

(No. 30.)



1897.

SESSION II.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

TITLE OF "HONOURABLE:"

Despatch on subject of retention by Members of Legislative Council
after Ten years' continuous service.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.

Cost of printing—15s.



(Copy.)

TASMANIA.
General.

Downing-street, 14th April, 1897.

MY LORD,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of 11th March and Despatch No. 3 of the 29th January, on the question of the retention of the title of "Honourable" by Members of the Legislative Council after ten years' continuous service, I have the honour to observe that, as stated in my Circular Despatch of 14th November last, Her Majesty had already approved of the proposal in the case of the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope, through whose Government the subject was first brought to my notice, and that since then the Governments of Natal and Newfoundland have requested that the privilege may be extended to those Colonies.

I have, moreover, received communications from the Governors of Queensland and New Zealand expressing the wish of their Ministers that the proposed privilege should be enjoyed by ex-Members of the Legislative Councils in those Colonies.

It is in these circumstances that I have had to consider the Resolution (No. 21b), copy attached, on this subject, which was carried by a majority of 4 to 3 at the Conference of Australasian Premiers, held at Hobart in February last; and as it is apparent that had all the Responsible Governments of the Empire been represented on that occasion, there would have been a small majority in favour of the proposal, I have felt that I should not be justified in advising Her Majesty, in deference to the Resolution of the majority of the representatives of the Australian Governments, to abandon the proposal in the case of any Colonies whose Governments may be still in favour of its adoption.

You will, however, see from the accompanying Notice, published in the *London Gazette*, that the arrangement is merely permissive; and it will therefore rest with the Government of any particular Colony to recommend or not any qualified person for the privilege as it may think fit.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient, humble Servant,

(Signed) J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Governor the Right Honourable
Viscount GORMANSTON, K.C.M.G. &c.

Copy of Resolution passed at a Conference of Premiers held at Hobart in February, 1897.

(b) That the proposal of the Secretary of State for conferring the permanent title of Honourable after Ten years' service in the Legislative Council be not accepted, and that the Secretary of State be respectfully requested to allow the previously existing Rule to continue in its uniform application to all British Colonies.

Downing-street, April 10, 1897.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to signify Her approval that Members of the Legislative Councils in certain Colonies possessing responsible Government may, on retirement or resignation after a continuous service in such Councils of not less than ten years, be eligible to be recommended by the Governors of such Colonies for Her Majesty's permission to retain the title of "Honourable."