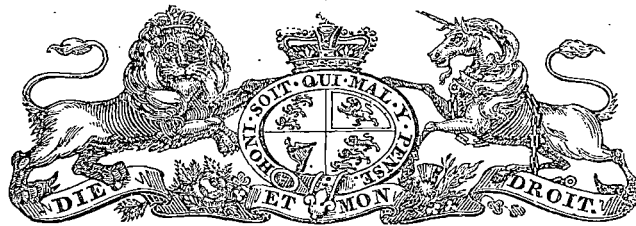


(No. 87.)



1896.

SESSION II.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK ASSISTANT AND USHER
OF THE BLACK ROD, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL:

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND THE CHIEF SECRETARY.

Return to an Order of the Council dated October 23, 1896. (Mr. Gellibrand.)

Ordered by the Legislative Council to be printed, October 27, 1896.

Cost of printing—18s.



Legislative Council, 1st July, 1896.

SIR,

I DESIRE to bring under your notice the fact that no appointment of Gentleman Usher has yet been made to the Legislative Council; and as Parliament will be opened on the 7th instant, no time is to be lost.

I have the honor to recommend for the appointment Thomas R. Atkinson, one of the reduced officers.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *President.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, 4th July, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter referring to the necessity of appointing an Usher of the Black Rod; and in reply beg to say that Ministers, having given every consideration to the matter, are of opinion that the arrangement carried out during the last Session of Parliament, and which worked so well, and to which no special exception was taken, should be continued.

It is, therefore, the intention of the Government to appoint Mr. H. E. Packer, Clerk Assistant, to be Usher of the Black Rod in the Legislative Council.

I have, &c.

W. MOORE, *Chief Secretary.*

The Honorable the President of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Council, Tasmania, 4th July, 1896.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of this date I desire to state that, as President of this Council, I object to the appointment of Mr. Packer as Usher.

Inasmuch as I have the right of nominating Mr. Atkinson as Usher, and as no objection can be taken to that gentleman, I trust that the Government will sanction my nomination.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *President.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, 6th July, 1896.

SIR,

IN reply to your letter of the 4th instant with reference to the Usher of the Black Rod, I have the honor to inform you that, owing to the absence of four Ministers from town, I am unable to bring the matter before the Cabinet.

The Clerk Assistant, Mr. H. E. Packer, will temporarily perform the duties of the office pending the decision of Ministers.

I have, &c.

W. MOORE, *Chief Secretary.*

The Honorable the President of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Council, Hobart, 11th July, 1896.

SIR,

IN reference to the Estimates for 1897, I find that the Assistant Clerk to the Council is therein mentioned as also Usher of the Black Rod.

This appointment has been made without reference to me; and as I have nominated Mr. Atkinson to that position, I trust that you, as representing the Governor in Council, will inform me why such a departure from the recognised course has been taken in this instance.

I protest against the appointment of Mr. Packer, and object to his acting as Usher in any way.

I have, &c.

ADYE DOUGLAS, *President.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

Chief Secretary's Office, Hobart, 16th July, 1896.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and I very much regret to find that you object to the appointment of Mr. Packer as Usher of the Black Rod. No appointment has yet been made, as stated by you, but the Government are desirous that the appointment should be given to the Clerk Assistant, for the reason that it is incumbent upon them that the strictest economy be carried out in every branch of the Public Service. In the present instance this can be effected by appointing Mr. Packer, who will perform the duties devolving upon the Usher with efficiency, and without any addition to his salary. In looking over the records in this Office there is no correspondence to show, except in one instance, that the Honorable the President of the Council ever made any nomination in respect to the appointment of an Usher of the Black Rod, or that he was even consulted in the matter. It would appear, therefore, that the Honorable the President cannot claim the "right" to nominate the appointee, but courtesy would dictate that the President should be consulted, as he is mainly responsible for the proper conduct of the officers of the Council.

I hope, therefore, you will withdraw any protest or objection you may have to Mr. Packer's appointment, as I am sure he will perform the duties in a manner highly satisfactory to you.

I have, &c.

W. MOORE, *Chief Secretary.*

The Hon. the President of the Legislative Council.

Legislative Council, 17th July, 1896.

SIR,

I, THIS morning, received your reply to my letter of the 11th instant *re* the appointment of Usher of the Black Rod.

In the first place, you state that "the appointment should be given to the Clerk Assistant for the reason that it is incumbent that the strictest economy be carried out." How does this apply when my nominee is prepared to perform the duties of Usher for the same salary as that set down for Mr. Packer? Then, as to nomination, you make a strange admission. Although you dispute the right of nomination by the President, you admit that it has been done, and then you write "but courtesy would dictate that the President should be consulted &c., &c." Has the President in this case been consulted? You know he has not. Where does the courtesy come in?

There are many reasons why the duties of Usher and Clerk Assistant cannot be properly performed by the same person, and, in Mr. Packer's case, he has also to perform the duties of Secretary to the Minister of Lands and Works; and experience has already proved that all these several duties cannot be efficiently performed by the same gentleman.

I trust therefore that the Government will confirm my nomination of Mr. Atkinson.

I have &c.,

ADYE DOUGLAS, *President.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.