

(No. 138.)



1878.

T A S M A N I A.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

APPROPRIATION BILLS, 1879, (Nos. 74 & 78):

MINISTERIAL MEMORANDUM.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, June 10, 1879.



MEMORANDUM.

THE House of Assembly granted the Supplies required for the Public Service for the full period of the current year; but the Legislative Council, in the exercise of its discretion, saw fit to propose an Amendment to the Appropriation Bills limiting the period to Six Months, of which nearly Four Months and a half had already expired, upon the plea that the "Ways and Means" had not been placed in possession of the Members of the Council.

Ministers, with the desire to meet the wishes of the Council, deferred sending back the Appropriation Bills as amended, for reconsideration by the Council, until they were in a position to transmit the proposed "Ways and Means."

When, on the 28th May, these Bills were again sent to the Council with the Bill passed by the House of Assembly for raising such additional Revenue as would meet the increased expenditure, to which special reference had been made by the Council, the Council again saw fit to adhere to its former action, restricting the period for which Supplies were to be granted to Six Months.

Under these circumstances a free Conference was invited by the House of Assembly, and agreed to by the Council, but the result proved unsatisfactory.

Then, in the spirit of compromise, and with the earnest desire to liquidate the long-deferred claims of the Civil Servants and the public creditors generally, Ministers agreed to accept Nine Months Supplies; and this course was unanimously concurred in by the House of Assembly, with the view of preventing any rupture of the friendly relations existing between the two Houses.

It is earnestly hoped that the Council will accept the offer in the spirit in which it is made, and thus evince its willingness "to terminate in a consistent manner the serious inconvenience to which the Public Service is now subjected by the suspension of the Salaries of Public Officers, the usual allowances to Paupers, and other urgent demands upon the Treasury."

The Council having thrown out the Property and Income Tax Bill, it is impossible that Ministers can now meet Parliament in July, but they will assuredly do so at as early a date as possible.

It is equally impossible that Ministers can at present submit a new financial policy; but the recess will be occupied in reconsidering their fiscal proposals, with a view to meet the present and pressing necessities of the country.

It is very desirable that Supplies should be at once provided to meet approved current expenditure and pressing claims, and that Parliament, which has now been in Session for Eleven Months, should be prorogued as early as possible.

10th June, 1879.

THOS. REIBEY.