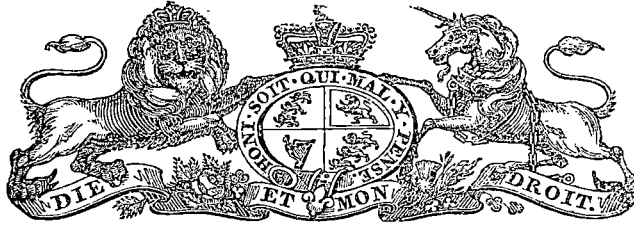


(No. 77.)



1896.

SESSION II.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

MARINE BOARDS OF TASMANIA:

CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES, HOBART,
SEPTEMBER, 1896.

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS, &c.

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

Cost of printing—£1 2s. 6d.



MARINE BOARDS OF TASMANIA.

CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

24TH SEPTEMBER, 1896.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS AT THE ABOVE CONFERENCE, HELD AT THE OFFICES OF THE MARINE BOARD OF HOBART.

PRELIMINARY.

The Conference met in response to a request by the Honorable the Treasurer (Sir Philip Fysh) to all the Marine Boards of the Colony, that they should appoint Representatives to meet together for the purpose of considering the Motion submitted to Parliament by Captain Miles, M.H.A., as follows:—"That in the opinion of this House it is desirable that a Bill should be introduced to give effect to a unanimous Resolution passed by the Maritime Conference held at Hobart in April, 1894, 'That a Marine Board should be established in Tasmania having jurisdiction over the entire Colony, with similar powers to those exercised by the Marine Boards of the other Australian Colonies.'"

The Hon. the Treasurer also intimated in his letters to the Marine Boards that he purposed to advise with the Conference upon the necessity for an equitable division with outlying Marine Boards of the wharfages collected upon goods whose ultimate destination was an outlying port where wharfs had to be maintained by local Marine Boards.

AGENDA.

In the letter from the Honorable the Treasurer, dated 19th September, 1896, to the Master Warden, Marine Board of Hobart, he asked him to prepare such Resolutions as he thought should be considered at the Conference.

The Representatives chosen by the Marine Board of Hobart met together on the 21st September, 1896, and framed the following Draft Resolutions:—

1. That a Marine Board be established for the whole Colony, having control of the light-houses and light dues, issue of certificates of competency of all grades to masters, mates, and engineers, range of coasting certificates, survey of steamers and the issue of steamship certificates, survey of vessels under the Load Line Act, life-saving appliances, port rules and regulations, Marine Board fees, pilots and other officers of the Board, pilotage exemption certificates, adjustment of compasses, enquiries into wrecks and casualties, wharfage, watermen's and porters' licences, gunpowder regulations, quarantine.
2. Constitution of the Board.

A copy of these suggested Resolutions was sent to the Under Treasurer on the 21st September, 1896, and by him transmitted, by telegraph, to the other Marine Boards.

CONSTITUTION OF CONFERENCE.

The Marine Boards of Hobart and Launceston had each been asked by the Hon. The Treasurer to nominate the Master Warden and three Members, and all the other Marine Boards to be represented by their Master Warden or such other Member of each as they might nominate.

ATTENDANCE.

The Hon. The Treasurer (Sir Philip Fysh) presided at the Conference.

Marine Board of Hobart—

W. J. Watchorn, Esq., Master Warden.
E. T. Miles, Esq., M.H.A., Warden.
J. W. Evans, Esq., Warden.
T. M. Fisher, Esq., Warden.

Marine Board of Launceston—

R. J. McKenzie, Esq., Master Warden.
S. Eardley-Wilmot, Esq., Warden.
Lindsay Tulloch, Esq., Warden.
R. Carter, Esq., Warden.

Marine Board of Mersey—

Hon. J. H. McCall, M.L.C., Warden.

Marine Board of Table Cape—

A. K. Chapman, Esq., Master Warden.

Marine Board of Leven—

T. Collett, Esq., Acting Master Warden.

During the Conference, C. J. McKenzie, Esq., M.H.A., Warden of the Marine Board of Table Cape, handed to the President his nomination, which had been telegraphed, to represent the *Marine Board of Circular Head*. He was present during the passing of all Resolutions following those under the heading "Central Marine Board."

Mr. J. Adams was appointed Secretary to the Conference.

CENTRAL MARINE BOARD.

The following Resolutions were passed, as recommendations to Parliament:—

1. That certain matters be dealt with by a Marine Board of the whole Colony.

2. That the following be the matters to be dealt with by such Central Board:—

- (1.) Lighthouses and light dues; also all beacons and kindred lights, whether in rivers or outside, maintained solely for the benefit of shipping.
- (2.) Issue, suspension, and cancellation of masters', mates', and engineers' certificates of competency of all grades; also, control of the range of coasting certificates.
- (3.) Survey of steamers, and issue of steamers' certificates.
- (4.) Survey of vessels under the Load Line Act.
- (5.) Life-saving appliances.
- (6.) Pilotage exemption certificates.
- (7.) Adjustment of compasses.
- (8.) Enquiries into wrecks and casualties.
- (9.) Gunpowder regulations.

3. That there shall be one Marine Board for Tasmania, and that all the other Marine Boards be constituted as Harbour Trusts, discharging all those duties now fulfilled by the existing Marine Boards, and which are not transferred to the Central Board.

Voting on this Resolution—Ayes, 7; Noes, 4.

4. That fees connected with the matters relegated to the Central Board belong to that Board.

5. That the Central Board shall not have control of the following matters:—

Quarantine.
Port Rules and Regulations.
Officers of the Harbour Trusts.
Wharfage.
Watermen's and Porters' Licences.
Pilots.

On the question "that the Central Board have control of pilots" being put, the voting was as follows:—

AYES 5.

W. J. Watchorn.
J. W. Evans.
T. M. Fisher.
E. T. Miles.
J. H. M'Call.

NOES 6.

R. J. M'Kenzie.
S. Eardley-Wilmot.
L. Tulloch.
R. Carter.
A. K. Chapman.
T. Collett.

CONSTITUTION OF CENTRAL BOARD.

Warden Fisher moved that the Marine Board consist of Four Members and a President, Two of the Members to be elected by the shipowners of Tasmania, and Two Members, together with the President, to be nominated by the Government. Warden Miles seconded. Master Warden Chapman moved as an Amendment "That the Marine Board shall consist of Five Members, to be nominated by the Government, the Board to elect their own President." Warden Carter seconded. The original Motion was put to the Conference, but the voting was equal—Ayes, 6; Noes, 6. The subject was then dropped.

WHARFAGE ON GOODS IN TRANSIT.

Resolved, That it be a recommendation to Parliament that one-half of the wharfage on goods in transit be remitted to the port of ultimate destination for the support of the wharfs.

Ayes, 8; Noes, 4.

AS TO MASTER WARDENS BEING MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Conference the law should be so amended as to permit Master Wardens of Marine Boards, even though they be nominated, to sit in Parliament.

REMOVAL OF GOODS FROM WHARFS.

Resolved, That Parliament be recommended to amend Section 79 of "The Marine Boards Act, 1889," 53 Vict. No. 34, so that the Harbour Master of any port may order the removal of any ponderous goods from the wharfs at his discretion.

VOTE OF THANKS.

A vote of thanks to the Hon. the Treasurer for presiding at the Conference concluded the proceedings.

P. O. FYSH, *President.*