GALE

GALE PRIMARY SOURCES FACT SHEET

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

QUICK FACTS

Source Library: The National Archives, UK

Size: Approximately 400,000 pages from over 1,200 volumes

Content Types: Government documents, printed documents, and handwritten documents displaying acts, ordinances, proclamations, statutes, laws, code

Date Range: 1643–1900

Available: September 2026

Newly Digitized Materials: 100% new scanning

Disciplines Supported: Colonial history, legal history, international law, history of Australia and New Zealand, Asian history, British history, Canadian history, Caribbean history

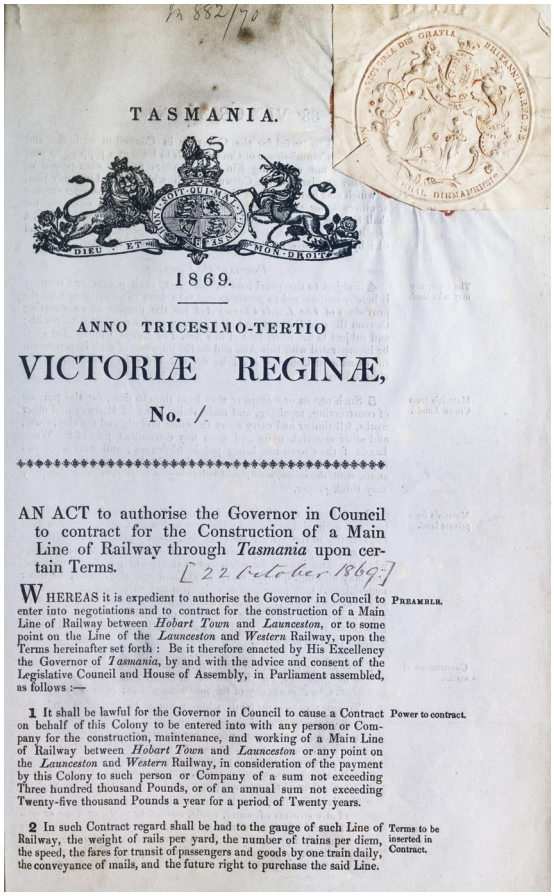
Complementary Gale Archives:

- *The Making of Modern Law*, particularly the complementary collection *British Colonial Law: Acts, Ordinances, and Proclamations from the Colonies, 1900–1989*
- *State Papers Online Colonial: Asia*
- *China and the Modern World: Imperial China and the West, Part I* and *Part II*

Usage Highlights:

- Discover text that includes handwriting at all search levels (basic, advanced, and document level) with Gale's handwritten text recognition (HTR) technology
- Mine this content within *Gale Digital Scholar Lab*
- Enhance student instruction with the Learning Center
- Get better results with recent improvements to navigation and the document viewer in *Gale Primary Sources*
- Cross-search content from other *Gale Primary Sources* archives
- As an alternative to searching, browse content at the collection level by region, and then in the file order in which it was arranged

THE MAKING OF MODERN LAW: BRITISH COLONIAL LAW: ACTS, ORDINANCES, AND PROCLAMATIONS FROM THE COLONIES, 1643–1900



TASMANIA.

1869.

ANNO TRICESIMO-TERTIO

VICTORIÆ REGINÆ,

No. /.

AN ACT to authorise the Governor in Council to contract for the Construction of a Main Line of Railway through *Tasmania* upon certain Terms. [22 October 1869.]

