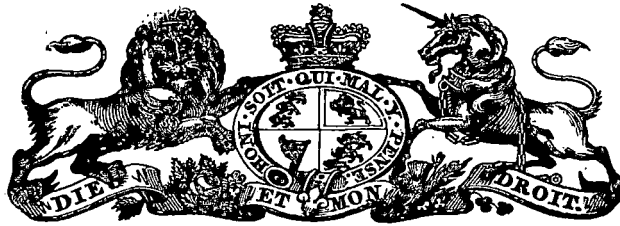


(No. 147.)



1888.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. E. N. C. BRADDON AS
AGENT-GENERAL FOR TASMANIA:

INSTRUCTIONS, &c.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 29th October, 1888.

SUBMITTED,

THAT the Minute No. 487, passed on the 24th inst., be rescinded, and that in lieu thereof the following be substituted:—

That, in accordance with the provisions of the Second Section of "The Agent-General's Act, 1885," (49 Victoria, No. 19), the Honorable Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon be appointed Agent-General for Tasmania in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and elsewhere, for the period of three years, with salary for himself, for the staff of the office, and with provision for office expenses as set forth in the schedule annexed.

The appointment to have effect on and from the twenty-ninth day of October instant, at half-pay, and, from the date of relieving the Acting Agent-General, at full pay.

SCHEDULE.

	£
Agent-General—Salary	1250
Staff—Salaries	350
Travelling expenses	100
Stationery, stores, &c.	150
Rent of office	200

P. O. FYSH.

THE Governor in Council approves.

R. G. C. H.

E. C. NOWELL.
29 Oct. 1888.

*By His Excellency SIR ROBERT GEORGE CROOKSHANK HAMILTON,
Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania
and its Dependencies.*

To the Honorable EDWARD NICHOLAS COVENTRY BRADDON, a Member of the Executive Council of Tasmania.

GREETING:

WHEREAS by "The Agent-General's Act, 1885," (49 Victoria, No. 19), it is provided that the Governor in Council may from time to time appoint some person to be Agent-General for Tasmania in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and elsewhere: Now therefore I, SIR ROBERT GEORGE CROOKSHANK HAMILTON, Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Colony of Tasmania and its Dependencies as aforesaid, in Council, having confidence in the fidelity, discretion, and ability of you the said EDWARD NICHOLAS COVENTRY BRADDON, do hereby appoint you to be Agent-General for Tasmania in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and elsewhere for the period of Three years from the date hereof, subject to the provisions of the said Act.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Colony of Tasmania, at Hobart, in Tasmania, this twenty-ninth day of October, in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight.

R. G. C. HAMILTON.

By His Excellency's Command,

P. O. FYSH, Chief Secretary.

MINUTE PAPER FOR THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 20th November, 1888.

SUBMITTED,

THAT the enclosed Instructions to the Honorable Edward Nicholas Coventry Braddon, Agent-General for Tasmania, be approved.

P. O. FYSH.

THE Governor in Council approves.

R. G. C. H.

E. C. NOWELL.

20 Nov. 1888.

INSTRUCTIONS to the Honorable E. N. C. BRADDON, Agent-General for Tasmania.

As the Agent-General and Representative of Tasmania in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and elsewhere, it will be your duty to make and keep yourself acquainted with all matters and questions calculated to affect, directly or indirectly, the interests of the Colony, and to promptly advise the Government of the same.

It will be your duty to attend all Conventions and Conferences, in conjunction with the Agents-General of the Australasian Colonies, upon matters of general Australasian concern held within the United Kingdom, and you will seek instructions, by cable if necessary, as to your attendance at others, and in all cases act at such Conventions and Conferences in accordance with the instructions you receive from this Government.

You are directed to afford to all persons who may apply to you, and to diffuse, as widely as possible, full and authentic information concerning the progress and resources of Tasmania; and, while carefully abstaining from party controversies, you will be quick to correct misrepresentations or errors affecting the reputation of the Colony, politically, financially, commercially, or otherwise, and will by every means in your power maintain its position and credit unimpaired.

The interests of holders of Tasmanian Debenture stock may frequently be advanced by cable advices from Tasmania upon matters of general interest, with respect to the publication of which you will exercise your judgment.

In view of the intention to inscribe Tasmanian stock, and, possibly, to consolidate and inscribe the whole Debt of the Colony, your early advice will be looked for upon the rates of premium at which the Debentures of various due dates may be valued for early redemption, and upon the most advisable future date for such redemption to fall due, and upon any advantages attached to an irredeemable stock.

You will at once make yourself familiar with the system of inscription, and give to this Government complete information respecting its cost, together with any recommendations you may find it advisable to make of a change from the banking medium through which previous Loans have been floated to the agency of the Bank of England or the London and Westminster Bank, if any distinct advantages may be expected to accrue therefrom.

