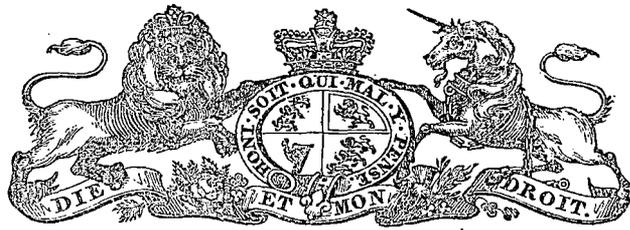


(No. 15.)



1864.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

DESPATCH FROM SECRETARY OF STATE.

GOVERNOR'S DEATH OR ABSENCE. ADMINISTRATION
OF GOVERNMENT.

Laid on the Table by Mr. Whyte, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
June 29, 1864.



(Copy.)

TASMANIA.

Separate.

Downing-street, 8th September, 1863.

SIR,

IN my Despatch of the 27th December last, Separate, I informed you of the arrangement made for the temporary Administration of the Government in the event of the death or absence of the Governor; and I have since been requested to state whether, under the altered circumstances of the Command of the Troops in Australia, the selection of Officers who may be temporarily called upon to administer the several Governments should be made by the Lieutenant-General Commanding the Forces, who resides in New Zealand, or whether that power is to be vested in the Brigadier-General Commanding at Melbourne.

I have therefore to state, for your information, that the ultimate responsibility of selecting an Officer for the Command of the Troops, and consequently for the Administration of the Government, must rest with the Lieutenant-General Commanding, to whom in general reference might previously be made. In cases of sudden emergency the Governments would, of course, be assumed by the Senior Officer on the spot, pending the receipt of orders from the Lieutenant-General, who, however, would use his discretion in confirming or superseding such Officer,—a power which, if necessary, would be immediately exercised by the Brigadier-General Commanding at Melbourne, subject to the approval of the Lieutenant-General Commanding.

His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has suggested to General Cameron that such an understanding on the subject should, from time to time, be maintained between himself and Brigadier-General Chute, that the latter should be in a position to anticipate the views of the General Commanding the Forces.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) NEWCASTLE.

Governor T. GORE BROWNE, C.B.