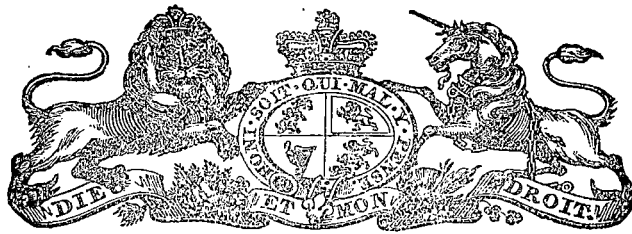


(No. 49.)



1876.

T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

PAPERS RELATING TO ALLEGED BREACH OF TRUST.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, September 19, 1876.



Colonial Treasury, 25th April, 1876.

MEMO.

My attention having been called to a report in this morning's *Mercury* of a statement having been made to the effect that Telegrams forwarded through the Telegraph Department, of a private nature, in reference to the recent election for Central Launceston, must have been tampered with, the Superintendent of Telegraphs is requested to furnish me with a report setting forth the grounds, if any, for such a statement, and especially if any Member of the Administration, or any one else by their authority, has been admitted to a knowledge of the contents of any Telegrams passed over the Lines.

FRED^K. M. INNES, *Colonial Treasurer.*

The Superintendent of Telegraphs.

THE statement is utterly false.

F. A. PACKER, *Supt. Telegraphs.*
25th April, 1876.

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

I DESIRE the report of the Operator at Launceston, whether anything transpired through his office?

F. M. INNES.
25. 4. 76.

No information was given by any Officer in this Department to any Member of the Administration or to any other person. I have made enquiries into the matter, and cannot find the slightest reason to believe that the contents of any Telegram referring to Mr. Bromby's election was either divulged to the proprietors of the *Mercury* or others.

T. S. CHITTY, *Operator, Launceston.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

Telegraph Department, 28th April, 1876.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to forward copies of Letters addressed to the *Tribune* by Mr. Charles Hamilton Bromby and myself.

Your most obedient Servant,

F. A. PACKER, *Superintendent of Telegraphs.*

The Hon. the Colonial Treasurer.

"TRIBUNE," 28th April, 1876.

THE *MERCURY'S* SLANDERS.

To the Editor of the Tasmanian Tribune

SIR,

IN your publication of last Monday you call attention to the fact that the substance of certain telegrams passing between myself and my supporters at Launceston, relating to the then coming election, was made known to the *Mercury*, and published in a distorted form by that journal. The matter is one of so much importance to the public that it ought not to be allowed to drop without some inquiry. The fact remains at present unexplained, that telegraphic messages known only to myself and one or two others, and not divulged by us, were published in the Government organ. What the purport of these messages was could have reached that paper only through some one connected with the Telegraph Office. If messages

sent by the telegraph from one individual to another are surreptitiously published by a newspaper, the confidence of the public in the telegraph will be shaken, and it will be impossible any longer for messages of a private nature to be sent by that means. I need scarcely notice the coarse and cowardly insinuation contained in the *Mercury's* answer to this charge. When a journal stoops to such an artifice, its power to injure the private character of an individual must be very small. I noticed, on my return from Launceston, that the *Mercury's* correspondent there had reported that I was haranguing the electors on this matter. This is entirely untrue. I did not address the electors at all until after the election, and then I did not allude to the subject.

I beg to remain,
Yours obediently,

CHARLES HAMILTON BROMBY.

"TRIBUNE," 29th April, 1876.

TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

To the Editor of the *Tasmanian Tribune*.

SIR,

I APPEAL to your sense of justice to afford me space in your paper to indignantly deny the allegations with regard to this Department contained in Mr. Charles Hamilton Bromby's letter, published in yesterday's *Tribune*, for, so far as this Department is concerned, they have not the remotest shadow of foundation.

The Telegraph Department of Tasmania has reason to be proud of the fact that its "confidential" reputation has always remained unsullied; and, on behalf of its officers, I court the searching Parliamentary investigation which Mr. Bromby is now in a position to command.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

F. A. PACKER, *Superintendent of Telegraphs*.

28th April, 1876.