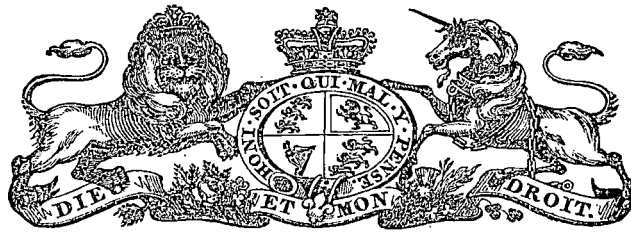


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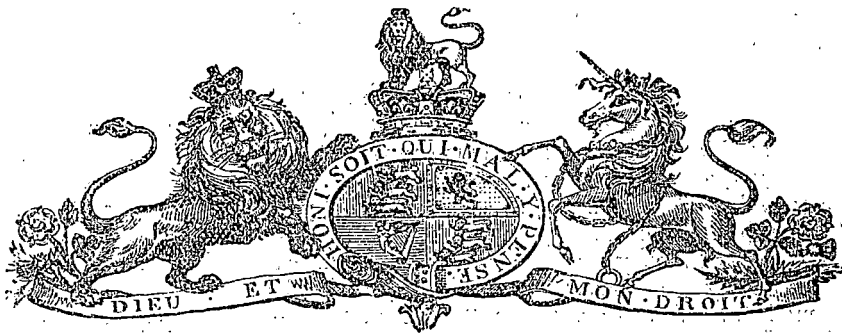
PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS:

Correspondence between the Right Honourable the Secretary of State
for the Colonies and the Self-governing Colonies.

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

Cost of printing—£2 9s.



CORRESPONDENCE

BETWEEN THE

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES AND THE SELF-GOVERNING COLONIES RESPECTING THE CELEBRATION OF THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACCESSION OF HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

No. 1.

CANADA.*

MR. CHAMBERLAIN TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL the EARL OF ABERDEEN.

(Sent January 25, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

There will be a great public commemoration of Sixtieth Anniversary of Queen's Accession, at which representatives of foreign nations will be present. Her Majesty has approved of my suggestion that the head of each self-governing Colony should also be invited to take part in this unique demonstration. I have accordingly to request that you will be good enough to convey to the Premier the invitation of Her Majesty's Government to visit England in June and be their guest during stay in this country, and their hope that he may be accompanied by his wife.

Should the invitation be accepted, the presence of Premier would afford valuable opportunity for informal discussion of many questions of greatest Imperial interest.

It is hoped that the Colonies may also desire that their military forces should be represented on this occasion together with those of Crown Colonies who will send detachments. In this case I request you, after consulting with your Ministers, to suggest numbers (which should not be large), and composition of contingent. Cavalry will be best, and, if necessary, horses can be lent in this country and barrack accommodation provided.

Her Majesty the Queen has graciously promised to receive the Premiers and to inspect the troops.

Despatch follows by mail.

Date of celebration will be telegraphed when announced.

* A similar telegram was also addressed to :—Governor Viscount Hampden, New South Wales ; Governor Lord Brassey, Victoria ; Governor Lord Lamington, Queensland ; Governor Sir T. F. Buxton, South Australia ; Governor Sir G. Smith, Western Australia ; Governor Viscount Gormanston, Tasmania ; Governor the Earl of Glasgow, New Zealand ; Governor Lord Rosmead, Cape of Good Hope ; Governor Sir W. F. Hely-Hutchinson, Natal ; and, with the omission of paragraphs three and four of above telegram, to Governor Sir H. H. Murray, Newfoundland.

MR. CHAMBERLAIN TO GOVERNOR-GENERAL THE EARL OF ABERDEEN.

MY LORD,

Downing street, January 28, 1897.

You are aware that the present year will witness the Sixtieth Anniversary of the accession to the throne of the reigning Sovereign, an event altogether unprecedented in the history of the British Empire.

2. The event is unique; and its importance so great, that it would in any case merit and receive exceptional commemoration. But Her Majesty Queen Victoria has in a remarkable manner endeared herself to all Her subjects throughout the world; and I feel sure that in Her Colonial possessions, which are more specially under my charge, there is no one who would not, when the day comes, wish to feel that he is sharing, however remotely, in the tribute of joyful affection with which she will be acclaimed here in England. It appears to me that there could be no better way of assisting in this object than by securing some representation of Her Majesty's Colonial Empire as a whole as a testimony to all nations of the loyalty and affection which Her Majesty has through Her long and beneficent reign implanted in the hearts of the varied populations which have the privilege of being Her Majesty's subjects.

