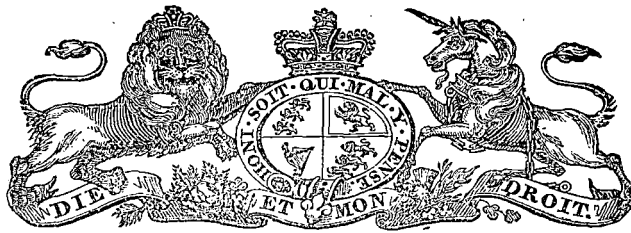


(No. 82.)



1880.

TASMANIA.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

HOSPITAL FOR INSANE, NEW NORFOLK :

**CORRESPONDENCE IN REFERENCE TO APPOINTMENT OF
MEDICAL OFFICERS.**

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, October 14 ; and ordered by the Council to be
printed, October 15, 1880.



Hobart Town, 12th July, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward to you the accompanying document from Dr. Huston.

The Commissioners desire me to inform you that discharge of the duties for so long a period of time has been quite satisfactory; and if the Government take a favourable view of his application, and that it would be in accordance with the Law, they would be pleased to know that it could be recognised by an addition to the sum to which he is entitled by Law.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

HENRY BUTLER, *President.*

Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, 6th July, 1880.

SIR,

WITH reference to a paragraph in my Annual Report to the Commissioners for 1879, I have now the honor to place myself in their hands with a view to being permitted to retire from the charge of this Institution on a pension at the close of my twenty-five (25) years of service, viz. on the 30th of September next.

I trust my long and arduous duties, and the general and uniform satisfaction I trust I have given to the Commissioners in the performance of them, will be favourably considered in submitting my claim for a retiring allowance to the Government. I will only add, that I am in my 68th year of age.

I have, &c.,

The Hon. DR. BUTLER, President of Commissioners.

G. F. HUSTON.

THE Colonial Secretary would be glad to receive the expression of the Colonial Auditor's opinion as to whether the provisions of the Superannuation Act will admit of any addition to the ordinary pension under Clause 1.

B. TRAVERS SOLLY.
13. 7. 80.

THE circumstances under which this Officer seeks to retire do not seem to the Auditor of such a nature as to warrant the Governor in Council granting a pension beyond the amount provided under Section 1 of the Superannuation Act, 34 Vict. No. 15, without the previous authority from Parliament.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

W. LOVETT,
Audit Office, 13th July, 1880.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 15th July, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, forwarding a communication from Dr. Huston, who wishes to retire on a pension on the 30th September next, when he has completed twenty-five years service, and expressing a hope that the Government would take a favourable view of this application, and that if in accordance with the Law it could be recognized by an addition to the sum to which he is entitled. In reply, I have to inform you that the Government will be prepared to accede to Dr. Huston's wishes as regards his retirement on pension from the 1st October next; but, with respect to any addition to the ordinary pension as calculated under Section 1, the Colonial Auditor states, "that the circumstances under which this officer seeks to retire do not seem to the Auditor of such a nature as to warrant the Governor in Council granting a pension beyond the amount provided under Section 1 of 'The Superannuation Act,' 34 Vict. No. 15, without the previous authority from Parliament."

I have, &c.,

*The President of the Commissioners of the Hospital
for the Insane, New Norfolk.*

WM. MOORE.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 13th August, 1880.

SIR,

WITH reference to the approaching retirement of Dr. Huston from the office of Medical Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, I have the honor to acquaint you that the Government are desirous to receive from the Commissioners the expression of their views in connection with the appointment of a successor to that gentleman.

I should be glad to hear from you upon this subject at as early a date as may be practicable, in order that the required provision may be made in the Estimates for next year.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The President of the Commissioners of the Hospital
for Insane, New Norfolk.*

16th August, 1880.

SIR,

IN accordance with your desire, expressed in a communication (No. 2104) addressed to me as President of the Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum, New Norfolk, I called a meeting of the Commissioners for Saturday, 14th August, and I am happy to inform you that the full body of Commissioners met at New Norfolk on that day.

