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CROWN OFFICE WARRANTS & PATENTS

LORD OF APPEAL

IN ORDINARY

MR JUSTICE WRIGHT

2C06/896

5B
1193

Devil, could possibly have been anything but careful, industrious and a promising lawyer.

I don't know whether these facts will make it easier or more difficult for you to decide. If you would like me to make any discreet enquiries, I would gladly do so, but I am afraid that this would not be so easy in vacation as it would in term time.

The Gibraltar case in the Privy Council is fixed to begin on the 5th April and, therefore, Wright would not be able to sit, even if his Patent were dated on the earliest possible day and the King held a Council to swear him in (I have found out that this would be a necessary preliminary). I am, therefore, arranging with him to sit in the King's Bench from the 5th to the 8th April and to have his Patent dated after that, but not later than the 11th April. This will make it matter less if his successor is not appointed before the 11th.

P.T.O.

The Right Hon.
The Lord Chancellor.

(Sd.) A. E. A. NAPIER.

23rd March, 1932.

Dear Wright,

The case from Gibraltar, about which the Lord Chancellor was speaking, is to begin on the 5th April ~~for~~ before a Court of three Judges. The Judicial Committee does not sit on the 6th and, if the case is part-heard when the Board rises on the 5th, it will be continued on the 7th. On the 5th you will be neither a Lord of Appeal nor a member of the Privy Council. I have also found out that you cannot become a member of the Privy Council or sit in the Judicial Committee until you have been sworn before the King in Council, and it is quite uncertain when there will be a Council.

It seems to follow that the proper course is for you to sit as a King's Bench Judge on the 5th

April and to continue until the end of the week.

We propose, therefore, that your Patent as a Lord of Appeal should be dated ~~the 9th or~~ the 11th April, and that you should be introduced on ~~the 9th or~~ the 13th as arranged and sit in the House of Lords at 10.30 on the 14th.

I gather that your successor in the King's Bench cannot be appointed until ~~the 9th or~~ the 11th April, and it is, therefore, all the more important that you should sit from the 5th to the 8th.

The dating of the Patent on the 11th April would not prevent your continuing to sit as a King's Bench Judge on that day, if you wanted to do so in order to finish a case which lasted longer than was expected, for you would then be an Ex-Judge of the High Court within section 3 of the Judicature Act of 1925.

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

25th March, 1932.

Dear Sir,

The King having been pleased to approve that Sir Robert Alderson Wright, Knight, one of the Justices of His Majesty's High Court of Justice, be created a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary under the provisions of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876, as amended by any subsequent enactment, with the dignity of a Baron for life by the style and title of BARON WRIGHT of Durley in the County of Wilts, I am desired by the Prime Minister to request that the necessary steps may be taken to give effect to His Majesty's commands.

Yours faithfully,

Maurice Butler

The Private Secretary
to the Clerk of the Crown in Chancery.

George the Fifth by the Grace of God of Great Britain Ireland and the British Dominions beyond the Seas King Defender of the Faith &c

all to whom these Presents shall come Greeting Whereas Our right trusty and well beloved Cousin and Counsellor Andrew Graham ~~Murray~~ Viscount Dunedin Knight Grand Cross of Our Royal Victorian Order has resigned his Office of a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary and the same is now vacant Now Know Ye that We of Our especial grace have in pursuance of the Appellate Jurisdiction Act 1876 as amended by any subsequent enactment Nominated and Appointed and by these Presents Do Nominate and Appoint Our trusty and well beloved SIR ROBERT ALDERSON WRIGHT Knight one of the Justices of Our High Court of Justice to be a LORD OF APPEAL IN ORDINARY by the style of BARON WRIGHT of Durley in Our County of Wilts To hold the said Office so long as he shall well behave himself therein subject to the provisions in the said Act mentioned with all wages profits privileges rank and precedence whatsoever to the said Office belonging or in anywise appertaining and to hold the said style of Baron Wright unto him the said Sir Robert Alderson Wright during his life In Witness whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent Witness ~~himself~~ at Westminster the eleventh day of April in the twenty-second year of Our Reign.