3. It is therefore with much satisfaction that I am able to inform you that Her Majesty has been pleased to approve of a public celebration of Her Sixtieth Anniversary being held on the 22nd of June next, and that I have submitted to Her, and she has graciously signified Her approval of, a proposal that Her great Colonies should be represented at this ceremony by their leading statesmen and by detachments of their local military forces.

4. I have accordingly in my telegraphic Despatch of the 25th instant† requested you to convey to the Premier of Canada an invitation on the part of Her Majesty's Government to visit this country in June next, and to be their guest during his stay in England, and have intimated that it will be an additional satisfaction to them if Mr. Laurier should be accompanied by Madame Laurier or by some other lady member of his family.

5. As regards a representation of the local military forces, I should prefer, as I have informed you by telegraph, to leave it to yourself and your advisers to suggest the strength and composition of the detachment. It will be readily understood, however, that in any pageant or procession of such a nature as is contemplated, cavalry may be expected to show to greater advantage than infantry; and your Government may therefore prefer that the Colony should be represented by mounted men. But in this case it would not be indispensable for them to bring their own horses, as these could be provided without difficulty in this country. I may add that although, as I have informed you in my telegram, Her Majesty's Government do not propose to defray the expenses of the military contingents, they will be glad to do all in their power to assist by providing barrack accommodation for the men, and in making their visit to England a pleasant one.

6. Should it be found practicable to carry out this idea, as I hope may be the case, the great self-governing Colonies of Her Majesty's Empire would be appropriately represented by their Premiers, who would be accompanied on any special ceremonial occasion by an escort or guard of honour consisting of a detachment of the local forces; and I have no doubt that such a demonstration would do honour to the Colony and be highly appreciated in this country.

7. Her Majesty has also been pleased to signify Her willingness to receive the Colonial Premiers, and to witness a march-past of the Colonial troops.

8. Should this invitation be accepted by the Premiers of the self-governing Colonies, their presence in London would afford a most valuable opportunity for the discussion of many subjects of the greatest interest to the Empire, such as Commercial Union, Colonial Defence, Representation of the Colonies, Legislation with regard to emigrants from Asia and elsewhere, and other similar subjects.

9. It is not anticipated that the duration of the actual ceremonies in connexion with the celebration will extend beyond a week; but I am disposed to think that some four or five weeks might be profitably employed, not only in the discussion of the subjects I have mentioned, but in connexion with other objects for the advancement of the interests of Her Majesty's Colonial Empire, and should Mr. Laurier find it in his power to remain so long in this country, Her Majesty's Government trust that he will allow them to consider him as their guest during this period.

* A similar Despatch was addressed to:—Governor Viscount Hampden, New South Wales; Governor Lord Brassey, Victoria; Governor Lord Lamington, Queensland; Governor Sir T. F. Buxton, South Australia; Governor Sir G. Smith, Western Australia; Governor Viscount Gormanston, Tasmania; Governor the Earl of Glasgow, New Zealand; Governor Lord Rosmead, Cape of Good Hope; Governor Sir W. F. Hely-Hutchinson, Natal (dated January 26); and, with the omission of paragraphs 5, 6, and 7, to Governor Sir H. H. Murray, Newfoundland. † No. 1.

10. I will only add in conclusion the expression of my hope that the idea I have thus sketched out may be realised, and that the forthcoming celebration may be marked by such a representative demonstration on the part of Her Majesty's Colonial Empire as has never before been witnessed in this Country.

11. I may add that I am in communication with the various Crown Colonies as to their representation by detachments of their military forces.

I have, &c.