You are referred for consultation upon such matters to our bankers, and advised that the opinion of Mr. William Westgarth upon Colonial Finance is valued.

You are expected to extend to all Tasmanian Colonists visiting England such official aid as it may be in your power to give, and to afford to them and others all possible facilities for acquiring information about Tasmania, to which end your office will be supplied with Parliamentary records, Gazettes, Statutes, Handbooks, Maps, and Newspapers, and specimens of natural products.

You are authorised to employ, subject to confirmation by this Government, such officials as in your judgment may be required for the due performance of the clerical and other duties connected with your office, at such rates of remuneration as may be fair and reasonable, but which are not to exceed the amount as set forth in the Schedule of Expenses approved by the Governor in Council in connection with this department, as attached, or any modifications of such Schedule as may be from time to time approved. You will take from them such proper security as you may deem expedient. You will also let it be distinctly understood that the services of the gentlemen you engage will be retained only so long as required, and that no claim for compensation for loss of office will accrue.

You will observe that the amount reserved by law for the expenses of this department has been modified.

The security required to be given by you is fixed at Five Thousand Pounds (£5000). The guarantee of an assurance company, to be approved by this Government, will be accepted. You will take special care not to suffer the policy to lapse by reason of non-payment of the premium.

The superintendence of emigration to Tasmania, when authorised, will constitute a part of your duties, and you will carry out such immigration regulations and instructions on the subject as may be transmitted to you.

You are not to lend the weight of your position to any colonial venture or speculation by identifying yourself in any way with its promoters.

Although the Government does not desire to preclude you from accepting a seat at the board of directors of any banking or other public institution, if such should be placed at your disposal, it will be your duty to report to this Government the acceptance of such office, and you will understand that the Government reserves to itself the right of requiring you to resign if it be deemed expedient.

You will be careful not to incur any liability or enter into any contract on behalf of the Government of Tasmania without authority in writing or by cable previously obtained, nor to exceed such authority.

Correspondence with the representatives of the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company here leaves no hope of a satisfactory solution of differences being found in its continuance; and no good can be expected from the reopening of negotiations until after the Supreme Court decision in the case *Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company v. the Queen* now pending.

Should, however, the Directorate of the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company approach you by letter, you will remember the absolute necessity that all negotiations shall be from the commencement in writing, and that no step is to be taken which will in any way compromise this Colony without the receipt of instructions from the Government.

You will inform yourself as fully as possible as to the best market and the most esteemed makers of railway plant, as well as in regard to improvements in construction or management likely to reduce the cost or increase the permanency of such important works, and will keep this Government duly advised thereof.

You will collect and communicate to this Government information which in your judgment will be valuable to the Colony or suggestive of improved legislation, especially in regard to criminal law, prison labour and discipline, industrial and reformatory institutions, public education, instruction in the arts and sciences, &c. And you will endeavour to secure from the learned societies of Europe and from private individuals copies of reports, transactions, and other contributions to our local literary and scientific institutions.

The prolonged absence from Tasmanian ports of the Admiral in command of Her Majesty's ships on the Australian station renders it desirable that such representations be made to the Home Authorities as will cause the visits of Her Majesty's squadron on this station to be made more frequently. The recognition of Colonial and Imperial interests alike demand that, at least once yearly, vessels of war should anchor here for a time; and, as soon as our annual contribution of £5000 be payable, the same rule should be observed in respect of Tasmania as has been conceded to New Zealand—that at least one of the vessels of the Australasian Fleet should be stationed in the Derwent.

All official correspondence from the Colony will pass through the office of the Honorable the Premier, to whom alone you will address all your communications.

You are to keep a cashbook, and such subsidiary books as may be found necessary. The cashbook should contain a record of all moneys received or paid in the exact order of their dates, and should be posted daily.

As soon as practicable after the end of each month a copy of the cashbook in duplicate for that month is to be prepared for transmission to the Government of Tasmania. The said copy should be accompanied with complete vouchers and acquittances, arranged in the order of the entries in the cashbook, together with a statement showing the particulars of the reconciliation between cashbook balance and the bank account, supported by the bank certificate of the balance in the bank.

The vouchers to be sent to the Colony in support of the cashbook should consist—First, of bills of particulars with acquittances duly witnessed and verified by your signature on each account. Secondly, of all contracts and sale notes, or copies thereof. Thirdly, such other vouchers, certificates, &c. as you may deem it necessary to obtain in support of your account.

All moneys received on any account whatsoever for the Government of the Colony to be deposited daily in the Consolidated Bank, or such other bank as may be named by the Government, to the credit of the Public Account of the Colony of Tasmania, and payments from that account are to be made by means of cheques signed by you as Agent-General.