We had the opportunity of hearing from the Hon. Dr. Agnew, in forcible and precise terms, the views of the Government on the question. After a prolonged discussion, during which each member of the Commission expressed his opinion, the following Resolution was passed unanimously by the Commissioners except the Hon. Dr. Agnew:—

“The Commissioners are of opinion that it is desirable to secure the services of Dr. Macfarlane as successor to Dr. Huston at the same rate of salary as his predecessor, viz., £500 per annum and residence, but that he be precluded from private practice; and that, with a view to the miscellaneous duties which devolve upon the Superintendent, and to meet the professional requirements of the Institution, it is necessary that the appointment of an Assistant Medical Officer should be provided for as heretofore.”

I am further instructed by the Commissioners to urge upon the attention of the Government their reasons for having come to these conclusions.

In recommending Dr. Macfarlane to the Government for the offices of Medical Officer and Superintendent which will be vacant on the retirement of Dr. Huston, the Commissioners were influenced by their knowledge of the highly satisfactory manner in which the duties of the offices were fulfilled during the absence of Dr. Huston, as well by the skill and attention brought to the performance of this duty as the urbanity and courteousness of his manner to the officers of the Institution and to the patients.

In recommending that the salary of the offices should be £500 as heretofore, the Commissioners recognised the arduous duties of the offices not being confined to the medical charge of the patients, but also having to superintend the economical working of the Institution, the supervision of the officers of the Establishment, the management of the Farm, and the care of the Idiot Asylum; also the peculiar harassing and depressing nature of the duties to the medical charge: the altered character of the Institution during the last few years must also be taken into consideration. The number of admissions has been steadily increasing; and from the generality of new cases being of a different type the responsibilities and anxieties of the medical officer are much increased.

In concluding this subject it must be noted that the medical officer being precluded from private practice, and the claim to pension being not now existent, would make a considerable diminution in the emoluments of the office.

Referring to the necessity of an assistant medical officer, the Government may not be aware that this subject has engaged the serious attention of the Commissioners for a long period of time; and it has been their opinion that it is essential to the good conduct of the Institution, and the safety of the patients, to provide for a second medical officer.

It will be in the knowledge of the Government that the experiment of carrying out the duties of the Institution was tried several years ago with one officer. After a short time the appointment had to be reverted to. It is essential also to allay the natural anxieties of the relatives and friends of the patients in the Asylum that the same adequate staff should be continued which has heretofore obtained. The attendance of Dr. Huston could not in many cases be secured. On his retirement

from official life his practice will be extended over a large and widely spread district, having no medical man nearer than Hamilton or Hobart Town; and further, what is most important, Dr. Huston is not himself desirous of undertaking the new duties.

I have, &c.

HENRY BUTLER, *President of the Asylum,*
New Norfolk.
 To the Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Hobart Town.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 20th August, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 16th instant, having reference to the appointment of a successor to Dr. Huston, the present Medical Officer and Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, who retires on the 30th September next.

I regret that the Commissioners should entertain opinions and recommend the adoption of a course in which, at the present time, the Government are unable to concur.

The Government will have much pleasure in giving effect to that portion of the Resolution passed by the Commissioners which refers to the appointment of Dr. Macfarlane as successor to Dr. Huston; but they demur to the payment to that officer of a higher salary for the year 1881 than £450.

As regards the appointment of a second medical officer, I would mention that the Government contemplate making additions to the present buildings with the view of concentrating all the insane within the Colony in one Establishment; and the Government are of opinion that, as the Institution was under the charge of Dr. Huston alone from 1855 up to 1866, and again from 1871 to 1878, that gentleman being also allowed private practice in addition to his Hospital duties, it will not suffer as regards its efficient management when in charge of Dr. Macfarlane (whose time will be devoted solely to his official duties) until the Government are able to carry out the arrangements above referred to.

