

(No. 39.)



1887.

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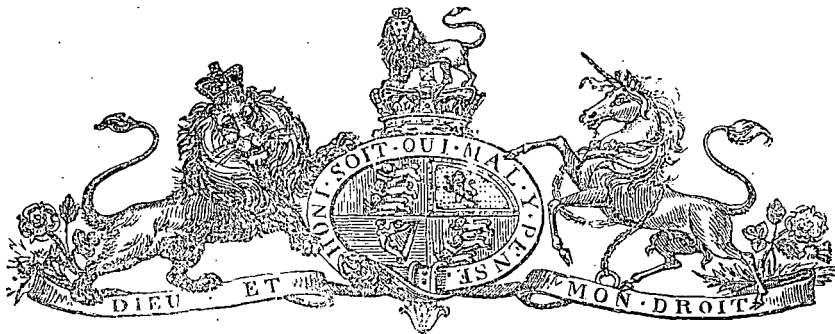
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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COLONIAL COMMISSIONS FOR IMPERIAL ARMY.

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Treasurer, and ordered by the House of Assembly  
to be printed, December 9, 1887.



Premier's Office, 15th September, 1887.

MEMORANDUM FOR HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

COLONEL St. Hill having brought under notice in the House of Assembly a statement in the *Mercury*, copied from the *Melbourne Age*, with reference to a Colonial Office Despatch stating that two Commissions in the Imperial Army are to be granted yearly to Officers of the Military Forces of Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand, the Premier has the honor to enquire if Your Excellency has received any communication of similar purport from the Secretary of State? 7th Sept., 1887.

The exclusion of Tasmania from the Colonies mentioned in this paragraph is a matter which may, unless the omission has been accidental, give rise to some dissatisfaction amongst the gentlemen connected with the Defence Department of this Colony.

In the event of no such Despatch having been received by Your Excellency, the Premier desires respectfully to suggest that the claims of Tasmania to the same consideration as is extended to the neighbouring Colonies may be brought to the notice of the Imperial Authorities.

A very large sum in proportion to the revenue is annually expended in connection with the defences of the Colony, both on personnel and equipment, and on the batteries and their armament,—as to the latter of which Your Excellency has recently been pleased to express approval. A keen interest is taken by the Officers of all branches of the Service in the efficiency of the several Corps; and it is the opinion of Ministers that they are fully entitled to the same privileges as to admission to the Imperial Army as those attached to the Defence Forces of the larger Colonies.

P. O. FYSH.

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Premier's Office, 17th September, 1887.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, for your information, copy of a Memorandum which I addressed to His Excellency the Governor on the 15th instant, in reference to a paragraph which appeared in the *Melbourne Age* respecting Commissions in the Imperial Army for Officers of the Military Forces of the Australian Colonies, brought under notice in the House of Assembly by Colonel St. Hill. 15th Sept., 1887.

I shall be glad to be informed if you are aware of any reason why it is not proposed to extend the same privileges to Tasmanian Officers as are granted to gentlemen holding Commissions in the neighbouring Colonies?

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

P. O. FYSH.

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

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Office of the Agent-General for Tasmania, 3, Westminster Chambers,  
Victoria-street, London, S.W., 4th November, 1887.

SIR,

WITH reference to your Despatch No. 275, dated 17th of September last, dealing with the question of granting Commissions in the British Army to the self-governing Colonies of Australia, I have the honor to report that I this day saw Sir Robert R. G. Herbert, K.C.B., in the absence

of Sir Henry Holland, and urged upon him a favourable consideration of the very reasonable request of Tasmania. I have reason to expect a satisfactory reply to the letter which, on the 1st instant, I addressed to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State.

I report on this matter because the question arose on a Motion in the House of Assembly ; and if Parliament is sitting when this Despatch reaches you, it will, I doubt not, be satisfactory to be able to announce that the matter has had careful and prompt attention.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ARTHUR BLYTH, *Acting Agent-General.*

*The Hon. the Premier, &c., Hobart, Tasmania.*