

(No. 51.)



1893.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

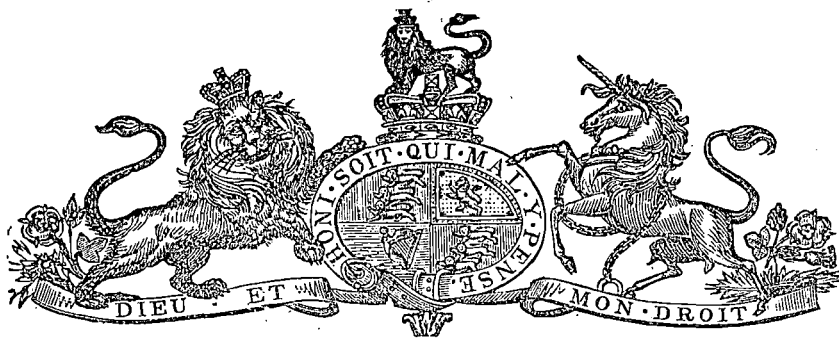
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F E D E R A T I O N :

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E .

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Laid upon the Table by the Premier, and ordered by the House of Assembly to be printed, July 20, 1893.



No. 2137.

*Premier's Department, Melbourne, 13th July, 1893.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to bring under your notice the following Resolution passed by the Federal Council on 3rd February last; viz. :—

“1. That this Council has observed with much satisfaction the proceedings of the National Australasian Convention of 1891, and trusts that the Federal Union of the Australasian Colonies, upon the general basis recommended by the Convention, may be accomplished at an early date.

“That, having regard to the importance of matters of federal concern that may require early attention, this Council is of opinion, whilst keeping in view the ultimate establishment of a more perfect system of Federal Union, that the efficiency and influence of the Council could in the meantime be usefully extended by increasing the number of Representatives from each Colony, except Crown Colonies, to five; and that it be an instruction to the Standing Committee to take immediate action to give effect to this object, by requesting the Governments of the Colonies represented in the Federal Council to move an Address to Her Majesty in their respective Legislatures, praying that she will be pleased to issue an Order in Council to give effect to the desired increase in the number of Representatives; and that the Standing Committee be also instructed to take such action as they think fit for securing the adhesion of the Colonies at present unrepresented in the Council.”

2. In accordance with this Resolution, I have communicated with the Governments of New South Wales and South Australia by letters, of which I enclose a copy herewith, urging that they should join the Federal Council.

3. With regard to Tasmania, I have now the honour to request that you will be so good as to take the necessary action with a view to the presentation of an Address to the Queen from the Legislature of your Colony under Section 5 of “The Federal Council of Australasia Act, 1885,” requesting that Her Majesty may be pleased to increase, by Order in Council, the number of Representatives to five for each Colony, except any Crown Colony.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. B. PATTERSON, *Chairman of the  
Standing Committee.*

*The Hon. HENRY DOBSON, M.H.A., Premier, &c., Hobart.*

FORWARDED for the information of the Hon. N. J. Brown.

For the Premier,

JAS. ANDREW, *Secretary.*

No. 2102.

*Premier's Department, Melbourne, 10th July, 1893.*

SIR,

As Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Federal Council, I have the honour to lay before you the following Resolution passed at the last Session of the Council :—

“1. That this Council has observed with much satisfaction the proceedings of the National Australasian Convention of 1891, and trusts that the Federal Union of the Australasian Colonies, upon the general basis recommended by the Convention, may be accomplished at an early date.

"2. That, having regard to the importance of matters of federal concern that may require early attention, this Council is of opinion, whilst keeping in view the ultimate establishment of a more perfect system of Federal Union, that the efficiency and influence of the Council could in the meantime be usefully extended by increasing the number of Representatives from each Colony, except Crown Colonies, to five; and that it be an instruction to the Standing Committee to take immediate action to give effect to this object, by requesting the Governments of the Colonies represented in the Federal Council to move an Address to Her Majesty in their respective Legislatures, praying that she will be pleased to issue an Order in Council to give effect to the desired increase in the number of Representatives; and that the Standing Committee be also instructed to take such action as they think fit for securing the adhesion of the Colonies at present unrepresented in the Council."

