

(No. 66.)



1871.

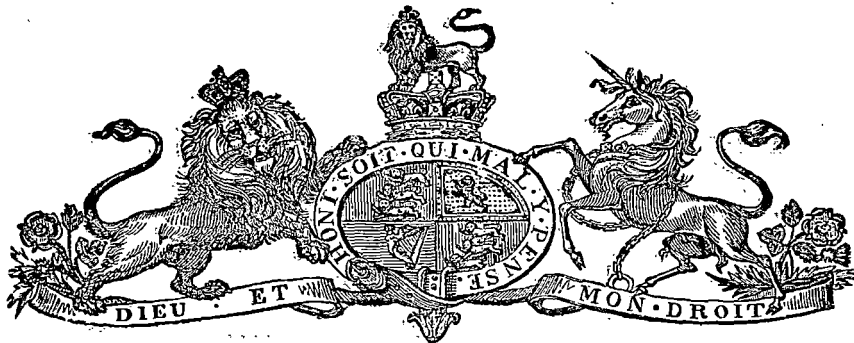
T A S M A N I A.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

POLICE CLERK, KINGSTON.

MEMORIAL FOR INCREASE OF SALARY, WITH REPLY.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, November 21, 1871.



To His Excellency CHARLES DU CANE, Esquire, Governor and
Commander-in-Chief of Tasmania, in Council.

The humble Petition of EDWARD INNES, Police Clerk, Kingston, praying for the fulfilment of a promise
of increase of Salary made to him in 1861.

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

THAT Your Excellency's Petitioner was appointed Police Clerk at Kingston in November, 1854; has held the office upwards of fifteen years, besides having formerly held the offices of Police Clerk at Prosser's Plains and Sorell for nearly six years, and has served a total period of twenty-one years as a Police Clerk, and altogether upwards of twenty-three years in the Government service. His first appointment, dating from 1st August, 1843, that of Storekeeper at the Fingal Probation Station, having been conferred upon him at the request of Lady Franklin,—Your Excellency's Petitioner having come out to the Colony a boy of fifteen, expressly expecting government employment, being at the time the bearer of a packet of letters to Lady Franklin from her Ladyship's sister, Mrs. Simpkinson of London.

That your Petitioner's salary during the first year he held his present office was £200 per annum as Police Clerk, and £20 per annum as Registrar of the Court of Requests; total £220. And that now, after fifteen years' service, he only receives £200 per annum for performing the duties of the two aforesaid offices, and the additional one of Chief District Constable, Kingston.

That your Petitioner certainly now holds other additional appointments which bring him some little extra annual remuneration; but such extra remuneration is but very trifling, and is hard-earned,—the duties performed for it being (with all he has to do and think of besides) a heavy additional tax upon his energies.

That when Your Excellency's Petitioner accepted the office of Police Clerk at Kingston his family consisted of his wife, one child, and himself, but that now he has eight children. That then his duties were performed daily between the hours of 10 A.M. and 4 P.M., but that now, in addition to frequent night office work, his extra duties of Chief District Constable demand his out of door attention late at night, and occasionally at all hours of the night as well as of the day, Sunday as well as week-day.

That Your Excellency's Petitioner suffered many years ago, for many years, most severely in a pecuniary sense through an all but ruinous reduction in his salary, the loss to him by it for five years, viz., from 1856, 1857, 1858, 1859, and 1860, (respectively £20, £80, £70, £60, and £50) amounting in all to £280. That this reduction arose through his having been classed in the Estimates for 1857 as a 3rd Class Clerk only: that he believes there was inadvertence at the time as to the effect such classification would have upon his pay, and he was subsequently promised that the loss should be made up to him at a future period.

That in 1860 the Police Clerks throughout the Colony petitioned the Government as to their classification and pay, when the same was reconsidered by the Executive, and your Petitioner was informed that it was settled (Sir Francis Smith being Premier) that they (the Police Clerks) should, on account of the peculiar and legal nature of their duties, form a distinct class, and that their salaries should range according to length of service from £150 to £250 per annum, the then starting salary of each then Police Clerk being fixed by the Executive, regard being had in so doing to past services, and that a Memorandum of this arrangement was subsequently submitted to Parliament and approved of: that, in accordance with it, in January, 1861, Your Excellency's Petitioner was informed "that his salary for that year would be £190, with an annual increase of £10 per annum until it reached £250,"—(Vide the Letter of the Assistant Colonial Secretary on the subject to the then Police Magistrate, Kingston, dated 29th January, 1861), which letter was forwarded by your Petitioner to the Honorable the Colonial Treasurer by desire of that gentleman on the 12th November, 1867.

That Your Excellency's Petitioner under the above stated arrangement started again at a salary of £30 per annum less in amount than he had during the first year of his holding his appointment at Kingston, but that he was satisfied with it and thankful for it, feeling confident at the time that it was a final adjustment of his salary for so long a period as he should hold his office of Police Clerk at Kingston, and that

from henceforth he should have something to look forward to. But the confident expectation of Your Excellency's Petitioner was soon doomed to disappointment. This promised increase of £10 was granted to him in 1862, but the further increase in 1863 was refused,—it being, however, subsequently paid for the first half of the year. Since then your Petitioner has never had any increase, and he has consequently suffered as follows, viz.—

	£	£	£
In 1863, instead of 210 promised, he received only 205, loss			5
In 1864, instead of 220 promised, he received only 200, loss			20
In 1865, instead of 230 promised, he received only 200, loss			30
In 1866, instead of 240 promised, he received only 200, loss			40
In 1867, instead of 250 promised, he received only 200, loss			50
In 1868, instead of 250 promised, he received only 200, loss			50
In 1869, instead of 250 promised, he received only 200, loss			50
Total loss to 31st December, 1869.....			<u>£245</u>

That Your Excellency's Petitioner has always felt that this deprivation of promised increase under the circumstances hereinbefore detailed was an extremely hard act; and he cannot believe that the Government, at the time it was decided upon, could have calmly considered the facts of the case. Its effect (coupled with other former losses by reduction of pay as hereinbefore set forth), has been to entail upon your Petitioner through many long years an incessant and wearying struggle to keep himself free from pecuniary difficulties. It has disheartened him, and it has from time to time deeply irritated his mind. It also has certainly been well calculated to tell heavily upon a sound constitution, much more so upon one impaired and weakened from the effects of long-standing chronic ailments—the result of your Petitioner having had to discharge his public duties from 1854 to 1861 in a damp office. During his long services under the government, Your Excellency's Petitioner has ever earnestly endeavoured to serve the public to the very best of his ability. Again and again he has been unsuccessfully an applicant for promotion, although he was first promised it so far back as when the Honorable Wm. Henty, Esquire, was Colonial Secretary. He cannot but feel that he has not hitherto been treated with that liberal consideration which a long-trying servant of the public might reasonably look for. And he does trust that he is not now asking too much in soliciting that the particulars of his case may be fully gone into and reconsidered by Your Excellency and your Advisers in Council. And he ventures to indulge the hope that the result of such reconsideration will be a fulfilment even yet of the promise which he has referred to as having been made to him in 1861, by his salary being increased to £250 per annum, and by a vote of the Parliament being solicited for him for the amount of back pay of which he has been deprived.

And Your Excellency's Petitioner, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.

E. INNES.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 20th April, 1870.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to inform you, that your Petition to the Governor for an increase of Salary, &c. has been duly considered in Executive Council; and that His Excellency, in view of the existing state of the Public Revenue, regrets that he is unable to accede to your wishes.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) J. M. WILSON.

E. INNES, *Esq., Police Clerk, Kingston.*