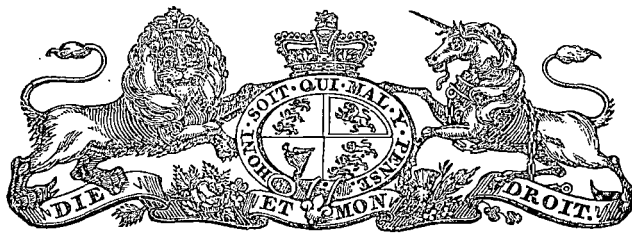


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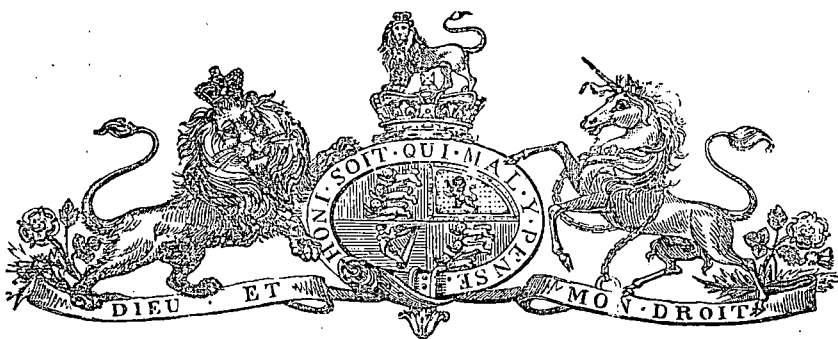
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

ACTING AGENT-GENERAL:

COPIES OF TELEGRAMS AND CORRESPONDENCE *RE*
APPOINTMENT OF SIR ARTHUR BLYTH.

Return to Order, November 16, 1887. (Mr. Crosby.)

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Fysh, and ordered by the Legislative Council to be
printed, November 25, 1887.



PAPERS RESPECTING THE APPOINTMENT OF SIR ARTHUR BLYTH
AS ACTING AGENT-GENERAL FOR TASMANIA.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 16th April, 1887.

UNTIL Parliament in July makes permanent arrangement in London *vice* Agent-General resigned, I shall esteem your assistance if Sir Arthur Blyth can discharge the duties. Telegraph your sanction to London, also here. On receipt thereof I will also telegraph to London.

P. O. FYSH.

The Hon. the Premier, South Australia.

TELEGRAM.

Adelaide, 19th April, 1887.

HAVE no objection to our Agent-General doing your ordinary business until your Parliament considers matter. Have cabled Sir Arthur Blyth accordingly.

J. C. BRAY, *Acting Premier.*

The Hon. the Premier, Tasmania.

Premier's Office, Hobart, 23rd April, 1887.

SIR,

WITH reference to my telegram of the 16th instant, and to your reply of the 19th idem, respecting the request of this Government that Sir Arthur Blyth might be permitted to undertake the duties of Agent-General for Tasmania until Parliament shall have had an opportunity of considering the question of the appointment of a successor to Mr. Adye Douglas, who resigns his position on the 9th July next, I have the honor to convey to you the thanks of this Government for your courteous compliance with their desire.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Premier, South Australia.

P. O. FYSH.

The Premier to the Agent-General.

Hobart, 20th April, 1887.

Extract.—Translation.

SOUTH Australian Government consent that Agent-General perform duties of your office until after full consideration of question in Parliament. You had better consult Sir Arthur, and make the best arrangement you can for performance of duties.

P. O. FYSH.

Premier's Office, Hobart, 30th April, 1887.

SIR,

WITH reference to my cypher telegram of the 20th instant, informing you that the Government of South Australia had consented that their Agent-General might carry on the duties of your office until Parliament has had an opportunity of considering the question of a future appointment, and also instructing you to communicate with Sir Arthur Blyth on the subject, I have not yet received an intimation from you as to whether the arrangement sanctioned by his Government is acquiesced in by that gentleman.

It is my desire to convey to Sir Arthur Blyth, in the event of his having consented to discharge your duties, the thanks of this Government for his courtesy in complying with their request; and I have now to ask that you will undertake this duty on behalf of the Government.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Esquire,*
Agent-General for Tasmania, London.

P. O. FYSH.

*Office of the Agent-General for Tasmania, 3, Westminster Chambers,
Victoria-street, London, S.W., 3rd June, 1887.*

No. 439.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that on Tuesday last Sir Arthur Blyth called on me, stating that he had received a communication from his Government, and that your Government had offered him the position of Agent-General *pro tem.* in the event of my relinquishing the duties of that office prior to the appointment of my successor. Sir Arthur Blyth requests me to thank your Government for the confidence placed in him.

In reference to this subject, I desire to state that I am well pleased that your Government approves of my remaining here until after the decision of Parliament, as stated in your telegram of the 18th ult. in reply to mine of the 16th ult., so that I can on the one hand close the office, or turn over all documents to my successor.

I can imagine only one ground for the idea that this office should be abolished, and that is the expense. If, however, the present expense is compared with that of the Emigrant and Colonists' Aid Corporation and the Crown Agents, I think it will be found that the Colony pays no more than it did formerly.

