each successive six months, a deduction increasing by two weeks. Thus, under this Regulation, a Convict remaining for three years in one service would become entitled to a deduction of eleven months, and, if she continued in the same service for six years, to a deduction of Three years, three months, and two weeks.

3. Entertaining a hope that this regulation might be found to have a beneficial tendency, I thought it desirable that the change in the Regulations should be brought to bear on the cases of the women who were about to be discharged direct from the ship, and I therefore published my intention of recommending the adoption of the arrangement in a notice, copy of which I enclose; and I have now to submit for Your Lordship's favorable consideration that I may receive Your Lordship's authority for carrying the proposed regulation into effect.

*I have the honor to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most
obedient servant,
W Denison*

*The Right Honble,
Earl Grey*

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CONVICT DEPARTMENT.

Comptroller-General's Office, 1st March, 1850.

HIRING OF FEMALE PASS-HOLDERS.

It is hereby notified that, from and after the 1st instant, every engagement for a Female Pass-holder will be considered as a hiring for twelve months from the date on which the engagement is formed; and all re-engagements as for the same period, commencing from the termination of the last agreement: both being terminable by the employer as heretofore, in the manner set form in the General Regulations, published under date 21st of August, 1847.

2.—It is also further notified, that the Lieutenant-Governor, being desirous that Female Pass-Holders should be induced to remain in their services, is now about to submit for the approval of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State, that Female Convicts shall be enable, by continuous service, materially to shorten the period which they are at present required to service for a Ticket-of-Leave,—a progressively increasing diminution of such period being granted for the first year, and for every subsequent six month, that a Female Pass-holder may remain in the same service. Provision will also be made for the cases of those women whose employers may dispense with their services through no fault of their own, by regarding the service of a Pass-holder as continuous who brings a certificate from her employer that her conduct has been satisfactory, and that she has been returned in consequence of the employer having no further need for her services. It is intended that the benefit of this regulation be extended retrospectively to every Female Pass-holder now in service. Female Pass-holders who marry will also be allowed to obtain a similar advance towards freedom by good conduct; and to enable them to do so, they must send in to the Comptroller-General's Office a certificate, at the end of every six months, from the Police Magistrate of the District, or Clergyman, or Minister of some Religious Denomination, that their conduct has been correct during six months.

3.—The Comptroller-General has further received the Lieutenant Governor's instructions to call the attention of employers of Female Pass-holders to the clause of the 7th Section of the Hiring Regulations, which requires that Female Pass-holders, when returned to the Government, should be sent under proper charge; and to notify, that Passholders will not be allowed to enter the service of any individual who may fail to comply with this direction.

4.—It is also further notified, that all Female Pass-holders who are hired direct from the ship in which they arrive, and who are returned with a certificate of good conduct, must be sent to the New Town Farm, Hobart town, or the Factory at Launceston.

J. S. HAMPTON,
Comptroller-General