J. CHAMBERLAIN.

No. 3.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

GOVERNOR LORD ROSMEAD to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received January 29, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

29th January.—Referring to your telegram of 25th January* following Minute received from Ministers:—

Begins: Ministers desire to state that Prime Minister accepts invitation of Her Majesty's Government for himself and his wife with greatest pleasure, and they take this opportunity of expressing deep interest taken by the Government in the commemoration with which the proposed Public ceremonies are associated. Ministers desire further to state that the Military forces of the Colony will be represented by a small detachment of Cape Mounted Rifles, for mounting of which they will be glad to avail themselves of Secretary of State for the Colonies' offer. Ministers respectfully add that they appreciate the high honour Her Majesty the Queen proposes to confer on Cape Colony by reception of Prime Minister and inspection of the troops. *Ends*.

No. 4.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

GOVERNOR SIR H. H. MURRAY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received January 29, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

Referring to your Telegram of 25th January,* Prime Minister and wife in accepting invitation wish to express their appreciation of honour conferred by it, and Prime Minister regards it as an additional evidence of deep interest which Her Majesty's Government takes in Colonial affairs.

No. 5.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT HAMPDEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received February 4, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

Premier New South Wales prevented by Federal Convention from obeying Her Majesty's commands,† but Government will consider question of representation of New South Wales and sending troops home. Highest appreciation of invitation.

* No. 1.

† All the Premiers have since accepted.

No. 6.

General reply from AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

GOVERNOR VISCOUNT GORMANSTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received February 5, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

Delayed replying to your telegram 25th January* till Conference of the Premiers of all the Australasian Colonies just held here was over. Conference closed last night. I now transmit at their request resolution passed by Conference:—

The Premiers assembled at Hobart are deeply sensible of the high honour conferred upon the Australasian Colonies by the invitation to the Premiers to visit England to join in the commemoration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Queen's Accession, and also of the unique and gratifying character of the demonstration in which they are invited to participate. In no part of the Empire will this commemoration be regarded with a higher feeling of loyalty to and affection for Her Most Gracious Majesty than in Australasia, but the Premiers cannot collectively accept this invitation, and therefore must leave the answer to the Secretary of State's message to be made by each of them separately on return to their several homes and after consideration of the exigencies of public business.†

No. 7.

NEW ZEALAND.

GOVERNOR the EARL OF GLASGOW to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received February 6, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

My Premier advises me to intimate to you that in no part of British territory is there greater loyalty, love, and affection for Her Majesty than New Zealand, that its people greatly rejoice and heartily appreciate the high honour conferred on them by the invitation which it is the Premier's privilege to have received to take part in the coming National demonstration to honour the longest and most auspicious reign in the annals of our nation, which invitation he has every desire to accept, but as Parliament ordinarily meets in June this and other difficulties prevent his giving a definite reply until after his return to Colony.†

No. 8.

VICTORIA.

GOVERNOR LORD BRASSEY to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received February 22, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

Prime Minister and wife have the honour to express much pleasure acceptance of invitation Her Majesty's Government to visit England on occasion of celebration of Her Majesty the Queen's Sixty Years' Reign. There is universal feeling of gratification in the Colony that it has been honoured by being permitted to take part by Head of Government in this unique demonstration and in thus having the opportunity of once more evincing the affection and loyalty of people of Victoria to the Throne and Person of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

No. 9.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

GOVERNOR SIR G. SMITH to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received February 26, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

Have the honour to inform you that Premier Western Australia and Lady Forrest have much pleasure in accepting invitation of Her Majesty's Government that they should be present at commemoration of Sixtieth Anniversary of Her Majesty's reign. Am requested by Premier to say political obstacles to absence from Colony at present have been largely removed by ample evidence of desire Parliament people Western Australia should be represented memorable occasion as a testimonial to loyalty, affection, people Colony Her Majesty's Throne and Person, also express gratitude and thankfulness for long and glorious reign.

* No. 1.

† All the Premiers have since accepted.

No. 10.

TASMANIA.

GOVERNOR LORD GORMANSTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received March 2, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

The Premier and Lady Braddon feel highly honoured by invitation received from Her Majesty's Government to visit England on the occasion of Sixtieth Anniversary of Queen's accession and accept with much pleasure, the inhabitants of Tasmania fully appreciating this opportunity of being represented that their loyalty to Her Majesty and joy on the occasion may be the more fully testified.

No. 11.

QUEENSLAND.

GOVERNOR LORD LAMINGTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received March 3, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

Invitation to Premier to attend Diamond Celebration has given universal satisfaction in Queensland. The people are glad to have this opportunity of expressing their loyalty and devotion towards the Throne and Person of Her Most Gracious Majesty.