~~IN WITNESS &c., WITNESS &c.~~

BY THE KING HIMSELF

Schuster

unto Sir Robert Alderson Wright, Knight, one of the Justices of Your Majesty's High Court of Justice of the Office of a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary with the dignity of a Baron for life by the style and title of Baron Wright of Durley in Your Majesty's County of Wilts

TELEGRAMS: BURBAGE.
TELEPHONE: BURBAGE 17.
STATION: SAVERNAKE.

DURLEY HOUSE,
BURBAGE,
NR MARLBOROUGH,
WILTS.

Mar 29. 32.

Dear Napier, Thanks for yr letter. I shall
rd on the K.B. Appl &c & enclosure:
the pleading week ends unless I have
to finish a case.
As to the Patent, if it is
dated the 11th inst. then I can
deal with the application as to grant
with all the papers & the Agreement
Clerk, of which I am president this
year: if it were dated the 9th, I
suppose I could not? Please let
me know which date it will be
as the papers have to be
printed. If the Patent were dated

the q^n what would be my correct description on that day, as in papers (and on memo pad) whether it was the q^n ? (printed before) I gather it may be some time before I am sworn of the Privy Council.

Lord Dunedin has most kindly offered to discuss one or more of the 3 Scotch appeals with me: & the 3 both sent me cited I have the 3 books sent me here so that I can read them over the week end & decide what to discuss with Ld Dunedin.

I understand my introducers must be of the rank of Baron. Ld Hanworth has agreed (he one, Chel (as I expect) has promised himself & I have another (Ld Atkin. Who agrees with that be in order.

Yours sincerely
R. A. Wright

I shall be back the 4th apl.

30th March, 1932.

Dear Wright,

Thank you for your letter of the 29th March.

I have now arranged definitely that your Patent shall be dated Monday, the 11th April. You will, therefore, continue to be properly described as "Mr. Justice Wright" till the end of Sunday, the 10th, and as "The Lord Wright" from the beginning of Monday, the 11th. Strictly speaking you will not be The Right Honourable until you are sworn in the Privy Council. It is the custom of solicitors to describe all Peers as the Right Honourable whether they are Privy Counsellors or not, but this is regarded as inaccurate in the Government Offices.

Your introducers must, as you say, be of the

rank of Baron. It will be in order if Lord Atkin consents to act as well as Lord Hanworth.

There is at present only one Scottish case in the list, namely Rodger v. Berry. I am asking the Judicial Office to send you this to-day. There are four other Scottish cases which may get into the list. The Judicial Office will send you some or all of these very soon.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) A. E. A. NAPIER.

The Honourable
Mr. Justice Wright.

4th April, 1932.

Dear Napier,

As soon as Goddard has been sworn in we ought, in accordance with a bargain made long ago with the Prime Minister's Private Secretary, to write to Duff and remind him that Goddard ought to be knighted as soon as opportunity offers.

I assume that you are making arrangements for Wright to be sworn in at the Privy Council as soon as possible. This might become important if there had to be any shift round of the membership of the two Tribunals.

Yours ever,

C.S.

The Hon. A.E.A. Napier, C.B.

Chatfield
CO 61/15

11th April, 1932.

The KING has been pleased by Letters Patent under the Great Seal bearing date the 11th day of April, 1932, to appoint Sir Robert Alderson Wright, Knight, one of the Justices of His Majesty's High Court of Justice, to be a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary under the provisions of The Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876, as amended by any subsequent enactment, and to grant to him the dignity of a Baron for life by the style and title of Baron Wright of Durley in the County of Wilts.

C.O.62
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Crown Office Warrants and Patents

Lord of Appeal in Ordinary	22. 3. 32.
	Mr. Justice Wright

(REGIBLUE)
(*973) W1. 2879—107. 12,000.
1/35. T.S. 138.

