



SUPPLEMENT
TO THE
NEW SOUTH WALES
Government Gazette,

OF FRIDAY, 6 JUNE, 1851,

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

SATURDAY, 7 JUNE, 1851.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 7th June, 1851.*

HIS Excellency the GOVERNOR is pleased to direct the publication of the following Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

By His Excellency's Command,
E. DEAS THOMSON.

(No. 1.)

SIR,

Downing-street, January 13, 1851.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith four separate Commissions under the Great Seal of the United Kingdom, by which the Queen has re-appointed you to the office of Governor of the colony of New South Wales, with the style of Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief, and appointed you also to be Governor, with the same style, of each of the colonies of Van Diemen's Land, South Australia, and Victoria, together with the several Royal Instructions to which those Commissions refer.

I also transmit to you Her Majesty's warrants, delegating to the Governor of each of the colonies the power of nominating the several non-elective members of the Legislative Councils.

I further transmit to you the Queen's Commission under the Great Seal, by which you are constituted Governor-General of all Her Majesty's Australian possessions, including the colony of Western Australia, together with Letters Patent under the Seal of the High Court of Admiralty, appointing you to the office of Vice-Admiral of each of the Colonies of New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, South Australia, and Victoria.

You will immediately open your Commission of Governor of New South Wales, and your Commission as Governor-General.

The first of these instruments with the Royal instructions, and your Commission as Vice-Admiral, are to be deposited in the archives of the Colony of New South Wales. Your Commission as Governor-General is to remain in your personal charge, and is to accompany you to any of Her Majesty's Australian possessions to which you may eventually have occasion to repair.

The Commissions and Royal instructions for Van Diemen's Land, South Australia, and Victoria, you will transmit to the respective Lieutenant-Governors of those colonies, together with your Commissions as Vice-Admiral, to be opened by those Officers and to be by them deposited in the archives of their colonies.

You will, at the same time, transmit to the Lieutenant-Governors their respective Commissions under the Royal Sign Manual, which are herewith enclosed.

As the Commission of Governor-General of the Australian Colonies is now for the first time issued by Her Majesty, it is necessary to explain to you, that in intrusting to you the extensive powers which are conveyed to you by this and by Her Majesty's other several Commissions, I neither desire nor intend that you should exercise practically any interference in the administration of the governments of the Colonies of Van Diemen's Land, South Australia, and Victoria, with respect to matters affecting only the internal interests of any of these several colonies. No change is to be made in the mode in which the ordinary public business of each of the Australian Colonies has hitherto been transacted and carried on. This is to be performed as heretofore by their own administrative officers, separately from, and irrespectively of the affairs of the other Colonies.

The Lieut.-Governors of Van Diemen's Land, South Australia, and Victoria, together with the Governor of Western Australia, will continue to administer as heretofore, the governments of these colonies, and to correspond directly with the Secretary of State respecting their affairs.

But as the expanding interests and increasing relations of these communities with each other cannot fail to create a want of some means of establishing a mutual understanding and concert between them on a variety of subjects, Her Majesty's Government have considered it fitting that the officer administering the government of the oldest and largest of those colonies should be provided with a general authority to superintend the initiation and foster the completion of such measures as those communities may deem calculated to promote their common welfare and prosperity. I, therefore, deemed it proper to avail myself of the occasion which had arisen out of the recent Act of the Legislature of this country, for altering the Commissions of the Governor of New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, and South Australia, and for issuing a new Commission to Victoria, in order to supply you with those fresh powers which seem to be needed for the purposes which I have thus very briefly indicated. In furtherance of the same purposes, the Lieutenant-Governors of the other Australian Colonies will be directed to communicate with you on all points on which the measures adopted in any one colony may appear calculated to affect the interests of the others, and, in the absence of any express instructions from Her Majesty's Government, to be guided by your judgment should any question arise in which more than one of the colonies is concerned.

With the colony of Victoria, from its having hitherto formed part of New South Wales, the relations of the latter must necessarily continue to be more intimate than those which it will at present have with Van Diemen's Land and South Australia.

This remark applies more especially to the commercial relations of the two first-named colonies; and I should regard it as very injurious to both, that the freedom of intercourse which has hitherto existed between them should be restricted, as it must be if differences should arise in the scale of duties imposed in the ports of each on goods imported for consumption. Hence, I consider it to be highly necessary that there should be no legislation by either of these colonies for the purpose of altering the existing duties on imports without previous communication with the other, and I shall instruct Mr. La Trobe accordingly.

You will perceive from what I have said, that I do not contemplate any immediate necessity for your repairing to Van Diemen's Land, South Australia, or Victoria; but you will understand, that if such a necessity should arise you would, by virtue of the Queen's Commission to you, assume the government of any one of those colonies in which you might be present, and retain it during the whole period of your residence. During such period the functions of the Lieutenant-Governor would be completely suspended. Bearing this in mind, you will take care that no unnecessary interruption to the ordinary government of any of those colonies takes place; and if it should in this manner devolve on yourself, you will, I have no doubt, take the utmost care, by all your acts and proceedings, to maintain unimpaired the respect and deference which are due to the authority of the Lieutenant-Governor.

To Western Australia it is unlikely that you would have occasion under any circumstances to proceed. The administration of the government of that colony remains vested entirely in the present Governor.

I have transmitted a copy of this Despatch direct to the Lieutenant-Governors of Victoria, Van Diemen's Land, and South Australia, and likewise to the Governor of Western Australia.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

GREY.

Sir C. A. Fitz Roy,
&c. &c.

P.S.—Since writing this Despatch, I learn from the Board of Admiralty that your Commission as Vice-Admiral cannot be completed in time to be sent by this opportunity.

Colonial Secretary's Office,

Sydney, 7th June, 1851.

HIS Excellency the GOVERNOR directs it to be notified, that in pursuance of the instructions conveyed in the foregoing Despatch, the ceremony of opening Her Majesty's Commissions "re-appointing His Excellency to the Office of Governor of "New South Wales, with the style of Captain-General and Governor in Chief," and appointing His Excellency "Governor General of all Her Majesty's Australian possessions, including the Colony of Western Australia," will take place at Government House, Sydney, at twelve o'clock at noon, on Thursday next, the 12th instant, under the usual salutes and Military honors; on which occasion the Chief Justice, the Members of the Executive Council, the Judges, the Members of the Legislative Council, Clergy, Magistrates, Civil, Naval, and Military Officers, and such of the Inhabitants as may think proper to be present, are invited to attend.

By His Excellency's Command,

E DEAS THOMSON.

8