

GOVERNMENT RESIDENCE,
SOLOMON ISLANDS.

EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS
No. 279/11

28th. November 1901.

MS 28.12.1.

Letter appended page 26
Woodford's kind regards in answer
copy of his despatch to the High
Commissioner
inform him that the operation of the
which may be if not under the existing
1902 & 1903 - ceases at end of March 1904
Islander may just end in Australia)
for employment of a P. I. Estover
31st Dec 1901. No. 1100. Mark the Section
1901 + send him 3 or 4 copies. MS

I have the honour herewith to forward,
for your information, a copy of a despatch which I
have this day addressed to His Excellency The
High Commissioner for The Western Pacific upon
the subject of the decrease in revenue of this
Protectorate that will result from the suppression
of the Queensland Labour Trade.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Charles M. Woodford.
Resident Commissioner.

The Right Honourable,
Edmund Barton K. C.
Premier,
etc. etc. etc.
Commonwealth of Australia.

Copy.

GOVERNMENT RESIDENCE,
SOLOMON ISLANDS.

Solomon Islands.

1901.

28th. November 1901.

No. 60.

Your Excellency,

I have the honour to inform you that by the S.S. "Titus" which arrived here from Sydney about the 21st. inst., an unofficial report has been received that the Federal Government has decided to put a stop to the Queensland Labour Trade at the end of the present year.

1. If this report is to be believed it becomes my duty to draw your attention to the serious effect it will have upon the revenue of this Protectorate.

2. The amount received by way of Ship License from Queensland Labour Ships during the financial year expired on 31st. last March was £860 out of a total revenue of £1905.

3. The amount received during the present year from Queensland Labour Ships up to date has been £540. Total revenue to date £1269 as against £1196 for corresponding period of the previous year.

4. If the trade had continued, the amount received before the end of next March would have amounted to about £900.

5. This will entail consequently an immediate loss to the funds of the Protectorate of over £300 during the current financial year and a prospective loss of
His Excellency,

Sir G. T. M. O'Brien K.C.M.G.

etc. etc. etc.

High Commissioner Western Pacific.

£900 per annum.

7. Under these conditions it is out of the question to hope that the Protectorate can in the immediate future be self-supporting, a condition which had been all but attained at the end of the last financial year, and which I was confidently hoping to have been able to achieve by the end of the present one.

8. At the same time there will be no immediate need for financial assistance as the funds already in hand should enable the Government to be carried on upon the present very economical basis up to the end of March 1904.

I have the honour to be ,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed)

Charles M. Woodford.