I have, &c.

The President of the Commissioners of the
Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.

WM. MOORE.

5th September, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that your communication of 20th August ultimo was, on Saturday last, laid before the Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum, New Norfolk, and I was directed by them to reply to your correspondence of that date.

The Commissioners also must express their regret that the Government are unable to concur with the opinions of the Commissioners as to the conduct of the Institution.

It must be in the knowledge of the Government that most of the Commissioners have had the responsibility of the management of the Institution for many years, extending in many cases over a period of twenty-five years, and their experience warrants them in the conclusion that the details of the management and the amount of labour incurred must be better known to them than to the political officer who has the responsibility of being the head of the department.

The number of patients, "270," and the different character of the cases under treatment, require the services of two officers; especially when it is considered that the offices of Superintendent generally over the Institution, as well as the duties of Secretary, are transacted by the Senior Medical Officer.

On account of these strong and urgent reasons the Commissioners trust that the Government will be pleased to review their decision and appoint an Assistant Medical Officer.

I have, &c.

HENRY BUTLER, *President of the Commissioners of*
Lunatic Asylum, New Norfolk.
 To the Honorable the Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 17th September, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th instant, requesting, on behalf of the Commissioners of the New Norfolk Hospital for the Insane, that the Government will review their decision respecting the appointment of an Assistant Medical Officer to the Institution.

In reply, I have to inform you that the Government regret their inability to concur on the present occasion in the views of the Commissioners; and the subject having, since the date of your letter, been under the consideration of the House of Assembly when a decision adverse to the proposed appointment was arrived at, the Government trust that the Medical Officer, who it is contemplated shall succeed Dr. Huston, will be able, having no private practice to occupy his attention and time, to fulfil the duties of the office to the satisfaction of the Commissioners and the Government until the proposed concentration of the Insane in one establishment shall place the Executive in a position to afford the assistance of a second Medical Officer, thereby carrying out the views of the Commissioners.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

*The President of the Commissioners of the Hospital
for the Insane, New Norfolk.*

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 25th September, 1880.

SUBMITTED,

THAT William Holdsworth Macfarlane, Esquire, M.B. and Ch. B., be appointed Superintendent and Medical Officer of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, with a salary at the rate of Four hundred and fifty pounds (£450) per annum and Residence, in the room of George Francis Huston, Esquire, who retires on a Pension. To take effect on and from the 1st proximo.

WM. MOORE.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 198.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 27th September, 1880.

THE Administrator of the Government in Council has been pleased to appoint William Holdsworth Macfarlane, Esquire, M.B. and Ch. B., to be Superintendent and Medical Officer of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, in the room of George Francis Huston, Esquire, who retires on a Pension. To take effect on and from the 1st proximo.

By His Excellency's Command,

WM. MOORE.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 27th September, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that the Administrator of the Government in Council has been pleased to appoint William Holdsworth Macfarlane, Esquire, M.B. and Ch. B., to be Superintendent and Medical Officer of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, with salary at the rate of Four hundred and fifty pounds (£450) per annum and residence, in the room of George Francis Huston, Esquire, who retires on a pension. To take effect on and from the 1st proximo. A notification of the appointment will appear in to-morrow's *Gazette*.

I have, &c.,

WM. MOORE.

*The President of the Commissioners of the
Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk.*

Colonial Secretary's Office, 27th September, 1880.

MEMO.

THE Administrator of the Government in Council has been pleased, upon the recommendation of the Commissioners of the Hospital for the Insane, New Norfolk, to appoint William Holdsworth Macfarlane, Esquire, M.B. and Ch. B., to be Superintendent and Medical Officer of the above-mentioned Hospital, with salary at the rate of Four hundred and fifty Pounds (£450) per annum and residence, in the room of George Francis Huston, Esquire, who retires on a pension. To take effect on and from the 1st proximo.

By Command,

WM. MOORE.

The Colonial Treasurer.