

(No. 12.)



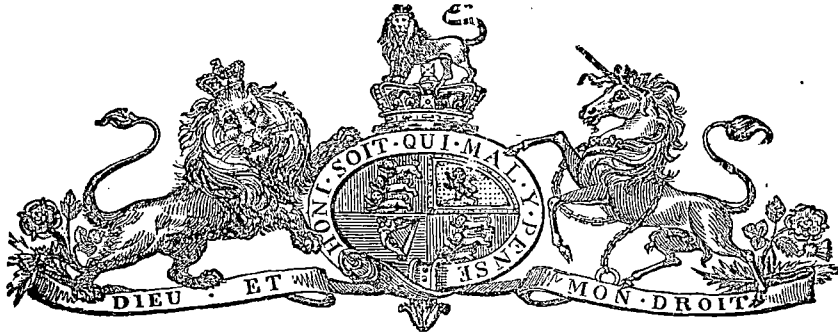
1863.

TASMANIA.

D E S P A T C H

From His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, making arrangements for the Government of the Colony in case of the death or absence of the Governor; and enclosing Correspondence between the Colonial and War Departments which had taken place on the subject.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be printed, 24 February, 1863.



TASMANIA.
Separate.

Downing-street, 27th December, 1862.

SIR,

My attention has been called, in more than one instance, to the difficulty of making fit and proper arrangements for providing for the temporary administration of the Government of some of the Australian Governments, on the occasion of the death or absence of the Governor. The difficulty of selecting some person of sufficient social position, and at the same time free from political bias, to whom a dormant Commission could be entrusted, induced me to propose to the Secretary at War the adoption of an arrangement by which the Major-General Commanding on the Australian Station might be directed, on receiving due intimation of the necessity of such a measure, to despatch some Officer, of inferior rank to himself, but who might be sufficiently calculated from his standing and character, to carry on the Government during the absence of the Governor, in either of the Australian Colonies, in which, in default of any other provision, the administration would devolve on the Senior Officer in command of the Troops. I transmit for your information copies of the Correspondence on this subject, and from which you will perceive that His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has been requested by the Secretary of State for War to instruct the Major-General Commanding on the Australian Station to act in such cases in accordance with my recommendation.

I trust that this arrangement may serve to prevent embarrassment on any future occasion in any Colony in which there might not be stationed on the spot a Military Officer in command of the Troops of sufficient standing, or otherwise duly qualified, to be entrusted with the temporary administration of the Government.

This arrangement would, of course, not be applicable to the Colony in which the Head Quarters of the Troops may, from time to time, be established.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

NEWCASTLE.

Governor GORE BROWNE, C. B.,
&c. &c.

Sir F. ROGERS to the Under Secretary for War.

Downing-street, 13th December, 1862.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Duke of Newcastle to refer you to the Correspondence (of the dates specified in the margin) which took place between the War Office and this Department in the year 1858, relative to an arrangement which was then proposed for the issue of a dormant Commission to the Major-General in command of the Troops in Australia, to enable him to assume the Government of South Australia in the event of the death or absence of the Governor. To that arrangement objections were entertained, on the ground that it would be impossible for the Major-General to exercise any effectual control over the Troops if his Head Quarters were at Adelaide, at which place only a small Detachment of Troops was then, and still continues to be, stationed.

In the present state of society, and of the Political Institutions in most of the Australian Colonies, it has been found extremely difficult to delegate the temporary Administration of the Government, on the death or absence of the Governor, to any person resident who might be free from the bias of local politics, or otherwise eligible for the position.

New South
Wales.
Victoria.
Tasmania.
South Australia.

In the case of the Australian Colonies noted in the margin, it is provided in the Governor's Commission that, in such contingency, and there being no person within the Colony specially commissioned to fill the Office of Lieutenant-Governor or Administrator of the Government, the Administration should devolve on the Senior Military Officer for the time being Commanding the Land Forces within the Colony. That Officer, in some Colonies, holds a very subordinate rank. His Grace would be glad to be informed whether the Secretary at War could find it practicable, without inconvenience to the Military service, to issue instructions to the Major-General Commanding, on his receiving at any time due intimation of the necessity of such a measure, to despatch some Officer of inferior rank to himself, but who might be sufficiently calculated, from his standing and character, to carry on the temporary Administration of the Government in either of those Colonies from which the Governor might be absent.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)

F. ROGERS.

The Under Secretary of State, War Department.

Sir E. LUGARD to Sir F. ROGERS.

(Copy.)

War Office, 18th December, 1862.

SIR,

I AM directed by the Secretary of State for War to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th instant, expressing the wish of the Duke of Newcastle that arrangements may be made to ensure an Officer of standing being present to administer the Government during the absence of the Governor, in the case of those of the Australian Colonies where it is provided that this duty shall devolve upon the Senior Military Officer.

In reply I am to acquaint you, that H.R.H. the Field Marshal Commanding in Chief has been requested to instruct the Major-General Commanding in accordance with the recommendation of the Duke of Newcastle.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

EDWARD LUGARD.

Sir F. ROGERS, Bart.