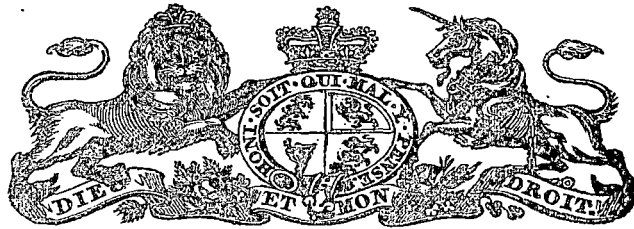


(No. 184.)



1884.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

MR. H. J. HULL'S RETIREMENT:

**REPORT FROM SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL, WITH MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.**

Brought up by Mr. Dodery, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
November 14, 1884.



SELECT Committee appointed on the 6th of November, 1884, to enquire into the circumstances in connection with the Retirement of Mr. H. J. Hull from the Public Service of the Colony : with power to send for persons and papers.

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

MR. DODERY.
MR. WATCHORN.
MR. LORD.

MR. M'GREGOR.
MR. CAMERON (*Mover*).

DAYS OF MEETING.

November 11, 12, 13.

R E P O R T.

YOUR Committee has held three meetings, and has carefully gone through the letters and papers connected with the suspension of Mr. H. J. Hull; after which, taking into consideration the near approach to the close of the Session, decided on not calling any witnesses.

The Correspondence discloses that, from the very first report of Mr. Hull's defalcations (which may have extended over years), the Government evinced a strong desire to give that gentleman every opportunity of explaining the cause of the confusion and deficiency in the accounts, and the reason why the various sums (amounting to over £1200), as solemnly declared to be correct from month to month, had not been brought to account. Mr. Hull has not yet availed himself of the opportunity afforded him, pleading severe indisposition from time to time, extending over a period of many months.

A deputation of Mr. Hull's influential friends waited upon the Minister of his Department "for the purpose of urging upon the Government that the utmost consideration should be shown to Mr. Hull, late Deputy Commissioner of Crown Lands, in dealing with the matters arising out of the deficiency in his accounts," and in recommending to Parliament the granting of a Pension. . . . To this the Government assented, on condition that all moneys found to be deficient should be refunded, and that the arrears of salary then due should be paid; thus condoning an offence against public morals and policy.

Your Committee find from the Correspondence that all such moneys have been refunded, and that a Pension of £250 per annum has been granted to Mr. Hull under Clause 7 of the Superannuation Act.

Your Committee are of opinion that such Clause of the Superannuation Act was never intended to be applied to cases of defalcation such as Mr. Hull's, but to persons who had been intemperate, careless, and otherwise negligent in the performance of their duties; and it is further the opinion of your Committee, that had the Audit Department exercised more vigilance in inspecting the money matters connected with the Lands' Office, the mismanagement, confusion, and deficiencies disclosed would, in all probability, not have occurred.

In conclusion, your Committee are of opinion that no Pension should have been granted to Mr. Hull under the circumstances, it being clearly shown by the Auditor's Report that falsified accounts had been systematically rendered, and the decision of the Government in condoning these offences tends to demoralise the Civil Service by encouraging dishonesty and embezzlement.

WM. DODERY, *Chairman.*

*Parliamentary Buildings,
November 13, 1884.*

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1884.

The Committee met at half-past 11 o'clock.

Present.—Mr. Cameron, Mr. Dodery, and Mr. Lord.

Mr. Dodery was appointed Chairman.

Mr. Cameron laid upon the Table—

1. The Superannuation Act, 24 Vict. No. 15.

2. Letters and Papers connected with the suspension of Mr. H. J. Hull.

The said Papers were read and considered.

The Committee adjourned until to-morrow at 11:30 A.M.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1884.

The Committee met at 11:30 A.M.

Present.—Mr. Dodery (Chairman), Mr. Cameron, Mr. Lord, and Mr. Watchorn.

Letters and Papers further considered.

The Chairman submitted a Draft Report, which was considered.

The Committee adjourned until to-morrow at 11:30 A.M.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1884.

The Committee met at 11:45 A.M.

Present.—Mr. Dodery (Chairman), Mr. Cameron, Mr. Lord, and Mr. Watchorn.

The Minutes of the last two meetings were read and confirmed.

Draft Report further considered, and adopted.

The Committee adjourned *sine die*.