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BOLTON STAFFORD BIRD PAPERS

1887 - 1924

Bolton Stafford Bird (1840-1924) was elected a member of the Tasmanian House of Assembly for Franklin in 1887, and served as Treasurer under P.O. Fysh until 1892, also acting as Postmaster General and Minister for Education. He represented Tasmania at the Federal Council of 1889 and the Federal Conventions of 1890 and 1891. From 1892 to 1894 he was Leader of the Opposition and Speaker from 1894-1897. He was again Treasurer 1899-1903. From 1909 until he retired in 1923 he was a member of the Legislative Council.

Stafford Bird was born at Hazlerigg, Northumberland, England, son of a schoolmaster Thomas Bird and his wife Ann (Stafford). His parents emigrated to Clunes, Victoria, in 1852. In 1865 Bird was admitted to the Wesleyan ministry, but changed to the Congregational Church in 1867 and was minister at Ballarat and Avoca, Victoria, until 1874 when he went to the Hobart Congregational Church, Davey Street. After three years he resigned through ill health and bought a farm, "Waterloo", and planted an apple orchard and was active in local affairs. He lost the farm when a lottery was held of properties mortgaged to the Bank of Van Diemen's Land which went bankrupt in 1891. It was won by Hedley Calvert, a retired sea captain from Sydney. Bird moved to a small farm at Lunawanna, Bruny Island, with his family. He had married in 1867 Helen, daughter of Robert Chisholm of Auckland (formerly of the Glasgow and Edinburgh Bank), and had a son, a mining surveyor, and two daughters, Ann Stafford (Mrs Smair, later Mrs. A.H. Garnsey) and Mrs. Weatherley.

- B.2/1 Appointment to Executive Council of Tasmania 29 March, 1887
Royal warrant on parchment, signed by Governor R.G.C. Hamilton.
- 2 Appointment as Treasurer 29 March 1887
- 3 Appointment as representative of Tasmania at the Federal Council
of Australasia 20 November 1888.
- 4 Oath of Allegiance signed by B.S. Bird 28 January 1889
Paper, ms., signed by Governor R.G.C. Hamilton.
- 5 Appointment as representative to the National Australasian
Convention 24 February 1891.
- 6 Federal Convention Delegates 1891
Photo-zinco reduction of the Daily Telegraph 2 March 1891
containing portraits and biographies of the members of
the Federal Convention, re-published as a supplement to
the Daily Telegraph, Sydney 21 March 1891.
- 7 Notification from the Premier of Tasmania, C. Braddon, that
Her Majesty had approved the retention for life of the title
"Honourable".
- 8 Appointment as Treasurer 12 October 1899.
- 9 Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George 1 January 1920
Warrant granting the dignity of C.M.G. to B.S. Bird, accompanying
letter, notification and the insignia (in jeweller's box), with
typed note on how it should be worn.
- 10 Photograph of B.S. Bird 1900
Studio portrait head and shoulders, by A.E. Burrows, Quadrant,
Launceston.
- 11 Debrett entry 1921
Proof of entry for correction.
- 12 Legislative Council notice of regret at death of B.S. Bird
17 December 1924. Printed notice, signed by President,
Tetterly Gant and Clerk, mounted on board.
- 13 Newspaper cuttings - obituaries etc.
- 14 Portfolio for Premiers Conference (empty) May 1902
(leather).

Insignia
In box

Blue folder
Horizontal
shelving.