In freights, insurances, commissions, trade discounts, &c., I feel convinced that a large saving has been effected, and that the additional information given to the public as to the Colony must have been productive of good. Scarcely a day passes that I have not communications from parties anxious for information, besides persons calling at the office about the laws and institutions by which we are governed. I am continually called upon to correct papers for publication, and to supply information to the newspapers as to our progress in various ways.

Besides all this, when there is an Agent-General here, well versed in all matters relative to the Colony, its climate, products, soil, mineral and other resources, which must prove satisfactory to persons calling here, it would, I feel convinced, be a very retrograde step, and greatly damage the Colony, if the office be abolished.

Since I have been here I have been able to save a considerable sum in freight (some hundreds of pounds), as well as in the charges made by the experts employed.

During the week I have interviewed several Tasmanians and other persons, besides writing to various persons, and sending information to Public Institutions.

As I am not personally interested in this question, beyond my desire to see our Colony properly represented in London, I am satisfied that you will take what I have said as what I sincerely believe. I therefore trust that Parliament will see the necessity of retaining the office of Agent-General.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Agent-General.*

The Hon. the Premier.

TELEGRAM.

The Agent-General to the Premier.

London, 12th September, 1887.

Translation.

ANXIOUS to know respecting this office. It is my wish to leave 31st October.

TELEGRAM.

The Premier to the Agent-General.

Hobart, 15th September, 1887.

Translation.

OUR intention is to fill up appointment as soon as possible. In case of necessity make temporary arrangements referred to in my telegram of 20th April.

TELEGRAM.

The Agent-General to the Premier.

London, 20th September, 1887.

Translation.

BLYTH takes over duties on 1st November. This office continued.

Premier's Office, Hobart, 28th September, 1887.

SIR,

IN a recent telegraphic communication Mr. Adye Douglas, the Agent-General for this Colony, reported that, in accordance with the terms of a telegram which I addressed to him at the time when he previously intimated his desire to return to the Colony, and, acting under instructions from the Government, he had made the necessary arrangements for you to temporarily carry on the business of the Tasmanian Agency in London, pending the arrival of his successor.

I learn with much pleasure that Mr. Douglas has succeeded in placing the office under the management of so capable and experienced a gentleman as yourself; for although a new appointment will be made almost immediately, there will necessarily be a brief period when the Colony would, save for your courteous assistance, be unrepresented.

I desire to tender you the sincere thanks of the Government for thus relieving them from what might have proved an embarrassing position.

I have, &c.

SIR ARTHUR BLYTH, *K.C.M.G.*,
Agent-General for South Australia, London.

P. O. FYSH.

TELEGRAM.

The Agent-General to the Premier.

London, 24th October, 1887.

Translation.

LEAVING London 26th October. Blyth assumes office 25th October. Confirm his appointment. Colonial Office and Bank should be also duly advised of change.

TELEGRAM.

The Treasurer to the Manager of the Consolidated Bank, London.

Hobart, 31st October, 1887.

Translation.

AGENT-GENERAL for South Australia temporarily represents Tasmania.

MEMORANDUM FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

Premier's Office, Hobart, 31st October, 1887.

THE Premier has the honor to request that Your Excellency will be kind enough to communicate with the Secretary of State in reference to the appointment of Sir Arthur Blyth as Acting Agent-General for Tasmania.

The following telegraphic message has been addressed to the Manager of the Consolidated Bank, and the Premier respectfully suggests that the same form might be used:—

* * * * * Translation—"Agent-General for South Australia temporarily represents Tasmania."

B. STAFFORD BIRD,
for the Premier, absent.

Premier's Office, Hobart, 8th November, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you that on the 31st ultimo His Excellency the Governor in Council was pleased to appoint you as Acting Agent-General for Tasmania in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and elsewhere, pending the appointment of a successor to the Honorable Adye Douglas as Agent-General for Tasmania; such appointment to take effect on and from the 25th October, 1887.

The Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies and the Manager of the Consolidated Bank in London, have been informed by telegraph that you are now discharging the duties of the Tasmanian Agency.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

SIR ARTHUR BLYTH, *K.C.M.G.*,
Acting Agent-General for Tasmania, London.

P. O. FYSH.

P.S.—I have made no allusion to the emoluments of the office, as the Government have as yet received no information from Mr. Douglas as to the arrangements he has made.

TELEGRAM.

Adelaide, 22nd November, 1887.

WHEN do you propose appointing a successor to your Agent-General in London? Liberty to our Agent-General to act for your Colony only temporary, and we should like him to be relieved as soon as possible.

T. PLAYFORD, *Premier.**Hon. the Premier, Tasmania.*

TELEGRAM.

Hobart, 22nd November, 1887.

MAY I rely upon Sir Arthur's services until, say, end of March? Mr. Douglas will be here middle December; I can then arrange.

P. O. FYSH, *Premier.**The Hon. the Premier, South Australia.*

TELEGRAM.

Adelaide, 24th November, 1887.

SIR Arthur Blyth will receive our consent to act to the end of March next, as you desire; but hope your arrangements will be completed by that date.

T. PLAYFORD, *Premier.**The Hon. the Premier, Tasmania.*