11th April, 1932.

Sir,

I am directed by the Lord Chancellor to inform the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury that Letters Patent dated the 11th April, 1932, have been passed under the Great Seal granting to the Honourable Mr. Justice Wright the office of Lord of Appeal in Ordinary with the title of Baron Wright of Durley in the County of Wilts.

I am to ask if their Lordships will be good enough to cause a charge to be made on the Consolidated Fund for payment of salary at the rate authorised by the Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876, (as amended by any subsequent enactment) as reduced by the National Economy (Statutory

Date .

Salaries) Order, 1931.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

R.L.O.

The Secretary
H.M. Treasury.

Crown Office,
House of Lords, S.W.1.
11th April, 1932.

The KING has been pleased by Letters Patent under the Great Seal bearing date the 11th day of April, 1932, to appoint Sir Robert Alderson Wright, Knight, one of the Justices of His Majesty's High Court of Justice, to be a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary under the provisions of The Appellate Jurisdiction Act, 1876, as amended by any subsequent enactment, and to grant to him the dignity of a Baron for life by the style and title of Baron Wright of Durley in the County of Wilts.

Whitehall
Telephone No.: ~~Victoria~~ 1234.

Any reply to this letter should be addressed to—
THE SECRETARY,
TREASURY,
WHITEHALL, LONDON, S.W.1,
and the following number quoted:
E.5126.

TREASURY CHAMBERS.
19th April, 1932.

LORD CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE
19 APR 1932

My Lord,

In reply to Mr. Overbury's letter of the 11th instant, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury to inform your Lordship that They have caused a Charge to be made on the Consolidated Fund for payment of salary at the rate of four thousand eight hundred pounds a year as from the 11th April, 1932 inclusive, to the Right Honourable Baron Wright of Durley, on his appointment to the office of a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.

£4,800.

I am,
My Lord,
Your obedient Servant,

Tamos Rae

The Lord Chancellor.

CROWN OFFICE PROCEDURE.

DOCUMENT: LORD OF APPEAL IN ORDINARY: Mr Justice Wright

Fee	£	25 : - : -
Stamp Duty	£	- : 12 : -
Total	£	25 : 12 : -

	Date. 1932
Instructions received from Prime Minister	Mar 30
Wrote for Fee and Stamp Duty	4
Fee and Stamp Duty received + acknd	6
Warrant sent to The King	30
Warrant signed ✓ and received	31
Copy of Warrant sent to Grailly Hewitt	30
Letters Patent engrossed on { ~~small~~ / ~~loan~~ / ~~large~~ } { parchment } By The King Himself ✓	
Docquet prepared	✓
~~Documents sent to~~ for stamping	
Letters Patent dated 11 April and great sealed	April 11
Writ prepared dated " and sealed	11
Letters Patent sent in No. Box to	
Gazette Notice sent	11

RECORDS.

~~Cash~~ Book.

~~Docquet~~ Book.

~~Fees~~ Book.

~~Presentations Docquet Book.~~

~~Privy Council List.~~

~~Card~~ Index.

(70834) 500 11/29 P. St.

G.R.

Personal

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

16th March, 1932.

My dear Napier,

Lord Dunedin has written to the Prime Minister announcing his retirement as from April 5th. I am suggesting to Lord Dunedin that an official statement to this effect shall go out from this Office for, say, Monday morning's papers.

The Lord Chancellor has had a word with the Prime Minister about this after the Cabinet this morning and has made a recommendation in regard to Lord Dunedin's successor: but in case you had not heard this I felt that I ought to keep you au fait with what is going on.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Duff

The Hon. A. E. A. Napier, C.B.

G.R.

17th March, 1938.

My dear Duff,

I am grateful for your letter of the 16th March. It is very useful for us to know what is happening.

