

(No. 105.)



1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

AGENT-GENERAL :

EXTRACTS FROM DESPATCHES FROM THE PREMIER.

Return to an Order of the Legislative Council. (Mr. Fysh.)

Ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed.



DESPATCHES FROM THE PREMIER TO THE AGENT-
GENERAL FROM AUGUST 17, 1892.

The Premier to the Agent-General.

19th August, 1892.

Translation.

WITH respect to payment of interest 1st January, can you place Treasury Bills, and at what price, two years' currency? Have prospects issue of fresh loan improved?

The Agent-General to the Premier.

London, 25th August, 1892.

Translation.

WILL probably be able to place Two hundred and fifty or Three hundred thousand Pounds sterling Treasury Bills, four per cent., two years' currency, between this and end of this year at about par. No prospect of early date issue of fresh loan.

The Premier to the Agent-General.

Hobart, 29th August, 1892.

Translation.

REFERRING to your telegram of 25th August, please to notify to London Westminster Treasury Bills Hundred and nine thousand and eight hundred Pounds sterling (£109,800) will be sent by next mail.

Premier's Office, Tasmania, 10th September, 1892.

No. 1506.

SIR,

IN reference to the suggested transfer of the Tasmanian Government Account from the Consolidated Bank to the London and Westminster Bank, the subject of your confidential Despatch No. 3, of the 26th February last, which has recently been under consideration by the Government, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to furnish me with answers to the following queries:—

(1.) Has the Consolidated Bank been asked to make the advances, promised by the London and Westminster Bank, to meet the engagements of the Colony to the end of the year? If asked, what reply was given?

(2.) Is the Consolidated Bank able and willing to make further advances during the year 1893, (should the loan not be floated) on Treasury Bills to the extent of £750,000, and will the London and Westminster Bank, in the event of the transfer of the Account, afford similar accommodation?

(3.) You are requested to report generally on the financial stability of the two Banks, and in regard to the capacity of each to render the Government financial assistance in times of great depression.

I have the honor, &c.

HENRY DOBSON.

Sir E. BRADDON, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for Tasmania,
London.

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Premier's Office, Tasmania, 17th September, 1892.

No. 1513.

SIR,

It has been the subject of much adverse comment, not only in Tasmania, but in the neighbouring Colonies and in the English press, that the Representatives of the Australian Governments in England have, in effect, afforded official recognition to certain speculative ventures and financial undertakings of questionable stability by accepting positions as Directors of such Companies.

The matter has recently been brought under the notice of the Parliament of Victoria; a motion having been agreed to the effect that in any future appointment it shall be stipulated that the Agent-General's whole time shall be devoted to the duties of the office, and that he shall not accept a position, whether of profit or otherwise, as a Director or Governor or Manager of any Banking, Financial, or Trading Company.

Similar views to the above have been very generally expressed in Tasmania, and commend themselves to the Members of the present Administration. It may be expected also that there will be an expression of Parliamentary opinion in favour of the termination of your connection with all the companies in England with which your name is associated as a Trustee, Manager, Director, &c.

Under these circumstances I have the honor to request (with regret that it is incumbent on me to reverse the decision of my predecessor), that you resign all the positions you may hold of the nature indicated, and that in future you decline to accept any similar positions.

I have, &c.

HENRY DOBSON.

*Sir E. BRADDON, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for Tasmania,
London.*

Premier's Office, Tasmania, 17th September, 1892.

No. 1514.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to address you on the subject of the concession made to you by the late Government in regard to the payment of your income tax out of public funds.

Ministers are of the opinion that, in view of the grave financial embarrassment of the Colony, and the reductions which are being made in the salaries of Civil Servants, it is but fair that their Officers in England should also come within the operation of the present policy of retrenchment.

As a first step to this end the permission to charge the income tax deductions in your department to the Government Account, communicated to you by my predecessor's Despatch, No. 1356, of the 5th March last is now revoked, and the practice which had previously obtained is to be reverted to.

I have, &c.

HENRY DOBSON.

*Sir E. BRADDON, K.C.M.G., Agent-General for Tasmania,
London.*

The Agent-General to the Premier.

London, 28th September, 1892.

Translation.

FINANCIAL Advisers approve of additional issue of Half million Pounds sterling—separate Act of Parliament—issue of fresh loan identic with existing Inscribed Stock. Unless compelled will not hamper Colony by engagement fixing time further loan.

The Premier to the Agent-General.

Hobart, 20th October, 1892.

Translation.

CONFIDENTIAL.—Enquire and state by telegraph whether the London and Westminster Bank will provide Fifty thousand Pounds sterling (£50,000) in the event of transfer of Account. If not, telegraph at once whether Treasury Bills, two years' currency, of equal amount can be placed December, and at what rate?

The Premier to the Agent-General.

Hobart, 21st October, 1892.

Translation.

INTIMATE to the Secretary of State for the Colonies Government give cordial support to recommendations Lieutenant-General Edwards that Military Officer should be selected for appointment as Governor of Tasmania specially qualified from a military point of view advise Australasian Governments at the time of war.

The Agent-General to the Premier.

London, 21st October, 1892.

Translation.

LONDON and Westminster Bank will advance Fifty thousand 31st December.

Premier's Office, Tasmania, 22nd October, 1892.

No. 1545.

SIR,

IN confirmation of my telegram of the 21st instant, of which a copy is sent for verification under cover of my Despatch, No. 1544, of to-day's date, I have the honor to request that you will use all the influence at your command to induce the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to act upon General Sir James Bevan Edwards's proposal as to the selection of an Officer possessing exceptionally high military qualifications for the position of Governor of Tasmania shortly to be vacated by Sir Robert Hamilton.

Such an appointment would be of great advantage to this Colony in particular, and generally to the whole Australasian group.

It may be anticipated that an early result would be the recognition of the importance of the Derwent as a base for naval strategical operations and as a coaling station, necessitating the expenditure of a considerable amount of money, which would be provided out of Federal funds, in strengthening our defences: possibly in the establishment of a Naval Depôt near Hobart, and ultimately in the construction of a graving dock.

At least we may expect more frequent and lengthy visits of Her Majesty's ships to our waters if the Vice-Regal Representative is of such reputation and experience as to qualify him to confer with and advise the Naval Commander-in-Chief in time of war. Further, but less direct, advantage might be derived from the conferences of such an Officer with the Governors of the neighbouring Colonies under similar circumstances.

I commend this important matter to your careful attention.

I have, &c.

HENRY DOBSON.

Sir E. BRADDON, *K.C.M.G.*, *Agent-General for Tasmania,*
London.

P.S.—I desire, of course, that the Australian Governments should know and understand that the Governor of Tasmania had been selected with the view of being made use of by the Colonies in the manner indicated by this letter.—H. D.