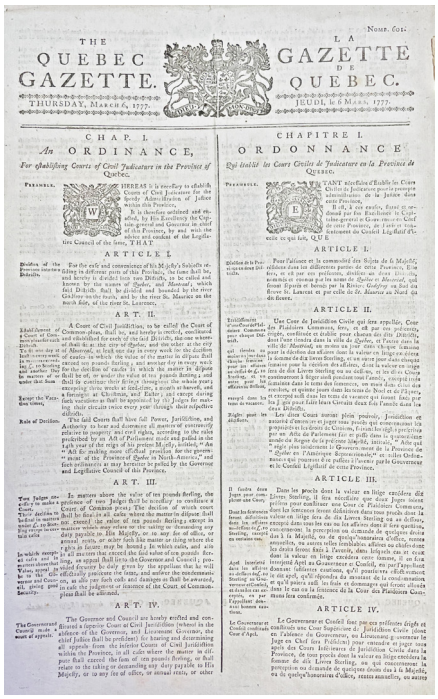
WHEREAS it is expedient to authorise the Governor in Council to enter into negotiations and to contract for the construction of a Main Line of Railway between *Hobart Town* and *Launceston*, or to some point on the Line of the *Launceston* and *Western* Railway, upon the Terms hereinafter set forth: Be it therefore enacted by His Excellency the Governor of *Tasmania*, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and House of Assembly, in Parliament assembled, as follows:— PREAMBLE.

1 It shall be lawful for the Governor in Council to cause a Contract on behalf of this Colony to be entered into with any person or Company for the construction, maintenance, and working of a Main Line of Railway between *Hobart Town* and *Launceston* or any point on the *Launceston* and *Western* Railway, in consideration of the payment by this Colony to such person or Company of a sum not exceeding Three hundred thousand Pounds, or of an annual sum not exceeding Twenty-five thousand Pounds a year for a period of Twenty years. Power to contract.

2 In such Contract regard shall be had to the gauge of such Line of Railway, the weight of rails per yard, the number of trains per diem, the speed, the fares for transit of passengers and goods by one train daily, the conveyance of mails, and the future right to purchase the said Line. Terms to be inserted in Contract.

COMPARE 250 YEARS OF LEGAL SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE BRITISH EMPIRE

This second part of *The Making of Modern Law: British Colonial Law: Acts, Ordinances, and Proclamations from the Colonies*, this collection joins the first part's twentieth-century focus to bring together the acts, ordinances, and proclamations enacted in British colonies for the two-and-a-half centuries leading up to 1900. Published in bound volumes, all held at The National Archives in the UK, this collection serves as a record of the development of the legal systems in the many colonies and Commonwealth countries and territories under British rule.


THE QUEBEC GAZETTE. THURSDAY, March 6, 1777.

LA GAZETTE DE QUEBEC. JEUDI, le 6 Mars, 1777.

CHAP. I.

An ORDINANCE,

For establishing Courts of Civil Judicature in the Province of Quebec.

CHAPITRE I.

ORDONNANCE

Qui établit les Cours Civiles de Judicature en la Province de Quebec.

ARTICLE I.

ARTICLE II.

ARTICLE III.

ARTICLE IV.

HOW IT ENHANCES RESEARCH

This follow-up module to *The Making of Modern Law: British Colonial Law: Acts, Ordinances, and Proclamations from the Colonies, 1900–1989* highlights key developments in the British Empire, from the establishment of its first colonies through to the height of the "Pax Britannia," when the Empire had reached the zenith of its geographical and political dominance at the end of the nineteenth century. The collection's content spans the territories of the British Empire from South Africa to Ceylon, Sarawak to Bermuda, and many more, enabling scholars to research and compare across the vast geographic areas.

This archive provides a key resource for the study of the establishment and development of colonial governance across a vast array of territories, from islands in the Caribbean to African regions that would become the modern nations of Kenya and Nigeria. This collection enables scholars to investigate the central role of the law in colonial authority, and how agents in British-held colonies embedded the crown's rule in the legal structures of its dominions.

SEPARATED BY REGION

The collection will be arranged by the following regional demarcations of records from Britain's Colonial Office and its predecessors, stored at The National Archives:

Colonial Office Records of Acts, Ordinances, and Proclamations: Africa
Colonial Office Records of Acts: Asia
Colonial Office Records of Acts, Government Gazettes, and Ordinances: Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Islands
Colonial Office Records of Acts: Europe
Colonial Office Records of Acts: Indian Subcontinent
Colonial Office Records of Acts: North America and the Caribbean
Colonial Office Records of Acts: South and Central America