If you wish to take the King's pleasure without waiting until the 5th April or even for the official statement of Lord Dunedin's resignation, I see no reason why you should not do so. When we receive instructions, we can submit the Warrant to the King in a form which we sometimes use when the submission precedes the vacancy. We should then be able to get the formalities through and the new Patent prepared (it takes some time) without hurrying anybody.

But the announcement of the appointment of the new man should, I think, not be made before April

G.R.

6th and perhaps not for a few days later still. He cannot be formally introduced in the House of Lords until the evening of the 12th or 13th April and the House has, therefore, decided not to sit judicially until Thursday, April 14th.

But the ordinary Law Courts resume their sittings on the 5th April and the new man may be needed to sit there for a few days while his successor is being appointed.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) A. E. A. NAPIER.

Sir Patrick Duff, KCB., CVO.

G.R.

The Times
21 March 1932

NEW LORD OF APPEAL

MR. JUSTICE WRIGHT'S APPOINTMENT

Lord Dunedin, G.C.V.O., is retiring from his office of Lord of Appeal in Ordinary as from next April 5. The King has been graciously pleased to approve that Mr. Justice Wright be appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary in succession to Lord Dunedin.

Lord Dunedin, who is 82 years old, has had a long and distinguished career and has been a member of the final judicial tribunal for 19 years, an office which he has filled with conspicuous ability. Born in Edinburgh on November 21, 1849, he was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took his degree in 1872. He was called to the Scottish Bar two years later. In 1888 he was appointed Senior Advocate Depute on the Home Circuit, and promoted to the office of Sheriff of Perthshire in 1890. The following year saw him a Queen's Counsel, Solicitor-General for Scotland, and Conservative member of Parliament for Buteshire. In the House of Commons he was a skilful tactician and debater. From 1896 to 1903 he was, as Lord-Advocate, the official head of the Scottish Bar. In 1905, on his appointment as Lord Justice-General and Lord President of the Court of Session, he was granted a peerage and took the title of Lord Dunedin. He relinquished that office in 1913 on being made a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary. In 1926 he was created a viscount. To the series of articles entitled "Fifty Years," which are appearing in *The Times*, Lord Dunedin contributed the one on Bench and Bar.

In being appointed a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary Mr. Justice Wright goes to the House of Lords from a puisne Judgeship. When he was elevated to the Bench in 1925 in succession to Mr. Justice Lush the promotion was generally regarded as belated. At the Bar his practice was in commercial cases, and as a Judge he frequently sat in the Commercial Court, though he was called on to deal with other classes of work. It will be remembered that he presided over the trial of Lord Kylsant at the Central Criminal Court in July last.

Mr. Justice Wright was born in October, 1869, and was educated, as was Lord Dunedin, at Trinity College, Cambridge, of which he was a Fellow. Called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1900, he took "silk" in 1917 and was made a Bencher of his Inn in 1923.

The Lord Chancellor, with his humble duty to Your Majesty, submits for Your Majesty's signature, if you shall so please, a Warrant appointing the Honourable Sir Robert Alderson Wright, one of the Justices of Your Majesty's High Court of Justice, to be a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, in the room of the Right Honourable The Viscount Dunedin, G.C.V.O., resigned.

House of Lords,

30 March ~~April~~, 1932.

23rd March, 1932.

Dear Lord Chancellor,

I have now looked up the academic record of the two men about whom you asked.

The Cambridge man took a Third Class in Part I of the Law Tripos in 1904 and a Third Class in Part II of the Law Tripos in 1905.

The Oxford man took a Third in Greats in 1903. I notice that in the same year F.D.H. Joy, a Scholer of Winchester and New College, who afterwards became the successful headmaster of Aysgarth, took a Fourth and that the present Comptroller and Auditor General took a First. Perhaps this indicates that a Third is the golden mean.

Somehow I can't believe that a man to whom the late Lord Finlay, when a Silk, thought it worth while to pay £300 a year for a good many years as a