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## CORRESPONDENCE

Between the Provincial Secretary and the Gold Commissioner, Cassiar, respecting  
refund of sustenance allowance.

By Command.

T. BASIL HUMPHREYS,  
*Provincial Secretary.*

PROVINCIAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,  
7th April, 1880.

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*The Provincial Secretary to Mr. Vowell.*

VICTORIA, 22nd May, 1879.

SIR,—On the 25th February last, the House of Assembly passed the following Resolution, a copy of which I enclose, together with Report of Select Committee :—

“That the House adopt the Report of the Select Committee appointed to ascertain ‘How and in what manner the payment of \$750 as sustenance allowance to the Gold Commissioner at Cassiar was made?’ That this House is of opinion that the sustenance allowance paid to Mr. Vowell, for 1877 was made by the late Ministry in an improper manner, and in direct violation of a Resolution of this House, and that the Government should take steps to recover the same, with a view of giving proper effect to and upholding the Resolutions of this House.”

I have, therefore, in obedience to the order of the House, as expressed above, to request that you will be good enough to remit to the Treasury, with as little delay as possible, the amount of sustenance allowance drawn by you since the 16th April, 1877.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) T. BASIL HUMPHREYS,  
*Provincial Secretary.*

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*Mr. Vowell to the Provincial Secretary.*

LAKETON, CASSIAR, 28th June, 1879.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 22nd May last, in reference to a refund of sustenance allowance granted me for the year 1877.

I most respectfully beg to call the attention of the Government to the following facts, as borne out by the Resolution enclosed by you :—The money in question was not paid to or drawn by the Gold Commissioner and Stipendiary Magistrate of Cassiar, until authority was received in the usual form for the payment of said allowance. That payment was duly sanctioned by Order in Council.

I, as an Officer of the Government, consider that I cannot be held responsible for any irregularities of my employers, &c., more especially when I am ignorant of the same, and when my actions in connection therewith are governed by an adherence to the rules and regulations laid down for my guidance, as established by precedent during all time within my knowledge.

It is not for me to question the power of Orders in Council as bearing upon my present or future actions as a servant of the Government; mine is to act in accordance with them as far as it is possible for me to do so.

Without wishing, even in thought, to be considered as capable of being a party to anything that could in the least degree be interpreted as inimical to the proper respect due to the Resolutions of the House, &c., I would beg that the Government be so good as to reconsider the demand embodied in your letter of the 22nd of May, as above acknowledged.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) ARTHUR W. VOWELL.