No. 12.

NATAL.

GOVERNOR SIR W. F. HELY-HUTCHINSON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received March 5, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

5th March.—Referring to your Despatch of 26th January,* Prime Minister accepts invitation and will be accompanied by Mrs. Escombe. 3,500*l.* will be placed on Estimates to cover cost of sending 16 Mounted Volunteers with Officers and seven or eight infantry, the latter to make up team for Bisley.

There is no doubt Legislature will be glad to provide for the representation of Colonial forces on the occasion of the celebration and of thus testifying to heartfelt feelings of loyalty and devotion to Her Most Gracious Majesty's Throne and Person which are felt by the people of Natal.

No. 13.

CANADA.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL the EARL OF ABERDEEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received March 19, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

Mr. Laurier with Madame Laurier cordially accepts invitation. Visit and accompanying features will evidently be regarded here with active sympathetic interest thus both exemplifying and intensifying loyalty and British Imperial feeling.

No. 14.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

GOVERNOR SIR T. FOWELL BUXTON to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received April 3, 1897.)

TELEGRAM.

It gives me much pleasure to announce that Premier in company with Mrs. Kingston has the honour to accept invitation of Her Majesty's Government to pay visit to England on the occasion of celebration of Queen's reign, demonstrating on behalf of Colony of South Australia sentiments of loyalty and respect in which Queen of England, Empress of India, is held. Further communication will shortly be sent you respecting local troops.

No. 15.

CANADA.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL the EARL OF ABERDEEN to MR. CHAMBERLAIN.

(Received May 7, 1897.)

Government House, Ottawa,

April 20, 1897.

SIR,

With reference to your Despatch of the 28th January last,* in regard to the celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the accession to the Throne of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of an approved Minute of the Privy Council expressing my Government's concurrence in the arrangements proposed for the representation of Canada at the celebration, and communicating the Prime Minister's and Madame Laurier's acceptance of the invitation of Her Majesty's Government to be their guests in England in June next.

You will observe that Ministers express the hope that the result of the celebration may be the strengthening of the bonds of union, social and political, which exist between the Mother Country and her Colonies, and request that their respectful congratulations and good wishes may be conveyed to Her Majesty on the attainment of this stage of Her long and prosperous reign.

I have, &c.

ABERDEEN.

Enclosure in No. 15.

EXTRACT from a Report of the COMMITTEE of the Honourable the Privy COUNCIL, approved by his Excellency on the 17th April, 1897.

The Committee of the Privy Council have had under consideration a Despatch, hereto attached, dated 28th January, 1897, from the Right Honourable Mr. Chamberlain, with reference to the approaching Commemoration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of the accession to the Throne of Her Majesty, and the invitation to Mr. and Mrs. Laurier to participate in that celebration.

The Sub-Committee of Council to whom this Despatch was referred report, that they fully recognise the importance and value to the Empire of securing an adequate representation of the several Colonies upon the occasion of the celebration of the Sixtieth Anniversary of Her Majesty's accession to the Throne; and that they are of opinion that the method suggested, viz., that the various Colonies should be represented by their Premiers and by detachments of the local military forces, is well calculated to secure the end in view.

They would therefore advise that the Premier and Madame Laurier should accept Her Majesty's gracious invitation to be present at the celebration, and that a suitable force selected from the Militia and other corps in the service of the Dominion of Canada should also be despatched to England in accordance with the suggestions contained in the despatch under consideration.

The Sub-Committee further join in the hope expressed by the Right Honourable the Secretary of State that it may be found possible to take advantage of the assemblage of the Premiers of the self-governing Colonies for the discussion of the many and important questions of interest to the Empire to which he has referred.

The Sub-Committee unite most sincerely in the hope that the result of the approaching celebration may be such as will tend powerfully to cement the union between the Mother Country and her Colonies, both socially and politically, and request the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies to convey to Her Majesty their respectful congratulations and good wishes on the attainment of this stage of Her long and prosperous reign over the most widely extended empire of modern times.

The Committee concurring in the above Report, advise that Your Excellency be moved to forward a certified copy of this Minute to the Right Honourable the Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

All of which is respectfully submitted for Your Excellency's approval.

JOHN J. MCGEE,

Clerk of the Privy Council.

* No. 2.