You will be advised from time to time by the bank of the dates at which bills of exchange which have been remitted to the credit of the Public Account mature, and it will be your duty to ascertain that the proceeds are duly brought to account.

These instructions are to be read and construed in conjunction with that portion of the despatch to your predecessor, No. 239, of 20th August, 1887, which sets forth matters of detail, exclusive of those paragraphs dealing with the appointment of a Secretary.

SCHEDULE.

Agent-General—Salary	£ 1250
Staff—Salaries	350
Travelling expenses	100
Stationery, stores, &c.	150
Rent of office	200

No. 239.

Premier's Office, Hobart, 20th August, 1887.

SIR,

It was with some surprise that I discovered, upon assuming office, that your official communications were almost entirely limited to those known as "covering despatches," and that reference to subjects of general importance and concern to the Government had been to a great extent omitted.

I do not fail to remember that such correspondence as may pass between your Department and the Premier's office is subject to be called for by Parliament at any time, and that opinions, information, or advice may be contained therein the publication of which might be injurious to the best interests of the Colony, and contrary to "public policy."

On the other hand, it is customary, although, I am aware, not always the practice, for Parliament to accept any valid reasons offered by Ministers for the non-production of papers and correspondence.

There remains, however, the broad fact, which should ever be uppermost in official minds, and which should control their correspondence, that Civil Servants, whether they be Ministerial Heads of Departments, Agents-General, or others holding positions of special importance, would fail in the discharge of their duty to the country they serve were they to withhold their official opinions or omit to furnish the fullest information upon all matters which may be regarded as of material interest.

Again, if to adopt a certain course of action may be wise, and to give a reason for so doing injudicious, there is yet ample scope for such an official communication respecting transactions or opinions as will supply the Government with all necessary particulars.

In explanation of my meaning, I may instance the very important negotiations which you carried on about twelve months ago, and which resulted in the "suggested arrangement," signed by Colonel Grey, Chairman of Directors of the Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company, and yourself, respecting the guarantee by this Government of interest on further capital expenditure to the amount of £50,000, and when a deposit of £14,500 of Tasmanian moneys was placed to a Trust Account in the Consolidated Bank in the joint names of the Chairman and yourself, pending the settlement of matters in dispute between the Company and the Government. It is especially in respect to this joint deposit that I now desire to make allusion, for on a recent occasion, during a debate in the House of Assembly, the Honorable W. H. Burgess made reference to your opinions and recommendations concerning the release of the said sum of £14,500 from the account where it is now held for trust purposes by its transfer to the Account Current of the Colony, and yet I have been unable to trace any official communication from you in the records of this office giving expression to the views attributed to you by Mr. Burgess; but I note that reference is made to the matter in your Despatch, No. 449, of the 10th June, dealt with in a separate Despatch by to-day's mail.

I may also call your attention to the frequent and emphatic expression of your opinion as to the absolute folly of any proposal to dispense with the office of an Agent-General for Tasmania, contained in your private correspondence with Members of the present, and, I am given to understand, the late Ministry, and yet only on one occasion (except as regards your Despatch, No. 496, received on Wednesday last,) and then after it was proposed to temporarily hand over the ad-

ministration of the affairs of Tasmania in England to the representative of another Colony, was an official intimation received from you to this effect. I allude to your Despatch, No. 439, of the 3rd June last.

It is needless to multiply instances: these will suffice to convey my meaning, and to enlighten you as to the difficulties experienced here in arriving at the reasons which may have induced you to adopt certain lines of action.

I would suggest that certain of your despatches might partake of the character of periodical reports, at, say, not less than bi-monthly intervals, dealing with such subjects as Ministers may desire to be fully cognisant of; and, with a view to avoid complications in the system of record adopted by the Government, it would be highly desirable that the reports should be divided under various heads, each on a separate sheet or sheets, so that subdivision for official or Parliamentary purposes would be practicable. The following are matters as to which it is desirable Ministers should always be in possession of the latest intelligence:—

Tasmanian Main Line Railway Company—Reports of their Public Meetings,
Financial Statements, &c.

Tasmanian Loans—quotations, &c.

Australian indebtedness generally.

Postal Contracts, Tariffs, &c.

Telegraphic ditto, ditto.

Indents—any information of interest respecting.

Consignments.

New Guinea—Government of, &c.

Western Pacific—British interests in.

Emigration, &c. &c.

And, so that you should not be debarred from expressing your views or communicating information free from restraint, any part, or, if necessary, the whole of such reports might be marked “Confidential,” and would be so considered by the Government.

It is not my desire that any but the requisite initiatory steps should be attempted at the present time, leaving the complete development of the scheme to the future; and before the time arrives when any importance may be attached to such reports, I or my successor may be able to further advise you in reference thereto.

I have, &c.

P. O. FYSH.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *Esquire, Agent-General*
for Tasmania, London.