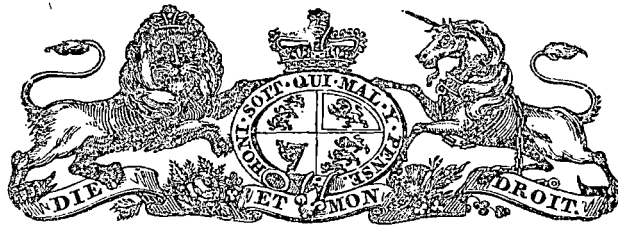


(No. 2.)



1858.

T A S M A N I A.

D E S P A T C H.

MR. HAMPTON AND MR. MAY.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Henty, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
9 September, 1858.



(No. 26.)

Downing-street, 17th May, 1858.

SIR,

WITH reference to past correspondence respecting certain irregularities in the Convict Department in Tasmania, I have the honour to inform you that the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, after much correspondence and full consideration, have determined to assign a retired allowance of Two hundred and twenty-five Pounds per annum to Mr. Hampton on the abolition of his office of Comptroller-General of Convicts. Their Lordships, in arriving at this decision, have acted on the opinions formed by them that Mr. Hampton had no share whatever in the building speculations carried on by the Officers immediately concerned in the irregular transactions in question, and that his personal integrity is unimpeached.

But a different view was taken by their Lordships, and at a comparatively early stage, of Mr. May's claim to a pension. The Lords Commissioners of the Treasury remarked, that he could not be said to have discharged the duties of his office with fidelity; and that they were precluded by the very terms of the Act of Parliament on Superannuations from granting a pension in such a case. This decision was embodied in a letter from the Treasury, of which a copy is appended, long prior to my entering on the charge of this Department; but the communication of it to you would appear to have been suspended in the belief that all the questions arising out of the same irregularities would soon be disposed of together. Upon the settlement of the amount of Mr. Hampton's pension, the other decision has been brought under my notice; and it only remains for me now to communicate it to you for your information and guidance.

I perceive that, according to custom, you assigned a provisional allowance to Mr. May pending the decision of Her Majesty's Government, and that the amount of it was fixed by you at One hundred Pounds per annum. I have recommended to the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury that this allowance should stand good until your receipt of the present instructions.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

STANLEY.

Governor SIR H. YOUNG, C.B.

MR. WILSON to MR. MERIVALE.

(Copy.)

Treasury Chambers, 24th April, 1857.

SIR,

HAVING laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your letter of the 28th March last, transmitting copy of a Despatch from the Governor of Tasmania, forwarding an application from Mr. J. M. May for a retired allowance in consequence of the abolition of his office of Superintendent of Convict Establishments in Hobart Town, owing to the reduction in the number of Convicts, I am directed by their Lordships to acquaint you for the information of Mr. Secretary Labouchere, that my Lords have carefully considered the case of Mr. May; and they regret that they do not consider themselves justified in awarding any retired allowance to that gentleman.

In their Minute of the 2nd instant, in reference to certain transactions relating to an irregular sale of Convict Stores at Hobart Town, in April, 1855, their Lordships felt it their duty to observe that this transaction was "of an extremely reprehensible nature, partaking largely of the character of official corruption and breach of trust;" and that "the transaction was (for the reason stated therein) simply a misappropriation of public property for private profit by Officers who were in charge of the property."

It appears that Mr. May was directly interested in the speculation to the furtherance of which the misappropriated property was applied; and it further appears from a Despatch of Sir Henry Young, that, in connection with the same speculations, Mr. May had, in conjunction with Lieutenant-Colonel Hamilton, R.E., been guilty of "unauthoritatively using prison labour in the erection of private houses their joint property." It cannot therefore be stated that he has served with diligence and *fidelity*.

Their Lordships would remind Mr. Labouchere that, by the 11th section of the Act, 4 & 5 W. 4, c. 24, it is expressly provided that no superannuation allowance shall be granted to any Officer "unless he shall have discharged his duties with diligence and fidelity,"—and they are therefore precluded from granting any retired allowance to Mr. May.

I am, &c.

JAMES WILSON.

H. MERIVALE, *Esq.*