2. While it is my duty under this Resolution to submit it for your consideration, I cannot but think that the present time is especially opportune for considering whether it would not promote both the cause of Federation and the interests of your own Colony for New South Wales to now join the partial Federation already in existence.

3. It is a gratifying circumstance that a desire for federal union appears to have taken root in the popular mind, as shown by the movement in favour of Federation now occurring in many places: but some time may elapse before a Federal Government on the lines of the Australian Commonwealth Bill can be established, and in the meanwhile the Federal Council stands ready to hand as a legally constituted body with very considerable powers. It is the only legal machinery in existence for united action and united utterance on the part of the Colonies. I would add that its powers are perhaps less known, because of the abstinence of the Federal Council from exercising them out of deference to the great Colony of New South Wales, which has so far refrained from joining the Council.

4. I would point out, however, that it is now proposed to considerably enlarge the representation by increasing the number of Representatives of each Colony, except Crown Colonies, to five; and also that it is open to each Colony to appoint or elect its Representatives in the manner it deems best.

5. I beg now to ask your favourable consideration of the suggestion that New South Wales should avail herself of the advantage of being represented in the Federal Council.

I have, &c.

J. B. PATTERSON, *Chairman of the Standing Committee  
of the Federal Council of Australasia.*

*The Honorable Sir G. R. DIBBS, K.C.M.G., M.P., &c.,  
Chief Secretary, Sydney.*

No. 2103.

*Premier's Department, Melbourne, 10th July, 1893.*

SIR,

As Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Federal Council, I have the honour to lay before you the following Resolution passed at the last Session of the Council:—

"1. That this Council has observed with much satisfaction the proceedings of the National Australasian Convention of 1891, and trusts that the Federal Union of the Australasian Colonies, upon the general basis recommended by the Convention, may be accomplished at an early date.

"2. That, having regard to the importance of matters of federal concern that may require early attention, this Council is of opinion, whilst keeping in view the ultimate establishment of a more perfect system of Federal Union, that the efficiency and influence of the Council could in the meantime be usefully extended by increasing the number of Representatives from each Colony, except Crown Colonies, to five; and that it be an instruction to the Standing Committee to take immediate action to give effect to this object by requesting the Governments of the Colonies represented in the Federal Council to move an Address to Her Majesty in their respective Legislatures, praying that she will be pleased to issue an Order in Council to give effect to the desired increase in the number of Representatives; and that the Standing Committee be also instructed to take such action as they think fit for securing the adhesion of the Colonies at present unrepresented in the Council."

2. The Standing Committee, you will observe, are instructed "to take such action as they think fit for securing the adhesion of the Colonies at present not represented in the Council." I have therefore to invite your Government to take steps for the representation of South Australia in the Council.

3. I do not think it necessary to set forth to you the position or advantages of the Federal Council, as you have yourself been a Member. The increase of the number of Members of the Council has received your warm advocacy in the past; and the projected amendment of the Constitution in this direction will doubtless now have your full sympathy.

4. I will only add that the present time seems especially opportune for considering the foregoing Resolution of the Council. The desire for federal union appears to have taken root in the popular mind, as shown by the movement now occurring in many places in the Colonies; but some time may elapse before a Federal Government on the lines of the Australian Commonwealth Bill can be established, and, in the meantime, I heartily commend the proposal that the Federal Council should be enlarged and strengthened for *ad interim* purposes.

5. On all grounds I trust I may count on your Government taking action with a view to South Australia now availing itself of the advantages of being represented in the Council.

I have, &c.

J. B. PATTERSON, *Chairman of the Standing Committee  
of the Federal Council of Australasia.*

*The Hon. C. C. KINGSTON Q.C., M.P., &c.,  
Prime Minister, Adelaide.*