

Henry Robert Brand, Viscount Hampden

(21 November 1895 – 5 March 1899)

Gordon Lang

Welcome to the new Governor

The third Viceregal appointment in the first half of the 1890s, Viscount Hampden enjoyed the same hospitable welcome from the citizens of Sydney as his predecessors. Rain clouds threatened and a strong wind buffeted the small fleet of welcoming steam launches and sailing ships that greeted and escorted the HMS *Himalaya* through the harbour to its berth at Bradley's Head about 11 am on 21 November 1895. Fortunately, there was a clear blue sky as the Viceregal party embarked on the Government steamer *Premier* to carry them to Circular Quay for the official landing that afternoon. The Governor had earlier used the same vessel to quietly land at Man-o'-War Steps and make an unofficial inspection of Government House where he was greeted by the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Frederick Darley, and Lady Darley. Large crowds gathered on the procession route from Circular Quay to Government House.¹

After the swearing in ceremony, Hampden received addresses of welcome from several public bodies representing religious denominations and business organisations. The Federation movement was represented by the Australasian Federation League. These addresses had already been submitted to Government House for preparation of an appropriate response. Then an oral presentation was made to the Governor and he read the prepared reply. The messages had a stereotyped theme of loyalty to the Crown and Empire as well as offering encouragement to the Governor for his term. The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that "in two or three cases his Excellency, deeming that the occasion warranted something more than the reading of the official reply, anticipated these productions by delivering brief impromptu speeches".² He concentrated on Federat-

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son, Geoffrey. A student at Cheam School, he had died from pneumonia.⁴² Hampden indicated that “due to circumstances over which he had no control” his departure would be delayed.⁴³ In the circumstances, he wished to dispense with ceremonial plans and requested a quiet departure. Nevertheless, a large crowd farewelled the Viceregal family at Redfern Station when they took the train to Melbourne where they boarded the *Oruba* for England on 7 March 1899.

Hampden was appointed GCMG in June. He was involved in the business and social life of the House of Lords in his final years.⁴⁴ Suffering from Bright’s disease, he died on 22 November 1906.⁴⁵ Hampden understood that the nature of Imperial representation had changed from decision making and control to building closer relationships with the people. He encouraged loyalty to the Crown and consolidated support for Empire while advocating Federation. As the *Herald* recognised:

His Excellency has, perhaps, experienced closer actual association with all sections of the community than has fallen to the lot of most Governors in this colony, because he has thrown himself into public and semi-public life without restriction.⁴⁶

Notes

- 1 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22.11.1895, pp 4-6.
- 2 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22.11.1895, p 6.
- 3 Hampden, A, *Henry and Eliza*, Private Print, Haywards Heath, England, no date, p 191.
- 4 Cunneen, C, “Hampden, second Viscount (1841-1906)”, *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol 9, MUP, Melbourne, 1983, pp 180-1 and Brodie, B, “Brand, Henry Robert, second Viscount Hampden (1841-1906)”, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, OUP, Oxford, 2004.
- 5 Brodie, p 180.
- 6 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22.11.1895, p 6.
- 7 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22.11.1895, p 4.
- 8 *The Bulletin*, 22.11.1895, p 13.
- 9 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9.4.1896, p 5.
- 10 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6.4.1896, p 3.
- 11 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 30.6.1896, p 4.
- 12 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 28.10.1896, p 5.
- 13 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 9.8.1898, p 4.
- 14 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 30.11.1895, p 3.
- 15 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 26.4.1898, p 3.
- 16 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22.11.1898, p 5.
- 17 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21.5.1898, p 7.
- 18 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22.4.1897, p 5; 10.6.1897, p 4; 18.6.1897, p 4.
- 19 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 8.3.1897, p 5.
- 20 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1.11.1897, p 3.
- 21 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1.5.1896, p 5.

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- 22 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 25.4.1896, p 4.
- 23 Cunneen, p 180.
- 24 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22.6.1897, p 4.
- 25 *Coloured Races Restriction and Regulation Bill*, New South Wales, Private letter Hampden to Chamberlain, 27.11.1896, Public Records Office, London (PRO), CO 201.619, f 254, AJCP Reel PRO 1894.
- 26 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 1.11.1897, p 3.
- 27 *Immigration Restriction Act*, New South Wales, 29.7.1898, PRO, CO 201.624, ff 83-85, AJCP Reel PRO 1898.
- 28 Norfolk Island Transfer of Administration, New South Wales, PRO, CO 201.619, 25.1.1896, f 363 and 5.8.1896, f 558, AJCP Reel PRO 1894.
- 29 *Ibid*, 19.3.1896, f 478.
- 30 *Ibid*, 5.8.1896, f 560.
- 31 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 23.11.1896, pp 5-6.
- 32 Cunneen, p 180.
- 33 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 17.7.1896, p 4; 15.8.1896, p 6.
- 34 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 19.5.1896, p 5.
- 35 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6.1.1896, p 3; 22.1.1898, p 7.
- 36 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 21.1.1899, p 7.
- 37 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 20.1.1897, p 4.
- 38 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22.11.1898, p 5.
- 39 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6.5.1899, p 7.
- 40 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22.11.1898, p 5.
- 41 Governor Hampden's resignation, Hampden to Colonial Office, 21.11.1898, PRO, CO 201.624, ff 191-193, AJCP Reel PRO 1898.
- 42 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 27.2.1899, p 5.
- 43 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 4.3.1899, p 8.
- 44 *The Times* 18.4.1902, p 4.
- 45 *The Times* 23.11.1906, p 10; Cunneen, p 181.
- 46 *Sydney Morning Herald*, 22.11.1898, p 5.