

(No. 81.)



1896.

SESSION II.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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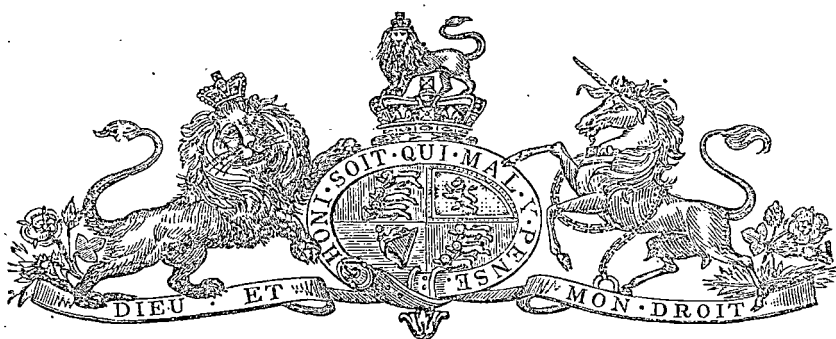
PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY:

SPECIAL REPORT OF COMMITTEE.

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Presented to both Houses of Parliament, October 6, 1896.

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## PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

THE Members of the Joint Committee of both Houses appointed to be a Library Committee having held several meetings and entered into correspondence with the Honorable the Chief Secretary, which has resulted in an unsatisfactory manner, feel it to be their duty to report to your Honorable Houses as follows.

The amount voted by Parliament for the Library (including books, works of reference, magazines, periodicals, and newspapers) during the past few years has proved wholly insufficient, consequently Supplementary Estimates have been resorted to to the extent of £62 18s. 2d. in 1894, £46 in 1895, and about £25 will be necessary for 1896.

The Committee have been unable, owing to the want of funds, to procure for the Library books absolutely necessary for the guidance of Members.

Notwithstanding the urgent representations of the Committee, the Government decline to place more than £30 at the disposal of the Committee for the year 1897. A copy of the correspondence is hereto attached.—(Appendix A.)

In providing for the distribution of this amount of £30, the Committee have decided to continue to take the periodicals named in the attached paper.—(Appendix B.) This will absorb £27 12s. 2d. The balance will be retained for the purchase of absolutely necessary books of reference. There will be no funds to meet the annual payment of £18 14s. now expended in subscribing to local newspapers, and in consequence it has been decided to give notice to discontinue these as from the 1st January next.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Chairman Library Committee.*

### APPENDIX A.

*Parliament House, Hobart, 19th August, 1896.*

SIR,  
At a Meeting of the Library Committee held this day, it was resolved that I should communicate with you, pointing out the uselessness of placing on the Estimates so small a sum as £30 for the payment of the newspapers and periodicals and books required by Parliament. I therefore trust that the Government will, before the Estimates leave the Assembly, cause a reasonable sum to be appropriated, that is to say, £40 for newspapers and periodicals, and £30 for the Parliamentary Library.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Chairman Library Committee.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Parliament House, Hobart, 9th September, 1896.*

SIR,  
I AM instructed by the Chairman of the Library Committee to write and draw your attention to his letter to you of the 19th ultimo, and to state that he would feel obliged by receiving a reply thereto at an early date.

I have, &c.

J. K. REID, *Librarian to Parliament.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Parliament House, Hobart, 11th September, 1896.*

SIR,  
ON the 19th August last I addressed you in reference to the requirements of the Library. On the 9th instant I had a reminder sent you, having received no reply to my letter of the 19th ultimo; this correspondence has been returned with an indorsement, but not from you. As you are the responsible Minister for this Department, I have to request your reply, so that the same may appear among the Papers of the Library Committee.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Chairman of Library Committee.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 14th September, 1896.*

SIR,

REFERRING to your letters of the 19th ultimo and 9th and 11th instant, I regret to have to inform you that the circumstances of the Colony do not justify any increase in the present vote for the provision of newspapers, books, periodicals, &c. for the purpose of the Parliamentary Library.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE, *Chief Secretary.*

*The Honorable ADYE DOUGLAS, Chairman of the  
Parliamentary Library Committee, Hobart.*

*Parliament House, Hobart, 18th September, 1896.*

SIR,

AT a meeting of the Parliamentary Library Committee held yesterday, I submitted your letter of the 14th instant, in which you state that the circumstances of the Colony do not justify any increase in the present vote for the provision of newspapers, periodicals, &c. for the Library; whereupon the following Resolution was agreed to, and I was directed to forward you a copy of the same.

"Resolved, That, as the Government decline to make any further provision for the wants of the Library, the Librarian be instructed to give notice to each local newspaper, informing them that for want of funds the Library Committee regrets the necessity of discontinuing subscribing to their paper as from the date when current subscription expires."

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Chairman Library Committee.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 25th September, 1896.*

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 18th instant, covering a Resolution by the Parliamentary Library Committee, I have the honor to inform you that, in the opinion of the Government, the Library Committee have sufficient funds available under the vote for subscriptions to local newspapers; and that, if by diverting these to less necessary purposes they are unable to keep up the supply of newspapers, the fault is theirs.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE, *Chief Secretary.*

*The Chairman of the Parliamentary Library Committee, Hobart.*

*Parliament House, 25th September, 1896.*

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 25th instant, I would point out that the Library Committee had no knowledge of the determination of the Government not to grant any further funds for the use of the Library until expenses were actually incurred. Consequently the Government, and not the Committee, is in fault, and I am surprised at your statement that the Committee had diverted funds to less necessary purposes. It is a pity your Government do not stick to facts, instead of making unfounded statements.

Yours faithfully,

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Chairman of Library Committee.*

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

*Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 29th September, 1896.*

SIR,

BY direction of the Honorable the Chief Secretary, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant.

I am also to state that the question of the sum of £6 13s. 6d. which was spent by the Library Committee in excess of the amount authorised by Parliament will be brought forward at the next meeting of the Cabinet, with a view to its being provided for on a Supplementary Estimate.

I have, &c.

GEORGE STEWARD, *Acting Under Secretary*

*The Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, Hobart.*

#### APPENDIX B.

##### *LIST of Publications ordered by the Library Committee for 1897.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Fortnightly Review .....	1	16	0	Saturday Review .....	2	0	0
Nineteenth Century .....	1	16	0	The Mail (English) .....	2	14	0
Quarterly Review .....	1	10	0	Sydney Herald .....	1	10	0
Edinburgh Review .....	1	10	0	South Australian Register .....	1	6	0
Annual Register .....	1	0	0	Brisbane Courier .....	1	12	0
Brassey Annual .....	0	15	0	Auckland Weekly News .....	1	10	0
Statesman's Year Book .....	0	12	0	Western Mail .....	1	12	8
Pugh's Almanac .....	0	8	0	Argus .....	1	10	0
Whitaker's Almanac .....	0	2	6				
Dictionary National Biography during 1897, say 4 vols. at 17s. 6d. ....	3	10	0		£27	12	2
Men of Action, say 6 vols. at 3s. ....	0	18	0				

NOTE.—All other publications at present received discontinued after the end of 1896.